|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **[SỞ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO](https://shope.ee/6zwUJYG0cW)**  **[HÀ NỘI](https://shope.ee/6zwUJYG0cW)**    [ĐỀ CHÍNH THỨC](https://shope.ee/6zwUJYG0cW)  *(Đề thi có 10 trang)* | **KỲ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI LỚP 9 THÀNH PHỐ**  **NĂM HỌC 2023-2024**  **Môn thi: TIẾNG ANH**  *[Thời gian làm bài: 150 phút, không kể thời gian phát đề](https://shope.ee/6zwUJYG0cW)* |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Điểm** | | **Chữ kí và họ tên cán bộ chấm thi 1** | **Chữ kí và họ tên cán bộ chấm thi 2** |  | SỐ PHÁCH  *(do Ban phách ghi)* |
| *Bằng số* | *Bằng chữ* |  |  |  |

***Lưu ý:*** *Thí sinh làm bài trực tiếp vào đề của thí này, không được sử dụng tài liệu và bất kỳ loại tài liệu nào. Cán bộ coi thi không giải thích gì thêm.*

# LISTENING (3.0 PTS)

## Part 1: You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, circle the answer (A, B, or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract. You are going to listen twice.

**Extract One**

*You hear a husband and wife talking about their child’s education.*

**1.** The couple agree \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** on their son’s ability to make good decisions. |
| **B.** that their son should be self-sufficient. |
| **C.** on their son’s need for formal qualifications. |

**2.** Compared to the man, the woman is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** conservative. |
| **B.** realistic. |
| **C.** naive. |

**Extract Two**

*You hear a specialist discussing color blindness.*

**3.** Total color blindness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** is more common in men than in women. |
| **B.** is a hereditary condition. |
| **C.** affects fewer people than partial color blindness. |

**4.** Color blindness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** can exempt the sufferer from some types of employment. |
| **B.** affects many aspects of the sufferer’s life. |
| **C.** means sufferers are obliged to undergo tests. |

**Extract Three**

*You hear part of a lecture by a sociologist.*

**5.** According to the lecture, many people left their homes due to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** the large number of roads and railways. |
| **B.** their inability to find work. |
| **C.** the lack of land available. |

**6.** The speaker believes that people’s attitudes to work were based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** their backgrounds. |
| **B.** a desire for profit. |
| **C.** market forces. |

## Part 2: You will hear a report on how English has become a global language. For questions 7-15, fill in each blank with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS according to what you hear. You are going to listen twice. (1.8 pts)

The spread of English around the globe means it is now termed a **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

English first started to spread when explorers made **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the other side of the world.

The influence of Britain in the past and the influence of American businesses are the **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which give English its present significance.

The number of people whose **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is English is significantly greater in the USA than in the UK.

It is difficult to **(11)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the communicative functions of English in some countries.

It is sometimes suggested that English is **(12)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ superior to other languages.

People tend to judge languages using subjective rather than **(13)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

English sentence structure is **(14)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Language success is **(15)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on a variety of different things.

# PHONETICS (2.0 PTS)

## I. Choose the word whose underlined part is pronounced differently from that of the others by circling A, B, C or D. (1.0 pt)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **A.** prescription | **B.** preparation | **C.** preliminary | **D.** presumption |
| **2.** | **A.** reserve | **B.** preserve | **C.** conserve | **D.** deserve |
| **3.** | **A.** bought | **B.** naught | **C.** plough | **D.** thought |
| **4.** | **A.** ploughed | **B.** ragged | **C.** crooked | **D.** wretched |
| **5.** | **A.** adventure | **B.** advantage | **C.** addition | **D.** advertise |

