ENGLISH CONVERSATION

Made Natural



ENGAGING DIALOGUES TO LEARN ENGLISH

LANGUAGE GURU

ENGLISH CONVERSATION MADE NATURAL

Engaging Dialogues to Learn English

Language Guru

FIRST EDITION

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Books by Language Guru

English Short Stories for Beginners and Intermediate Learners

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Did You Enjoy the Read?

Answer Key

INTRODUCTION

We all know that immersion is the tried and true way to learn a foreign language. After all, it's how we got so good at our first language. The problem is, it's extremely difficult to recreate the same circumstances when we are learning our second language. We come to rely so much on our native language for everything, and it's hard to make enough time to learn the second one.

We aren't surrounded by the foreign language in our home countries. More often than not, our families can't speak this new language we want to learn. Plus, many of us have stressful jobs or classes to attend. Immersion can seem like an impossibility.

What we can do, however, is to gradually work our way up to immersion, no matter where we are in the world. The way we can do this is through extensive reading and listening. If you have ever taken a foreign language class, chances are you are familiar with intensive reading and listening. In intensive reading and listening, a small amount of text or a short audio recording is broken down line by line, and every new word is looked up in the dictionary.

Extensive reading and listening, on the other hand, is quite the opposite. You read a large number of pages or listen to hours and hours of the foreign language without worrying about understanding everything. You look up as few words as possible and try to get through material from start to finish as quickly as you can. If you ask the most successful language learners, you'll find that the best results are delivered not by intensive reading and listening but, rather, by extensive reading and listening. Volume is exponentially more effective than total comprehension and memorization.

If you cannot understand native English speakers, it is precisely because of a lack of volume. You simply have not read or listened enough to be able to instantly understand people like you can in your native language. This is why it's so important to invest as much time as possible into immersing yourself in native

English every single day.

To be able to read extensively, you must practice reading in the foreign language for hours every single day. It takes a massive volume of text before your brain stops intensively reading and shifts into extensive reading. Until that point, be prepared to look up quite a few words in the dictionary.

This book provides a few short English-language dialogues that you can use to practice extensive reading. These conversations were written and edited by native English speakers from the United States. They use 100 percent real English as used by native English speakers every single day.

We hope these dialogues help build confidence in your overall reading comprehension skills and encourage you to read more native material. We also hope that you enjoy the book and that it brings you a few steps closer to extensive reading and fluency!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

To better simulate extensive reading, we recommend keeping things simple and using the dialogues in the following manner:

1. Read each conversation just once and no more.

2. Whenever you encounter a word you don't know, first try to guess its meaning by using the surrounding context before going to the dictionary.

3. After completing the reading for each chapter, test your understanding of the dialogue by answering the comprehension questions. Check your answers using the answer key located at the end of the book.

We also recommend that you read each conversation silently. While reading aloud can be somewhat beneficial for pronunciation and intonation, it's a practice aligned more with intensive reading. It will further slow down your reading pace and make it considerably more difficult for you to get into extensive reading. If you want to work on pronunciation and intonation, a better option would be to speak to a tutor in the foreign language so that you can practice what you have learned.

Memorization of any kind is completely unnecessary. Attempting to forcibly push new information into your brain only serves to eat up your time and make it that much more frustrating when you can't recall the information in the future. The actual language acquisition process occurs subconsciously, and any effort to memorize new vocabulary and grammar structures will store this information only in your short-term memory.

If you wish to review new information that you have learned from the dialogues, several other options would be wiser. Spaced Repetition Systems (SRS) allow you to cut down on your review time by setting specific intervals in which you are tested on information to promote long-term memory storage. Anki and the Goldlist Method are two popular SRS choices that give you the ability to

review whatever information you'd like from whatever material you'd like.

Trying to actively review everything you learned through these conversational dialogues will slow you down on your overall path to fluency. While there may be an assortment of things you want to practice and review, the best way to go about internalizing new vocabulary and grammar is to forget it! If it's that important, it will come up through more reading and listening to other sources of English. Languages are more effectively acquired when we allow ourselves to read and listen to them naturally.

With that, it is time to get started with our main character Charlie and his story told through 30 dialogues. Good luck, reader!

CHAPTER 1:
CHANGING MAJORS

(Charlie has come to the student counseling office to change his major.)

Charlie: I'm just not sure what kind of work I want to do.

Counselor: And that's perfectly normal. A lot of us drift around in life trying to figure out where we belong.

Charlie: Well, it's certainly not chemistry. I can tell you that. I was really good at it in high school, but I just don't think I can do it for the rest of my life.

Counselor: I wish I could tell you what your true passion is. If I could, this whole "choosing a major and career" thing would be much more straightforward now, wouldn't it?

Charlie: You really need a crystal ball at your desk.

Counselor: I know, right? I might as well come to work dressed in a wizard's robe and hat, too.

Charlie: Definitely. For now, I think I'll switch my major to "undecided" and do a little soul searching.

Counselor: That's OK. That's exactly what college is for.

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Charlie's original major before he decided to switch?

    A. History

    B. Chemistry

    C. Counseling

    D. Wizard

2. What major did Charlie decide to switch to?

    A. Chemistry

    B. Counseling

    C. History

    D. Undecided

3. If someone is doing some “soul searching”, what do they really mean?

    A. They lost their soul and are now searching for it.

    B. They are searching for the love of their life.

    C. They are taking time to think over their emotions and motives.

    D. They are hunting ghosts.

CHAPTER 2:

GAMING SESSION

(Charlie goes over to his best friend Ben's house to hang out and play video games.)

