Instructions:

1. Read the 6 passages.
2. Look up the dictionary if you find any difficult words.
3. Complete the comprehension tasks that follow.
What's wrong with them?

Mr. Knott was a teacher. At nine o'clock one evening, when he was in bed, the telephone bell rang in the hall of his small house so he went down stairs, picked up the telephone and said, "Who's speaking?"

"Watt," a man answered.

"What's your name, please?" said Mr. Knott.

"Watt's my name," was the answer.

"Yes, I asked you that. What's your name?" Mr. Knott said again.

"I told you. Watt's my name," said the other man. "Are you Jack Smith?"

"No. I'm Knott," answered Mr. Knott.

"Will you give your name, please?" said Mr. Watt.

"Will Knott," answered Mr. Knott.

Both Mr. Watt and Mr. Knott put their telephone down angrily and thought, "That is a stupid man!"

True or False:

1. There is no difference in pronunciation between "Knott" and "not".  

2. There is no difference in pronunciation between "Watt" and "what".  

3. Mr. Knott did not know Mr. Watt.  

4. Mr. Watt told Mr. Knott that Watt was his name.  

5. Mr. Knott would not tell Mr. Watt what his name was.
A bee and a bird

A thirsty bee went to a river to drink. As it was drinking, the bee was carried away by the running water.

A kind bird saw the bee was in danger. It picked a leaf off a tree and threw it into the water in front of the bee. The bee climbed onto the leaf, and it was brought safely to the land. The bee thanked the bird for its kindness and then flew away.

Not long after, the bird was sitting in a tree. It did not know that a man was aiming his gun at it. The bee flew into the man's eye, and hurt him. The pain in his eye was so great that he was not able to shoot the bird, and the bird flew away.

In this way, the bee, whose life had been saved by the bird, was able to save the life of the bird.

True or False:

1. When the bee was drinking, the running water carried it away.  
   
2. A kind bird saved the bee by a leaf.  
   
3. With the help of the bird, the bee was out of danger.  
   
4. When the bird was in danger, the bee saved it in the same way.  
   
5. The bird and the bee helped and saved each other.
I do it all by myself

Tom was not a very good student, and he did not like doing homework, because he preferred to do other thing in his free time. Usually he did not do his homework, and when he did it, he always made a lot of mistakes.

Then one day, his mathematics teacher looked at Tom's homework and saw that he had got all his sums right. He was very pleased and rather surprised. He called Tom to his desk and said to him, "You got all your homework right this time, Tom. What happened? Did your father help you?"

Usually Tom's father did help him with his homework, but the evening before this, he had not been able to, because he had not been at home, so Tom answered, "No, sir. He was busy last night, so I had to do it all by myself."

**True or False:**

1. Tom liked doing other things instead of doing his homework.

2. His homework was always full of mistakes.

3. The teacher was pleased and surprised at his homework one day.

4. Tom's father often helped him with his homework because he was good at it.

5. Tom did his lessons better than his father.
A letter from China

Read the following passage.

Holiday Hotel
Xi'an
October 30th, 199-

Dear Aunt Patsy,

We're having a wonderful holiday here in China. We're always travelling or seeing things!

Today we've been to see the army! Not a real army, but life-size soldiers made out of clay. They're over 2000 years old, but they weren't discovered until 1974. A farmer, digging a well, found a huge underground room. There were 6000 clay soldiers and horses in it. The Qin Shihuang emperor was buried here, and these soldiers were guarding him. Some people think that his real soldiers were buried with him - alive. Each clay soldier looks different, so maybe they are the statues of real people! It's very interesting.

We've bought lots of souvenirs - some clay soldiers (small ones, not life-size, don't worry - about 8 cm high!) and lots of dried mushrooms and fruit for Grandma. But there's hardly any time for shopping - we never stop sightseeing.

Looking forward to seeing you next week.

Love from
Kitty
The story of money

Read the following passage.

Everyone knows about money. But who thought of it first?

Long ago, people lived in small groups or 'tribes'. Food was used to buy things from other tribes. People liked to use salt, for example, but if they did not live close to the sea they could not get it. So some people from tribes near the sea took salt in blocks. They walked around the country and sold it for meat and vegetables.

Other things were also used as money. Tribes on Pacific islands used pigs' teeth. Africans used iron bars. But they were heavy to carry. The first metal coins were probably used in Egypt nearly 3000 years ago. In China, paper money was invented at about the same time. It was easier to carry than any other kind of money, but today we've got something new — the credit card. We often call it 'plastic money'. When we buy something, the price is printed on a bill. We have to pay it in the next month. This is even easier to carry than paper money!

Task 1

Give short answers to the questions.

a) What did the first tribes use as money?

b) What did people take from the sea?

c) What did Pacific islanders use as money?

d) Who used iron bars?

e) Where were metal coins invented?

f) How long ago was paper money invented?

g) Why was paper money good?

h) What is another name for a credit card?
The long walk

Read the following passage.

Yesterday, about two thousand people who live in this district went for a very long walk.

We were collecting money for our hospital. We walked along the new road and over the bridge. It's a lovely road, going right over the buildings and into the hills. Tomorrow, there will be cars, lorries and buses on it but yesterday there were lots of people walking and enjoying the view!

We started at 9 o'clock. There were very old people and very young ones. There were even babies in push-chairs.

Some of the senior doctors from the hospital started in front, but I think they ended up at the back. The people who walked the fastest were the sixth form students from our school. They wore yellow shirts and sang songs. They did the whole walk in one and a half hours. But the slowest took about three to four hours. A lot of the adults were talking and the children were playing around. Everyone who finished got a sticker with a number on it. My number was very lucky — 888!

Task 1

Choose the correct answer to each of the following questions. Put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

a) Why were the people walking?
   (i) There was a new road.
   (ii) It was a lovely day.
   (iii) They were collecting money.

b) What was the money for?
   (i) The hospital.
   (ii) The new road and bridge.
   (iii) The important people of the district.

c) Where did the road go?
   (i) Into the hills.
   (ii) Into a tunnel.
   (iii) To the city.

d) Who started the walk in front?
   (i) Sixth form students.
   (ii) Some important doctors.
   (iii) People with babies.

e) How long did the fastest walkers take to do the walk?
   (i) An hour and a half.
   (ii) More than three hours.
   (iii) Between two and three hours.

f) What were some of the children doing?
   (i) Walking very fast.
   (ii) Talking.
   (iii) Playing around.