## II. Choose the word whose main stress pattern is different from that of the others by circling A, B, C or D. (1.0 pt)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **A.** disastrous | **B.** humourous | **C.** unanimous | **D.** ambiguous |
| **2.** | **A.** pupeteer | **B.** Japanese | **C.** physician | **D.** lemonade |
| **3.** | **A.** imperial | **B.** magnificient | **C.** stimulating | **D.** simplicity |
| **4.** | **A.** dramatic | **B.** pedestrian | **C.** obedient | **D.** confident |
| **5.** | **A.** consequently | **B.** habitable | **C.** business | **D.** externally |

# VOCABULARY - GRAMMAR (4.0 PTS)

## I. Circle the best option A, B, C or D to complete the following sentences. (1.5 pts)

**1.** I wrote down the names of all the places that I had ever been to in order to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his memory, but to no avail.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** raise | **B.** force | **C.** arouse | **D.** jog |

**2.** A new generation of performers, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ those who by now had become household names, honed their skills before following the same path onto television.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** no less talented than | **B.** together with talented with |
| **C.** along with talented with | **D.** having been more talented with |

**3.** A new government report delivers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ warnings about climate change and its impacts on the planet.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** ominous | **B.** dire | **C.** fateful | **D.** acute |

**4.** A large proportion of the households in this area will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Internet thanks to a generous foreign donor.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** linked with | **B.** wired up | **C.** hooked up | **D.** crossed with |

**5.** The van eventually exploded, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** one of whose wheels came off | **B.** with one of its wheels came off |
| **C.** and sent one of its wheels to fly | **D.** sending one of its wheels flying |

**6.** It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be Annie who is crossing the street, Annie is taller.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** mustn’t | **B.** can’t | **C.** wouldn’t | **D.** shouldn’t |

**7.** Everyone has to hand in their assignments by noon but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sam, I’ll make an exception.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** in case of | **B.** the case being | **C.** in the case of | **D.** in any case for |

**8.** Mr. Smith is held in high \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his dedication to the school.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** respect | **B.** esteem | **C.** honor | **D.** homage |

**9. -** John: “I hear Paul has a job at a restaurant.”

**-** Kelly: “Well, it’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a restaurant as a café nearby.”

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** much more | **B.** nothing like | **C.** far more of | **D.** not so much |

**10.** So enthusiastically did audiences react to her performances that she felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on to even greater achievements.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** provoked | **B.** induced | **C.** spurred | **D.** incited |

**11.** It’s vital that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at this time.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** not to be publicized these figures | **B.** to not publicize these figures |
| **C.** these figures not to be publicized | **D.** these figures not be publicized |

**12.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ non-verbal language is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ important aspect of interpersonal communication.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** No article - an | **B.** A - the | **C.** The - No article | **D.** The - a |

**13.** Being a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ entrepreneur, you will have to make a special effort for people to take you seriously.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** successful | **B.** budding | **C.** blossoming | **D.** flowering |

**14.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ how interesting this course was going to be, I would have enrolled.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** If I had known | **B.** Had I known | **C.** If I knew | **D.** Did I know |

**15.** The old woman is reported \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ found a huge sum of money in a secret hiding place in the attic.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** she has | **B.** having | **C.** to have | **D.** have had |

## II. Circle the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word or phrase CLOSEST in meaning to the underlined word or phrase in each of the following questions. (0.2 pts)

**1.** Even faced with a barrage of criticism, she **stood her ground**, refusing to back down from her principles.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** changed her decision | **B.** felt sorry for herself |
| **C.** wanted to continue | **D.** refused to change her decision |

**2.** **In my book**, honesty and integrity are the most important qualities in a friend.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** As for my reading | **B.** In my opinion |
| **C.** In my retrospection | **D.** In my subjection |

## III. Circle the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the word or phrase OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word or phrase in each of the following questions. (0.2 pts)

**1.** The captain ordered the soldiers to gather **on the double**, even though they were sleeping.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** intensively | **B.** increasingly | **C.** hesitantly | **D.** immediately |

**2.** Constant immediate correction by a language teacher is often **counter-productive**, as students may become discouraged to speak at all.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** isolated | **B.** unproductive | **C.** unfruitful | **D.** effective |

## IV. Give the correct form of the words in brackets to complete the passage. (0.8 pts)

Nowadays, there is a huge range of clothing designed for winter outdoor pursuits. The traditional wax jacket and rubber boots have largely been superseded by man-made fabrics such as ‘Gortex’ and designer hiking boots.