Ben: Bah! I died again. This level is way too hard, man.

Charlie: Look. We don't have any teamwork. We're never gonna beat this boss by acting separately.

Ben: Our characters are like oil and water. They don't mix together.

Charlie: What if I distract him while you deal as much damage as possible? When he starts targeting you, we will change places.

Ben: So, like a game of cat and mouse?

Charlie: Yeah, but there are two mice. And the mice have weapons.

Ben: Let's try it.

(The two resume playing.)

Ben: Hey, we did it.

Charlie: Yay!

Ben: I can't believe that actually worked. That was great! Yo, we should go out and get a snack to celebrate.

Charlie: Alright. Let's go.

Comprehension Questions

1. Which two substances do not mix well together?

    A. Oil and water

    B. Salt and water

    C. Sugar and water

    D. Fire and water

2. How do the boys defeat the boss in the game?

    A. They go get snacks to celebrate.

    B. They work together as a team.

    C. They act separately.

    D. They buy better weapons.

3. How do Charlie and Ben celebrate their victory?

    A. They bump their fists.

    B. They play some music.

C. They go out and get snacks.

D. They don't celebrate their victory.

CHAPTER 3:

CONVENIENCE STORE

(The two are inside their local convenience store browsing the store's shelves.)

Charlie: So, what do you want to eat?

Ben: Let's get sandwiches.

(The boys bring their purchases to the check-out counter. After paying for their food, they go out to eat in Charlie's car.)

Ben: Wow, this is really good. Is that avocado I taste?

Charlie: Avocado and red pepper, I think.

Ben: So, what's going on with you lately? You said that you changed majors.

Charlie: Yeah. I have no idea what I want to do.

Ben: Same. I don't even want to think about it.

Charlie: You eventually have to, right?

Ben: Nope.

Charlie: How about when you turn 30?

Ben: Not then either.

Charlie: 80?

Ben: I will be a gamer to the day I die. You'll be prying the controller out of my cold, dead hands when I'm gone.

Comprehension Questions

1. In a convenience store, where do you usually pay for your purchases?

    A. At the door

    B. At the office

    C. In the storage room

    D. At the check-out counter

2. Which item are you NOT likely to find in a convenience store?

    A. Sandwiches

    B. Snacks

    C. Drinks

    D. Controllers

3. Where do the boys eat their sandwiches?

A. Inside the convenience store

B. Inside Ben's car

C. Inside Charlie's car

D. Inside the sandwiches

CHAPTER 4:

On the Clock

(Charlie works at a local pizza delivery shop as a part-time delivery driver. Inside the store, Charlie and the pizza store's general manager are chatting while folding pizza boxes.)

Lucy: So, I fired him. I understand that things come up, and some days you are going to be late. But a no-call, no-show is inexcusable.

Charlie: I see. He was friendly and fun to be around, but a no-call, no-show is pretty bad.

Lucy: It happens from time to time. So many college kids work here, and some of them want to party all night. Then they are too hungover or tired to come to work. I wish they would just call in at the very least.

Charlie: Wow, I think you're the most lenient boss I've ever had.

Lucy: Oh no. I would still fire them if I knew that was the reason they called in. We need a reliable team to run this place.

Charlie: Remind me to never get on your bad side.

Lucy: You'd be one of the first ones I would promote, honestly.

Charlie: Really?

Lucy: A second manager would be nice. I'm here every day, and it's not good for my mental health. I need the time off.

Charlie: Wow. I don't even know what to say.

Lucy: You don't have to. The next order is ready. Go deliver it.

Comprehension Questions

1. What is a “no-call, no-show”?

    A. An employee being fired

    B. An employee's absence from work without notifying the employer

    C. An unwritten rule at a workplace

    D. A rule forbidding the use of smartphones in the workplace

2. What is the opposite of “lenient”?

    A. Strict

    B. Straight

    C. Smart

    D. Supreme

3. Why does Lucy want to hire a second manager?

A. She wants to be able to compete with the other local pizza delivery stores.

B. She wants to be promoted.

C. She wants to quit.

D. She wants to take time off work for her mental health.

CHAPTER 5:
CHATTING WITH CLASSMATES

(Charlie is at school attending an economics lecture.)

Professor: That will be it for today. Don't forget to study for the upcoming midterm. For every hour you spend here, you should spend at least two hours reviewing.

(The students start packing up their belongings and leaving the lecture hall. A student to the left of Charlie starts up a conversation.)

Classmate: Two hours? That's way too much! We all have lives, you know?

Charlie: Yeah, it's a lot.

Classmate: I get that we have to study to get a good grade and all, but dude.

Charlie: And it's an economics class, which most people here are not majoring in. What major are you?

Classmate: Engineering. You?

Charlie: Undecided, so I'm kind of just floating around for now.

Classmate: I see. Yeah, there's so much going on campus every single day. Did

you hear about the 48-hour film festival coming up this weekend?

Charlie: That's the one where each team has 48 hours to make a movie, right? I did hear about that. Are you going?

Classmate: Sure am. Gonna enter with some friends and see what happens. How about you?

Charlie: Nah, I can't do anything film-related at all. I'm not even sure I would last 48 seconds before screwing something up. I have been thinking about taking up cooking classes, though.

