

1.1. Family Relationships

Here are some tips on how to maintain healthy family relationships.

1. **Have a set family dinner time.** Try to do this three or four times a week. Discuss events in one another's lives. Make sure every family member gets involved in the conversation so that no one feels left out.
2. **Keep an open line of communication.** All family members should feel comfortable discussing personal problems whenever they feel a need. Keep in mind that you are trying to resolve any family conflicts when discussing problems and not make them worse.
3. **Plan family activities.** Weekly family outings or activities whether playing games, going to the movies or out to dinner are important to maintain healthy family relationships.
4. **Exercise together at least once a week.** Try to do weekly exercise together to have good physical health. You can do physical activities such as, walking, biking, or playing a sport.
5. **Have one on one times with your kids.** Do something that they are interested in doing and that they would consider fun. This is a great time to find out what is going on in your child's life or in their mind, and any problems with friends or relationships that they may be having. Spending one on one time with your kids at least once a month will make them feel loved, appreciated, needed, and not left out.

1.2. Studies

You will hear a text about language learning. Read the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that. Then listen to the text and take notes in English. You will hear the text twice. After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

You will hear an interview with a popular English language teacher.

- What do you think is the most important rule for speaking excellent English?
- While there are many rules for speaking excellent English, there is one that is most important. It's actually this: Listen, listen, listen. Research by Dr. Stephen Krashen found that listening is, in fact, the key to great speaking.
- What about the good old methods of foreign language learning?
- Think about a baby or a young child. How do they learn to speak their own language? Do they read textbooks? Do they study vocabulary lists? Do they try to memorize grammar? No, they learn with their ears. They learn by listening to simple understandable messages.
- So what's your advice to those who want to speak English well?
- Listening is the key to better English speaking. You must listen to a lot of understandable, fairly easy English. Speaking is not something you improve just by memorizing, studying or reading. You don't improve it by "practising" conversations with someone. Rather, the more your listening comprehension improves the faster your speaking will improve too. To raise your speaking level, first raise your listening level.

2.1. Mothers' Day

The history of Mother's Day is an interesting story. The second Sunday in May was trademarked as "Mother's Day" by a young woman named Anna Jarvis.

Two years after her mother's death, Anna began a campaign to honour her mother and her mother's life. Supporters were gathered and letters were written to express the importance for a "National Mother's Day."

In 1911, almost every state in America observed and celebrated Mother's Day. The purpose of Mother's Day, by Anna's beliefs, was to recognize the importance of mothers. This was supposed to be a day to show and express gratitude to the woman that gave birth to us and gave us life. It was also a day to recognize the many things mothers do in our lives.

In the end Anna was more disappointed at the turn of events rather than proud. As her initial intent was simply to honour mothers, this was not how the nationally recognized day turned out. With all the commercialism put on the special day, she eventually regretted starting the tradition in the first place.

Now, the focus can be on celebrating the special day. Though mothers are human just like the rest of us, and mistakes can be made by them as well, we would not be here had it not been for our mothers. Therefore, make this day a special day to honour the woman in your life who was a mother to you, and show her your love and appreciation.

2.2. Family Celebrations

As New Year's Eve approaches I'm trying to decide if we should spend it as a couple or as a family. For the last two years we've celebrated New Year's Eve with other families. Two years ago we had a dinner party with two other couples. The kids ran wild in the basement after dinner and played karaoke with the adults later. I think they left before midnight but they were all worn out.

Last year our friends threw a family party at their home. The girls had fun dressing up a little bit and getting sparkly. The dads were playing poker while the mums were chattering away. The kids ran around and did some crafts. The highlight was shooting off fireworks around 10:30 pretending it was midnight. The kids had a great time.

This year we haven't heard of any family parties, but we have been invited to a couple's party. We thought we were going to go until Rose – my daughter – asked "What party are WE going to for New Year's?"

Her expectation now is that we will always celebrate New Year's Eve as a family. I would feel terrible leaving her behind.

Also now that the kids understand what New Year's is, it seems kind of appropriate to celebrate a brand new year – a brand new start – with the most important people in your world.

Maybe we'll make some Chinese food and invite families over again.

3.1. School Calendar

You will hear a talk on American school year. Read the 10 statements on the candidate copy beforehand. You will have *1 minute* for that, then listen to the text. If you think the statement is *correct*, put a tick under T. If you think the statement is *not correct*, put a tick under F. You will hear the text *twice*.