**(1)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(RESPECT)** of your preference in clothing on your winter walks, the main priority is to keep you warm and dry. To this end, the old adage to use the **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(LAYER)** technique still applies. Thermal underwear and socks, topped with an outer shell of jackets and overtrousers in **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(PERMEATE)** fabric which keep out the wind and **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(MOIST)** and are also breathable, keep you warm and dry. For wet weather or shore walking, rubber boots are best, but these are **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(SUIT)** for real walking. This will require proper hiking boots, which these days are sturdy and light. Boots designed **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(SPECIFY)** for hiking have a stiff insole and provide good ankle support as well as giving good traction on **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(SLIP)** surfaces. A small rucksack of 15-25 litre capacity is suitable for short walks, but the more intrepid hiker will probably need a substantially larger backpack of around 25-40 litres. Hiker’s rucksacks have been considerably **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(LIGHT)** over the last few years and new fabric technology will make them even lighter.

## V. Complete each sentence using a verb from column A in the correct form and a particle from column B. You use each verb and particle once ONLY. (0.8 pts)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | | | | **B** | | |
| **paper** | **wolf** | **gloat** | **back** | **away** | **over x 2** | **onto** |
| **beaver** | **rabbit** | **water** | **ferret** | **down x 2** | **on** | **out** |

**1.** Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an entire chocolate cake; you will get indigestion.

**2.** Although my new house is fine, I still prefer the old one which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a river.

**3.** There is no need to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the cracks, I know you are having problems, just tell me.

**4.** It was very childish of you to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your opponent’s failure immediately on the stage when the result was announced.

**5.** My teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over my article to make it sound less aggressive.

**6.** She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at her homework until after midnight.

**7.** I know his name but I haven’t managed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where he lives.

**8.** John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about his coin collection.

## VI. Think of ONE word which can be used appropriately in all THREE sentences. (0.5 pts)

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. I could barely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the faint aroma of coffee brewing downstairs.

b. The room had a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of peacefulness that calmed my nerves.

c. His words made no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leaving me completely confused.

**2. \_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_**

a. Please \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my order quickly, I’m really hungry.

b. The caterpillar undergoes a fascinating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of transformation into a butterfly.

c. She was deeply engrossed in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of writing her novel, letting the words flow freely.

**3.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. The city’s two football \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are in need of new turf, so they will be closed for the weekend.

b. Although the castle buildings are closed during the week, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are open to the public from 9 to 5 every day.

c. Since all possible problems have been foreseen, there should be no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for any complaint.

**4.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. As Sue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ paper into the printer, I made photocopies of the tests.

b. Since he was constantly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ misinformation by those around him, he was never aware of the real situation.

c. Children \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables are generally healthier than those who are not.

**5.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. I am not exactly sure what the rate of unemployment is, though it is certain to be in double \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. Mary could just make out some dim \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ standing in the doorway.

c. These \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are expressed as a percentage of the total.

# READING (6.0 PTS)

## I. Read and choose the best option by circling A, B, C or D to complete the passage. (2.0 pts)

The expression on your face can usually dramatically alter your feelings and perceptions, and it has been proved that **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ smiling or frowning can create corresponding emotional responses. The idea was first **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by a French physiologist, Israel Waynbaum, in 1906. He believed that different facial **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ affected the flow of blood to the brain, and that this could create positive or negative feelings. A happy smile or irrepressible **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ increased the blood flow and contributed to joyful feelings. But sad, angry expressions decreased the flow of oxygen-carrying blood and created a vicious circle of gloom and depression by effectively **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the brain of essential fuel.

