

## Parallel Texts

### Text 1:

A few weeks ago, while we were out at the cinema, we had our house broken into. We'd been meaning to have locks fitted on the windows, but we hadn't had the work done, and so the burglars found it easy to get in. Luckily we didn't have many things taken. When the police arrived, they got us to go through the house and check what was missing. We were actually having a new kitchen fitted at that time, and some power tools had been stolen. One of the burglars was seen acting suspiciously near another house a few days later, and got himself arrested. When he had had his fingerprints taken at the police station, the police were able to prove he was the one who had burgled us. Since then we have had new locks fitted and a new alarm installed.

1. Our house was broken into when we were sleeping.
  2. It was easy to get in because there weren't locks on the windows.
  3. The police wanted to know if we missed anything.
  4. The kitchen was old and nothing was stolen.
  5. The same burglar was seen near another house.
  6. We learned a good lesson not to leave the windows without locks.
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### Text 2:

If all the people on Earth disappeared tomorrow, nature would begin to reclaim the planet. For a start, if people no longer polluted the atmosphere, the air would soon become clean again. If there were no people to maintain buildings, they would soon begin to decay, but more solid parts would take thousands of years to disappear. In general if the 6.5 billion humans no longer competed with other species on Earth, most species would benefit. For example, if humans no longer caught fish, the numbers of fish worldwide would eventually increase. However, if humans vanished from the Earth, endangered species of animals would not necessarily recover as some are already too few in number. Some endangered species would have greater difficulty surviving if no humans took the trouble to protect them from other species.

1. If people disappeared, nature would be completely destroyed.
  2. People pollute the atmosphere and the air.
  3. The solid parts of the buildings would take so many years to disappear.
  4. The number of fish would increase if human beings stopped fishing.
  5. If humans vanished, endangered species of animals would definitely stay alive.
  6. Some animals depend on humans to protect them.
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### Text 3:

Rubbish – or refuse as we should really call it - is big news at the moment. For many years, people in Britain have had to pay a local tax (council tax) which includes a charge for refuse collection. In many parts of the country people have also been able to ask their local council to remove unwanted household items, such as furniture and electrical appliances. However, in recent years, as a result of EU legislation, councils have had to reconsider how they collect rubbish, and what they do with it. In the past, householders simply had to put out their dustbins once a week, and the council collected the rubbish. Now the emphasis is on recycling, and householders have to separate recyclable waste (paper, plastic, cans and bottles) from organic waste (food and garden waste) and other items.

1. The local tax in Britain contains a charge for refuse collection.
2. People don't want to get rid of the unwanted electrical appliances.
3. Under the EU legislation, councils have had to reconsider how to collect rubbish.
4. In the past, the council collected rubbish once a week.
5. These days the emphasis is on putting all the rubbish in one place.
6. Paper, plastic, cans and bottles are classified as non-recyclable items.

#### **Text 4:**

A recent medical report has predicted that increasing numbers of people in developed countries will suffer from high blood pressure. The authors pointed out that whether many developing countries now have the same problems and accused governments of failing to educate people about unhealthy lifestyles. They blamed the situation on a high-fat diet, long working hours and lack of exercise and announced that a quarter of the world's population were affected. They explained that high blood pressure is a major cause of heart disease and advised people that they should make changes in lifestyle to deal with these problems. They recommended that everyone should avoid a h diet which contains high amounts of fat and salt, and added that smoking and alcohol contribute to the problem.

1. According to the report, many people will suffer from high blood pressure in developed countries.
  2. Long working hours is one of the causes of high blood pressure.
  3. High blood pressure doesn't lead to heart diseases.
  4. Governments are accused of not educating people about unhealthy lifestyles.
  5. Half of the world's population were affected with blood pressure.
  6. People have to make changes in their lifestyle to deal with problems like high blood pressure.
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#### **Text 5:**

Walid is a student who has dreamt of being a teacher of English since he was a child. He likes teaching and dealing with students. Walid has passed his exams with high marks and now he is about to choose a subject to study at university so that he can get a good job for a living in the future. Walid feels that his dream comes true and that he is able to be a teacher as he always aspires. However, his parents want him to be an engineer because, they think that, engineering is better and more profitable than teaching. Those parents ignore their son's aptitude and insist that he has to study engineering just because they get swayed by their son's peers who want to study engineering. In other words, they want to burden their son with something difficult for him. In fact, researchers always assure that parents shouldn't misguide their children into choosing what to study or what to do. Furthermore, demotivation might have a negative impact on the child's mental health when rejecting their ideas.

1. Walid dreams of working at schools and universities.
  2. Walid has passed his exams with flying colours and his dream comes true.
  3. Walid wants to study engineering but his parents refuse this idea.
  4. Because Walid's parents are not influenced by their son's peers, they want him to study science.
  5. Researchers assure that parents should guide their children well.
  6. Demotivation has a negative effect on the child's mental health when rejecting their ideas.
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#### **Text 6:**

Every year thousands of children go to the doctors because of back pain, and in fact, this kind of problem is rapidly becoming one of the most common childhood complaints. And what exactly causes this outbreak of back strain and tiredness? It seems that even quite young children are taking more and more to school- not just books., but also clothes and games players-and their backpacks simply weigh too much. 'Some kids carry more than 25% of their bodyweight in a bag that has a nice cartoon character on the bag, but which actually gives them serious backache', reported Dr. Elaine Sachs, in North London. " Most parents simply don't realize what is happening to their children."

