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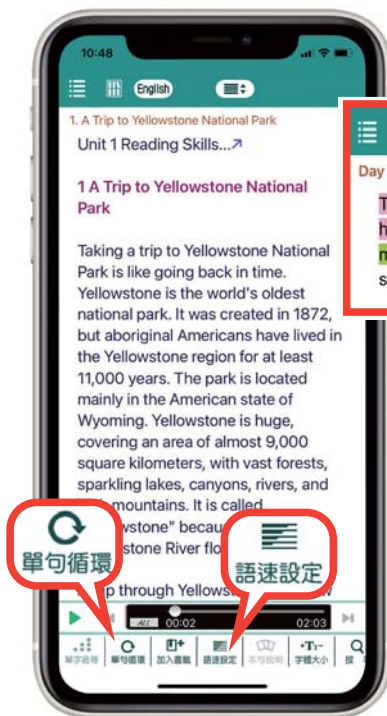
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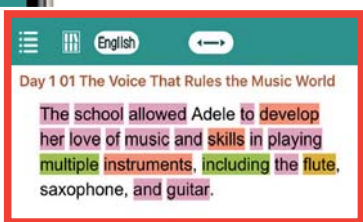
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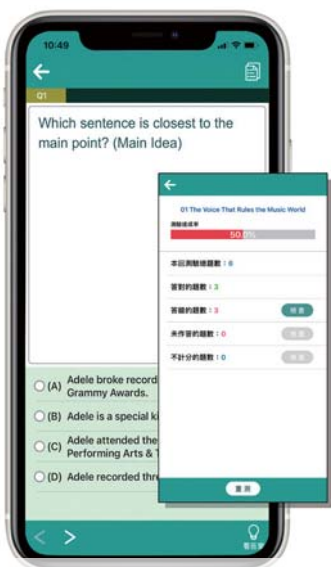
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Introduction

This book is the second volume of a series of books concentrating on training reading skills. Each article is accompanied by six essential questions to help readers understand the article. These questions are within the framework of the following categories:

◆ **Main Idea** ◆ Readers will have to ask themselves, “What point is the writer trying to make?” By asking this question, they will be aware of looking for an answer during the reading process.

◆ **Subject Matter** ◆ The subject matter question can help readers focus on the articles they are reading. After reading the first few lines of the article, readers should ask themselves, “What is the subject matter of this article?” They will start concentrating instantly.

◆ **Supporting Details** ◆ The article is made up of details that support the main idea. Supporting details come in various forms, such as examples, explanations, descriptions, definitions, comparisons, contrasts, and metaphors.

◆ **Inference** ◆ Inference questions ask the readers to find the inferences and assumptions made in the article. The main goal of the question is to train readers’ abilities of critical and logical thinking.

◆ **Words in Context** ◆ Words in Context are important in understanding an article. Mistaking the meanings of some Key Words or phrases can lead to a gross misunderstanding of the author’s message.

◆ **Others** ◆ Other reading skills include:

Clarifying Devices The author might use similes and metaphors to capture readers’ attention and spark their imaginations. The most widely used clarifying devices are signal words (*first, second, next, last, finally*), and transitional words or phrases (*in brief, in conclusion, above all, therefore*). Organizational patterns are also clarifying devices, including the chronological pattern, in which events are ordered by the time at which they occurred.

Text Form A text form refers to a type of writing such as fantasy, autobiography, or newspaper article. Knowing the text form can help readers achieve a better understanding of the purpose of the article and determine how to interpret the article.

Cause and Effect Cause and effect questions are concerned with why things happen (causes) and what happens as a result (effects). Understanding cause and effect relationships can guide readers to understand how one event or action caused another to occur. Words like *so, because, and as a result*, are good clues that help readers recognize a cause-and-effect relationship.