Psychologist Robert Zajonc rediscovered this early subject and suggests that the temperature of the brain could affect the production and synthesis of neurotransmitters - which definitely influence our moods and energy levels. He argues that an impaired blood could not only deprive the brain of oxygen, but create further chemical imbalance without inhibiting these vital hormonal messages. Zajonc goes on to propose that our brains remember smiling associated with being happy, and that by deliberately smiling through your tears you can **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your brain to release uplifting neurotransmitters - replacing a depressed condition **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a happier one. People suffering from psychosomatic **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, depression and anxiety states could **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from simply exercising their zygomatic **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - which pull the corners of the mouth up and back to form a smile- several times an hour.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **A.** desperately | **B.** determinedly | **C.** deliberately | **D.** decidedly |
| **2.** | **A.** put off | **B.** put down | **C.** put by | **D.** put forward |
| **3.** | **A.** aspects | **B.** looks | **C.** expressions | **D.** appearances |
| **4.** | **A.** laughter | **B.** sadness | **C.** humour | **D.** depression |
| **5.** | **A.** cutting | **B.** starving | **C.** removing | **D.** eliminating |
| **6.** | **A.** make | **B.** persuade | **C.** allow | **D.** decide |
| **7.** | **A.** through | **B.** by | **C.** after | **D.** with |
| **8.** | **A.** disease | **B.** illness | **C.** infection | **D.** ailment |
| **9.** | **A.** recover | **B.** improve | **C.** benefit | **D.** progress |
| **10.** | **A.** muscles | **B.** nerves | **C.** veins | **D.** bones |

## II. Choose which of the paragraphs A - G that fits into the numbered gaps in the following magazine article. There is one extra paragraph, which does not fit into any of the gaps. (1.2 pts)

Chewing gum culture

*It’s fashionable, classless and Americans chew 12 million sticks of it a day. Discover how an ancient custom became big business.*

Chewing gum contains fewer than ten calories per stick, but it is classified as a food and must therefore conform to the standards of the American Food and Drug Administration. Today’s gum is largely synthetic, with added pine resins and softeners which help to hold the flavour and improve the texture.

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American colonists followed the example of the Amero-lndians of New England and chewed the resin that formed on spruce trees when the bark was cut. Lumps of spruce for chewing were sold in the eastern United States in the early 1800s making it the first commercial chewing gum in the country. Modern chewing gum has its origins in the late 1860s with the discovery of *chicle*, a milky substance obtained from the sapodilla tree of the Central American rainforest.

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yet repeated attempts to cultivate sapodilla commercially have failed. As the chewing gum market has grown, synthetic alternatives have had to be developed.

**3.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Most alarming is the unpleasant little *chicle* fly that likes to lodge its eggs in the tapper’s ears and nose. Braving these hazards, barefooted and with only a rope and an axe, an experienced *chiclero* will shin a mature tree in minutes to cut a path in the bark for the white sap to flow down to a bag below.

**4.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yet, punishing though this working environment is, the remaining *chiclero*s fear for their livelihood. Not so long ago, the United States alone imported 7,000 tonnes of *chicle* a year from Central America. Last year just 200 tonnes were tapped in the whole of Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula. As chewing gum sales have soared, so the manufacturers have turned to synthetics to reduce costs and meet demands.

**5.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Plaque acid, which forms when we eat, causes this. Our saliva, which neutralises the acid and supplies minerals such as calcium, phosphate and fluoride, is the body’s natural defence. Gum manufacturers say 20 minutes of chewing can increase your salivary flow.

**6.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In addition, one hundred and thirty-seven square kilometres of America is devoted entirely to producing the mint that is used in the two most popular chewing gums in the world.

## Missing paragraphs

**A.** Gum made from this resulted in a smoother, more satisfying and more elastic chew, and soon a whole industry was born based on this product.

**B.** Meanwhile, the world’s gum producers are finding ingenious ways of marketing their products. In addition to all the claims made for gum - it helps you relax, peps you up and eases tension (soldiers during both world wars were regularly supplied with gum) - gum’s greatest claim is that it reduces tooth decay.

