

"Twitter employees can work at home forever"

GAP FILL

From <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-55111111>

The boss of Twitter has told many of his employees that they can work from home (1) forever if they want to. CEO Jack Dorsey told many workers on Tuesday that they will be (2) allowed to work from home even after the coronavirus (3) pandemic ends. A Twitter spokesperson said: "Opening offices will be our decision. When and if our employees come (4) back, will be their [decision]." Twitter was one of the first companies to allow workers to work from home after the COVID-19 pandemic (5) started. The spokesperson said it would not be, "one of the first to return to (6) offices". Twitter said most of its offices would not open before September. It (7) added when they do open, it would be "careful, intentional, office by office and (8) gradual".

offices
allowed
gradual
back
forever
added
started
pandemic

Twitter said it was in a good (9) position to have many of its workers working from their home. It is an online company so many employees and (10) bosses can contact each other on video conferencing (11) platforms like Zoom. The company said: "We were uniquely positioned to respond quickly and allow folks to work from home, given our (12) emphasis on decentralization and supporting a distributed workforce capable of working from (13) anywhere." It added: "The past (14) few months have proven we can make [working from home] work. If our employees are in a (15) role and situation that enables them to work from home and they want to continue to do so forever, we will make that (16) happen."

bosses
few
emphasis
happen
position
role
platforms
anywhere



“Fingerprints”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages



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

If you enjoy watching crime shows on TV, you know that fingerprints play a large role in identifying people. But, you might be surprised to find out that using fingerprints for identification is not a new science. In fact, it is very old — dating back at least as far as 1885-1913 B.C.E. In Babylon, when people agreed to a business contract, they pressed their fingerprints into the clay in which the contract was written. Thumbprints have also been found on clay seals from ancient China.

In 14th century Persia, which is now Iran, a government doctor recognized that all fingerprints are different. In 1684, a British doctor, Nehemiah Grew, spoke about the ridged surfaces of the fingers. In 1686, a professor of *anatomy* (the study of the structure of the human body) named Marcello Malpighi, wrote about the ridges and loops in fingerprints. Malpighi’s work was considered so important that a layer of skin found on the fingertips was named after him. This layer of skin is called the Malpighian layer. Although scientists had studied fingerprints, the value of fingerprinting in the identification of individuals did not become clear until later.

Sir William James Herschel is generally thought to be the first European to realize that fingerprints were *unique* to each person. In his work as chief magistrate in the Hoogly district in Jungipoor, India, Herschel asked people to put their handprints on contracts. Herschel believed that personal contact with the contracts made people more likely to honor their commitments, or to keep their promises. As he looked at more and more handprints, he began to see that all the handprints were different. He started to believe that fingerprints were unique, which means they are all different from each other, and *permanent*, which means that they do not ever change. To prove that they never change, Herschel kept track of his own fingerprints over his entire lifetime.

Dr. Henry Faulds, a British surgeon at a Japanese hospital, began studying the furrows (also called ridges) on fingertips in the 1870s. He published an article in a scientific journal about the use of fingerprints as a tool in identification. He also *devised*, or invented, a system of classifying fingerprints. He wrote Charles Darwin about his findings, but Darwin was getting too old to work on the findings. So, he promised to pass the information to his cousin, Sir Francis Galton. Using Henry Faulds’s findings, Galton published a major book on classifying fingerprints based on arches, loops, and whorls. His work with Sir Edward R. Henry on fingerprint classification was the basis of a classification system which is still used by law enforcement agencies in English-speaking countries.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) now uses a variation of the Galton– Henry system. Although the use of fingerprinting in identification *originated* in Britain, it has been developed in the United States. In 1924, two large fingerprint collections were combined to form the foundation of the Identification Division of the FBI. Within the Identification Division, the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (IAFIS) can search and find fingerprints anywhere in the United States within thirty minutes. The IAFIS can compare results with automated fingerprint systems in countries around the world. The IAFIS has the fingerprints of more than 250 million people on file.