After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

The traditional American school year begins in late or early September. It ends in May or June, followed by a long summer vacation.

The question arises why American schoolchildren have such a long break. Because long ago, young people had to help their families harvest the summer crops. At least this is what people today may think.

The real reason has more to it than that. A recent report from an education policy center at Indiana University explored the historical roots of the traditional school calendar.

In the early days of the United States, children were not required by law to attend school. School calendars depended on local needs. Students in rural areas went to school for no more than six months of the year – half in the summer, half in the winter. They worked on family farms during the other months.

City schools were often open much longer, some for eleven months of the year. Parents were happy to have a place for their children to go while they were working.

National leaders took a fresh look at schools after the Civil War, in the eighteen sixties. They saw a free public education as a way to help support a strong democracy and prepare workers for new industries. Immigration was increasing and so was the student population.

More and more people saw the need for a system of required education. But they had different ideas for the calendar. Many city schools wanted a shorter year and a longer summer break. Hot days would make it difficult to learn. A long summer break would also give teachers time for other jobs to add to their low pay.

So the traditional school calendar was a compromise, with roots that now go back about a century and a half. The average school year used to be one hundred seventy days. Times have not changed much. Today the common average is one hundred eighty days.

3.2. School Days

You will hear a talk on the effects of high oil prices on school schedules. Read the 10 statements on the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that, then listen to the text. If you think the statement is *correct*, put a tick under T. If you think the statement is *not correct*, put a tick under F. You will hear the text *twice*.

After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

American schools are looking for ways to save money on bus transportation because of high fuel prices. More children may have to walk, ride their bikes or find other ways to get to school. As another effect of the high prices, they may not have to go to school so often. Some schools are now changing to a four-day week, which means longer days instead of the traditional Monday through Friday schedule. Each school day will be sixty-five minutes longer.

State officials have approved the plan for three years. They may change their mind before then if learning suffers. On average, they expect to save about sixty-five thousand dollars a year in transportation costs per district.

In South Dakota, students have been going to school Monday through Thursday since nineteen ninety-five. The change has saved an estimated one million dollars just over the past eight years. But there are other benefits, too. Students get more instruction time. And activities that used to interfere with classes are now held on non-school days.

In the future, the growth of online classes could make it possible to require even fewer days in school. High fuel prices are driving college students to take more online classes. And in some states, high school students can take them, too.

The Lake Arthur School District used a four-day schedule for twelve years. But a few years ago it went back to five days. Michael Grossman, who heads the district, says that no real educational improvement using the four-day week schedule was detected. Also, not much instruction was taking place during the last hour of school, because teachers and students were too tired by then.

4.1. Home Delivery

You will hear a text. Read the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that. Then listen to the text and take notes in English. You will hear the text twice. After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

- Owner:** McWell's Pizza. Can I help you?
Customer: Hello. I'd like to order a pizza please.
Owner: OK. I'll have to transfer your call to the take-away department. A moment please.
Take-away assistant: Thank you for waiting. Is this for take-away or delivery?
Customer: Delivery please.
Take-away assistant: Can I have your name and address please?
Customer: My name is Kate, Kate Nagy. My address is number 23, Arden Street.
Take-away assistant: OK. And what would you like to order, Madam?
Customer: I'd like a large bacon pizza with mushrooms, onions and extra cheese.
Take-away assistant: OK, a large bacon pizza with mushrooms, onions and cheese. Is there anything else?
Customer: That's all, thank you. And how long will that be?
Take-away assistant: It will be about twenty minutes, Madam.
Customer: And how much will it cost?
Take-away assistant: 8 pounds, Madam.
Customer: All right, thank you. Bye for now.
Take-away assistant: Okay. Thanks for calling. Bye.

4.2. Housing

Slums are densely populated areas of housing where people live in poverty and dirty conditions. The United Nations Population Fund estimates that by two thousand twenty, a billion and a half people will live in slums.

Architecture for Humanity is a non-profit organization based in California, which provides free design and architectural services to poor communities. They have developed a network of about four thousand architects in one hundred countries. They partner with local communities to work on projects.