Comprehension Questions

1. According to the professor, if you spent 10 hours in class, how many hours should you review for the midterm?

A. 10 hours

B. 15 hours

C. 20 hours

D. 25 hours

2. Which of the following is NOT a college major?

A. Undecided

B. Economics

C. Engineering

D. Studying

3. What happens at a 48-hour film festival?

A. People gather in a large theater to watch films for 48 hours straight.

B. People gather to watch the premiere of a new movie that is 48 hours in length.

C. Teams enter to create and compete for the best film in under 48 hours.

D. Teams enter a 48-hour ultra-marathon race and capture it on film.

CHAPTER 6:
THE SECRET INGREDIENT

(Charlie attends an evening cooking class located inside the student center on campus.)

Instructor: The onions are the most important part of this recipe. They have to be seasoned properly, or the curry will not have as much flavor.

Student #1: So, you add salt, pepper, garlic, and ginger when cooking the onions?

Instructor: Yes, and now comes the secret ingredient.

Student #2: What's the secret ingredient?

Instructor: It wouldn't be a secret anymore if I told you.

Charlie: But how are we supposed to make this dish at home?

Instructor: The person who guesses the secret ingredient gets a prize!

Student #1: OK. Is it coconut?

Instructor: No.

Student #2: How about olive oil?

Instructor: Try again.

Charlie: Is it love?

Instructor: That's the secret ingredient in everything, so nope.

Student #1: Ice cream?

(The instructor coldly stares at Student #1.)

Charlie: I think he means to say that we all give up.

Instructor: Very well then. The correct answer is basil. And since no one guessed right, it looks like I will be keeping the prize to enjoy all by myself.

Comprehension Questions

1. What does the instructor season the onions with?

    A. Salt, pepper, garlic, and ginger

    B. Salt, pepper, and olive oil

    C. Salt, pepper, and coconut oil

    D. Ice cream

2. Where is the cooking class located?

A. Inside the student center off campus

B. Inside a lecture hall

C. Outside the student center off campus

D. Inside the student center on campus

3. What was the prize for guessing the secret ingredient?

A. Basil

B. Cash

C. Ice cream

D. Unknown

CHAPTER 7:

A Date with a Stranger

(Charlie has met someone online through a dating app. After chatting for a few days, they agree to meet in person for a date at a local coffee shop.)

Charlie: Hi, are you Angela?

Angela: Yes. Hi.

Charlie: I'm Charlie. Nice to meet you.

Angela: Nice to meet you, too.

Charlie: You look a lot cuter in person.

Angela: Oh, thanks. You, too.

Charlie: So, uh, do you come to this coffee shop a lot?

Angela: Yeah, sometimes.

Charlie: When?

Angela: After school.

Charlie: Oh, that's cool. What is your major?

Angela: Computer science.

Charlie: How's that working out for you?

Angela: It's kind of fun, I guess.

Charlie: What got you into that?

Angela: Um, well, it pays pretty well.

Charlie: It does, doesn't it?

Angela: Yup.

Charlie: You got gotta love jobs that pay you good money.

Angela: Mmmhmm.

(The two sit in awkward silence for roughly 10 seconds.)

Angela: Oh. Uh, I just got a text from a friend. I think I should go meet them.

Charlie: Oh, OK. Well, it was nice meeting you.

(Angela picks up her belongings and leaves the coffee shop. Charlie immediately takes out his smartphone and starts to ponder what went

wrong.)

Comprehension Questions

1. Where did Charlie first meet Angela?

    A. At the cooking class

    B. During one of his classes

    C. They both work at the same pizza delivery place.

    D. Through an online dating app

2. How would you describe the general tone of the conversation in this chapter?

    A. Awkward

    B. Serious

    C. Arrogant

    D. Intimate

3. When will the second date between Charlie and Angela occur?

    A. When Charlie gets his next paycheck

    B. Sometime during the weekend

    C. When the semester ends

    D. There probably won't be a second date.

CHAPTER 8:

PUMPING IRON

(Charlie has decided to start working out at the college gym on campus. He is just about to start lifting weights when he decides to ask for help.)

Charlie: Excuse me. Sorry to bother you.

Stranger: No problem. What can I do for you?

Charlie: I just started weight training today, and I was wondering, how did you get so lean and shredded? It's really impressive.

Stranger: Oh, uh, thanks. It takes hard work and time just like anything else.

Charlie: Let's say you had eight weeks to get into shape starting from scratch. What would you do?

Stranger: Well, you're going to get pretty limited results if you work out for only eight weeks. The fitness industry would have you believe that you can get a professional model's physique in eight weeks if you just buy what they are selling.

Charlie: I don't know. I've seen a lot of amazing before-and-after photos.

Stranger: That's another trick. Those paid actors already had a lot of muscle on them before they went on a diet to cut all the fat.

Charlie: Alright then. What kind of eight week program would you recommend for a beginner?

Stranger: I'll tell you what. If you start with the basics and do heavy squats, deadlifts, and bench presses, you'll see some very real strength and size gains.

Charlie: OK. Can you show me which machines I use for those?

Stranger: These are barbell exercises. You'll get triple the gains if you train with the barbell.

Charlie: I don't know. That seems pretty hard.

Stranger: It's supposed to be. That's exactly how you get big and strong.

Charlie: I'll keep that in mind. What would you do diet-wise?

Stranger: You're going to want to eat a small calorie surplus that's about 200-300 calories above what you normally eat. And not junk food but nutritious food that's also high in protein.

Charlie: Do you mean I have to count calories?

