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Part V Writing**The Digital Age**

Nowadays with the rapid development of advanced digital technology, more and more digital products are commonly and widely used in everyday life, ranging from computers and MP4s to mobile telephones and digital cameras. We are indeed coming into the digital age.

The popularity of digital products will have great influence on our work, study and daily life. On the one hand, the digital products really facilitate our life. With the help of computers, we may even deal with our work at home, enjoying music at the same time. With digital cameras, we may take photos to our hearts' content, keeping happy occasions as a permanent memory. With digital TV programs, it is convenient for us to watch whatever programs at any time we like. On the other hand, some people are becoming too dependent on digital products and almost becoming slaves of advanced technology. Nowadays some students even can't calm down to study without wearing their MP4s and mobile phones at hand. What a terrible scene!

To conclude, digital products are just like a double-edged sword. With them we may have less trouble dealing with problems in life and enjoy a better-off life. However, one point should be kept in mind that we should take sensible use of them, always being the master of them.

听力原文

Part I Listening Comprehension**Section A**

*Directions: In this section, you will hear 8 short conversations and 2 long conversations. At the end of each conversation, one or more questions will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken **ONLY ONCE**. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A, B, C and D and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the correct responding letter on Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Short Conversation

1. W: I would like to watch the Oscars tonight. How about you?

M: Well, I will join you. You know I like the charming stars.

Q: What will the man do tonight?

2. W: That girl looks very attractive, doesn't she?

M: Do you think so? I don't like girls who look like that. I like girls who are not too slim.

Q: What can we learn from the conversation?

3. W: How are your wedding plans going?

M: Very well. The only thing that isn't ready yet is my wedding dress.

Q: What is not ready for the man's wedding?

4. W: So, tell me about your new house. How is it different from your old one?

M: Well, first of all, it's much bigger. We also have a larger garden, which our dog loves, of course!

Q: Which one is not right according to the conversation?

5. W: I'm thinking about redecorating my bedroom. I bought this magazine in order to get some ideas. What do you think of this?

M: That looks great.

Q: Why did the woman buy this magazine?

6. W: Do you do a lot of your shopping online?

M: Not really. I usually prefer to actually see and touch what I'm buying before I pay for it.

Q: What can we learn about the man according to the conversation?

7. W: Good morning. I understand that you've got a problem with your washing machine.

M: Excellent. Come in please. The washing machine is in the bathroom upstairs.

Q: In which company does the man probably work?

8. W: Are you looking for a casual jacket or something formal?

M: Just a casual jacket. This one looks nice. I'll buy it.

Q: Where does the conversation take place?

Long Conversation One

W: So, you see, I have something new in my kitchen.

M: Well, the refrigerator is new, isn't it?

W: Yes. I needed a larger one. Before, I had a separate refrigerator and freezer, but this has both combined into one.

M: That's usual nowadays. You've added a few shelves too.

W: Yes. You know I've been cooking more kinds of food recently and I needed some extra space for spices and ingredients.

M: Did you buy new cupboards too?

W: No, I didn't. I gave them a really good clean, so they just look new. The worktop was in poor condition, so I had a new one added.

M: I see that you have bought several new pots and pans and utensils.

W: Yes, I have. I need them to help me with all these new dishes I'm trying to make. I need a little more practice before I invite guests over.

M: Looking at the spice rack, I'd say you've been learning how to make Asian food,

W: Yes. I've always like Indian and Thai food, so I've been trying to make dishes from those countries. I'm pretty good at making curries now, but I still need practice at making Thai food.

M: Both kinds of food are becoming popular. Nowadays, it's very easy to pick up the ingredients at the supermarket.

W: I hope you can stay for dinner. I need a guinea pig!

Questions 9 to 11 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

9. Which one is right about the woman's new refrigerator?

10. Why has the woman added some shelves in the kitchen?

11. What kind of food has the woman been learning to make?

Long Conversation Two

W: Post offices offer lots of services nowadays, don't they? Years ago, you could only send mails, save money, and send or collect money at the post office.

M: Nowadays, they offer so many services, you hardly know which one to choose. Take mailing for example, there are three choices for you to post something. They are the first class, the second class and the EMS.

W: You are right. I save money in a post office saving account. There used to be just one kind of account, but now there are several ones. They each have different conditions and interest rates.

M: You can buy things at post office that were never sold there before. You can buy sweets, newspapers, birthday and Christmas cards...

W: Post offices are still the place to go to collect welfare benefits, like unemployment benefit and child support benefit. The queues are very long on the days when people collect those payments.

M: My son likes going to the main post office. They have a philately counter where he can

buy stamps for his collection.

