



“Television”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages ⁽⁵⁾

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

Many people worked to create television. In 1862, Abbe Giovanna Caselli **invented** a machine called the Pantelograph. Caselli was the first person to send a picture over wires. By the 1880s, Alexander Graham Bell invented a machine that **transmitted** pictures and sound over wires. His machine was called the Photophone. The World’s Fair was held in Paris, France, in the year 1900. The first International Congress of Electricity was held at the World’s Fair. That was when the word *television* was first used – by a Russian named Constantin Perskyi. That name stuck, and is now shortened to “TV.”

At the beginning of TV history, there were several types of TV technology. One system was a mechanical model based on a **rotating** disc. (Rotating discs are discs that spin like CDs.) The other system was an electronic model. In 1906, Boris Rosing built the first working mechanical TV in Russia. In the 1920s, John Logie Baird in England and Charles Francis Jenkins in the United States **demonstrated** improved mechanical systems. Philo Taylor Farnsworth also showed an electronic **system** in San Francisco in 1927. His TV was the forerunner of today’s TV, which is an electronic system based on his ideas.

Now TV is everywhere. Before 1947, there were only a few thousand televisions in the U.S. By the 1990s, there were televisions in 98% of American homes.

Questions:

1) Who first sent a picture over wires?

- A. Boris Rosing
- B. John Logie Baird
- C. **Abbe Giovanna Caselli**
- D. Alexander Graham Bell

2) The word *television* was first used in...

- A. 1862.
- B. 1880.
- C. **1900.**
- D. 1906.

3) The 1900 World’s Fair was in...

- A. Moscow, Russia.
- B. London, England.
- C. **Paris, France.**
- D. New York, United States.

4) Who invented the Photophone?

- A. Abbe Giovanna Caselli
- B. Charles Francis Jenkins
- C. **Alexander Graham Bell**
- D. Philo Taylor Farnsworth

5) How many TVs were in the US in 1945?

- A. A few hundred
- B. **A few thousand.**
- C. A few million.
- D. A few billion.

Vocabulary:

1) **Invented** means...

- A. **made for the first time.**
- B. moved to a different country.
- C. sent over wires.
- D. sent through television.

2) Another way to say **transmitted** is...

- A. built.
- B. used.
- C. **sent.**
- D. held.



3) **Rotating** means...

- A. going up and down.
- B. going back and forth.
- C. **spinning.**
- D. None of the above

4) The best synonym for **demonstrated** is...

- A. based.
- B. called.
- C. **showed.**
- D. worked.

5) A **system** is a combination of...

- A. **parts that make up a unified whole.**
- B. parts that are used to make TVs.
- C. broken pieces.
- D. pieces of a machine.

• Beginning Critical Reading – Soaps and Detergents

Soaps and detergents are used for washing. Soaps and detergents are used for cleaning. People usually use detergent to wash clothes. People usually use detergent to wash dishes. People usually use soap to wash their bodies.

5 Soap has a long history. There was soap in Ancient Babylon. There was soap in Ancient Egypt. Some people think there was soap before people wrote history.

Soap and detergent are similar, but soap and detergent are not exactly the same. Soaps are made of natural products. Detergents are made of man-made products.

10 In some cases, soap is better than detergent. For example, soap is milder on the skin. Soap is milder on the environment. Soap is biodegradable – nature's processes clean soap up. Soap does not build up in rivers. Soap does not cause pollution in rivers. Soap does not build up in streams. Soap does not cause pollution in streams.

15 In some cases, detergent is better than soap. For example, soap builds up in clothes after many washings. Detergent does not build up in clothes after many washings. Soap loses its cleaning power in clothes over time. Detergent does not lose its cleaning power in clothes over time.