Stranger: You don't have to necessarily. Start by cutting all junk food from your diet and replacing it with lots of healthy foods.

Charlie: OK, I see. I really appreciate the help. I'll see what I can do.

(Overwhelmed by the information given to him by the stranger, Charlie decides to go for a run on the treadmill instead.)

Comprehension Questions

1. Which of the following most accurately describes the stranger's physique?

A. Massive and bulky

B. Slim and muscular

C. Frail and skinny

D. Fluffy and flabby

2. What does it mean “to get into shape”?

A. To become physically more fit through exercise

B. To bend something into a particular shape so that it fits into something else

C. To become a shapeshifter

D. To bend one's body to perform certain exercises

3. The stranger recommends that Charlie do all the following EXCEPT...

A. Eat nutritious foods at a caloric surplus

B. Eat junk foods at a caloric deficit

C. Cut out all junk foods

D. Do barbell exercises

CHAPTER 9:

THE LATEST TREND

(Charlie goes over to Ben's house to hang out for the night.)

Ben: So, how did that date go this week with that girl?

Charlie: Terrible. It didn't last longer than three minutes.

Ben: Ouch. Was it one of those dates where it was immediately awkward?

Charlie: Pretty much. I'm thinking it's because of the way I look, but you never know, right?

Ben: At least you're putting yourself out there. You're bound to find someone if you keep trying.

Charlie: What about you? I know you're low on money but...

Ben: You just answered your own question.

Charlie: How's the job hunt coming along?

Ben: Good. Hey, did you hear about the announcement today?

Charlie: No. What was it?

Ben: They announced the new RPG today. It looks absolutely insane. They even hired a few A-list celebrities to do the voice acting. The hype surrounding this game is unreal. I pre-ordered it immediately after the press event ended.

Charlie: The internet is always on fire over something. I still haven't played the big game that came out this year. It's like, as soon I finish one game, 10 more pop up that people are telling me to play. I just can't keep up.

Ben: I can.

Charlie: How?

Ben: Easy. Don't have a life. Do that and suddenly you have all the time in the world. Problem solved.

Comprehension Questions

1. What does it mean “to put oneself out there?”

    A. To go outside

    B. To escape danger

    C. To make a considerable effort

    D. To put oneself into a dangerous situation

2. What is an “A-list celebrity?”

    A. A celebrity currently at the top of their career

B. A celebrity who appears on a list

C. A celebrity who got high test grades in school

D. A celebration of celebrities

3. What does it mean “to not have a life?”

A. To be dead

B. To be unconscious

C. To use up all of your player lives in a video game

D. To spend all of one's time doing nothing significant or meaningful

CHAPTER 10:

THE MEANING OF SACRIFICE

(Charlie is at work chatting with Lucy while folding pizza boxes.)

Lucy: We have a lot of deliveries coming up tonight. It's going to be a busy night. I like it when it's busy. It means that time flies, and we get home before you know it.

Charlie: I heard you have a son. How old is he?

Lucy: He just turned 15 the other day.

Charlie: So, he stays home with his dad while you're here in the evening?

Lucy: Honey, he has a father but not a dad.

Charlie: So, you raised him all by yourself?

Lucy: I did. Of course, my son doesn't see it that way. I had to go to work almost every day to pay our bills, so we didn't get to spend too much time together. My mom, his grandmother, is the one who looked after him while I worked.

Charlie: But now he is old enough to stay home alone, right?

Lucy: Yes. It's good for my mom, who needed the break, but now he's lonely, you know?

Charlie: That's rough.

Lucy: We compete with two other pizza delivery places, and this job takes everything I got just to keep this place in business. If I take even a day off, I get a call from the owner, and he never calls unless it's something bad.

Charlie: Wow, that's a lot to deal with. If it makes you feel any better, one day he will look back and realize how much his mom sacrificed for him.

Lucy: Can that day be today, please?

Comprehension Questions

1. Why does Lucy like busy nights?

A. She makes the most money on those nights.

B. Time goes by quickly, which means everyone gets to go home sooner.

C. The owner comes to visit.

D. It means that there will be a celebration party after work.

2. How was Lucy's son raised?

A. By Lucy and her husband who worked all the time

B. By Lucy, who worked all the time and by Lucy's mother, who watched over him at home

C. By foster parents who watched over him at home

D. By an orphanage

3. What happens if Lucy takes a day off?

A. The pizza shop will catch on fire.

B. The employees will protest.

C. The owner will call her up and scold her.

D. The customers won't order any food.

CHAPTER 11:

CHATTING WITH CUSTOMERS

(Charlie is out on a delivery. He arrives at the customer's apartment and rings the doorbell with the order in hand. A middle-aged man opens the door.)

Charlie: Hi there. I have a pineapple pizza for apartment 312.

Customer: That's me. Here's the money for the order. You can keep the change.

Charlie: Thank you.

Customer: You look like you're a student in college. Am I right?

Charlie: Yes, sir.

Customer: Best four years of my life right there. Live it up while you can because those golden years will be gone before you know it.

Charlie: I will certainly try.

Customer: What do you study?

Charlie: I did chemistry for a bit, but now I'm not sure what I want to do.

Customer: Don't worry about that. You have your whole life to figure that out. You're young. Just enjoy the college life. Parties, drinking, new friends, and the women!

Charlie: I will! Oh, by the way, if you don't mind me asking, what did you study?

Customer: History. Although it did me no good in the end. I couldn't find a job after graduation, so now I'm a delivery driver too, actually.