About one in six Americans has fingerprints on file with the FBI. But not all the fingerprints are related to criminal investigations. People need to have their fingerprints taken for many other reasons. People have their fingerprints taken for employment, licenses, and adoption. For example, when people want to work for the government in *classified*, secret jobs, their fingerprints are checked to be sure they do not have a criminal background. When prospective parents adopt a child, their fingerprints are matched against those of all criminals for the safety of the child.

Questions:

- 1) How were fingerprints used in ancient times?
- A. To seal contracts
 - B. To sign agreements
 - C. To identify criminals
 - D. All of the above
 - E. Both A and B are correct.
- 2) Who wrote about fingerprints in 1686?
- A. Henry Faulds
 - B. Charles Darwin
 - C. Nehemiah Grew
 - D. Marcello Malpighi
 - E. William James Hershel
- 3) Why did Sir William James Herschel ask people to put their handprints on contracts?
- A. He wanted to be able to better identify criminals.
 - B. The people were not able to write.
 - C. He wanted people to keep their promises.
 - D. He wanted to follow the local customs.
 - E. This was required by the intelligence agency that he was a member of.
- 4) How long does it take the IAFIS to find someone's fingerprints?
- A. 30 seconds
 - B. 30 minutes
 - C. 30 hours
 - D. 30 days
 - E. None of the above
- 5) Why would a non-criminal have their fingerprints taken?
- A. To adopt a child
 - B. To get some jobs
 - C. To get certain licenses
 - D. To identify themselves
 - E. All of the above

Vocabulary:

- 1) **Anatomy** is the study of...
- A. surgery.
 - B. criminals.
 - C. the body.
 - D. fingerprints.
 - E. identification.
- 2) The best synonym for **unique** is...
- A. uniform.
 - B. honorable.
 - C. singular.
 - D. similar.
 - E. Both C and D are correct.
- 3) The best synonym for **permanent** is...
- A. scientific.
 - B. automated.
 - C. unchanging.
 - D. unimportant.
 - E. unreasonable.
- 4) Another way to say **devised** is...
- A. came about.
 - B. came around.
 - C. came up with.
 - D. came through.
 - E. came down with.
- 5) The place where something **originated** is the place where it...
- A. started.
 - B. ended.
 - C. arrived.
 - D. was remembered.
 - E. was forgotten.
- 6) If you work in a **classified** job, you...
- A. may not discuss your work.
 - B. work only with fingerprints.
 - C. work with automated systems.
 - D. must travel to many different places.
 - E. probably have a criminal background.

“Blizzard in Birmingham”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



The Turner kids were not **accustomed** to snow. The most they ever got in their southern city of Birmingham was an inch or so per year. Even that was quite **infrequent**—it never snowed more than once or twice each winter. And on the few occasions that it did snow, it was always too warm for the snow to accumulate. The temperature almost never got below freezing.

What was funny was that even the slightest bit of snow was enough to cancel school and close businesses. No one knew how to drive in the stuff. It was never enough for young Lily Mae Turner, though, because the snow that came was always too sparse to build a snowman or to go sledding.

But one night, in March of 1993, something magical happened.

An unexpected blast of cold air from Canada and moist air from the Caribbean converged on the eastern part of the United States to create the “Storm of the Century.”

All that the Turner kids knew was that when they woke up Saturday morning, there was 17 inches of unbelievable snow on their front lawn and as far as the eye could see.

The Turner parents were in shock. Most folks in town were ill-prepared for such a storm. They had no shovels to dig their way out and no salt to keep from slipping. They had no idea what to do.

While the adults seemed paralyzed with disbelief, the Turner kids set about having the time of their lives. Lily Mae discovered that a rope tied to a metal trash can lid made a perfect sled. John Henry figured out that if he put his feet in plastic grocery bags before putting on his rain boots, his feet stayed warm for a longer time. Rachel made snow angels in every part of the yard. Together, all the kids made a huge snowman and dressed it in their dad’s hat and jacket. (Mr. Turner didn’t own a scarf!)

For three straight days, the Turner kids had a **splendid** time. On Tuesday, the temperature hit 70 degrees, and life for these Southerners went back to normal.