Architecture for Humanity also provides money and skills training to build structures. It is ten years old and it has built about two hundred fifty structures around the world; it has built schools and sports centres mainly in West Africa. The group also designed housing plans in Sri Lanka after the South Asian tsunami in two thousand four. Structures built by the non-profit do not require electric power.

Two years ago, Architecture for Humanity launched a Web site to make architectural plans and drawings freely available for download. The Open Architecture Network has about twelve thousand registered users and two thousand projects. Anyone can add projects and ideas to the site. It is predicted that the Network will one day have enough designs to fit any environment or situation.

5.1. Keeping Dangerous Pets

A Connecticut woman who underwent a full face transplant after an attack by a chimpanzee wants to eat hamburgers and pizza again. Officials at the Women's Hospital in Boston say they performed a face transplant on Charla Nash last month. Her doctors say Nash will slowly regain facial functions over the next six to nine months.

Nash's brother, Steve Nash, said at a news conference Friday that his sister wants to enjoy a slice of pizza from their favourite pizzeria in their hometown.

John Orr, a spokesman for the Nash family, said Nash developed numerous health problems after the surgery and only recently regained consciousness. "She developed pneumonia, she had kidney failure, she had the circulation issue with the hands," Orr said.

Orr says that he has not seen Nash recently, but is told by her brother, Stephen, that Nash looks "fantastic, in terms of the face." The donor's identity has been kept secret, but was a "fairly consistent match" for Nash. The donor can be as much as 20 years younger or up to 10 years older than the recipient and must have the same blood type and similar skin color and texture.

The 200-pound pet chimpanzee, named Travis, went mad and attacked Nash before being shot and killed by police in February 2009. The owner, Sandra Herold, has speculated that the chimp was trying to protect her and attacked Nash because she had changed her hairstyle, was driving a different car and was holding a stuffed toy in front of her face to get Travis' attention.

5.2. Managing Your Time

Manage your time well! It is easy to say and difficult to practise. Most small entrepreneurs have problems managing their time. It is fundamental to organise your tasks and schedule them well. So, what should you do?

There is no magic. But the best solutions for the worst problems are the most simple. Start with writing the daily tasks that you need to do every day. Examples: read the news, read and reply to e-mails, pay bills, verify bank accounts, call suppliers, check with the staff if everything is OK, and so on. Calculate how much time you need to accomplish these tasks. Start with only controlling the time spent. It is already a great step. Resolve first the easiest and shortest tasks. If in some task you exceed your time limit, stop and go to the next one.

Return to that one only after finishing the current 'round' and use your 'spare time' for so doing. Try to reduce 10% to 30% the time of some tasks. Try to reserve, at least, one or two hours for creative thinking, to research new products, new approaches, and new markets, depending on your core business and always with focus on strengths.

When you are stuck in a particular situation and don't find a solution, go for a walk, have a coffee, do something that makes you disconnect completely and quickly from the problem, and return to it later. Don't try to memorize every thing that happens or that you will need to do. You will lose time to remember some of them. Write on your notepad, outlook, palm, smart phone, or even a piece of paper. You will economise time; you will have more efficiency. Time, is not only money, it is your life! With better time management you will be able to have a more balanced life with leisure and with your family.

6.1. Phoning a Restaurant

You will hear a text. Read the candidate copy beforehand. You will have *1 minute* for that. Then listen to the text and take notes in English. You will hear the text *twice*. After the first listening you will have *1 minute* to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have *1 minute* to finalise your answers.

- Elephant Restaurant. Can I help you?
- Oh, yes. Good morning. I'd like to make a reservation, please.
- Yes, what day?
- For Saturday.
- This Saturday?
- Yes, 19th.
- And what time would you like to come?
- Would it be possible at seven?
- Yes, 7 o'clock would be fine. And that's for how many people?
- Well, I'm not sure. It's going to be seven or eight. Probably eight.
- Yes, I'll make a reservation for eight. And what's the name?
- The name is Erica Aprilson.
- How do you spell Aprilson?
- A - p - r - i - l - s - o - n
- A - p - r - i - l - s - o - n
- That's right.
- OK. So Saturday 19th at seven o'clock, for eight people.
- Lovely.
- Thanks very much. Bye.
- Good bye.