Comprehension Questions

1. How did the customer pay for the pizza?

A. By credit card

B. By check

C. By cash

D. By money order

2. What was the customer's advice to Charlie?

A. Don't worry so much about his college major and instead party it up.

B. Get into a long-term relationship quickly, settle down, and get married.

C. Focus all of his attention and time on his studies.

D. Focus on accumulating as much money as he can, so he can start preparing for his future.

3. What was the customer's problem with studying history?

A. He found it too boring.

B. He found that the jobs relating to history didn't pay as much as he wanted.

C. He couldn't find a job after graduating.

D. He dropped out of college.

CHAPTER 12:
CHECKING OUT BOOKS

(Charlie is at the library on campus, looking for an inspiring book. He finds a book that he would like to read and goes to check it out.)

Charlie: Hi, I'd like to check out this book.

Librarian: OK. Do you have your student ID card?

Charlie: Yes. Here you go.

Librarian: All right. Let me just put this book under your name.

(A few moments of silence pass.)

Charlie: Hey, have you ever read anything by the author of this book?

Librarian: Can't say that I have. What kind of author is he?

Charlie: I've heard that he writes about the lives of people who have made history. So many people have recommended his books to me because of the practical wisdom they contain.

Librarian: Oh, that does sound good. I'm more of a fiction reader. I think all great stories have some underlying wisdom in them. But what I like about fiction

is that it's up to the reader to find and interpret that life lesson for themselves.

Charlie: For me, because of school, I've always associated reading novels with boredom.

Librarian: So, that's why you read non-fiction?

Charlie: I don't really read much at all. This is the first book I've picked up outside school.

Comprehension Questions

1. What do you need in order to check out a book from the college library?

    A. A student ID card

    B. Money

    C. A driver's license

    D. A state ID

2. What does the author of the book Charlie is interested in write about?

    A. About the lives of librarians

    B. About the lives of people who have made history

    C. About the history of practical wisdom

    D. About the history of people and the world

3. Why does the librarian prefer fiction?

A. It's more fun and exciting than non-fiction.

B. It's up to the reader to find the wisdom and life lessons contained within the story.

C. It has fantasy, sci-fi, and romance novels.

D. It's overall wiser to read fiction than non-fiction.

CHAPTER 13:

FAMILY TIME

(Charlie is lying on the couch in the living room of his apartment, enjoying his new book, when his mom comes back from grocery shopping.)

Mom: Hey, Charlie.

Charlie: Welcome back.

Mom: Thanks. The new grocery store here is so cheap. I love it!

Charlie: Oh yeah? What did you buy?

Mom: I got all our vegetables at half price. There's fresh radishes, pumpkins, and cabbage. I also got fruits for pretty cheap. We have apples, strawberries, and blueberries.

Charlie: That sounds great. What are we having for dinner tonight?

Mom: I was actually thinking about getting take-out tonight. How does soup and sandwiches sound?

Charlie: I'd love some.

Mom: My pleasure. By the way, what class is that book for?

Charlie: It's not for class. I got it at the library.

Mom: Oh. Have you finished studying for the day?

Charlie: Mom, I don't even know what I want to study.

Mom: I thought you were doing chemistry.

Charlie: Nah. I dropped it. I changed my major to undecided for now.

Mom: Well, it's good that you're keeping your brain sharp. What do you think about doing something else science-related?

Charlie: Chemistry was the science I liked best, but I'm not sure it's my true passion anymore.

(Charlie buries his face into his book.)

Charlie: Mom, why does life have to be so hard?

Mom: There's a really good quote by Bruce Lee that I love. “Pray not for an easy life. Pray for the strength to endure a difficult one.”

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Charlie's mom say that she bought at the grocery store?

A. Ramen, pickles, cucumbers, apricots, sundaes and bananas

B. Rice, pizza, carrots, acorns, salads and bagels

C. Relish, pineapples, cake, asparagus, sandwiches and bacon

D. Radishes, pumpkins, cabbage, apples, strawberries, and blueberries

2. What will Charlie and his mom eat for dinner tonight?

A. They will make soup and sandwiches at home.

B. They will get soup and sandwiches from a take-out restaurant.

C. They will eat soup and sandwiches inside a local restaurant.

D. They will go to a friend's house for soup and sandwiches.

3. Which of the following fields of study is NOT science-related?

A. Chemistry

B. Physics

C. Biology

D. Cryptology

CHAPTER 14:

THE DEFINITION OF GENIUS

(Charlie and Ben are having drinks in a local bar.)

Ben: What do you mean there's no such thing as a genius?

Charlie: What we call genius is just someone who has figured out what their natural talents are and has spent over 10 years perfecting them. People see only the end result and none of the hard work, so it's just easy to call it genius.

Ben: But what about Mozart? Wasn't he a child prodigy?

Charlie: That's a great example. What people don't consider is that he had shown a very high level of interest in music from a very early age. And his father was a professional musician, composer, conductor, and teacher. By the time Mozart turned three, he was receiving professional-level piano lessons all day, every day from his dad. At night, his parents had to pry him away from the piano just to get him to sleep.

Ben: Hmm, I don't know. How can you believe that there's no such thing as a genius? Where are you getting this argument from?

Charlie: From a book.

Ben: You would believe something you read in a single book?

Charlie: Well, I've heard this argument elsewhere, too. As humans, we don't want to come to terms with our personal failures and mistakes, so it's easier to look at successful people and call them lucky, gifted, or genius.