Questions

1. According to the passage, which of the following statements is/are true?

- I) Soap is made of natural or man-made products.
- II) Detergents are less mild than soaps.
- III) Detergent washes out of clothing.
- IV)

- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) III only
- D) I and II only
- E) **II and III only**

2. What is the main idea of the fifth paragraph?

- A) How soaps and detergents are made
- B) What soap and detergent are used for
- C) Which product causes less pollution
- D) How soap loses its cleaning power
- E) **When detergent is better than soap**

3. In line 9, *biodegradable* most closely means

- A) man-made
- B) dangerous
- C) permanent
- D) **easy to clean up**
- E) hard to clean up



● **Sentence Completion 8** (*high-intermediate level*)

Directions: Choose the best word(s) to complete each sentence.

- Olivia performed _____ in high school. Consequently, she was offered several scholarships to college.
A. poorly
B. **well**
C. normally
D. easily
E. foolishly
- Taylor found her new neighbors to be remarkably _____; they invited her over for dinner and would often come by her house to say hello.
A. **sociable**
B. antagonistic
C. aloof
D. unaccommodating
E. unapproachable
- In certain parts of the world, women are considered _____, and are therefore not granted equal rights as men.
A. brilliant
B. **inferior**
C. powerful
D. wise
E. liberated
- Unlike her _____ mother, Tabitha was _____ in her struggle to plan the wedding.
A. tranquil ... serene
B. annoying ... crazy
C. **stoic ... frantic**
D. difficult ... unhappy
E. nervous ... apprehensive
- The dog gave me a _____ look. It was he who ate my sandwich!
A. confused
B. dull
C. excited
D. sleepy
E. **guilty**
- Although John usually wears casual clothes, he put on _____ suit for the wedding.
A. a dingy
B. **a formal**
C. a plaid
D. a ruffled
E. an unofficial
- The meat in the container smelled rotten, yet I _____ decided to _____ it.
A. wisely ... eat
B. **foolishly ... consume**
C. soon ... discard
D. quickly ... revive
E. warily ... obey
- By definition, parallel lines _____ cross; conversely, perpendicular lines _____ intersect.
A. **never ... always**
B. sometimes ... occasionally
C. seldom ... rarely
D. often ... usually
E. frequently ... regularly



● Sentence Completion 17 *(high-intermediate level)*

Directions: Choose the best word(s) to complete each sentence.

1. After adhering to a strict low-fat diet for months, Edgar was _____ to return to his old ways; he missed his old favorite foods like cake and ice cream.
A. afraid
B. averse
C. hesitant
D. reluctant
E. **tempted**
2. The students were excited about the opportunity to take classes overseas, so they quickly _____ the offer.
A. rejected
B. **accepted**
C. decline
D. turned down
E. thought about
3. In order to gain attention from potential customers, the new company staged a _____ during its first few months of operation.
A. robbery
B. resignation
C. bankruptcy
D. meeting
E. **promotion**
4. The tutoring program was established to help students who were struggling with the chemistry class, but because of _____ attendance, it was found to be largely unsuccessful.
A. **lackluster**
B. increased
C. enthusiastic
D. skyrocketing
E. robust
5. She knew the medicine would _____. Nonetheless, she was willing to take it in order to be cured.
A. be effective
B. be beneficial
C. **taste awful**
D. fight infection
E. relieve her illness
6. Although the house may appear _____ from the outside, I assure you the interior is rather _____.
A. small ... tiny
B. expensive ... large
C. **plain ... ornate**
D. bright ... colorful
E. gaudy ... elaborate
7. The economic recession has resulted in a sudden decline in consumer spending; likewise, it has caused home values to _____.
A. continue
B. ascend
C. appreciate
D. increase
E. **plummet**
8. After looking at the map, we _____ that there wasn't enough time to walk to the theater before the movie started.
A. **surmised**
B. forgot
C. imagined
D. fantasized
E. remembered