Fact or Opinion A fact is something that is true and is supported by evidence. An opinion is something you believe or feel. Being able to identify facts and opinions can help readers differentiate between what is real and what is someone’s point of view or thought, and explore their knowledge or opinions on a topic.

Author’s Tone An author’s tone is the attitude the author takes on the subject he or she is writing about. It gives readers clues as to how the author feels about his or her subject. This type of question is usually described using an emotion word such as *serious, humorous, or hopeful*.

How to Use This Book

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In our reading plan, the 100 articles are divided into 16 weeks. Readers should read 6-7 articles each week. By following the plan, the readers will make steady progress in mastering English reading skills.

Week 4
Nature
12
The Great Wall of the Ocean

Skirting the coast of northeast Australia is the only living thing that can be seen from space. The **Great Barrier Reef** runs alongside Queensland for 2,600 kilometers, providing food and shelter for a huge variety of plants and animals, many of which are **endangered**. Only tropical rain forests house as many species as the Reef does.

and some fish. Pollution from farms reduces the water quality and promotes the growth of algae, which blocks the light. Shipping accidents have done major damage. **Predators** cause trouble. The crown of **thorns** starfish eats coral. Its recent population **boom** put the entire Reef at risk.

Constantly growing, constantly dying, this great wall relies on a complex ecological balance. We should guard it carefully.

Questions

1. What is the main topic of the article?
 - Endangered species that live in the Great Barrier Reef.
 - The best time to visit the Great Barrier Reef.
 - What the Great Barrier Reef is.
 - How the Great Barrier Reef grew.
2. What is this article mainly about?
 - An ecosystem.
 - A sea mammal.
 - A country.
 - An event.
3. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - Humpback whales spend time at the Great Barrier Reef.
 - The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of Australia.
 - Four hundred kinds of coral live at the Great Barrier Reef.
 - The Great Barrier Reef is 2,800 kilometers long.
4. What can we infer about Queensland from the article?
 - It's in the Great Barrier Reef.
 - It's an endangered species.
 - It's part of Australia.
 - It's part of a rain forest.
5. In the fourth paragraph, the author says the Reef isn't invulnerable. What does **invulnerable** mean?
 - Impossible to harm or damage.
 - Dangerous or threatening.
 - Vest or infirm.
 - Intricate and complicated.
6. How does the author end the article?
 - With a joke.
 - With a warning.
 - With words of praise.

Week 1
Environment
21
Saving the World by Seeing the World

Have you ever found a place that was so beautiful you didn't want to share it? Did you want to keep it hidden from other people who wouldn't **appreciate** it? Did you try to protect it by keeping it a secret, by **preventing** other people from walking all over it, changing it, **ruining** it?

Ecotourism tries to protect special natural places by doing the **opposite**. opening them up to visitors. However, instead of just building hotels, arranging transportation, and waiting for tourists to come, ecotourism controls how many and how tourists interact with their surroundings. We've discovered that unregulated tourism can bring in money, but it also brings the environmental damage, **disruption** to local ways of life, the loss of old traditions, and other negative effects. **Cruise** ships, for example, bring tourists with money but also kill coral and fish, leak waste into the ocean, and **contaminate** beaches and shellfish beds. Many people should argue that these long-term damage **outweigh** the short-term cash.

Ecotourism focuses on the long term. It's designed to be **sustainable** to the environment and to local communities. Ecotourism **ventures** are usually small-scale and low-impact, meaning they don't cause major changes to their surroundings. The point is to share the landscape without **altering** it. Ecotourism ventures promote recycling, energy efficiency, and land and water **conservation**. **Accommodations** are often built using local materials and with the help of local laborers. As much as possible, food and other goods are bought locally, and staff are often local as well.

Countries worldwide are exploring ecotourism. Costa Rica was one of the first to do so and is still a top destination for **pristine** jungles and beaches. Brazil has started to protect its natural areas rather than farm them and now has internationally recognized eco-lodges. Other developing nations, like Laos and Gabon, are limiting **destructive** mass tourism in favor of ecotourism, and saving their ancient landscapes and traditions.

