

5 Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation

American
ENGLISH FILE 5

GRAMMAR

1 Underline the correct word(s).

Example: It's **been announced** / **announced** that our pay will increase next year.

- 1 **Apparently** / **According** to the newspaper, the economy is going to improve next year.
- 2 The robbers **may have** / **might be** escaped by motorcycle.
- 3 Pete is **understood to** / **understood** have written a postcard from Paris.
- 4 There are **thought to be** / **appears to be** millions of species of insects in the world.
- 5 **It's appear** / **It appears** that the office is closed.
- 6 It would **seems** / **seem** that Brad has stolen Fred's bicycle.

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2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

Example: I think it's time you found (find) your own place to live.

- 1 I wish I _____ (know) the answer to your question.
- 2 Would you rather we _____ (go) to the park?
- 3 If only you _____ (not forget) to bring your wallet, we'd be able to buy a drink.
- 4 If only Stephan _____ (be) a bit more reliable, then we wouldn't have to wonder if the job is being done correctly.
- 5 I'd rather you _____ (not call) my father. He's probably not awake yet.
- 6 Don't you think it's time you _____ (take) a vacation?

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3 Is the sentence right or wrong? Write *correct* or *incorrect* in the blank.

- 1 It has been announcing that the company president is leaving next month. _____
- 2 According to the newspaper this morning, there were several robberies in the city last night. _____
- 3 It is said that there are some animals that recognize themselves in the mirror. _____
- 4 Apparently to what I read on the Internet, there will be a special election for mayor next month. _____
- 5 There are thought being several ways to achieve lifelong happiness. _____

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VOCABULARY

4 Choose two words and put them together to make compound nouns. Do not add extra words.

Example: a ... confined / big / turn-off a big turn-off

- 1 a ... long-term / dumped / relationship a _____
- 2 a ... juggling / time-saving / gadget a _____
- 3 a ... spare / question / of time a _____
- 4 a ... hard / waste / time a _____
- 5 the ... time of / time being / your life the _____
- 6 some ... time / off / up some _____

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5 Complete the sentences with one word.

Example: A legal agreement where a bank lends you money to buy a house is called a mortgage.

- 1 Something that is reasonably priced is good _____ for money.
- 2 Money that you give to a charity organization is called a _____.
- 3 Money that is given without expectation of repayment, especially to pay for college, is called a _____.
- 4 A person who has a lot of money but wastes it is said to have more money than _____.
- 5 If you have to stop yourself from saying something rude or hurtful, we say you "bite your _____."
- 6 I have a full-time job and a family to take care of, so I don't have much _____ time.

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5 Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation

B

American
ENGLISH FILE 56 Underline the odd word out.Example: poor broke loaded penniless

1 juggle debt consumer currency

2 fees charge hard up fine

3 rich wealthy consumer well-off

4 savings bandit loan lump sum

5 gadget cellphone laptop installment

6 multitask income currency installment

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PRONUNCIATION

7 Match the words with the same sound.

fees debt sob whistle
savings approachedExample: buzz fees

1 deposit _____, _____

2 barely _____

3 sense _____, _____

☐ 58 Underline the stressed syllable.Example: childcare

1 beyond

2 exchange

3 affluent

4 consumer

5 installment

☐ 5Pronunciation total ☐ 10

5 Reading and Writing **B**

READING

1 Read the article and check (✓) A, B, or C.

A STUDY OF MULTITASKING

Technology increasingly makes it possible for people to do more than one task at a time, for example moving between browsing the Web and using other computer programs, talking on cell phones while driving, or flying a jet and monitoring air traffic. Indeed, the word describing this – “multitasking” – has gone from being invented to being commonly used in everyday life in a remarkably short time. A recent study has looked at whether multitasking is purely beneficial or has its downside, especially when the tasks being done together are complicated ones.

