

SÈRIE 4

Is Text Messaging Making our Kids Illiterate?**PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION**

Choose the best answer. Only one answer is correct.

[0,5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized (-0.16)]

1. Many older people believe that...
 - a) **a teenager can solve most problems with computers or high tech devices...**
 - b) lots of kids grow up today with a joystick in their minds
 - c) high tech trouble is quicker and cheaper to fix today
 - d) kids should be introduced to tech devices at an earlier age

2. "Folks" in line 1 means...
 - a) Educators.
 - b) Specialists.
 - c) Philosophers.
 - d) **People.**

3. One of the good things about high tech is that kids can...
 - a) meet all the people living in their hometowns.
 - b) coordinate their hands and eyes into one single skill.
 - c) find a lot of information from the best libraries.
 - d) **have a richer social life.**

4. According to the author, one of the ill effects of videogames is that kids...
 - a) can attract other youngsters into their web traps.
 - b) **may behave violently in real life.**
 - c) do their homework through internet only.
 - d) can't meet real-time chatters on line.

5. "R U going 2?" is an example of...
 - a) **phonetic shorthand.**
 - b) a properly spelled sentence.
 - c) IRC mobile phone.
 - d) Old English.

6. Some pessimistic people complain that...
 - a) parents and educators should not be divided on this issue.
 - b) language is always changing.
 - c) Old English ancestors did fewer spelling errors than we do now.
 - d) **Instant Messaging shows that young generations are more and more uneducated.**

7. According to the text, researchers and teachers...
 - a) agree that teenagers can tell conventional from messaging spelling.
 - b) think Shakespeare does not lose his literary power in messaging translation.
 - c) support the use of abbreviations and conventional spelling.
 - d) **disagree about the influence of text messaging in school work.**

8. The author of this article is...
 - a) a young man crazy about high tech gadgets.
 - b) **an adult who reflects on the use of new techs among kids.**
 - c) a young father who is worried about the harmful effects of text messaging.
 - d) an educator who wants to reflect the growing illiteracy at British schools.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION.**A Better World**

In the following conversation you are going to hear the following words. Read and listen carefully. Make sure you know what they mean:

Issue: temàtica, afer / temática, asunto

Coal: carbó / carbón

Slide show: projecció de diapositives / proyección de diapositivas

Moviemakers: cineastes / cineastas

Regardless: sense tenir en compte / sin tener en cuenta

Waste: Deixalles, rebuig / Basura, residuos

Good evening everyone! I'm Gill Simmons. Tonight we have the pleasure to introduce you to a very special guest in our environmental program "The Green World". Mr. Al Gore, former vice president of the USA was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle against climate change. In 2006, Mr Al Gore started his campaign to fight the effects of global warming. At its centre was his film, "An Inconvenient Truth," which stars Al Gore himself and was greeted with surprisingly positive press. Since he lost the 2000' elections, Al Gore has been travelling the globe with a computer presentation on global warming. It was at one of those presentations that Gore was convinced to star in a documentary based on his climate slideshow. Producer David Guggenstein directed it, and the movie was ready in little over a year. Al Gore is here to speak with us about the problems of the world environment.

Gill Simmons: Good evening, Mr Gore! Tell us, please, why worry about the future of our world? Is there such a serious problem?

Gore: Yes, absolutely! The relationship between our civilization and the earth has been radically transformed. Global warming is the most serious manifestation of the problem. Scientific studies show us things are getting worse. And a lot of people have been absorbing this message, and they're now saying, "Wait a minute, we really have to do something about this."

Gill: Where did you get your initial interest in this issue?

Gore: When I was at college I had a professor who was the first person to measure CO₂ in the earth's atmosphere. He saw that the excessive use of coal and oil was beginning to radically change the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Gill: That was long ago...

Gore: Yes, it's true. Since then, I've watched those numbers continue to go up and what my professor said almost 40 years ago has come true.

Gill: How was it you decided to make a movie about it?

Gore: You see, after I left the White House in January 2001, I started giving a slide show on global warming. On one occasion, my wife made me see that I could use computers to improve my presentation. Once I did that, it was much better and more compelling.

Gill: But that was only a computer presentation, not a film!