Questions

1. What is the main topic of the article?
 - Pros and cons of ecotourism.
 - The best ecotourism destinations.
 - How to rate an ecotourism lodge.
 - How ecotourism differs from regular tourism.
2. What is the article about?
 - The dangers of tourism.
 - The benefits of ecotourism.
 - A nation's history.
 - A travel writer.
3. Which statement is true?
 - Cruise ships are a big part of ecotourism.
 - Costa Rica was one of the first countries to promote ecotourism.
 - Ecotourism contrasts with traditional tourism by focusing on short-term solutions.
 - Ecotourism welcomes unlimited tourism.
4. Why does ecotourism often use local food, materials, and people?
 - They are often the least expensive options.
 - Eco lodges like to offer local cooking classes.
 - It puts money into the local economy and benefits the community.
 - It wants local people to have good jobs and abandon their traditional ways.
5. What does the word **pristine** in the last paragraph mean?
 - Ancient or traditional.
 - Polluted.
 - Original and unspoiled.
 - Remote.

Key Words

appreciate 欣賞 (v.) prevent 阻止 (v.) ruin 毀壞 (v.) ecotourism 生態旅遊 (n.)
 opposite 相反的 (a.) disruption 打亂 (n.) cruise 郵輪 (n.) sustainable 可持續的 (a.)
 outweigh outweigh (v.) sustainable 可持續的 (a.) ventures 事業 (n.) alter 改變 (v.)
 conservation 保護 (n.) accommodations 住宿 (n.) destructive 破壞性的 (a.)

The articles are written about various kinds of topics: culture, mystery, business, people, arts & literature, and more. Readers will learn English as they explore their world.

Week 15 Day 5

► Chromesthesia is a type of synesthesia in which heard sounds automatically evoke an experience of color.

Mystery

91 Synesthesia

Is October yellow? Does your breakfast taste pointy? Is the smell of soap itchy? To a person with synesthesia, all these questions might **make sense**.

Synesthesia is a condition in which senses or perceptions are connected in unusual ways. In terms of the brain, it means when one sense is **stimulated**, an unrelated one is also **triggered**. These **associations** are automatic, not thought out or planned. Most people with synesthesia don't **recognize** that they are different for a long time.

A common form of synesthesia is **grapheme**-color synesthesia. For these synesthetes, letters or numbers are colored. "A" may always be blue, while 1984 might be pinkish. "Linguistics is a grayish-purple-blue word," says Karen, one synesthete.

There are less common, more unusual versions as well. *The Man Who Tasted Shapes* is a book about different synesthetes, including one who indeed **associated** different shapes and tastes. People can connect sounds with **odors** or **textures**, or dates with places in space. A rare form of synesthesia links personalities with numbers, letters, or other concepts. Each synesthete is **unique**, so while many people may **perceive** numbers as colors, they will not agree, for example, that four is green.

No one is sure how synesthesia works. Scientists **speculate** that the brain becomes cross-wired, with parts of the brain that are supposed to stay in one area crossing into another. Synesthesia doesn't seem to have any negative effects on the brain. Synesthetes are as smart as everyone else. Indeed, many tests show that synesthetes have better memories than the average population for some reason.

Synesthesia seems to affect certain groups of people more than others. It seems to run in families. More women than men, and more people who are left-handed than right-handed have it. Many famous artists and **composers** have turned out to be synesthetes. Perhaps seeing the world in such a different way is **inspiring**!

► People with synesthesia may have superior memories.