The researchers concluded that when people are multitasking, they are using what they call “executive control” processes. These processes concern different parts of the brain and involve the brain allocating different mental resources to different tasks and deciding which tasks are more important than others. The brain’s executive control gives the appropriate resources to the different aspects of tasks, such as understanding what the task requires, thinking about what to do, and taking action.

The researchers conducted an experiment into how much time was lost when people repeatedly switched between two tasks. The tasks varied in terms of how complex they were and how familiar the subjects were with doing those tasks, and they included such things as solving mathematical problems and classifying geometric objects. The researchers measured how long it took the subjects to carry out the tasks and considered the speed in connection with whether the tasks were familiar or unfamiliar, and whether the rules for doing them were simple or complicated.

The results of the experiments were the same for every kind of task. In each case, the subjects lost time when they moved from one task to another, and the amount of time they lost increased when the tasks were complex or unfamiliar. When they were familiar with a task, they were able to adapt to changing to it and get on with it much more quickly. The researchers say that these results indicate that the brain’s executive control consists of two separate stages. They called the first stage “goal shifting,” meaning a preference to do one of the tasks rather than the other at a particular moment. The second stage they named “rule activation,” meaning moving from engaging with the rules associated with how to go about one task to engaging with the rules involved in doing the other task. The second stage, “rule activation,” takes a significant amount of time, and this delay multiplies when people keep switching between tasks. The result is that quite a lot of time is lost

when multitasking, in comparison with the time that would be taken if each task was completed separately.

This has major implications for multitasking, suggesting that although people may think that it saves time without affecting efficiency, in reality it actually takes more time, and this may have an adverse effect on efficiency. In the case of someone using a cell phone while driving, multitasking could mean that they are not in full control of their vehicle during the short period when they are switching to using the phone.

The researchers feel that their research has important consequences for multitasking. Their conclusions regarding executive control and how it works may, they believe, help people to look for strategies that will enable them to operate in the most efficient way possible when they are multitasking. And an understanding of executive mental control could have an impact on the design of the technology involved in such areas as operating aircraft and air traffic control, as well as other activities where the interface between humans and computers is crucial to efficiency.

In addition, there are other possible applications of this research. Understanding how people function while multitasking could assist with recruitment, training, and assessment of personnel in the workplace. It could also have an influence on government and industrial regulations, assist in the diagnosis and treatment of brain-damaged patients, and increase our general understanding of how the brain works.

- 1 What does the writer suggest about the word “multitasking?”
 - A Its increased use reflects a change in everyday life. ☐
 - B It is not always used appropriately. ☐
 - C It has changed in meaning since it was invented. ☐
- 2 The aim of the research was to _____.
 - A compare the advantages and disadvantages of multitasking ☐
 - B discover why multitasking is regarded a wholly good thing ☐
 - C find out if there are any negative effects of multitasking ☐
- 3 The researchers use the term “executive control” to describe how the brain _____.
 - A controls some actions more than others ☐
 - B organizes how different tasks are carried out ☐
 - C distinguishes between easier and harder tasks ☐

5 Reading and Writing **B**

- 4 What do we learn about the experiment?
- A The researchers knew that some of the subjects had done similar tasks before. ☐
- B Not all of the subjects did the same tasks. ☐
- C The subjects started with simple tasks and move on to more complicated ones. ☐
- 5 Which of the following happened during the experiment?
- A Some subjects always found it hard to move from one task to another. ☐
- B Sometimes little time was lost moving from one task to another. ☐
- C Complex tasks presented more problems than unfamiliar tasks. ☐
- 6 One of the two stages of the brain's executive control _____.
- A leads to a major disadvantage of multitasking ☐
- B takes longer for some people than for others ☐
- C has no connection with multitasking ☐
- 7 One of the implications of the research is that _____.
- A some people are not suited to multitasking ☐
- B a common attitude to multitasking is wrong ☐
- C multitasking always results in less efficiency ☐
- 8 The researchers believe that their research might _____.
- A encourage people not to do multitasking in some situations ☐
- B affect the way that people approach multitasking ☐
- C result in technology replacing people for certain tasks ☐
- 9 In the final paragraph, the writer says that multitasking is something that _____.
- A is likely to increase in the future ☐
- B people in authority have paid too little attention to ☐
- C is relevant in many areas of life ☐
- 10 What is the main topic of the text?
- A The growth of multitasking ☐
- B How complicated the brain's processes for multitasking are ☐
- C The relationship between multitasking and efficiency ☐