6.2. Services

McDonald's, the fast-food company, is heating up competition with the Starbucks Coffee Company. McDonald's plans to put coffee bars in its fourteen thousand restaurants in the United States. Fewer than a thousand now offer specialty coffee drinks like lattes and cappuccinos. Just like Starbucks, each coffee bar would have its own barista, the person who makes and serves the drinks.

McDonald's has enjoyed several years of strong growth. Still, the move to compete against Starbucks carries some risk. Some experts say it could slow down service at McDonald's restaurants. And some people who are happy with McDonald's the way it is now may not like the changes. McDonald's however thinks that its new plan has a great chance of success.

Starbucks, on the other hand has faced slower growth and increasing competition. It has about ten thousand stores in the United States. Lately Starbucks has added more foods, including breakfast foods, and put drive-through windows in some stores. Some neighbourhoods have a Starbucks on every block or two. Now, Starbucks will speed up its international growth while slowing its expansion in the United States.

Millions of people have a taste for Starbucks. But last year McDonald's Premium coffee got some good press. Testers from Consumer Reports thought it tasted better than Starbucks, and it cost less.

7.1. Vitamin D

You will hear a talk on Vitamin D. Read the 10 statements on the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that, then listen to the text. If you think the statement is correct, put a tick under T. If you think the statement is not correct, put a tick under F. You will hear the text twice.

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Vitamin D helps bones and muscles to grow strong and healthy. Low levels of vitamin D can lead to problems such as rickets, a deformity mainly found in children. Osteoporosis, the thinning of bone, is a common problem as people, especially women, get older. But more and more research is suggesting that vitamin D might also help to prevent osteoporosis and many other diseases.

The easiest way to get vitamin D is from sunlight. The sun's ultraviolet rays react with skin cells to produce vitamin D. But many people worry about getting skin cancer and skin damage from the sun. As a result they cover their skin or wear sunblock or stay out of the sun. Also, darker skinned people produce less vitamin D than lighter skinned people. Production also decreases in older people and those living in northern areas that get less sunlight.

Not many foods naturally contain vitamin D. Foods high in this vitamin include oily fish such as salmon, tuna and mackerel, and fish liver oils. Small amounts of D are found in beef liver, cheese and egg yolks. And some people take dietary supplements containing the vitamin. But most of the vitamin D in the American diet comes from foods with D added, like milk.

Research in the last few years has shown that low levels of vitamin D may increase the risk of heart attacks in men and deaths from some cancers. Other studies have shown that people with rheumatic diseases often have low levels of vitamin D.

7.2. Hand Washing

You will hear a text. Read the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that. Then listen to the text and take notes in English. You will hear the text twice. After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

Hand washing is a powerful way to prevent the spread of diseases. The London School of Hygiene did a study to urge hand washing around the world. They found that one million lives could be saved each year if people often washed their hands with soap. Many diseases could be prevented from spreading by hand washing. These include pinworms, influenza, the common cold, hepatitis A, meningitis, diarrhoea and other infectious diseases.

Hand washing destroys germs from other people, animals or objects a person has touched. When people get bacteria on their hands, they can infect themselves by touching their eyes, nose or mouth. They can also infect others. Experts say that the easiest way to catch a cold is to touch your nose or eyes after someone nearby has sneezed or coughed.

Another way to become sick is to eat food prepared by someone whose hands were not clean. Hand washing is especially important before and after preparing food, before eating and after using the toilet. People should wash their hands after handling animals or animal waste, and after cleaning a baby. It is also a good idea to wash your hands after handling money and after sneezing or coughing. And it is important to often wash your hands when someone in your home is sick.

The most effective way to wash your hands is to rub them together while using soap and warm water. Make sure you rub all areas of the hands for about ten to fifteen seconds. Then rinse the hands with water and dry them.

Experts also say that people who use public bathrooms and dry their hands with a paper towel should use the towel to turn off the water. Then, before throwing it away, use the same paper to open the bathroom door.

8.1. Outdoor Activities

Spring is a time for new beginnings, so take this time to begin some new traditions and celebrations with your family. Spring is a wonderful time to be outdoors and watch the rebirth of nature. Take your family on hikes or bike rides through a wooded area, local park, county preserve or state park. Talk to your kids about how every spring nature starts over and replenishes itself. Plants begin to grow again, animals come out of hibernation and soon baby animals are born. See if you can spot any birds building a nest. Perhaps you will even see baby animals. Deer are very common in many parts of the country. Your kids can have a lot of fun planting a garden. They are also more likely to eat vegetables they have grown themselves rather than fighting with them to eat a teaspoon of store bought canned beans. Kids can dig rows, plant seeds, water and help to weed - just make sure they know the difference between the garden plants and the weeds.