Questions

- What is the main topic of the article?
 - The benefits of synesthesia.
 - Pros and cons of synesthesia.
 - What synesthesia really is.
 - The myth of synesthesia.
- What is this article mainly about?
 - A person.
 - A doctor.
 - A condition.
 - A debate.
- Which of the following statements is true?
 - Synesthetes are often not very smart.
 - Scientists know that synesthesia comes from crossed wires in the brain.
 - The most common form of synesthesia connects numbers and personality traits.
 - Synesthetes often have better memories than the general population.
- What does synesthesia seem to affect?
 - Rational thinking.
 - Mathematical ability.
 - Creativity.
 - Longevity.
- The fifth paragraph tells us that scientists speculate about synesthesia's causes. What does **speculate** mean?
 - Form a theory.
 - Know.
 - Test a theory.
 - Disagree.
- Which of the following might result from having synesthesia?
 - Being taller than average.
 - Being a worse-than-average speller.
 - Having a poor grasp of numbers.
 - Having a better-than-average memory.

Key Words

- synesthesia 聯覺 (共感覺) (n.)
- make sense 有道理
- stimulate 刺激 (v.)
- trigger 引發 (v.)
- association 關聯 (n.)
- recognize 辨識 (v.)
- grapheme 字母; 字彙 (n.)
- associate 關聯 (v.)
- odor 氣味 (n.)
- texture 質地 (n.)
- unique 獨特的 (a.)
- perceive 把...當作 (v.)

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15 Day 5 Synesthesia

Each article is followed by six essential questions to help readers understand the content.

Delicious Japanese Dishes

- grilled chicken on skewers
- sashimi
- sukiyaki
- curry rice
- rolled omelet
- pork cutlet
- tayaki
- chicken donburi
- wagashi

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Bountiful pictures that provide additional information related to the articles will enhance readers' pleasure in reading.

14 Day 3 The Kentucky Derby

► mint juleps & classic Kentucky Derby cocktail

The end of the Kentucky Derby is also a beginning. It's the first race of the **Triple Crown**, the three most important horse races in the USA. The **Preakness Stakes** and the **Belmont Stakes** are the other two races. As of now, the last horse to win all three was Affirmed, in 1978. Each year at the Kentucky Derby, the dream begins again.

ghost town in Bodie, California

Questions

- What is the main topic of the article?
 - The most popular ghost towns.
 - Ghost towns around the world.
 - The reasons for some ghost towns.
 - How to set up a ghost town.

42 Culture

The Slurp Heard Around the World

Ramen connects us. A food that instantly **evoke**s Japan actually came from China. It was then **revolutionized** by a man from Taiwan, and is a **staple** of American college students.

Ramen is the name of both a type of noodle and a dish. Ramen noodles are thin and squiggly. They're made of wheat flour and a particular kind of **alkaline** mineral water. The properties of this water add to the flavor and the **elastic** texture of the noodles. Ramen is usually hard pulled, so it has to **stretch**.

These noodles go into a dish that has local variations all over Japan. Almost all ramen variations start with a chicken or pork **broth**. The **tofu** (shio) ramen has a clear yellowish broth that may include seaweed and fish. Pork bone (tonkotsu) ramen has a white broth with a lot of fat, making it creamy. **Red** sauce (shoyu) ramen is based on soy sauce.

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Week 1



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01



The Voice That Rules the Music World

- 1 Adele Adkins was born in North London, England, in 1988. Her mother, Penny Adkins, was 18 years old at the time of her birth. There were some hard times for both of them during the early years. Adele's father left when Adele was just four years old. He would **keep in contact with**¹ her over the years, but it was often a troubled relationship. Adele eventually broke all contact with him when she was a teenager.
- 2 School was a problem for Adele early on. She often felt bored and **uninspired**² in class. **Fortunately**³, things turned around when she was accepted into the BRIT School for Performing Arts & Technology. This was the same school that Amy Winehouse attended. The school allowed Adele to develop her love of music and skills in playing **multiple**⁴ instruments, including the flute, saxophone, and guitar.
- 3 Adele's big break came when she was still at the BRIT School. She posted a short **demo**⁵ album on her MySpace page. Some **studio**⁶ **executives**⁷ listened to it, and then decided to sign her to a contract.
- 4 Adele's rise to **fame**⁸ since then has been **incredible**⁹. She has recorded three albums: *19*, *21*, and *25*. All of them are named after her age at the time of **production**¹⁰. These albums contain **memorable**¹¹ songs like "Rolling in the Deep" and "Someone Like You." They have sold over 40 million copies worldwide. Adele has also received countless **awards**¹². She swept the top **categories**¹³ of the Grammy Awards in 2012 and 2017—a first in Grammy history.
- 5 Perhaps more important than Adele's commercial success is the way she did it. Adele is unlike other pop stars, who tend to be managed and