Ben: Whoa, now. Are you saying people don't get lucky? What about incredibly competitive fields like acting or YouTube?

Charlie: Luck is definitely a factor, no doubt. What I'm saying is that if you want more luck, you gotta take more chances.

(While Charlie is talking, Ben looks over Charlie's shoulder and spots two attractive girls sitting at another table.)

Ben: Speaking of taking more chances, I see some across the room right now. Follow my lead.

Comprehension Questions

1. How does Charlie define what a “genius” is?

A. Someone who is incredibly intelligent and skilled

B. Someone who invents something revolutionary

C. Someone who has figured out their natural talents and spent over 10 years perfecting them

D. Someone who has spent over 10 years searching for their natural talents

2. What is another word for “genius”?

A. Intellectual

B. Perfect

C. Prodigy

D. Professional

3. According to Charlie, “if you want more luck...

A. you have to roll the dice.”

B. you have to get lucky.”

C. you have to take more chances.”

D. you have to find a horseshoe or four-leaf clover.”

CHAPTER 15:

FILLING A PRESCRIPTION

(Charlie is at his local pharmacy to pick up some new medicine.)

Charlie: Hi, I'm here to pick up my prescription.

Pharmacist: OK. What's your name?

Charlie: Charlie Cash.

Pharmacist: And your date of birth?

Charlie: February 20, 2000.

Pharmacist: OK. Great. I'll be right back.

(The pharmacist goes to retrieve Charlie's prescription.)

Pharmacist: Alright. Do you have any questions about taking this medication?

Charlie: Yes. I take it in the morning and evening, right?

Pharmacist: That's right.

Charlie: Do I take it with food or can I take it on an empty stomach?

Pharmacist: Either is fine.

Charlie: I see. How about if I take the medication at different times during the day? My schedule changes all the time due to work and school.

Pharmacist: As long as each dose is taken sometime during the morning and sometime during the evening, you'll be fine.

Charlie: OK, thank you. Wait! I forgot to ask one last thing. I swallow the pill, right? Or is it chewable?

Pharmacist: You have to swallow it. You can't chew it. Other than that, can I assist you with anything?

Charlie: Yes. Where's the water fountain? I need to take it as soon as possible.

Comprehension Questions

1. Where do you go to pick up prescriptions?

    A. Pharmacy

    B. Doctor's office

    C. School

    D. Workplace

2. Should Charlie take his medication with or without food?

A. With food.

B. Without food.

C. It doesn't matter.

D. It depends on the situation.

3. Which of the following is NOT an oral administration of medication?

A. Injecting

B. Swallowing

C. Chewing

D. Drinking

CHAPTER 16:
INTERVIEW WITH A WITNESS

(Charlie is at home watching the local news on TV.)

Newscaster: Authorities say that the suspect 's whereabouts are still unknown. What we do know is that the suspect is male, aged 18-35, and approximately five feet 10 inches tall. We go now to an interview with a bystander who was a witness at the scene.

(The camera cuts to a news correspondent and a middle-aged woman.)

Reporter: Can you briefly summarize what you saw?

Witness: I was walking home from work when I noticed someone was dancing wildly at the intersection just up ahead. As I got closer to the intersection, I saw that they were wearing a large horse mask and had stripped down to their underwear. I thought I had taken crazy pills or something, but no, that actually happened today.

Reporter: How long did this person continue?

Witness: From the time I noticed him, I would say about a full minute.

Reporter: What happened after that?

Witness: He took a quick bow and then ran down the street. No more than 30

seconds later, a few cop cars showed up with their sirens blazing loud.

((The camera cuts back to the news anchor in the studio.)

Newscaster: This marks the masked dancer's third appearance in the last few months. As with every appearance, several breaking-and-entering crimes have been reported near the masked man's show. Authorities suspect a connection between the events.

Comprehension Questions

1. Which of the following is NOT a synonym for the word “reporter”?

    A. Newscaster

    B. Correspondent

    C. Journalist

    D. Witness

2. What attire was the masked dancer wearing?

    A. Underwear only

    B. Full tuxedo

    C. Business casual

    D. Semi-formal

3. Which of the following is a synonym for “breaking and entering”?

    A. Felony

B. Burglary

C. Arson

D. Forgery

CHAPTER 17:
COMBINING FORCES

(Charlie is attending a world history lecture on campus.)

Professor: Don't forget that midterms are coming up in two weeks. This one test counts for 25 percent of your total grade. If you haven't started preparing for the test, the best time would be now. That will be all for today. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon.

(The students start packing up their belongings and heading for the exit. Another student approaches Charlie.)

Student #1: Hi there. Would you be interested in doing a study group to help prepare for the exam?

Charlie: Sure. How many do you have so far?

Student #1: Well, now that you're in, that makes two people.

Charlie: Oh, I see. Uh...

Student #1: Don't worry. All we have to do is grab a few more people before they leave.

(Charlie nods. The two students split up to find more members to add to their newly formed group.)

Charlie: Hello. Are you looking for a study group for the midterm?

Student #2: That actually sounds like a good idea. I'll join.

Charlie: OK, great. Now we just need a time and place.

(Charlie and four other students stand in a circle to arrange the meeting time and place.)

Student #1: I was thinking we could meet this Friday at 6 p.m. at the library. Does that sound good with everybody?

(The students nod in agreement, exchange contact information and split up shortly after.)