Take the idea of spring cleaning outdoors. Clean up any garbage, along with dead leaves from autumn and winter. Explain to the kids how keeping the outdoors clean is just as important as keeping the indoors clean. Plan a special activity to help clean up a park or some other nature area on Earth Day

8.2. Weather and Clothing

- John, are you ready for your trip?
- Well, not really, I started to buy some clothes.
- What's the weather like where you are going?
- Well, it's really hot in the summer, so I'm going to buy some shorts, sandals and a few T-shirts.
- What about the rest of the year?
- People say it's warm in fall until November, so I'm going to buy some jeans and a few casual shirts.
- Will you need any warm clothes for the winter?
- Well, the weather doesn't get too cold but it often snows in the mountains so I'm going to buy a couple of sweaters, a jacket and a hat. I don't have room in my suitcase to pack a coat so I'm going to wait till I get there and buy it when I really need it.
- Are you going to take anything out?
- They say it rains cats and dogs in the spring. But again, I'll just wait and pick up a raincoat or an umbrella later on. Then I'm going to take a good pair of shoes because I plan to walk to and from school every day.
- Do you need any clothes for formal occasions?
- Well, you never know whether you might need something on the spur of the moment; wedding or maybe someone's graduation or a nice date. So, I'll probably take some nice slacks or a dress shirt or a couple of crazy ties. Hey, maybe I'll get married.
- You? Married?
- Hey, what are you trying to say?

- I just can't imagine you wearing formal clothes for any occasion. I mean, for high school graduation you wore an old pair of jeans and tennis shoes.
- Hey, there was a reason for that. So let me explain.

9.1. Traffic

Pedestrians are vulnerable road users. In many countries, collisions with pedestrians are a leading cause of death and injury. In some countries, over half of all road deaths are caused by collisions between vehicles and pedestrians. Collisions between pedestrians and vehicles occur in a number of situations, including:

- walking in to the path of a vehicle, especially while trying to cross the road
- walking along the roadside, or on the road
- playing or working on the road, on driveways or footpaths
- while boarding or leaving public transport vehicles.

The severity of pedestrian crashes is strongly dependent on the speed of traffic. Research shows that the chances of a pedestrian surviving an impact with a motorised vehicle reduces dramatically above 30 km/h, and even at lower speeds than this, serious harm can be caused, especially to elderly or child pedestrians. The risk of pedestrian injuries is increased by a number of factors that relate to the road environment, including:

- high speed of traffic
- inadequate crossing facilities
- lack of pedestrian crossing opportunities
- number of lanes to cross
- poor crossing sight distance.

9.2. Travelling

What do you do when you travel? Do you like visiting and having your picture taken in front of famous landmarks? Do you like to sample the local cuisine? Do you seek out places that are *not* famous and crowded to experience the real, day-to-day life of the local people?

What draws you to a particular destination? And how do you decide which to choose? Do you use guide books or the recommendations of friends?

Wherever you travel, you're bound to come across places that may be bustling with travellers, but short on locals. If you ask around and fail to meet anyone actually living in the area you're visiting, you've probably found yourself in a tourist trap.

Tourist traps are places which offer local flavour, souvenirs and other enticing attractions, but usually do so at prices far higher than could be found elsewhere in the same city or town. Also, they often fail to live up to their hype.

Some tourist traps are great, but if you don't like being stuck in crowds and exploited because you're unfamiliar with an area, do your homework before travelling and visit places popular with locals.

10.1. Entertainment

You will hear a talk about TV programmes. Read the 8 statements on the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that, then listen to the text. If you think the statement is correct, put a tick under T. If you think the statement is not correct, put a tick under F. You will hear the text twice.