Questions:

- 1) As used at the beginning of the story, what does **accustomed** mean?
- A. **used to**
 - B. aware of
 - C. scared of
 - D. interested in
- 2) As used at the beginning of the story, which is the best antonym for **infrequent**?
- A. **common**
 - B. long
 - C. rare
 - D. surprising
- 3) Which other title would best fit this passage?
- A. "1993"
 - B. "A Cold March"
 - C. **"Magical Snow"**
 - D. "Ill-Prepared Parents"
- 4) The author may have described the storm as magical because
- A. Lily Mae believed the snow was magic
 - B. **it was such an unusual thing to happen that it felt like magic**
 - C. there was no other explanation for why the storm occurred
 - D. the author wanted to cast doubt on whether the storm actually took place
- 5) How are the children different than the adults in this passage?
- A. The kids stayed warm, while the adults were very cold.
 - B. The kids knew the storm was coming, while the adults did not.
 - C. **The kids went out and had fun, while the adults did not know what to do.**
 - D. The adults still had to go to work, while the kids stayed home.
- 6) What conclusions can be drawn about what the weather is typically like in Birmingham during the month of March?
- I. It is warm.
 - II. It does not snow.
 - III. It is windy.
- A. I only
 - B. **I and II**
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

Questions (continued):

7) What can be said about the Turner kids' ideas for playing in the snow without the usual snow gear?

- I. They were creative.
- II. They were effective.
- III. They were complicated.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

8) *"What was funny was that even the slightest bit of snow was enough to cancel school and close businesses."*

"No one knew how to drive in the stuff."

Which of the following punctuation marks could best be used to combine the above sentences?

- A. a comma (,)
- B. a semicolon (;)
- C. an ellipsis (...)
- D. a hyphen (-)

9) What was going on outside of Birmingham during the snowstorm?

- A. The rest of the country was also dealing with snow.
- B. Nothing—Birmingham was the only area affected by the storm.
- C. The Eastern United States was also hit by the storm.
- D. The passage does not provide enough information to say.

10) As used at the end of the story, which is the best antonym for **splendid**?

- A. great
 - B. perfect
 - C. happy
 - D. terrible
-

Nonfiction Reading Test

Reading

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Did you know that some people don't do their reading assignments? It's shocking, but it's true. Some students don't even read short texts that they are assigned in class. There are many reasons for this. They may be distracted or bored. They may be unwilling to focus. They may be unconfident readers. Whatever the reason, it has to stop today. Here's why.



Reading stimulates your mind. It is like a workout for your brain. When people get old, their muscles begin to deteriorate. They get weaker and their strength leaves them. Exercise can prevent this loss. The same thing happens to people's brains when they get older. Brain power and speed decline with age. Reading strengthens your brain and prevents these declines.

You can benefit from reading in the near-term too. Reading provides knowledge. Knowledge is power. Therefore, reading can make you a more powerful person. You can learn to do new things by reading. Do you want to make video games? Do you want to design clothing? Reading can teach you all this and more. But you have to get good at reading, and the only way to get good at something is to practice.

Read everything that you can at school, regardless of whether you find it interesting. Reading expands your vocabulary. Even a "boring" text can teach you new words. Having a larger vocabulary will help you better express yourself. You will be able to speak, write, and think more intelligently. What's boring about that?

Do not just discount a text because it is unfamiliar to you. Each time you read, you are exposed to new ideas and perspectives. Reading can change the way that you understand the world. It can give you a broader perspective on things. It can make you worldlier. You can learn how people live in far away places. You can learn about cultures different from your own.

Reading is good for your state of mind. It has a calming effect. It can lower your stress levels and help you relax. You can escape from your troubles for a moment when you read, and it's a positive escape. The benefits of reading far outweigh those of acting like a doofus. So do yourself a favor: the next time you get a reading assignment, take as much as you can from it. Squeeze it for every drop of knowledge that it contains. Then move on to the next one.