Key Words

- 1 keep in contact with 與……保持聯絡 2 uninspired 乏味的 (a.) 3 fortunately 幸運地 (adv.)
 4 multiple 多樣的；複合的 (a.) 5 demo 樣本；試聽帶 (n.) 6 studio 工作室 (n.)
 7 executive 行政主管；經理 (n.) 8 fame 名聲 (n.) 9 incredible 難以置信的 (a.)
 10 production 製作 (n.) 11 memorable 難忘的 (a.) 12 award 獎項 (n.) 13 category 種類 (n.)
 14 label 標籤；公司 (n.) 15 immensely 非常 (adv.)



▲ Adele attended the 59th Grammy's Award in 2017.



▼ Adele's *Skyfall* won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 2013.

controlled by their **labels**¹⁴. She is driven, independent, and **immensely**¹⁵ talented. She also feels comfortable in her own skin. Some have even described her as a "**force of nature**." It's hard to imagine a better female role model for her millions of fans worldwide.

Questions

- ___ 1. Which sentence is closest to the main point? ♦Main Idea♦
 - a Adele broke records at the Grammy Awards.
 - b Adele is a special kind of talent.
 - c Adele attended the BRIT School for Performing Arts & Technology.
 - d Adele recorded three albums.

- ___ 2. What does this passage describe? ♦Subject Matter♦
 - a An album.
 - b A song.
 - c A musician.
 - d A voice.

- ___ 3. Which of the following statements about Adele is NOT true? ♦Supporting Details♦
 - a She didn't like school as a child.
 - b She recorded the song "Someone Like You."
 - c She was born in Scotland.
 - d She has won several Grammy Awards.

- ___ 4. What can we infer from the passage about Adele's childhood? ♦Inference♦
 - a Adele's mom had some struggles with money.
 - b Adele didn't like to sing when she was young.
 - c Adele didn't have many friends in her neighborhood.
 - d Adele was very religious.

- ___ 5. What does **force of nature** mean in the final paragraph? ♦Words in Context♦
 - a Someone who was born rich.
 - b Someone with a strong personality.
 - c Someone who doesn't like the countryside.
 - d Someone who likes being outdoors.

- ___ 6. What does the author do in the final paragraph to capture the reader's attention? ♦Clarifying Devices♦
 - a Shares a personal experience.
 - b Presents interesting statistics.
 - c Makes a strong argument.
 - d Describes several steps.

▶ Wall Street

02 

History of Wall Street



- 1 What is now New York City was once a Dutch **colony**¹. After the Dutch bought the land from the Native Americans in the area, they built a wall to protect themselves from attacks. The wall lasted for about 50 years in the mid-1600s, but the name it gave to the street that ran along it has lived for centuries.
- 2 Wall Street became a center of **commerce**² early in New York's history. Though it was only a **handful** of blocks long, it connected the East River with other major streets, which made it a convenient place to set up **warehouses**³ for **imported**⁴ goods and **facilities**⁵ for **exports**⁶.
- 3 The idea of buying and selling **bonds**⁷, contracts, and other investments in businesses wasn't new. The first **stock exchange**⁸ was set up in Belgium in 1531, followed by exchanges in Amsterdam and Paris. In New York, wealthy merchants along Wall Street traded stocks by **word of mouth**⁹. They would meet under a buttonwood tree at the end of the street. In 1792, they got tired of this informal state of affairs. That year, a group of men formally **established**¹⁰ what they called The Stock Exchange Office, a formal, regulated **entity**¹¹ to buy and sell stocks through.
- 4 The stock exchange in New York wasn't an instant success. **On the contrary**, in 1817, some members were upset with the poor performance of their exchange and went to observe the **bustling**¹², **thriving**¹³ exchange in Philadelphia. They came back with new ideas and made the first of many changes. In 1863, the organization was given its current name, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).