After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

- What's your favourite TV programme?
- I think Eastenders would have to get my vote – it's an all time classic.
- I have to say Red Dwarf, possibly not including the last two series, but the originals are fantastic.
- Coronation Street is by far the most superior TV show.
- There are so many excellent shows that the BBC have put together that it's too difficult to say.
- Fawlty Towers. Classic seamless comedy. I've just finished watching the complete Fawlty Towers, which I recently bought on video, and it still outshines any recent comedy offering in its inventiveness and breathless timing. A classic, which has well earned its number one spot.
- The Bill is an outstanding programme, the scripts are always sharp, witty, range of characters is broad, story lines are realistic.
- I've considered this fully and I think GBH has to have been the most captivating TV that I can remember. I was GLUED to the series and had real problems waiting a week for the next instalment. I can't remember feeling like that about any other programme.
- The Simpsons. I know it's not English but it's the best thing on the box. It says all there is to say about modern life in a highly funny manner.
- I have never had a TV, ever. The occasional times I do watch, it continually reaffirms that it is Britain's biggest time waster and cause of "brain drain". Get a life – bin your TV!

10.2. Entertainment

You will hear a text. Read the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that. Then listen to the text and take notes in English. You will hear the text twice. After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

Carlos Acosta's story reads like a fairy tale. The son of a truck driver, he grew up in Havana with 10 siblings, and went on to become the star of the Royal Ballet. Now aged 38 he is living in London.

- What does ballet mean to you?
- Ballet has been like being married for 30 years, and then for some reason life takes you on different paths, but you still have the memories of the woman you love – that's me and ballet.
- When shall we see you on stage next?
- I will be dancing the principal role in the Royal Ballet's production of Romeo and Juliet at London's O2 Arena on 17 June, and – as I've said before – this role is very demanding. You have five scenes and you dance almost until you drop dead. Still, I dance the classics as much as I can because each time might be the last.
- What do you mean?
- Behind the grace and beauty of ballet, dancers are often in constant pain, and injuries can jeopardise their careers. I myself have pain in my hips and I have had repeated surgeries on my right ankle. But

as long as I can deliver freshness and not make a fool of myself I'll continue to dance. Now I feel I have maybe three more years before I retire.

- What are you planning to do when you have retired?
- When I retire my British fiancée and me plan to move to Cuba, and I may start my own dance company. I want to create a new style of “fusion” dance in Cuba.
- What would that mean?
- I used to breakdance, I know how to salsa, but I also have a very strong classical training. You have to be able to dance anything as a ballet dancer with the Royal Ballet – that’s what I’m looking for, the dancer I would like to form.

11.1. Technology

When the parents of today’s young people were in school, sharing music was a slow process. They had to copy songs from a vinyl record or a cassette using a tape recorder. Today friends can share the latest hits at the speed of light over the Internet. Peer-to-peer networks make file sharing easy – and, in many cases, illegal.

Five years ago, the Recording Industry Association of America, launched a major effort to catch music pirates. Piracy violates copyright laws. These laws protect creative works against reproduction or sale without permission. The industry group has brought thousands of civil actions against college students. They have chosen to target these students because their music piracy remains an especially big problem. Some recent surveys show – they say – that more than half of the nation’s college students often download music and movies illegally. The group uses special software to identify illegal file sharing on campus networks. But many colleges and universities oppose efforts to use such technology. They see it as a waste of resources since they believe that about eighty percent of college students do not live on school grounds and their computers are generally not linked to school networks. They say much more illegal sharing takes place through commercial Internet providers than through campus networks.

In February, the House of Representatives approved a higher education bill containing anti-piracy requirements. Schools will be required to inform their students about issues related to peer-to-peer file sharing. Furthermore, all schools will be required to develop plans to deal with unlawful downloading. Schools could invest in technology to block piracy, or they could offer legal file-sharing services. Students who get caught will have to pay fines or they will lose their use of the school’s network.

11.2. Technology

You will hear a talk on the use of calculators. Read the 10 statements on the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that, then listen to the text. If you think the statement is correct, put a tick under T. If you think the statement is not correct, put a tick under F. You will hear the text twice.

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Can you do the Maths: What is one hundred times four, divided by the square root of a hundred? If you know that, then you know the answer to this: How many years ago did some scientists at Texas Instruments invent the handheld electronic calculator? The answer is forty.

The first calculator could add, subtract, multiply and divide. It had twelve bytes of memory – close to nothing compared to today’s powerful calculators. And it weighed more than a kilogram. But it was powered by batteries. That meant it could be taken anywhere. Other electronic calculators had to be

plugged into electricity. Not only that, they weighed close to twenty-five kilograms and were almost as big as typewriters.