1. Which best expresses the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. Reading is exciting.
 - b. Reading strengthens your mind.
 - c. Age affects the body in many ways.
 - d. Working out keeps your body in shape.
2. Why does the author think that you should read books that are boring?
 - a. You will eventually grow to love them if you read them enough.
 - b. You will get better grades in reading class.
 - c. You will make your teacher very happy.
 - d. You will learn new words.
3. Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. Reading can benefit you.
 - b. You can learn to program video games or design clothing by reading.
 - c. You can learn amazing things and become a better person by reading.
 - d. Knowledge is power.
4. Which is **not** a reason given by the author why students fail to complete reading assignments?
 - a. Students may be bored.
 - b. Students may be distracted.
 - c. Students may be unwilling to focus.
 - d. Students may be tired.
5. Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?
 - a. He is trying to persuade students to do their reading work.
 - b. He is teaching people how to become better readers.
 - c. He is explaining why people don't do their reading work.
 - d. He is entertaining readers with facts about the mind and body.
6. Which best describes the author's tone in the first three sentences?
 - a. Surprised
 - b. Sarcastic
 - c. Informative
 - d. Irate
7. Which of the following is **not** one of the author's main points?
 - a. Reading broadens your perspective and makes you a better person.
 - b. Reading is a relaxing activity with positive mental side effects.
 - c. Reading helps you perform on tests and get into selective schools.
 - d. Reading keeps your mind in shape and prevents losses due to age.
8. Which is **not** one of the author's arguments in the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Reading gives you a broader perspective on the world.
 - b. Reading changes the way that you understand the world.
 - c. Reading helps prepare you for your job in the real world.
 - d. Reading teaches you about distant lands and cultures.
9. Why does the author believe that reading is good for your mind state?
 - a. It has a calming effect.
 - b. It can lower your stress levels.
 - c. It can help you relax.
 - d. All of these
10. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?
 - a. Reading: Good for the Mind in Many Ways
 - b. Reading: The Key to a Successful Academic Future
 - c. Reading: Improve Your Vocabulary While Being Entertained
 - d. Reading: The Best Way to Improve Your Writing Skills

