

Lecture 3 In-class Practice

Practice 1

Try to match the words with their (near) synonyms.

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. device | a. difficult choice |
| 2. dilemma | b. truth |
| 3. fiction | c. the future |
| 4. magazines and books | d. gadget |
| 5. tomorrow | e. curiosity |
| 6. fact | f. story |
| 7. interest | g. reading material |

Practice 2

Try to match the words with their (near) antonym.

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|----------------|---------------|
| 1. traditional | a. the future |
| 2. yesterday | b. deliberate |
| 3. rise | c. reality |
| 4. fiction | d. radical |
| 5. lost | e. skepticism |
| 6. accidental | f. found |
| 7. advocate | g. decline |

Practice 3

Match the words on the right with their synonyms in the text.

Are e-books the future?

Those of us who delight in reading will know the problem: our book shelves are crammed with old favourites, books we plan to re-read, and books we have not quite started yet. We collect stories that have caught our interest and find it hard to let them go. There is another way though: e-readers allow us to hold all our much-loved works of fiction in one hand. So what is preventing us from replacing our bookcases with one compact digital device, an e-reader?

The advantages of e-readers certainly seem to outweigh the disadvantages. They are light and mobile devices that can be taken anywhere. Taking one gadget on holiday allows us to take hundreds of novels with us without having to pay for extra luggage on the plane.

The electronic nature of e-readers gives us so much more than a print copy of a book can do. It lets us read in the dark (handy in case of a power cut). We can look up unfamiliar words in the in-built dictionary with just one click, we can make notes, and we never forget what page we were on: the e-reader remembers that for us. If our eyesight declines, we can make the letters bigger. We can re-read Jane Eyre as often as we like and the book will never look any worse for it. And even if our taste in books is odd, nobody need know: others can't see what we are reading. Not only that, most e-books are cheaper than their print versions, and many older books can be downloaded for free.

1. enjoy
2. full of
3. read again
4. attract
5. stopping
6. exceed
7. moving
8. additional
9. character
10. permits
11. unknown
12. deteriorate
13. larger
14. weird
15. inexpensive

Practice 4

Match the underlined words in the questions with their synonyms in the texts.

Example 1

Text:

Professor Pretty draws a simple but memorable conclusion from all this: our food bills are actually threefold.

Question:

Professor Pretty **concludes** that our food bills are higher than most people realize.

Example 2

Text:

But since 1980, the amount of water consumed per person has actually decreased, thanks to a range of new technologies that help to conserve water in homes and industry.

Question:

Modern technologies have led to a **reduction** in domestic water consumption.

Example 3

Text:

A wooden artefact found on the step pyramid at Saqqara looks uncannily like a modern glider.

Question:

The discovery on one pyramid of an object which **resembled** a modern glider suggests they may have experimented with flight.

Example 4

Text:

The technology raises the prospect of Britain becoming self-sufficient in renewable energy and drastically reducing its carbon dioxide emission.

Question:

Tidal power would **cut down** on air pollution.

Example 5

Text:

Farming is out of the question and nature offers meagre pickings.

Question:

It would be **impossible** for the people to engage in farming as a means of supporting themselves.

Example 6

Text:

An increase in some cancers and bronchitis may reflect changing smoking habits and poorer air quality, says the researchers.

Question:

Increases in some other illnesses may be due to changes in **personal habits** and to pollution.