Comprehension Questions

1. When does a midterm test usually occur during a semester?

    A. At the end of the term

    B. Around the middle of the term

    C. At the start of the term

    D. At any random point in time

2. How did the students form the study group?

    A. They asked and invited classmates at the end of class.

    B. They posted an advertisement on the bulletin board.

    C. They arranged groups through an online forum.

D. They asked and invited other students at parties.

3. How will the students keep in touch?

A. They stood in a circle and held hands.

B. They exchanged contact information.

C. They all live in the same apartment building.

D. They nodded in agreement.

CHAPTER 18:
ORDERING LUNCH

(Charlie finds himself ordering a salad for lunch at the food court on campus.)

Employee: Hi. Welcome to Salad Express. What can I get you?

Charlie: Hello. I'd like to order a garden salad.

Employee: OK. Would you like spinach or romaine lettuce?

Charlie: I'll take romaine lettuce.

Employee: And which vegetables would you like on it?

Charlie:: Celery, onion, peppers, and cucumbers, please.

Employee: OK. And would you like any other toppings?

Charlie: Yeah. Let's go with cashews, raspberries, croutons, and tortilla strips.

Employee: Done and done. And which dressing can I get you?

Charlie: I'll have the low-calorie Italian, please.

Employee: Alright. Would you like any snacks or drinks with your order?

Charlie: I'll take a bag of chips and a diet soda. That will be it for me.

Employee: OK. Will this be for here or to go?

Charlie: For here.

(Charlie notices a large gathering of more than 100 students walking off together in the distance.)

Charlie: Hey, any idea what's going on with that crowd over there?

Employee: Oh, I'm not sure. My guess is that it has something to do with the rally on campus today.

Comprehension Questions

1. Which of the following are NOT considered vegetables?

    A. Celery, onion, peppers, and cucumbers

    B. Spinach, romaine lettuce, iceberg lettuce, and kale

    C. Potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, and squash

    D. Olives, tomatoes, avocados, and pumpkins

2. Which of the following foods are typically considered nuts?

    A. Cashews, coconuts, and raisins

B. Cashews, macadamia nuts, and croutons

C. Cashews, olives, and walnuts

D. Cashews, almonds, and peanuts

3. Which of the following best describes what a diet soda is?

A. A smaller sized soda

B. A beverage that causes weight loss

C. A drink that is scientifically proven to better tasting than regular soda

D. A carbonated beverage with little to no sugar, flavored with artificial sweeteners

CHAPTER 19:
RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

(Charlie has decided to join the rally event on campus today. He's currently seated in a stadium with thousands of other students. The rally is for none other than presidential candidate Boris Johnson, who is making appearances all across the nation.)

Johnson: Let's move on to the Q and A segment of the event. I see that several long lines have already formed, but I can't promise that I'll be able to answer more than a dozen. OK, here we go. First is the gentleman here.

Student #1: Hi. I just wanted to ask something small. What's your morning routine look like? What do you do when you first get up?

Johnson: Well, when I first get up, I gotta pee just like everyone else.

(The audience chuckles.)

Johnson: After that, I spend the first 30 minutes with my personal assistant, whom I dearly love. I sip on a cup of coffee while she relays any new and relevant information to me. After that, we have a campaign staff meeting during which we review the day's upcoming events and our goals for each of them. When the meeting finishes, that's when I officially start the day. OK. Next question.

Student #2: Yes. I'm wondering, if you are elected as the next president, what will you do to help college students like me who are struggling financially?

Johnson: Let me tell you something you probably know. Students have it worse now than they have ever had it before! How can we expect the next generation to lead this nation if they can't even pay for their education? We have to start by slashing tuition costs and then take it a step further by creating new jobs for graduating students. And those who want to start a business out of school can't do so because taxes are too high. I think it's about time somebody lowered taxes for newly formed businesses!

(As the candidate finishes his answer, the audience roars with loud cheers and applause.)

Johnson: OK. Next.

Student #3: Can you tell us how you plan to cut tuition costs for students?

Johnson: Well, when I was a student way back 40 years ago, everyone could afford tuition. Back then, the government worked for the people and not the corporations. This election is all about putting the government back in the hands of the people. That's exactly what I will do if I'm elected. Next question!

Comprehension Questions

1. Complete the following sentence. A presidential candidate...

A. is a person who has won the presidential election.

B. is a person who was formerly president.

C. is a person who is currently running for president.

D. is a person who is currently serving as vice president.

2. How does Boris Johnson plan on helping college students who are struggling financially?

A. He will increase tuition costs, create new jobs, and raise taxes for starting businesses.

B. He will cut tuition costs, create new jobs, and cut taxes for starting businesses.

C. He will raise tuition costs, cut new jobs, and increase taxes for starting businesses.

D. D. He will decrease tuition costs, cut new jobs, and decrease taxes for starting businesses.

3. How exactly will Boris Johnson cut tuition costs?

A. It's unclear how he will do so.

B. He will increase taxes on the wealthy.

C. He will issue government grants to colleges and universities.

D. He will work with the nation's top financial leaders to jump-start the economy.

CHAPTER 20:
STUDY HALL

(Charlie and four other students from his history class have gathered to share notes and prepare for the midterm.)

Student #1: So, we know that the test will be 20 multiple-choice questions followed by an essay question.

Student #2: Right. And the essay question is 50 percent of the exam's grade. Now, do we have any idea what the essay's question topic will be?

Student #1: No, but we might be able to guess. Any ideas?

Charlie: I wonder if it will be on the Roman Empire and Julius Caesar. The professor really likes that topic.

