

Speed Reading Practice for Eiken Pre-1: No. 6

Total: 12 minutes (Passage 1: 4 min / Passage 2: 6 min / Review: 2 min)

Target Score...Passing Target: At least 5 out of 7 correct...High Score Target: At least 6 out of 7 correct

Read each passage and choose the best answer from among the four choices for each question.

Flexible Learning in Higher Education

In recent years, universities have increasingly adopted flexible learning systems that allow students to choose when, where, and how they study. This trend has been driven partly by advances in digital technology, which make it easier to deliver lectures online and provide access to course materials at any time. As a result, some students now combine in-person classes with online sessions, while others complete entire programs remotely. Supporters argue that such systems make higher education more accessible, especially for people who must balance study with work or family responsibilities.

Flexible learning may also encourage greater independence among students. Without fixed schedules, learners are often required to manage their own time and take responsibility for completing assignments. This can help them develop skills that are useful beyond university, such as self-discipline and problem-solving. In addition, recorded lectures allow students to review difficult content multiple times, which may improve understanding for those who learn at different speeds.

However, the shift toward flexibility has raised several concerns. Some educators worry that students who rely heavily on online learning may feel less connected to their instructors and classmates. Others argue that without regular face-to-face interaction, it may be harder for students to stay motivated or to receive immediate feedback. There is also the risk that differences in access to technology could create new inequalities among students.

For these reasons, many universities are attempting to find a balance between flexibility and structure. They aim to provide students with more choice while still maintaining opportunities for direct interaction and support. In this way, flexible learning is not intended to replace traditional education entirely, but rather to expand the ways in which it can be delivered.

Questions

- (1) What is one reason universities have adopted flexible learning systems?
1. They are required to replace all traditional classes with online ones.
 2. Advances in technology have made it easier to offer education in different formats.
 3. Students prefer shorter academic programs than before.
 4. Universities want to reduce the number of instructors they employ.
- (2) According to the passage, what is one benefit of flexible learning?
1. It ensures that all students achieve the same academic results.
 2. It allows students to avoid completing assignments.
 3. It can help students develop independence and time-management skills.
 4. It eliminates the need for communication with teachers.
- (3) What is the author's main point in the final paragraph?
1. Flexible learning should completely replace traditional education.
 2. Universities should return to fixed schedules for all students.
 3. Flexible learning is most effective when combined with some structure.
 4. Traditional education methods are no longer useful.

Urban Farming on Rooftops

As cities continue to grow, finding space for agriculture has become increasingly difficult. In response, some urban planners and residents have turned to rooftop farming as a way to produce food within city environments. By using the flat surfaces of buildings, these projects create small-scale farms where vegetables, herbs, and sometimes even fruits can be grown. This approach not only makes use of otherwise unused space but also brings food production closer to consumers.

One advantage of rooftop farming is that it can reduce the distance food must travel before reaching markets or homes. This may lower transportation costs and decrease environmental impact. In addition, rooftop gardens can help regulate building temperatures by providing insulation, which may reduce energy use. Some projects also aim to strengthen community ties by involving local residents in planting and harvesting activities.

Despite these benefits, rooftop farming presents several challenges. Setting up such systems can be expensive, as buildings may require structural adjustments to support the added weight of soil and water. Maintenance is another concern, since crops must be carefully managed in environments that may be exposed to strong winds or limited water supply. Furthermore, the amount of food produced is usually small compared with traditional farming, which limits its ability to supply large populations.

Because of these limitations, many experts see rooftop farming as a complement to, rather than a replacement for, conventional agriculture. While it may not solve global food shortages, it can still contribute to more sustainable urban living by providing fresh produce and environmental benefits on a local scale.

Questions

- (4) Why has rooftop farming become more popular in cities?
1. Because traditional farms are no longer able to produce enough food.
 2. Because there is limited space for agriculture in urban areas.
 3. Because rooftop farming requires no special equipment.
 4. Because city residents prefer imported food.
- (5) What is one benefit of rooftop farming mentioned in the passage?
1. It allows cities to become completely self-sufficient in food production.
 2. It reduces the need for all forms of transportation.
 3. It can help lower transportation costs and environmental impact.
 4. It guarantees higher profits for farmers.
- (6) What difficulty is associated with rooftop farming?
1. It is illegal in most cities.
 2. It produces too much food for local markets.
 3. It requires buildings to be modified to support additional weight.
 4. It prevents residents from participating in community activities.
- (7) What does the author suggest in the final paragraph?
1. Rooftop farming should replace all traditional agriculture.
 2. Rooftop farming is useful but cannot fully solve food supply problems.
 3. Rooftop farming is effective only in rural areas.
 4. Rooftop farming has no significant environmental benefits.