1. Not many children go to doctors because of back pain.
2. Some kids put more than books in their bags.
3. Children don't complain about anything.
4. Most parents don't know how heavy their children's bags are.
5. The bags are designed with pictures of chairs and tables.
6. The heavy bags cause a lot of backache.

### **Text 7:**

More than a century after women started making efforts for the right to vote, it still seems that there aren't enough women in positions of power. Although there are a few successful female business leaders, there are clearly many more men at the top. Many people believe that this situation reflects the fact that women haven't got enough time to be successful in the work place, and in the home. There is too much pressure on women, they say, to be good wives and mothers, and they are at a disadvantage in the job market. However, many modern business operations now depend on co-operation and flexibility, and women are better at these skills than men. So it may well be that in the future, quite a lot of important business will be run by women, and it will be men who earn lower wages or stay at home.

1. In spite of their efforts to vote, women are not in positions of power.
  2. People feel that females don't have time to be successful in both the work place and home.
  3. Women can't be successful in the business that needs flexibility.
  4. In the future, males will always earn more than females even if women run the business.
  5. Women may run important business in the future.
  6. Women have too much pressure because they work indoors and outdoors.
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### **Text 8:**

Most people think that girls are better students than boys. In England, girls score higher marks in tests in most subjects and at most ages. At the age of seven 88% of girls reach the expected level for their age, but only 80% of boys do. By the age of 11, the difference is 80% to 69%, and the gap is wider at 14 years old. A smaller situation exists in the USA and many other countries, However, two American researchers, William Draves and Julie Coates, believe that it is not the boys who are the problem, but the schools. Their book, *Nine Shift : Work, life, and education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century* explains that in fact boys are better prepared for the future. Boys are more interested in computers and the internet. They like taking risks, and thinking about ways of making money and teamwork-things that are important for success at work. The problem is that schools punish boys for this behavior because they are bad at listening and following instructions.

1. At the age of seven, a few girls reach the suitable level for their age.
  2. The difference between boys and girls is bigger at the age of fourteen.
  3. The American researchers say that boys do badly at school because they are less intelligent.
  4. According to Draves and Coates the boys like making money.
  5. Some boys listen well to their teachers.
  6. William Draves thinks boys are the problem not the schools.
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### **Text 9:**

Power stations, cars and factories produce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Trees and plants change it back to oxygen, but we are cutting down trees in the Amazon rainforests. so the amount of carbon dioxide in the air is increasing. The carbon dioxide allows radiation from the sun to enter the atmosphere but not to leave it. This is causing the atmosphere to heat up. Scientists think that the polar ice caps and glaciers around the world are melting. This is creating more water and the level of the sea is rising. In many parts of the world there is a possibility of floods on land near the coast. In general, the world's climate is changing. This means warm areas are having colder winters, and previously cold areas are getting warmer.

1. Carbon dioxide is produced by factories only.
  2. The amount of carbon dioxide is increasing in the air because we cut trees in the Amazon rainforest.
  3. Carbon dioxide prevents radiation from the sun to enter the atmosphere.
  4. The level of the sea rises because the polar ice is melting.
  5. Near the coast, there is no possibility of floods on land.
  6. The previously cold areas are getting warmer because of the climate change.
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**Text 10:**

Ten years ago, studies conducted and motivated people. They got good results at school and at work. In those days, video games were quite simple, so what about the more complex games of today? Many children start to play video games at seven. For most of them this is not a problem, but some of them addicts. A recent study of children aged 12 and 14 found that almost a third played video games daily. Seven per cent spent at least 30 hours playing every week. Addiction to games can lead to other problems such as stealing money to buy new games, failing to do homework or not going to school. In another study, scientists at Japan's Tohoku University looked at the brain activity of hundreds of students as they played a Nintendo game. They compared this with the brain activity of other students doing maths. The results were surprising. The computer game only stimulated those parts of the brain related to vision and movement, but not parts of the brain which are important for behavior, memory, and learning.

1. Players of video games were very clever.
  2. Only few children begin playing video games at seven.
  3. Some children are addicted to video games.
  4. Recent studies said that 13% spent 30 hours playing.
  5. Addiction to games may lead to stealing money.
  6. The computer game stimulated the memory.
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**THE ANSWERS:**

**Text 1:** 1. false 2. true 3. true 4. false 5. true 6. true

**Text 2:** 1. false 2. true 3. true 4. true 5. false 6. true

**Text 3:** 1. true 2. false 3. true 4. true 5. false 6. false

**Text 4:** 1. true 2. true 3. false 4. true 5. false 6. true

**Text 5:** 1. true 2. true 3. false 4. false 5. true 6. true

**Text 6:** 1. false 2. true 3. false 4. true 5. false 6. true

**Text 7:** 1. true 2. true 3. false 4. false 5. true 6. true

**Text 8:** 1. false 2. true 3. false 4. true 5. false 6. false

**Text 9:** 1. false 2. true 3. false 4. true 5. false 6. true

**Text 10** 1. true 2. false 3. true 4. false 5. true 6. false