52. More people die in automobile accidents _____ in war.
A) than B) as C) like D) those
53. I feel sorry about the man _____ three sons were killed in a traffic accident.
A) who had B) of whose C) that he had D) whose
54. From _____ did you borrow that book?
A) whom B) who C) that D) which
55. This is the key _____ I lost yesterday.
A) who B) whom C) _____ D) whose
56. We love to play tennis, but if they close the park we _____ play tennis any more.
A) can't B) won't be able to C) couldn't D) won't have to
57. Sam has worked hard today. He _____ be tired now.
A) shall B) can C) will D) must
58. Barney has just found a job, and he is very happy. He _____ like his job.
A) should B) will C) must D) has to
59. The 100-year-old man _____ for the secret to his longevity.
A) often asked B) was often asked C) who was often asked D) who often asked
60. I think that man is a burglar. _____ I call the police?
A) Could B) Will C) Shall D) Would
61. _____ he seems today, the old man was once a dangerous criminal.
A) Peaceful B) As peaceful as C) Although peaceful D) No matter peaceful
62. She _____ taken another course. She can use the computer well.
A) was B) isn't C) has been D) should have
63. When Jack was a child, he _____ to live on a farm with his family.
A) likes B) farmed C) used D) wishes
64. _____ speak to Felix?
A) Would you like to B) Had you C) Have you D) When were you
65. You would like to see a good movie, _____ you?
A) wouldn't B) hadn't C) haven't D) weren't
66. The instructor wants us _____ for the test.
A) student B) study hard C) to prepare D) writing
67. _____ being useful, glass is also ornamental.
A) Besides B) Aside C) Though D) Because
68. Parents should always put medicine away after _____ it. Otherwise, children might take it and harm themselves.
A) take B) you took C) took D) taking
69. You should always check your tires before _____ your car.
A) drive B) driving C) you drove D) you're driving
70. She made him _____ the kitchen.
A) to paint B) painted C) painting D) paint
71. She has a very important report _____ .
A) typing B) to prepare C) which it was typed D) she prepared
72. Would you mind _____ home early?
A) I came B) coming C) to come D) you come
73. I can't stand _____ in a long line.
A) wait B) waiting C) to wait D) waited
74. We couldn't help _____ when she fell off the horse.
A) the laugh B) laughing C) laugh D) to laugh
75. Do you know the beautiful lady _____ ?
A) sit in the car B) she sat in the car C) sitting in the car D) she is sitting in the car
76. If you don't _____ smoking, you'll never regain your health?
A) give of B) give away C) give up D) give off
77. The children _____ play with them.
A) want that I B) want me to C) want me for D) want my
78. Send him to the baker's _____ some bread.
A) to buy B) for buying C) in order that D) for I buy
79. I was very happy _____ him that he had won the prize.
A) to tell B) tell C) telling D) has told
80. It was a waste of time _____ him to keep quiet. He simply could not stop talking.
A) ask B) asking C) asked D) _____
81. Whoever _____ that picture was a fine artist.
A) paints B) was painted C) has painted D) had painted
82. What _____ here before you arrived?
A) happens B) had happened C) happening D) happen
83. _____ ever painted an apartment before?
A) Do you B) Will you C) Had you D) Did you have
84. She had _____ late before.
A) no B) no ever C) not been D) not ever
85. The landlord _____ just rented the apartment before they called.
A) is B) has C) was D) had
86. _____ ever driven a car like this before?
A) You had B) Did you C) Have you D) Were you
87. Who _____ talking to before I came?
A) you are B) have they been C) are D) had they been
88. I _____ rather not work in this office. It is terribly cold.
A) would B) had C) have D) will
89. When _____ possible to get some more information?
A) Would it be B) Had it C) Has it D) Would be it
90. The plan _____ will put a lot of people out of work.
A) to mechanize the factory B) has mechanized the factory C) is to mechanize the factory D) is to mechanize the factory.
91. The director _____ consulted about the plan.
A) have been B) should have been C) would D) being
92. A: It's too bad you can't come tomorrow.
B: I _____ come, but I'd rather stay home.
A) can B) did C) have D) do
93. Mace _____ a highly flavored spice used in foods.
A) is B) which is C) as it is D) to be like
94. Never _____ such a beautiful village before.
A) I had seen B) I saw C) have I seen D) had I been seen
95. _____ difficult to work when you are tired.
A) It is B) It was C) It D) Its
96. _____ to read about the customs of other countries.
A) That was extremely interesting B) It was interesting C) Is it very interesting D) That many students like
97. We have a lot of tasks this weekend, _____ .
A) each one is demanding great attention B) each one has demanded great attention C) each one demanding great attention D) and each one has demanding great attention
98. Bethlehem, the city _____ Jesus was born, is regarded as a holy sanctum by Christians.
A) which was B) that where C) where D) whose city
99. Physical therapy _____ assuage his pain and speed his recovery.
A) expects to B) has expected C) expected D) is expected to
100. _____ is that there is a risk of heart attack for the elderly.
A) One important drawback of aerobics B) There is one important drawback of aerobics C) It is one important drawback of aerobics D) If there is one important drawback of aerobics.