**C.** Research continues on new textures and flavours. Glycerine and other vegetable oil products are now used to blend the gum base. Most new flavours are artificial - but some flavours still need natural assistance.

**D.** This was not always the case, though. The ancient Greeks chewed a gum-like resin obtained from the bark of the mastic tree, a shrub found mainly in Greece and Turkey. Grecian women, especially, favoured mastic gum to clean their teeth and sweeten their breath.

**E.** Each *chiclero* must carry the liquid on his back to a forest camp, where it is boiled until sticky and made into bricks. Life at the camp is no picnic either, with a monotonous and often deficient maize-based diet washed down by a local drink distilled from sugar cane.

**F.** The *chiclero*s grease their hands and arms to prevent the sticky gum sticking to them. The gum is then packed into a wooden mould, pressed down firmly, initialled and dated ready for collection and export.

**G.** Today the few remaining *chicle* gatherers, *chiclero*s, eke out a meagre and dangerous living, trekking for miles to tap scattered sapodilla in near-100% humidity. Conditions are appalling: highly poisonous snakes lurk ready to pounce and insects abound.

## III. Read the passage carefully and do the exercises below. (2.8 pt)

When Conversations Flow

We spend a large part of our daily life talking with other people and, consequently, we are very accustomed to the art of conversing. But why do we feel comfortable in conversations that have flow, but get nervous and distressed when a conversation is interrupted by unexpected silences? To answer this question we will first look at some of the effects of conversational flow. Then we will explain how flow can serve different social needs.

The positive consequences of conversational flow show some similarities with the effects of ‘processing fluency’. Research has shown that processing fluency the ease with which people process information influences people’s judgments across a broad range of social dimensions. For instance, people feel that when something is easily processed, it is more true or accurate. Moreover, they have more confidence in their judgments regarding information that came to them fluently, and they like things that are easy to process more than things that are difficult to process. Research indicates that a speaker is judged to be more knowledgeable when they answer questions instantly; responding with disfluent speech markers such as ‘uh’ or ‘urn or simply remaining silent for a moment too long can destroy that positive image.

One of the social needs addressed by conversational flow is the human need for ‘synchrony’ to be ‘in sync’ or in harmony with one another. Many studies have shown how people attempt to synchronize with their partners, by coordinating their behavior. This interpersonal coordination underlies a wide array of human activities, ranging from more complicated ones like ballroom dancing to simply walking or talking with friends.

In conversations, interpersonal coordination is found when people adjust the duration of their utterances and their speech rate to one another so that they can enable turn-taking to occur, without talking over each other or experiencing awkward silences. Since people are very well trained in having conversations, they are often able to take turns within milliseconds, resulting in a conversational flow of smoothly meshed behaviors. A lack of flow is characterized by interruptions, simultaneous speech or mutual silences. Avoiding these features is important for defining and maintaining interpersonal relationships.

The need to belong has been identified as one of the most basic of human motivations and plays a role in many human behaviors. That conversational flow related to belonging may be most easily illustrated by the consequences of flow disruptions. What happens when the positive experience of flow is disrupted by, for instance, a brief silence? We all know that silences can be pretty awkward, and research shows that even short disruptions in conversational flow can lead to a sharp rise in distress levels. In movies, silences are often used to signal noncompliance or confrontation (Piazza, 2006). Some researchers even argue that ‘silencing someone’ is one of the most serious forms of exclusion. Group membership is of elementary importance to our wellbeing and because humans are very sensitive to signals of exclusion, a silence is generally taken as a sign of rejection. In this way, a lack of flow in a conversation may signal that our relationship is not as solid as we thought it was.