◀ Wall Street sign

Key Words

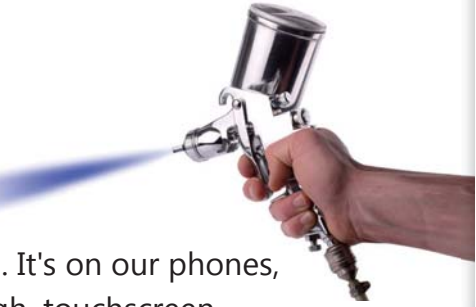
- 1 colony 殖民地 (n.) 2 commerce 商業 (n.) 3 warehouse 倉庫 (n.) 4 imported 進口的 (a.)
 5 facility 場所；機構 (n.) 6 export 出口；出口業務 (n.) 7 bond 債券 (n.)
 8 stock exchange (股票) 證券交易所 (n.) 9 word of mouth 口耳相傳 10 establish 建立 (v.)
 11 entity 實體 (n.) 12 bustling 忙碌的 (a.) 13 thriving 蓬勃的 (a.) 14 weather the storm 度過難關
 15 terrorism 恐怖主義 (n.) 16 dominate 主導 (v.)

- 5 The NYSE has **weathered the storms**¹⁴, from bubbles, panics, and depression to acts of **terrorism**¹⁵. So far, it continues to **dominate**¹⁶ American finance. In 1800, only about 20 companies were traded publicly. Today, a billion shares change hands every day. Prices rise and fall, but the bell that opens the NYSE every morning just keeps ringing.



Questions

- ___ 1. What is the main topic of the article? ♦Main Idea♦
- a How to succeed on Wall Street. b A history of stock exchanges.
c The NYSE today. d How Wall Street rose.
- ___ 2. What does the passage mainly deal with? ♦Subject Matter♦
- a A country. b A road.
c A financial institution. d An era.
- ___ 3. Which of the following statements is NOT true? ♦Supporting Details♦
- a The NYSE was not the name of America's first stock exchange.
b Early traders met under a tree to exchange stocks.
c The NYSE was the world's first stock exchange.
d Wall Street was named after a wall.
- ___ 4. What can we infer about the NYSE from the article? ♦Inference♦
- a It was the first of its kind in the world.
b It's a very durable institution.
c It has shrunk in power over the years.
d It is owned and run by the Dutch.
- ___ 5. The second paragraph mentions a handful of something. What does the word **handful** mean? ♦Words in Context♦
- a A small number.
b A large number.
c Something that can be manipulated by hand.
d Something that can be hidden.
- ___ 6. How is the phrase **on the contrary** used in the fourth paragraph? ♦Clarifying Devices♦
- a To lead into a contrast. b To lead into a myth.
c To provide context for a quote. d To indicate an emotion.