Gore: Well, yes but what happened was that, at one of the showings in Los Angeles several people from the entertainment industry came and asked me if I would consider making this into a movie. I was not sure about that, but they said the film would be mainly scientific and that it would be true to the integrity of the message; and they have actually done a fantastic job!

Gill: Did you have direct control over the movie? Or did you leave it in the hands of the creative team?

Gore: I want to be careful in answering this, because I don't want to step on the creative role that the moviemakers played: It's their vision and it's their movie, particularly David Guggenstein's. But at every step he consulted me. We had a mutual agreement on every aspect of that.

Gill: Now, let's talk briefly about some proposed solutions. Nuclear power is now seen as a solution to climate change. What do you think?

Gore: I don't think nuclear power will play a much larger role in the future than it does now. There are serious problems that go together with it...

Gill: Like what?

Gore: Long-term waste-storage and the vulnerability to a terrorist attack, as well as other considerations...

Gill: How about the other big, new source, ethanol?

Gore: I think it is going to be a big new source of energy, particularly for the transportation sector. You're going to see a lot more flex-fuel vehicles. You're going to see new processes that use waste as the source of energy, so there's no petroleum consumed there.

Gill: However, President Bush and others still suggest more research is needed.

Gore: Some people, including the President, don't seem to accept the truth. It's inconvenient. This administration is quite responsive to the oil and coal industries. And they do not want anything done on global warming.

Gill: Why, Mr Gore?

Gore: Basically, because they used to believe that the issue was exaggerated. Secondly, they are financing disinformation on global warming, which is designed to confuse the American people. And the third reason is that some ideological conservatives think the government must not play a larger role in the situation.

Gill: Do you think they will change their mind?

Gore: I hope they will. Maybe after exhausting every other alternative, President Bush will finally do the right thing. If the scientists are right and we only have 10 years, we can't give up two and a half years out of 10 to wait for the President to accept reality.

Gill: But the government has not agreed to sign the Kyoto protocol yet...

Gore: There are 218 U.S. cities that have adopted Kyoto on their own. That will make the President see he must make a change.

Gill: Some people said this film was a strategy for your campaign for the next presidential elections. Now that we know you are not running for the presidential election, what do you have to say to that?

Gore: Well it is a campaign, but it's not a political campaign. It's a campaign to change the way our country thinks about global warming. There are many ways to serve my county, and I'm enjoying them.

Gill: Well, thank you very much, Mr Gore. This has been a very interesting conversation, and I hope your film helps people realize how serious the problem is.

Gore: I only want to help people see their involvement is crucial for our common future.

Gill: I'm sure you'll achieve it, Mr Gore.

Gore: Thank you.

(Adapted from Newsweek[®] and Grist[®])

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only one answer is correct.
[0.25 points each answer. Wrong answers will be penalized (-0.08). No penalties for unanswered questions.]

1. What causes the change in the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere?
 - The lack of use of coal and oil.
 - The excessive use of coal and oil.**
 - The radical measurement of the atmosphere.
 - The excessive use of this CO₂.

2. Who told Gore about the possibility of making a film about global warming?
 - His wife
 - Some people at his first slide show presentation.
 - Some people from the entertainment industry.**
 - Some scientists.

3. Who controlled the creative process of the film?
 - Only the director, David Guggenstein.
 - The director, David Guggenstein, who often consulted Gore.**
 - Gore himself, because he thought it was more effective.
 - The director, together with a group of scientists.

4. Gore thinks that in the future nuclear power...
 - won't be much more important than it is now.**
 - will be the best source of energy.
 - will play a larger role than it does now.
 - will be important for the transportation sector.

5. According to the interview, the use of ethanol is positive because it is...
 - cheaper than nuclear power.
 - easy to transport.
 - made mainly from waste.**
 - made of consumed petroleum.

6. Gore thinks one of the reasons why President Bush and his government don't want to act on the problem is that they...

- have interests in the production of ethanol.
- finance organizations who want to stop using petroleum..
- only accept the truth given by experts.
- are quite responsive to the production of oil and coal.**

7. Who is adopting the Kyoto protocol in the USA?

- Only the government.
- Some cities do.**
- Some organizations.
- Only big cities do.

8. What kind of campaign is Gore leading? A campaign...

- for the next presidential elections.
- for the use of nuclear power.
- to become a candidate for a global organization..
- to change people's point of view about global warming.**