W: Do you think that the service at post offices has improved?

M: I think it's better for some things, like sending and receiving money, but if you need to post something it sometimes takes longer than it used to.

W: I seldom post something. I like buying newspapers and magazines at the post office. It means that I don't need to go to two places.

Questions 12 to 15 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

12. Which one is not the thing that people could do at the post office years ago?
13. Which one is not the thing people can buy at the post office nowadays?
14. Why do many people queue up at the post office according to the conversation?
15. Why does the man's son like going to the main post office?

Section B

Directions: In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken TWICE. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A., B., C. and D. Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

It's the graduation day for movie star Emma Watson. As a British actress best known as Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter movies, she is among the 2,000 graduates receiving degrees on Sunday from Brown University.

Watson will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in English literature from the Ivy League University in Rhode Island.

The 24-year-old woman started at Brown in 2009, the same year she was named the highest-grossing actress of the decade by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Watson told the Sunday Times that she was initially concerned how she would be accepted by her peers.

"On the first day, I walked into the canteen and everyone went completely silent and turned to look at me," she said. I had to say to myself, "It's okay, you can do this. You just have to take a deep breath and gather your courage."

Eventually though, with no help from the paparazzi who shadowed her, Watson managed to create for herself a relatively normal college life.

"I've never even been asked for an autograph on campus," she told US Weekly in 2013. "I threw a party for nearly 100 students and not a single person put a photo on Facebook."

Watson had a busy film career during her time as a student, releasing both parts of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, The Perks of Being a Wallflower, This is the End, and the recent Biblical epic Noah.

Questions 16 to 18 are based on the passage you have just heard.

16. What does Emma Watson major in at Brown University?
17. How old was Emma Watson when she started at Brown University?
18. Which one is not the movie that Emma Watson took a role in?

Passage Two

Believe it or not, there are only two ways to thaw frozen food: patiently and impatiently. As with most things in life, a job done quickly isn't necessarily a job done well.

The two most important factors in thawing frozen food, particularly meat, are time and temperature. How long a given food item needs to defrost is directly proportional to the temperature at which it thaws. And that means there are really only three options available to you, depending on your patience.

Use your fridge. Defrosting meat in your fridge takes longest, but works best. Depending on the size of the cut in question, it may take up to 24 hours to fully thaw a frozen piece of meat. A general rule is that you should set aside one day of defrost time for every five pounds of meat.

Cold Water. Submerging a sealed piece of meat in a bowl of cold water is probably the most popular way to quickly defrost frozen meat. One pound of frozen meat usually requires about one hour to fully thaw using this method—add another 30 minutes per additional pound. You should cook the meat directly after thawing.

Microwave. This is certainly the quickest way to defrost meat. But we're not convinced it's the ideal method, if only for culinary reasons. For one, there is the risk of overcooking the meat. Even if thawed on a microwave's defrost cycle, the meat can be excessively heated in certain spots, causing variations in the "evenness" of the cook.

Questions 19 to 21 are based on the passage you have just heard.

19. What are the two most important factors in thawing frozen food?
20. Which one is not the method to defrost meat according to the passage?
21. What is the risk of using microwave to defrost meat?

Passage Three

As more people embrace tablets in the workplace, reshaping how and where the job gets done, experts wonder just how fast and how far the devices will reach.

Consultants at a cosmetics retailer now use tablets and a specialized app to help customers select makeup, learn how to apply products and check their results with a virtual mirror. Supervisors for a Texas-based construction firm use tablets to access architectural plans for an ongoing airport renovation, saving the company an estimated \$5 million in printing costs.

And some airline pilots now take tablets, instead of large, heavy flight manuals, into the cockpit—a change that saves airlines millions of dollars in fuel costs per year.

It is said that in 2017, nearly one in five tablet purchases will be made directly by companies. That equates to roughly 68 million tablets flooding the workplace.

It's not difficult to understand the appeal. The device offers an immediate anytime-anywhere connection to the Internet and applications. Ninety-seven percent of IT professionals surveyed by Dimensional Research, a marketing analysis company, think this kind of access makes employees more effective at work.

But some researchers doubt the device will completely replace laptops and desktop computers. It can be cumbersome, for instance, to type long documents on today's tablets. Others question whether employers will fully embrace having workers spend most of their time out of supervision.

But there's little doubt that mobile devices have become acceptable and, in some ways, superior business tools.

Questions 22 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard.

22. What is a “tablet”?
23. Which one is not the thing that consultants at a cosmetics retailer use tablets to do?
24. Which one is the advantage of using a tablet?
25. Which one is not the fact of tablet according to the passage?