1. "A bit" means _____.
A) some thing to eat B) to help someone
C) **a small amount**
2. "About time" means _____.
A) at the right time B) soon
C) **at last**
3. "Across the board" means _____.
A) **everyone or everything is included**
B) to travel between countries
C) uninteresting
4. To "act up" means _____.
A) to share an idea B) **to behave badly**
C) to pretend to be rich
5. A man "after my own heart" means _____.
A) **liking the same things as me**
B) looks like me
C) follows me
6. "Against the clock" means _____.
A) a new record B) **a test of speed or time**
C) an impossible task
7. "All along" means _____.
A) **all the time** B) to agree
C) altogether
8. "All hours" means _____.
A) at regular times B) **at irregular times**
C) every hour
9. "Along in years" means _____.
A) **getting old** B) getting tired
C) becoming successful
10. "And then some" means _____.
A) not many B) and only a few
C) **and a lot more**
11. A "babe in the woods" means _____.
A) someone who cuts trees B) someone who is young
C) **someone who is innocent**
12. To "back down" means _____.
A) **to give up a claim** B) to sit down
C) to fight for something
13. To "back out" means _____.
A) to support someone B) to be trapped
C) **to get out of an agreement**
14. A "bad trip" means _____.
A) to lose money B) **an unpleasant drug experience**
C) to be unsuccessful
15. "He didn't bat an eye" means the same as _____.
A) he didn't see B) he wasn't happy
C) **he didn't show surprise**
16. To "bear in mind" means _____.
A) to forget something B) to be crazy
C) **to remember something**
17. To "beat around the bush" means _____.
A) to not know B) **to avoid a question**
C) to go on a hike
18. To "beef up" means _____.
A) to go crazy B) to have fun
C) **to make something stronger**
19. "Behind the scenes" means _____.
A) in a different place B) **privately**
C) in a difficult position
20. "Below the belt" means _____.
A) good B) secretly
C) **unfairly**
21. To "call it a day" means _____.
A) **to quit** B) it becomes evening
C) to say good morning
22. To "call the tune" means _____.
A) to sing a song B) **to give orders**
C) to give advice
23. To "carry off" means _____.
A) **to move** B) to kill
C) to drop
24. To put the "cart before the horse" means _____.
A) to plan ahead
B) that you can't do something
C) **to do things in the wrong order**
25. To "catch on" means _____.
A) **to understand** B) to be punished
C) to grab something
26. To "be caught short" means _____.
A) to be in an embarrassing situation
B) to take a short sleep
C) **not to have enough of something when needed**
27. "Cheap skate" means _____.
A) a winter sports activity
B) **someone who doesn't spend much money**
C) something that isn't expensive
28. To "check up" means _____.
A) to search
B) **to investigate**
C) to make a mark to show something has been counted
29. To "cheer up" means _____.
A) **to become happy** B) to become sad
C) to become lost
30. "Chicken feed" means _____.
A) a lot of food
B) **a small amount of money**
C) A group of people gathering together
31. I "dare say" means _____.
A) I don't know at all B) I definitely know
C) **I suppose**

Complete the following dialogues.