Reading total **10****WRITING**

Write an article of approximately 250 words for an English-language magazine about how one of the areas below has changed in the last 20 years in your country and say whether you think the changes are positive or negative.

- 1 People's work-life balance
- 2 Family life
- 3 How people spend their free time

Writing total **10**Reading and Writing total **20**

5 Listening and Speaking **B**

LISTENING

- 1 Listen to five people talking about the disadvantages of various jobs. Match the speakers (1–5) to their feelings about money (A–H).

Speaker 1 ☐Speaker 2 ☐Speaker 3 ☐Speaker 4 ☐Speaker 5 ☐

A the person who doesn't understand why everyone is so anxious about money

B the budget-conscious person who wants to spend as little as possible for everything

C the professional who wants everyone to know how their money works

D the person who is already planning for what to do about money after finishing a career

E the person who wants to start life without debt but knows it's not possible

F the student who wants to know how to budget before leaving school

G the person who doesn't know where the money goes

H the saver who wants to get as much as possible out of every dollar spent

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- 2 Listen to an interview about time management. Check (✓) A, B, or C.

- 1 What does Margaret Cooper do?

A She is a time management specialist with a university in the area. ☐

B She helps students by scheduling their work and free time for them. ☐

C She works at the local university helping students with their homework. ☐

- 2 According to Margaret Cooper, what is the first step to good time management?

A Knowing what your priorities are for how you spend your time. ☐

B Keeping an organized planner or scheduler. ☐

C Knowing how you spend your time now. ☐

- 3 Where do many students find something to help them schedule their time?

A In the back of their textbooks. ☐

B Right on their cell phones. ☐

C In a journal or notebook where they record how they spend their time. ☐

- 4 What is an example Cooper gives of something that should be higher priority on a student's planner?

A Dating ☐

B Parties ☐

C Work schedule ☐

- 5 What does Cooper say is an added benefit of organizing one's time?

A Students were able to enjoy their social time more. ☐

B Students were able to enjoy their video games more. ☐

C Students were able to enjoy their homework more. ☐

☐ 5Listening total ☐ 10

SPEAKING

Student A

- 1 Ask your partner these questions.

1 What would you most like to be able to buy?

2 Why is it important to keep a budget?

3 Which modern gadget is the most useful one for you?

4 What kind of multitasking do you do?

5 How do people view money in your country?

- 2 Now answer your partner's questions.

- 3 Now talk about one of these statements, saying if you agree or disagree. Give reasons.

1 "Today, people are encouraged to be too materialistic."

2 "Technology has had a bad effect on communication between people."

3 "It's important for me to save money for my retirement."

- 4 Now listen to your partner. Do you agree with him/ her?

Speaking total ☐ 15Listening and Speaking total ☐ 25

5 Listening and Speaking B**Student B**

- 1 Answer your partner's questions.
- 2 Now ask your partner these questions.
 - 1 How do most people get their knowledge of wealthy people?
 - 2 Are you good at managing your money? Why or why not?
 - 3 Which modern gadget do you think wastes people's time?
 - 4 How do you communicate most with friends and family?
 - 5 Which gadget would it be difficult for you to live without?
- 3 Listen to your partner. Do you agree with him/her?
- 4 Now talk about one of these statements, saying if you agree or disagree. Give reasons.
 - 1 "There is nothing wrong with wanting to be wealthy."
 - 2 "It is better to be very busy than not busy at all."
 - 3 "I need to learn how to manage my time better."

Speaking total		15
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Listening and Speaking total		25
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