In the United States, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics says teachers at every level should support the use of calculators. Students are even permitted to use them when they take college entrance tests. That may surprise parents who still think of the days of paper-and-pencil only. Yet after forty years, calculators in the classroom still add up to the same old debate.

Some education experts think calculators are used too much. Children, they say, learn to depend on these electronic brains instead of their own. Calculators may not only give students answers to questions they do not really understand, critics argue. They may also keep them from discovering ideas for themselves. The danger? Students who cannot even do simple addition and subtraction.

Other experts, though, say calculators have helped make mathematics more understandable to more students. They say calculators give students more time to understand and solve problems – and to develop a better sense of what numbers mean. That way, the reasoning goes, they can study higher level ideas than they would otherwise. And they can feel better about their abilities.

What do teachers think? Generally they say calculators can be useful, especially with more complex Maths. But they also say that young students should know basic operations before they begin using them.

12.1. Geography - Environment

You will hear a talk on algae-to-energy research. Read the 10 statements on the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that, then listen to the text. If you think the statement is *correct*, put a tick under T. If you think the statement is *not correct*, put a tick under F. You will hear the text *twice*.

After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

The search for new fuels has led some researchers to algae. Algae is a name for thousands of different organisms from single-celled ones to large plants.

Algae grow quickly and some contain a lot of oils. Most algae-to-energy researchers are growing algae in huge tanks. But a company called Blue Marble Energy in Seattle uses algae already growing along coastlines. Workers pump it into bags on a boat. They have to be careful not to suck up young fish or other small creatures, though.

Blue Marble says its work could help prevent harmful algae blooms. A bloom is when a dense area of algae forms and spreads. Some blooms can harm people, animals or the environment. Warmer water can cause blooms, and some scientists think global warming is adding to an increase in large ones. Nutrients from sewage and agricultural fertilizers also help algae to grow.

Blue Marble President says his company has collected almost four thousand kilos of algae in two harvests. The next step is to use bacteria to break down the algae into natural gas and different chemicals. Most companies doing algae-to-energy research are creating liquid biofuels for cars or airplanes.

But some people have concerns about harvesting wild algae because they believe that removing the algae does not solve the problem. What should be done instead is keep fertilizers and other pollutants out of the water to prevent a lot of unnatural blooms. It's also a concern that removing natural blooms would remove valuable food for marine life.

12.2. Geography – Agriculture

You will hear a text. Read the candidate copy beforehand. You will have 1 minute for that. Then listen to the text and take notes in English. You will hear the text twice. After the first listening you will have 1 minute to answer the questions, after the second listening you will have 1 minute to finalise your answers.

Carrots are grown on farms and in family gardens throughout the world. Carrots are easy to raise and easy to harvest. They taste good and they contain a lot of carotene, which the body makes into vitamin A.

When people think of carrots, they usually picture in their mind a vegetable that is long, thin and orange in colour. But carrots come in many different sizes and shapes. And not all carrots are orange. For example, Paris Market carrots are about five centimetres around. Emperor carrots are thin and about twenty-five centimetres long. And Belgian White carrots are, as their name suggests, white.

For the best results, carrots should be grown in sandy soil that does not hold water for a long time. The soil also should have no rocks. To prepare your carrot garden, dig up the soil, loosen it and turn it over. Then, mix in some plant material or animal fertilizer.

Weather, soil conditions and age will affect the way carrots taste. Experts say warm days, cool nights and a medium soil temperature are the best conditions for growing carrots that taste great. Carrots need time to develop their full sugar content. This gives them their taste. If they are harvested too early, they will not have enough sugar. But carrots lose their sweetness if you wait too long to pull them from the ground. The best way to judge if a carrot is ready to be harvested is by its colour. Usually, the brighter the colour, the better the taste.

Most people do not know that carrots can be grown during the winter months. If the winter is not cold enough to freeze the ground, you can grow and harvest carrots the same way as during the summer months. If the ground does freeze in your part of the world, simply cover your carrot garden with a thick layer of leaves or straw. This will prevent the ground from freezing. You can remove the ground cover and harvest the carrots as they are needed.

Carrots are prepared and eaten in many different ways. They are cut in thin pieces and added to other vegetables. They are cooked by themselves or added to stews. Or, once they are washed, they are eaten just as they come out of the ground.