1. Neither of the men gave ____ approval.
A) their B) **his** C) its D) they
2. Most of the women sent ____ applications to the director of the program.
A) **their** B) her C) her own D) them
3. Gold ____ to be the most alliable metal of all.
A) know B) has known C) **is known** D) knows
4. ____ enjoyed their meal.
A) Every guest B) Neither guest
C) Each of the guests D) **Some guests**
5. The cause of the series of disasters ____ not yet known, but an enquiry has been set up to find out what happened.
A) are B) **is** C) has D) were
6. Each team has received ____ new uniforms.
A) their B) them C) his D) **its**
7. It was ____ Dave to quit his job.
A) fired because B) **stupid of**
C) foolish by D) because of school
8. Robert didn't study for the test; ____ he did very well.
A) consequently B) **nevertheless**
C) therefore D) moreover
9. The sheep ____ to be brought down from the hills in bad weather, or some might die.
A) has B) would C) must D) **have**
10. I'll go to the station and ____ for you
A) **wait** B) to wait C) waiting D) have waited
11. Their ship was designed to make several trips and ____ equipment.
A) carrying B) **to carry** C) for carrying D) carries
12. ____ of measurement has ever equaled the metric system in simplicity.
A) Another system B) A new system
C) **No other system** D) Other systems
13. ____ to hear that Charles is doing well at his job.
A) That is good B) **It is good** C) I am good D) What is good
14. I don't care if we go to the beach or not. ____ .
A) **It's up to you** B) Mind your own business
C) We haven't got all day D) It isn't worth it
15. She lost her job yesterday. ____ .
A) We are proud of her B) I can't stand her
C) I believe in her D) **I feel sorry for her**
16. Susie said, "I'll wash the dishes."
She said she ____ the dishes.
A) **would wash** B) will wash C) shall wash D) could wash
17. People respect Dr. Play. They ____ him because of his great knowledge.
A) **look up to** B) look at C) look up D) look for
18. It's high time ____ measures to protect our environment.
A) we take B) **we took**
C) we have taken D) we are taking
19. The Food and Drug Administration makes grocers and restaurant owners ____ all milk before selling it.
A) pasteurized B) had pasteurized
C) **pasteurize** D) should have pasteurized
20. She has always wanted other people ____ slowly.
A) that they speak B) **to speak**
C) have spoken D) had spoken
21. We would like ____ our radio.
A) she's fixing B) she'd fix C) she had fixed D) **her to fix**
22. The discovery was made after a ____ search.
A) two years B) twice a year
C) **two year** D) two year's
23. It's very important ____ before entering the contest.
A) having practiced B) **to have practiced**
C) having to practice D) practicing
24. ____ highway accidents may paralyze traffic for hours is known to all.
A) These B) **That** C) As D) Because
25. Mr. Nester can't swim, and ____ .
A) I can too B) **I can't either**
C) I swim neither D) neither do I
26. It would be ____ to write George and thank him.
A) a letter from you B) kind of letter
C) **kind of you** D) of you
27. Every year, a ____ automobile race is held in Indianapolis.
A) five hundred miles B) **five hundred-mile**
C) five hundred mile D) of hundred miles
28. Rose ran in a ____ race.
A) **twenty-kilometer** B) twenty kilometer's
C) of twenty kilometers D) for twenty kilometers
29. A: Have you finished your book ____ ?
B: No, I am ____ in the middle of it.
A) **yet/still** B) already/still C) still/already D) yet/yet
30. ____ lucky I am to see you this morning!
A) What B) What a C) **How** D) That
31. The delay was due ____ negligence, not to lack of funds.
A) for B) **to** C) from D) because
32. We insist ____ prompt attention.
A) for B) **on** C) at D) in
33. We shall agree ____ any reasonable proposal.
A) for B) with C) **to** D) for
34. I'm afraid we can't agree ____ each other ____ anything.
A) **with/on** B) with/with C) on/on D) on/with
35. The fluctuation in the money market is ____ worries the economists.
A) **what** B) which C) that D) whose
36. Is there a shop round here where they sell ____ clothes?
A) **children's** B) child's C) children D) childish
37. The building should be finished in about three ____ .
A) of months B) month's C) month D) **months**
38. ____ motivate learning is well documented.
A) That is computers B) Computers that
C) **That computers** D) It is those computers
39. Raymond studies for several hours every evening; ____ , he does very well on tests.
A) however B) not only C) nevertheless D) **consequently**
40. Dr. Osaka gives interesting lectures; ____ , he is very popular with his students.
A) however B) **consequently**
C) but also D) not only
41. I wasn't in the office yesterday; ____ , I didn't get the message you left for me.
A) however B) not only C) **therefore** D) nevertheless
42. Who was the first person ____ today?
A) spoke to you B) **you spoke to**
C) you spoke D) whom you spoke
43. ____ city life has its advantages, it also has its disadvantages.
A) Like B) While C) **But** D) For example
44. The argument soon developed ____ a quarrel.
A) out B) from C) of D) **into**
45. I am ashamed ____ my mistakes on that composition.
A) **of** B) from C) for D) with
46. ____ my opinion, English is a difficult language.
A) **For** B) To C) In D) With
47. The service in the restaurant is very poor; there aren't enough waiters to wait ____ people.
A) to B) **on** C) for D) at
48. Don't blame other people ____ your own mistakes.
A) on B) at C) **for** D) ____
49. This simple machine consists ____ three small wheels and a handle.
A) **of** B) for C) from D) at
50. Let's not have fish again tonight; I am tired ____ fish.
A) from B) with C) **of** D) ____

topic: **MIXED VERB TENSES 1**

For each sentence, choose the correct tense of the verb.

1. John _____ in San Diego for the past 3 years (and he still lives there).
a) lived b) was lived c) **has lived**
2. My brother _____ in San Diego up until last year.
a) was lived b) **was living** c) has lived
3. I worked as a graphic designer before I _____ to England.
a) **came** b) have come c) did come
4. _____ reading the paper yet?
a) Were you finished b) **Have** you finished c) Are you finishing
5. I _____ in love three times in my life.
a) was being b) was c) **have been**
6. I _____ in love with Mary, but she left me for another man.
a) have been b) was being c) **was**
7. Frank _____ tennis for three years when he was at school.
a) **played** b) has played c) was play
8. _____ me last night?
a) Have you called b) **Did you call** c) Were you called
9. I was at the club yesterday, but I _____ you.
a) haven't seen b) did not saw c) **did not see**
10. I _____ this upset in many years!
a) **haven't been** b) was not c) was not being