1. -We went to Berlin last weekend
- _____.
- A) **How did you get there?**
B) Yes, last weekend was rather rainy.
C) And what about you?
D) My father says he is always tired after work.
E) Sure, your teachers are very good.
2. A: What is the best way to get to Broadway?
B: By underground, I think.
A: Is it the shortest way?
B: _____.
- A) You can go as slowly as you like
B) Take the double - decked buses
C) **The fastest one**
D) The shortest way is traveling by train
E) I advise you to travel there by car
3. - Your dress is so nice.
- _____.
- A) I'll buy another one B) She is so beautiful
C) I **have made it myself** D) I like them too
E) Your dress is too short
4. - I see you are talking again. What do the women always talk about?
- _____.
- A) **They usually discuss their family problems**
B) They are talking about their problems
C) A woman always had something to tell
D) She always talks much
E) Some of the women prefer listening to men
5. - Why, Ann! Are you reading without light? Turn on the lamp, please.
- _____.
- A) Oh, yes, it's far from here B) Oh, no, I'm too hungry
C) Oil, yes, it's too light D) **Oh, yes, it's getting dark**
E) Thank you, very well
6. - Look, Gill, the rain has stopped.
- _____.
- Let's play tennis.
- _____.
- A) It's a pity / Soon B) Nice of you / O.K.
C) It's fun / Long ago D) What for / A great idea
E) **So what / Not a bad idea**
7. - Why did the team not win the game?
- _____.
- A) I suppose it began late.
B) He was very late.
C) At that time they were very far from the
D) I **think Nick didn't take part in it.**
E) Because we were at a party.
8. A: I couldn't watch TV yesterday.
B: Why couldn't you?
A: _____.
- A) I don't like to watch TV.
B) I must do my lesson.
C) I'll stay at home and learn English.
D) **We both, my sister and I, were punished by my father.**
E) I could stay and watch TV with them.
9. Jane: Help yourselves to the cake. What sort of it would you like?
Nick: Strawberry, please.
Jane: Would you like some more cake?
Mike: _____.
- A) Yes, ice cream please.
B) No, I've already caught it.
C) Thank you for a nice party.
D) Please take a piece of cake.
E) **Thanks, I haven't eaten my first piece yet.**
10. John: Let's play cops and robbers.
Kate: I've never played cops and robbers. How do you play it?
Robert: Everybody plays this game.
Kate: _____.
- A) You'll be at the police station.
B) Work in a group of four.
C) Continue the game until someone catches you.
D) **Well, will you show me what to do?**
E) Shall I help you, sir?
11. - I was told an interesting story yesterday.
- _____.
- A) Neither was he. B) Were they?
C) Didn't you? D) **So were we.**
E) Either did I.
12. - How many times have you been in South Africa?
- _____.
- A) I went last year. B) **Once.**
C) 2 years ago. D) Yes, I've.
E) Next summer.
13. - Will you cook macaroni this year?
- _____.
- A) Just a moment. B) Sorry, I couldn't.
C) Yes, he will. D) **Yes, of course.**
E) Yes, I'll cook turkey.
14. - Who is the best reader in your class?
- _____.
- A) **Pete is, but I read better than he does.**
B) We take books from the school library.
C) Oh, it is very difficult to get a good book these
D) We never read books at math lessons.
E) My mother doesn't allow me to read books at library.
15. A: May I watch TV now?
B: No you can't.
A: Why?
B: _____.
- A) We'll go for a walk tomorrow
B) You were ill
C) I must stay in bed
D) **You'll disturb the kids**
E) You can tell the truth
16. A: Why are you so tired?
B: _____.
A: Who helped you?
B: _____.
- A) **I've just worked hard / nobody did**
B) I worked much / you'll help me
C) So I am tired / many friends did
D) I prefer walking / my mother did
E) I shall not be tired / my wife did