

GRAMMAR

Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Write the correct form in the space provided.

The Machine Always Wins

We are swimming in writing. Our lives **(1)** **(become)**, in the words of the author and scholar Shoshana Zuboff, an “electronic text.” Social media platforms **(2)** **(create)** a writing machine for us. In a world where technology has advanced beyond imagination, the phrase “the machine always wins” **(3)** **(become)** a common saying. Machines **(4)** **(design)** to be better than humans in a wide range of tasks, from simple calculations to complex problem solving.

The advantage is that we can interact with other people: our friends, colleagues, celebrities, politicians – anyone we like. But we **(5)** **(not interact)** with them; we **(6)** **(interact)** with the machine.

In the past, people **(7)** **(rely)** on their skills and intuition to complete tasks. However, as technology **(8)** **(develop)**, machines started taking over many of these roles. This shift **(9)** **(change)** the way we work and live, making us more dependent on technology. Now we **(10)** **(use)** digital tools to communicate, making it easier to stay in touch with others.

As we **(11)** **(continue)** to adapt to this new reality, we might wonder if we **(12)** **(lose)** something essential. Will future generations even **(13)** **(remember)** what it was like to communicate without a screen?

Despite these concerns, the machine **(14)** **(change)** our world. It **(15)** **(give)** us unprecedented access to information and connected us in ways we never imagined. As we move forward, we must navigate this landscape carefully, ensuring that we retain our humanity amidst the digital noise.

(<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/aug/23/social-media-addiction-gambling>, adapted)

Total points...../15 pts

VOCABULARY

**Read the article below. Use the word given in CAPITALS to form a word that fits in the space.
Write your answers in the spaces provided.**

The Shipwreck Detective

The shipwreck detective was known for his incredible ...¹... to uncover hidden treasures from the depths of the ocean. His latest ...²... was a ship that had been lost for centuries. The ...³... of the wreck was a closely guarded secret, known only to a few. The detective's ...⁴... of maritime history was ...⁵... in identifying the ship's origin and purpose. He used advanced technology to map the underwater site and ...⁶... planned the excavation.

During the operation, the team found ...⁷... of a ...⁸... storm that had caused the ship to sink. Among the artefacts recovered were ...⁹... coins, ancient pottery, and ...¹⁰... items belonging to the crew. The detective's dedication to his work was apparent. His research provided new insights into the ...¹¹... of those who had sailed the ship.

The ...¹²... of this discovery could not be ...¹³... . It was a ...¹⁴... achievement that added a new chapter to the history of maritime exploration. The shipwreck detective's ...¹⁵... grew as he solved more cases, each more challenging than the last. His ...¹⁶... led him to explore further mysteries of the deep. His ...¹⁷... never wavered despite challenges. The team's ...¹⁸... was crucial for success. They celebrated their ...¹⁹... with great joy. The discovery changed maritime history forever and brought immense ...²⁰... to the entire team.

(<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2024/11/11/the-shipwreck-detective>, edited)

ABLE	1.....	LIFE	11.....
DISCOVER	2.....	IMPORTANT	12.....
LOCATE	3.....	STATE	13.....
KNOW	4.....	REMARK	14.....
ESSENCE	5.....	REPUTE	15.....
CARE	6.....	CURIOUS	16.....
EVIDENT	7.....	DETERMINE	17.....
VIOLENCE	8.....	COOPERATE	18.....
VALUE	9.....	ACHIEVE	19.....
PERSON	10.....	ENJOY	20.....

Total points/10 pts

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text and complete the task. There are 10 phrases (A-L) missing from the article. Decide which of the phrases (A-L) best fits into each of the numbered gap.

Lady

(Diane Williams)

She said, "please."

Her face looked more than bitter, with hair that turned out to be a hat that came down over her ears, made of fake fur that she never took off her head. She wore glasses. Everything she was wearing helped me decide to let her in.

She wore flat black patent leather shoes with pointed toes, black stockings crumpled at the ankles, and (1)____, and she was shorter than me. Her skin was a pale sort of skin, and there was no beauty left in her – in her body, perhaps.

I thought this lady was quick because she got to my red rotary phone before I did, after I said, "The phone is in here."

She said, "I know (2)_____."

Sitting on the arm of my sofa, she dialled while her knees hit my small table, which held my phone and (3)_____ with a huge shade. The table tipped back on two legs, and the lamp almost fell. She caught it.

She said, "Merla!" into the phone.

I knew it – she must have known it – Merla knew it too, that Merla was only a hundred or two hundred yards from my house, because this woman I had let in had told me the house number she was looking for. She had told Merla that it was impossible to get to her, that there was no way in the world, that she had run into (4)_____ again and again.

She said, "I have a" – *something something* – "copy" – I can't remember the dates or (5)_____ she mentioned. She played with (6)_____ I have, turning it on one leg as she left. After everything was arranged with Merla, she said she wouldn't get out of the car for Merla. Merla would meet her on the corner. Merla would.

The lady must have been curious or disturbed by (7)_____, which she probably noticed as she left, or by (8)_____, just beyond the mess. She didn't go in to see the pictures.

As she left, I watched her walk down the path, (9)_____ flapping slightly in the breeze. She moved with a purpose, her steps quick and determined. I couldn't help. I felt (10)_____. Who was this woman, and what was her connection to Merla? Why had she come here?

I closed the door and turned back to my living room. The mess at the front door seemed even more chaotic now, contrasting sharply with the calm and order of the room beyond. I picked up the small chair she had been playing with and set it back in its place.

(Williams, D. (2018). *Lady*, adapted)

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. the royal period | G. this east-west road |
| B. a large red envelope | H. her black coat |
| C. a big brass lamp | I. the phone number |
| D. a mixture of relief and curiosity | J. a small wooden chair |
| E. the mess at my front door | K. a long black coat |
| F. the beauty of my living room | L. her extraordinary secret |

Total points/10 pts

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Listen carefully and circle the correct answer. You will score five points.

1. How did Eboni Booth first get introduced to theatre?

- A. She attended a professional acting school.
- B. She participated in a college production.
- C. She watched a play at Lehman College.
- D. She read about theatre in a newspaper.

2. What aspect of theatre-making does Eboni Booth values the most?

- A. The individual recognition.
- B. The financial rewards.
- C. The sense of community.
- D. The opportunity to travel.

3. How did Eboni Booth's summer camp experience influence her?

- A. It helped her develop confidence in performing.
- B. It provided her with singing lessons.
- C. It allowed her to participate in musicals.
- D. It introduced her to professional actors.

4. What made Eboni Booth start writing plays?

- A. A conversation with a friend.
- B. A writing course she took.
- C. A successful acting career.
- D. A desire to write novels.

5. What did Eboni Booth find challenging about starting to write plays?

- A. She lacked inspiration for stories.
- B. She was initially scared of the idea.
- C. She didn't have enough time.
- D. She preferred acting over writing.

Total points/5 pts

Autor: Mgr. Jakub Hriňák, PhD.

Recenzentka: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

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