

Speed Reading Practice for Eiken Pre-1: No. 5

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.

Sharing Office Space

In many cities, the way people work has changed significantly over the past decade. Instead of spending every working day in a traditional office, some employees now divide their time between home and shared workplaces. One result of this change has been the growth of co-working spaces, where
5 people from different companies or professions work in the same building. These spaces often provide desks, meeting rooms, and internet access, but they may also offer networking events and opportunities for professional collaboration.

Supporters of co-working spaces argue that they can solve several
10 problems at once. For freelancers and small businesses, renting a desk in a shared office is often cheaper and more flexible than maintaining a private office. At the same time, working in such spaces may reduce the sense of isolation that many people experience when working entirely from home. In addition, some users value the possibility of meeting people in different
15 industries, which can lead to new ideas or business partnerships.

However, co-working spaces are not ideal for everyone. Some workers find them distracting, especially when the environment is noisy or when privacy is limited. Others point out that while shared offices may appear less expensive, regular use can still become costly over time. There is also the
20 question of whether the social atmosphere in these places truly improves productivity. For some people, casual conversations and networking opportunities are helpful, but for others they may interrupt concentration and reduce efficiency.

Because of these mixed results, many experts suggest that co-working
25 spaces are best understood as one option among many rather than as a universal answer to modern work challenges. Their value depends greatly on the kind of work being done, the personality of the worker, and the quality of the shared environment. In that sense, the rise of co-working spaces reflects a broader shift toward more varied and individualized ways of
30 working.

Questions

- (1) What is one reason co-working spaces have grown in popularity?
 1. They force all employees to return to office-based work.
 2. They have become the only affordable option in most cities.
 3. They suit changing work styles in which people do not always use traditional offices.
 4. They are designed mainly for large international companies.

- (2) According to the passage, what is one possible benefit of co-working spaces?
 1. They guarantee higher productivity for all users.
 2. They may help people avoid the loneliness of working only at home.
 3. They eliminate the need for online communication.
 4. They provide complete privacy for freelancers.

- (3) What is the author's main point in the final paragraph?
 1. Co-working spaces should replace home offices in the future.
 2. Co-working spaces are useful in some cases, but they are not suitable for everyone.
 3. Most experts believe co-working spaces reduce efficiency.
 4. The main purpose of co-working spaces is to create social events.

Repairing Coral Reefs

Coral reefs are among the most diverse ecosystems on Earth, supporting a wide range of marine life and helping protect coastlines from waves and storms. Yet in many parts of the world, reefs are under severe pressure. Rising sea temperatures, pollution, and destructive fishing practices have all
5 contributed to coral decline. When ocean water becomes too warm, corals may expel the tiny organisms that live inside them and provide them with energy. This process, known as bleaching, can leave reefs weak and more likely to die.

In response to this crisis, scientists and environmental groups have
10 developed several methods to help damaged reefs recover. One common approach is coral gardening, in which small pieces of coral are grown in underwater or land-based nurseries and later attached to damaged reef areas. Another method involves identifying coral varieties that appear more tolerant of heat and using them in restoration projects. Supporters of these
15 efforts say they can help reefs recover faster than they would naturally, especially in places where damage has been severe.

Even so, reef restoration faces important limits. Growing and transplanting coral takes time, money, and specialized knowledge, and restored areas may remain vulnerable if ocean temperatures continue to rise.
20 Some researchers warn that focusing too much on local repair projects could distract attention from the larger causes of reef loss, such as global climate change. In their view, restoration can be helpful, but it cannot succeed on a large scale unless broader environmental problems are also addressed.

For this reason, many experts argue that coral restoration should be seen
25 as part of a wider strategy rather than as a complete solution. It may buy time for some reefs and protect local biodiversity, but its long-term success depends on reducing the global pressures that are damaging marine ecosystems in the first place.

Questions

- (4) What does the passage say about coral bleaching?
1. It occurs when reefs are damaged by large waves during storms.
 2. It is a process in which corals lose organisms that help provide them with energy.
 3. It is a method scientists use to prepare corals for transplantation.
 4. It happens only in areas where fishing is prohibited.
- (5) What is one purpose of coral gardening?
1. To grow coral in nurseries and later place it on damaged reefs.
 2. To remove all coral from dangerous ocean areas.
 3. To reduce the number of fish living around reefs.
 4. To replace damaged reefs with artificial structures only.
- (6) What concern do some researchers have about reef restoration?
1. It may cause sea temperatures to rise even faster.
 2. It may receive too much attention compared with the deeper causes of reef loss.
 3. It is already more successful than natural reef recovery.
 4. It can be done easily without much cost or expertise.
- (7) What does the author suggest in the final paragraph?
1. Coral restoration is useful, but only if it is part of a broader response.
 2. Coral restoration should replace all other environmental policies.
 3. Local biodiversity is less important than tourism revenue.
 4. Marine ecosystems can recover fully without changes in global conditions.