

## Speed Reading Practice for Eiken Pre-1: No. 8

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

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

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### Learning Through Volunteering

In many countries, schools and universities are showing greater interest in volunteer activities as part of education. Instead of viewing volunteering only as something students do in their free time, some educators now believe it can be an important form of learning. Students may help at local events, work with children or older people, or take part in environmental projects. Through such experiences, they can encounter social issues directly rather than only reading about them in textbooks.

Supporters of this approach argue that volunteering can help students develop practical skills as well as a stronger sense of social responsibility. For example, students may improve their communication and teamwork while learning how organizations operate in real communities. In addition, volunteer work may encourage them to think more seriously about inequality, aging, or environmental problems. Because of this, some educators see volunteering as a way to connect academic learning with everyday life.

However, not everyone agrees that volunteer work should play a larger role in formal education. Some critics worry that students may be asked to do unpaid work mainly to benefit institutions rather than themselves. Others point out that not all volunteer experiences are equally meaningful. If students are given only simple tasks without enough guidance or reflection, the educational value may be limited. There is also concern that students with heavy workloads or family responsibilities may find it difficult to participate.

For these reasons, many specialists argue that volunteering is most effective when it is carefully designed and supported. It should give students genuine opportunities to contribute while also helping them think critically about what they experience. In this way, volunteering can enrich education, but only if it is treated as more than just free labor or a requirement to complete.

## Questions

- (1) Why are some educators paying more attention to volunteering?
1. Because they want students to spend less time on academic study.
  2. Because they believe volunteering can be a meaningful form of learning.
  3. Because most students prefer volunteer work to classroom activities.
  4. Because local organizations now require schools to send volunteers.
- (2) According to the passage, what is one possible benefit of volunteering?
1. It guarantees that students will choose careers in public service.
  2. It allows students to avoid dealing with difficult social issues.
  3. It can help students build practical skills and social awareness.
  4. It replaces the need for academic knowledge in higher education.
- (3) What is the author's main point in the final paragraph?
1. Volunteering is valuable only when schools make it compulsory.
  2. Volunteering is beneficial when it is thoughtfully planned and educationally supported.
  3. Volunteer programs are mainly useful because they reduce labor costs.
  4. Students should be free to volunteer without any guidance from teachers.

## Collecting Carbon from the Air

As concern about climate change grows, scientists are exploring a wide range of methods to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. One idea that has attracted increasing attention is direct air capture, a technology designed to remove carbon dioxide from the air after it has already been released. In such systems, large machines pull in air, separate out the carbon dioxide, and then store it underground or use it in industrial processes. Supporters argue that this technology could become an important tool in limiting global warming, especially in sectors where emissions are difficult to eliminate completely.

One reason direct air capture is appealing is that it can address carbon dioxide already present in the atmosphere. Unlike some climate measures that only reduce future emissions, this approach aims to lower the total concentration of greenhouse gases over time. Some researchers also note that it may help countries offset emissions from industries such as aviation or cement production, where cleaner alternatives remain limited. For this reason, governments and private companies in several countries have begun investing in pilot projects.

Despite this interest, direct air capture faces serious criticism. The process currently requires large amounts of energy and remains very expensive. Critics therefore question whether it can be expanded quickly enough to make a significant difference. Some also worry that too much attention to carbon-removal technology could weaken efforts to reduce emissions at the source. In their view, if governments or companies rely too heavily on future carbon capture, they may delay the immediate changes needed in energy use and transportation.

Because of these concerns, many experts argue that direct air capture should be treated as a supplement to climate policy rather than as a substitute for emissions reduction. It may play a useful role in the future, but only if it develops alongside strong efforts to cut fossil-fuel use and improve energy systems more broadly.

## Questions

(4) What is direct air capture designed to do?

1. Prevent all industrial activity that produces carbon dioxide.
2. Remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere after it has been released.
3. Turn carbon dioxide directly into renewable energy.
4. Measure the exact temperature of the atmosphere in different regions.

(5) Why do some people support direct air capture?

1. Because it can help deal with carbon dioxide that is already in the air.
2. Because it is currently cheaper than all other climate solutions.
3. Because it eliminates the need to reduce fossil-fuel use.
4. Because it works only in industries that already have clean alternatives.

(6) What concern do critics have about direct air capture?

1. It may make climate change more visible to the public.
2. It could reduce interest in cutting emissions directly.
3. It is too simple to be useful on a large scale.
4. It can only be used by private companies, not governments.

(7) What does the author suggest in the final paragraph?

1. Direct air capture should replace traditional climate policy.
  2. Direct air capture is unnecessary if transportation systems improve.
  3. Direct air capture may be helpful, but only as part of a broader response.
  4. Direct air capture will soon become the main global solution to climate change.
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