03 Spray¹, Connect, Touch

- 1 Touchscreen technology is **commonplace**² nowadays. It's on our phones, on our TV sets, and on our laptops. At the moment, though, touchscreen technology is limited mostly to small, flat surfaces like phone or computer screens. It isn't really **suitable**³ for large or irregular-shaped objects, like toys or living room walls, for example. However, a new **invention**⁴ called Electrck is set to change all that. It could be the first step in turning any surface into a working, **interactive** touchscreen.
- 2 So, what is Electrck exactly, and how does it work? **Essentially**⁵, Electrck is a **conductive**⁶ spray paint. You spray it on something and send a small electric charge through the object. The electrodes attached to the object then detect where you touch. Though it's not quite as **accurate**⁷ as the touchscreen on your smartphone or laptop, it can detect your finger to within about a centimeter. It's also **durable**⁸, able to **retain**⁹ its **sensitivity**¹⁰ over hundreds and hundreds of uses. It's not yet known how well it will work under conditions like rain or **electromagnetic**¹¹ **interference**¹², but it's early days, yet.
- 3 So what exactly could the **applications**¹³ of this spray-on touchscreen be? Think about it—you could place **shortcuts**¹⁴ to your TV's functions on your favorite chair or coffee table. You could turn something like a map into an interactive learning device. How about programming your electric guitar with different sound effects? Then simply turn them on by touching different places on the

► Touchscreen technology is commonplace.



▲ The applications of this spray-on touchscreen is vast. It can detect your hand location and gesture on the steering wheel.

Key Words

- 1 spray 噴灑 (v.) 2 commonplace 普遍的；常見的 (a.) 3 suitable 適合的 (a.) 4 invention 發明 (n.)
 5 essentially 本質上地 (adv.) 6 conductive 傳導的 (a.) 7 accurate 精確的 (a.)
 8 durable 耐用的 (a.) 9 retain 保留 (v.) 10 sensitivity 靈敏度 (n.) 11 electromagnetic 電磁的 (a.)
 12 interference 干擾 (n.) 13 application 應用 (n.) 14 shortcut 捷徑 (n.) 15 customize 客製 (v.)
 16 compatible 兼容的 (a.) 17 manufacturing 製造的 (a.) 18 state-of-the-art 最先進的 (a.)



◀ You can customize toys to respond to your touch.

instrument's body. You could **customize**¹⁵ toys, your house, your car—anything!—to respond to your touch.

4 Of course, you must be asking yourself, is it really possible to make anything touch-sensitive? In a word, yes. Electrick technology is not only **compatible**¹⁶ with traditional **manufacturing**¹⁷ methods such as spray-coating and casting. It works with newer, **state-of-the-art**¹⁸ technology like 3-D printing, too. The technology might be brand new, but the possibilities appear to be endless.

Questions

- ___ 1. What is the author's main point? ♦Main Idea♦
- a Spray-on touchscreens are not yet fully developed.
 - b Touchscreens are commonplace nowadays.
 - c Spray-on touchscreens have great future potential.
 - d Spray-on touchscreens are actually quite durable.
- ___ 2. What is the article about? ♦Subject Matter♦
- a A new invention.
 - b A famous inventor.
 - c Interior decoration.
 - d The future of smartphones.
- ___ 3. What is true about spray-on touchscreens? ♦Supporting Details♦
- a They're more accurate than conventional touchscreens.
 - b They can be used on irregular-shaped objects.
 - c They are completely waterproof.
 - d They can be used only on small objects.
- ___ 4. Which best describes the author's attitude towards spray-on touchscreens? ♦Inference♦
- a He's afraid of them and wants to see them stopped.
 - b He thinks they will only be available for rich people.
 - c He's looking forward to them becoming more popular.
 - d He's not really interested in them.
- ___ 5. In the first paragraph, the author mentions an interactive surface. If something is **interactive**, what does it do? ♦Words in Context♦
- a Breaks down easily.
 - b Refuses to follow instructions.
 - c Gives up when things get hard.
 - d Responds to a person's input.
- ___ 6. How does the author structure the article? ♦Text Form♦
- a As a series of questions and answers.
 - b As a series of events in a sequence.
 - c As a series of personal stories.
 - d As a series of causes and effects.

