

## Reading comprehension exercise.

Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B or C

### TV Allowance

In the 1990s, parents were given the ultimate weapon to win the war over how much TV their children watched. Instead of constantly fighting to limit TV time, they had the job done for them by an electronic device. It would switch off the TV set once the previously fixed period of screen time ran out, leaving the child to turn to other activities such as reading or playing in the fresh air.

The gadget called TV Allowance was invented by Miami photographer Randal Levenson, a former engineer, who despaired of ever reducing his three children's

screen time. "There was a lot of anger in the house about the TV and Nintendo usage," said Mr Levenson. His response was to build a calculator-sized box to be plugged into the TV. Using a code, the Levensons set the four hours that their three boys were allowed to watch per week. Each kid had his own code, and when his time was up, the screen went blank. The gadget could block out specific periods such as homework time and could not be disconnected by frustrated youngsters. "They've got their lives back," said Mr Levenson's wife. "Not that they were total couch potatoes, but they spent a lot of time in front of the TV. However, the problem was, in fact, that we were giving up. After all, you could only say 'No' so many times. But the unemotional gadget can go on saying 'No' for as long as necessary."

Of course, being children and therefore devious, the boys soon found ways of getting round the gadget, if not beating it. They switched the set off for advertisements and they bartered with each other for TV time.

"It took the kids a couple of weeks but then they accepted the situation,"

said Mr Levenson, who decided to market the gadget after neighbors asked him to make units for them. "The device teaches youngsters time management. They come to find that there are other things in life besides watching TV."

Today the gadget, which also controls video games, is still popular with parents and sells on Amazon for less than \$30.

1. TV Allowance was invented by a frustrated parent.

A) True.

B) False.

C) No information in the text.

17. According to Mrs Levenson, the real problem was that her kids were completely obsessed with watching TV.

A) True.

B) False.

C) No information in the text.

18. Mrs Levenson thinks the gadget can discipline children better because it has no emotions.

A) True.

B) False.

C) No information in the text.

19. After their TV time was limited, the kids' reading skills improved enormously.

A) True.

B) False.

C) No information in the text.

20. Today, TV Allowance is considered old-fashioned and is out of use.

A) True.

B) False.

C) No information in the text.

### Use of English

1. From the earliest times \_\_\_\_\_ legends of men attempting to fly.

A) have been

B) there are

C) it has been

D) there have been

2. I told him this would end badly. Why \_\_\_\_\_ listen to me?!

- A)ever he can't
- B)won't he ever
- C)can't he never
- D)he never will

3.Excuse me, do you mind \_\_\_\_\_a photo of us?

- A)to take
- B)taking
- C)if you make
- D)making

4.When they woke up, the sun \_\_\_\_\_over the mountain.

- A)has already risen
- B)had already risen
- C)was already raised
- D)already had raised

5.If you want, you can make a short speech but you \_\_\_\_\_.

- A)wouldn't
- B)needn't to
- C)mustn't
- D)don't have to

## Sentence completion

1.The last time I went to a circus was when I was eight.

I haven't \_\_\_\_\_ I was eight.

2. All the cars I have driven before were slower than this one.

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ driven.

3.“Make sure you don't leave the lights on when you go out,” my roommate told me.

My roommate reminded \_\_\_\_\_ off the lights before I went out.

4. Three foreign journalists have interviewed the President so far.

So far the President \_\_\_\_\_ three foreign journalists

5. “Does the secretary know where the boss went?” my colleague asked yesterday.

Yesterday my colleague asked if \_\_\_\_\_.

6. “You were the one that broke the trust between us!”

my partner said, pointing at me.

My partner accused \_\_\_\_\_ the trust between us

7.If there's no rain, we'll hold the ceremony in the garden.

Unless it \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ held in the garden.

8.I'm really sorry I lied to you.

I really wish \_\_\_\_\_ you the truth.

9.The guest drank so much that he fell asleep on the table.

If the guest had \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ asleep on the table.

10. Despite its ugly looks, this phone application is extremely useful.  
This phone application is extremely useful, \_\_\_\_\_  
looks ugly.

### Writing task

Write a text of about 180 words on this topic:

To some people, graffiti is an art form. To others, it's vandalism, which is a crime.  
Where do you stand between these poles? Does graffiti have a good purpose? Does  
it have a downside?

Express your views on the issue.