Another aspect of synchrony is that people often try to validate their opinions to those of others. That is, people like to see others as having similar ideas or worldviews as they have themselves, because this informs people that they are correct and their worldviews are justified. One way in which people can justify their worldviews is by assuming that, as long as their conversations run smoothly, their interaction partners probably agree with them. This idea was tested by researchers using video observations. Participants imagined being one out of three people in a video clip who had either a fluent conversation or a conversation in which flow was disrupted by a brief silence. Except for the silence, the videos were identical. After watching the video, participants were asked to what extent the people in the video agreed with each other. Participants who watched the fluent conversation rated agreement to be higher than participants watching the conversation that was disrupted by a silence, even though participants were not consciously aware of the disruption. It appears that the subjective feeling of being out of sync informs people of possible disagreements, regardless of the content of the conversation.

Because people are generally so well trained in having smooth conversations, any disruption of this flow indicates that something is wrong, either interpersonally or within the group as a whole. Consequently, people who do not talk very easily may be incorrectly understood as being less agreeable than those who have no difficulty keeping up a conversation. On a societal level, one could even imagine that a lack of conversational flow may hamper the integration of immigrants who have not completely mastered the language of their new country yet. In a similar sense, the ever increasing number of online conversations may be disrupted by misinterpretations and anxiety that are produced by insuperable delays in the Internet connection. Keeping in mind the effects of conversational flow for feelings of belonging and validation may help one to be prepared to avoid such misunderstandings in future conversations.

## For questions 1 to 6, do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the text? Write:

**YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

**NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

**NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

**1.** Conversation occupies much of our time. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** People assess information according to how readily they can understand it. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** A quick response to a question is thought to show a lack of knowledge. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Video observations have often been used to assess conversational flow. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** People who talk less often have clearer ideas than those who talk a lot. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Delays in online chat fail to have the same negative effect as disruptions that occur in natural conversation. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## For questions 7 to 14, complete the summary below by choosing NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the text for each answer.

SYNCHRONY

There is a human desire to co-ordinate **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in an effort to be ‘in harmony’. This co-ordination can be seen in conversations when speakers alter the speed and extent of their speech in order to facilitate **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is often achieved within milliseconds: only tiny pauses take place when a conversation flows; when it doesn’t, there are **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and silences, or people talk at the same time.

Our desire to **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is also an important element of conversation flow. According to research, our **(11)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ increase even if silences are brief. Humans have a basic need to be part of a group, and they experience a sense of **(12)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if silences exclude them.

People also attempt to co-ordinate their opinions in conversation. In an experiment, participants’ judgement of the overall **(13)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ among speakers was tested using videos of a fluent and a slightly disrupted conversation. The results showed that the **(14)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the speakers’ discussion was less important than the perceived synchrony of the speaker.

# WRITING (5.0 PTS)

## I. Finish the second sentence in such a way that is similar to the original one, using the given words. (1.0 pt)

**1.** I’d never let anyone use a photograph of my children in an advertisement.

I’d never have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** There’s every chance of industrial action being taken by the union.

The union \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Two weeks passed before the letter arrived.

Not until \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** It’s widespread assumption that George was wrongly accused.

George \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5.** The sports centre presents a certificate of attendance to every student when they leave.

All students at the sports centre \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## II. Rewrite the following sentences without changing their meaning using the words in the brackets. Do not change the words given. (1.0 pt)

**1.** She has finally accepted the fact that her novel will never be a best-seller. **(resigned)**

At last, she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sales of her novel.

**2.** We have taken umbrellas as we’re afraid the weather may get worse. **(lest)**

We have taken umbrellas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ get worse.

**3.** I can’t resist musicals, and this one almost moved me to tears. **(lump)**

I am partial to musicals, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ throat.

**4.** I wish she weren’t worried about changing her job. **(qualms)**

If \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ changing her job.

**5.** She’s much better than me at skating. **(streets)**

She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at skating.

## III. Write an essay of about 200-250 words on the following question. (3.0 pts)

The modern-day hectic routine leading to a lack of communication supposedly contributes to the widening generation gap between parents and children. What are viable solutions that both adults and children can employ to tackle this issue?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge or experience.

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