▼ henna powder

04 

The World's First Bridal Shower¹

- 1 What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Indian weddings? It's probably the **elegant**² designs painted on the **bride's**³ body. This is called the Mehndi **ceremony**⁴, and some say it's the "oldest bridal shower in the world."
- 2 During the Mehndi ceremony, a bride's hands and arms are **decorated**⁵ with a colorful paste made from **henna**⁶ plants. Henna has been used for body decoration for thousands of years. The Egyptian Pharaoh Cleopatra, who lived from 69 BC to 30 BC, is said to have used henna to paint her fingernails. The Mehndi ceremony is more recent, but it still **traces** its **roots back** to the 15th century.
- 3 The Mehndi ceremony takes place on the night before the wedding. It's known for being fun and **relaxing**⁷, unlike many other wedding ceremonies, which are more formal. The ceremony is a chance for the bride to spend time with close family and friends. Traditionally, it would be the last chance before the bride leaves to live with her husband's family. Guests of the ceremony come over to laugh, tell stories, sing, and dance. All the while, the bride's hands and arms are painted with **elaborate**⁸ henna designs. After the evening is over, the bride remains home until her wedding begins the next day.
- 4 Families approach the Mehndi ceremony differently. Sometimes the ceremony is very **low-key**⁹: a few loved ones gather for a "girls' night in." Other times, it is a big event, with an outside **venue**¹⁰ and a long guest list.



Key Words

1 bridal shower 新娘婚前送禮會 (n.) 2 elegant 優雅的 (a.) 3 bride 新娘 (n.) 4 ceremony 典禮 (n.)

5 decorate 裝飾 (v.) 6 henna 散沫花 (n.) 7 relaxing 悠哉的 (a.) 8 elaborate 精巧的 (a.)

9 low-key 低調的 (a.) 10 venue 場地 (n.) 11 steady 穩定的 (a.) 12 professional 專家 (n.)

13 peacock 孔雀 (n.) 14 representation 象徵圖像 (n.) 15 groom 新郎 (n.) 16 glitter 閃光 (n.)

5 Who does the actual body painting? It used to be any neighborhood auntie with experience and a **steady**¹¹ hand. But nowadays, brides tend to hire **professionals**¹² to do the henna painting. These pros will paint **peacocks**¹³, flowers, Islamic patterns, and **representations**¹⁴ of the bride and **groom**¹⁵. Their designs are also getting more complicated and more beautiful over time. Some of them have even begun to use **glitter**¹⁶ and different colors of henna.



▲ Henna artists are applying henna paintings on human bodies during wedding celebrations.

Questions

- ____ 1. Which sentence is closest to the main point? ♦Main Idea♦
- a The Mehndi ceremony is a relaxed and fun tradition.
 - b Families and friends are important to the bride.
 - c Women in India like to have parties.
 - d There are lots of professional henna painters now.
- ____ 2. What does this passage describe? ♦Subject Matter♦
- a A special dress.
 - b A pre-wedding event.
 - c A type of colorful paste.
 - d A dinner party.
- ____ 3. Based on the passage, which is NOT a part of the Mehndi ceremony? ♦Supporting Details♦
- a Singing.
 - b Dancing.
 - c Body painting.
 - d Cooking a meal.
- ____ 4. Which of the following is probably true about the Mehndi ceremony? ♦Inference♦
- a It lasts for a month.
 - b The groom does not attend.
 - c Most brides refuse to take part.
 - d It is a very expensive event.
- ____ 5. What does it mean to **trace** something's **roots back** as mentioned in the second paragraph? ♦Words in Context♦
- a To inspire something.
 - b To be the opposite of something.
 - c To come from something.
 - d To hurt something.
- ____ 6. According to the passage, what is one of the effects of brides using professional henna artists? ♦Cause and Effect♦
- a The price of the Mehndi ceremony is going down.
 - b The Mehndi ceremony is becoming more popular overseas.
 - c Guests are singing and dancing during the Mehndi ceremony.
 - d The henna designs are becoming more complex.