Student #2: Maybe. I was thinking it's going be on Alexander the Great. The professor spent a lot of lectures on the details of his life.

Student #3: What if we all studied real hard on Alexander the Great, and then Genghis Khan turned out to be the essay topic?

Charlie: What if the question is on all three?

(The five students hum simultaneously in agreement.)

Student #1: That's gotta be it. The lectures focus a lot on empires as a reflection of leaders.

Student #4: I'm sorry to interrupt. Do you mean that the essay question will be on empires or the leaders?

Charlie: That's a good question. Hard to say.

Comprehension Questions

1.What kind of test will the midterm be?

A. It will contain 20 questions, some of which are multiple-choice and some of which are essays.

B. It will contain 20 multiple-choice questions and one essay question.

C. It will contain 20 essays that you can choose to answer in multiple ways.

D. It will contain 20 questions.

2. Which three leaders were mentioned in the conversation in this chapter?

A. The Roman Empire, the Macedonian Empire, and the Mongol Empire

B. Charlie, Ben, and Lucy

C. Alexander the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, and the professor

D. Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, and Genghis Khan

3. Why is the essay question on the midterm so important?

A. Because there will be no final exam

B. Because it will count for half of the student's grade on the exam

C. Because the professor doesn't like multiple-choice questions

D. Because that's the only question on the exam

CHAPTER 21:
FROM A FOREIGN LAND

(The five students are currently on a break from reviewing. Charlie takes this opportunity to learn more about the foreign student in the group.)

Charlie: So, what's your name?

Lin: My name is Lin. Nice to meet you.

Charlie: Nice to meet you. Where are you from originally?

Lin: I'm from China, but I came to the USA to study business and economics.

Charlie: Oh yeah? How's that coming along?

Lin: Um, it's hard. I need to study more.

Charlie: Same here, but the more I study, the more lost I feel. It's hard for all of us.

Lin: Hmm, maybe some traveling could help. Have you ever traveled outside of your country?

Charlie: No.

Lin: I definitely recommend it. You learn so much about the world and yourself, too. It might help you find out what you really want.

Charlie: I like the sound of that.

Lin: You could always come to China!

Charlie: Learning Chinese sounds a little too hard. I was thinking about Europe, actually.

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Lin come to the USA?

    A. To study business and economics

    B. To start a business in the American economy

    C. To study international business and communication

    D. To start a business and economy consulting firm

2. Where has Charlie traveled to before?

    A. The Middle East

    B. Australia

    C. Antarctica

    D. None of the above

3. Traveling across the world can do all the following EXCEPT...

A. teach you about yourself.

B. teach you about the world.

C. help you find out what the essay question is on the midterm.

D. help you find out what you really want.

CHAPTER 22:
HOME SWEET HOME

(Charlie has just finished his shift at work and is getting ready to go home when he asks Lucy a question.)

Charlie: Hey, Lucy. Have you ever traveled abroad?

Lucy: Yeah, but it was a long time ago.

Charlie: Oh yeah? Where to?

Lucy: Sweden. I visited family there for a few months.

Charlie: Really? How was it?

Lucy: Very cold. Good god, it was cold! I had to wear a heavy coat while everyone else was wearing just long-sleeved shirts. It was crazy!

Charlie: Did you have fun while you were freezing at least?

Lucy: I loved it there. I went hiking all the time in the mountains. It was the most beautiful place I've ever seen.

Charlie: Wow. Why not live there longer, then?

Lucy: I grew up here in the US. I've learned that this is my home. It's where I belong.

Charlie: I'm not sure I feel the same. It's boring here. I've been thinking about doing some traveling myself, actually.

Lucy: Oh? Where to?

Charlie: No idea. Maybe Europe.

Lucy: You definitely should. It will give a whole new perspective on the world.

Charlie: Yeah. I wonder if I should do a study abroad program?

Lucy: I would. Do it before it's too late. Once you get married and have kids, it's game over! Forget about having a life at that point.

Comprehension Questions

1. What does Lucy think about her time in Sweden?

    A. While it was extremely cold, she ultimately loved the trip.

    B. She hated everything about it.

    C. She was indifferent to the whole experience.

    D. While she got homesick occasionally, she had a wonderful time overall.

2. Why did Lucy move back to the United States?

A. Sweden was too cold.

B. It's where she feels she belongs.

C. The taxes are too high in Sweden.

D. The United States is a better country to start a family.

3. Living in a foreign country and attending a foreign university as a student is called...

A. having a life.

B. English abroad.

C. study abroad.

D. having a whole new perspective.

CHAPTER 23:
ICE CREAM BREAK

(While taking a break from video games, Charlie and Ben decide to go out for ice cream and take a walk through the park.)

Charlie: Wow, the weather is perfect today.

Ben: Yup, perfect for staying inside and gaming.

Charlie: I have a feeling you would say that no matter what the weather is.

Ben: But of course! Also, this ice cream is amazing. This strawberry flavor is so good!

Charlie: Strawberry's not bad. But I always end up choosing vanilla or chocolate. You can't go wrong with either.

Ben: Which did you get just now?

Charlie: I went with vanilla this time.

Ben: Ah. I wonder if they sell that ice cream in all three flavors.

Charlie: You mean chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla?

Ben: Yeah! I forgot the name of it. Uh, was it Napoleon flavor?

Charlie: Neapolitan.

Ben: Oh yeah. I thought it was Napoleon for a second.

Charlie: Now that would just be silly.

Ben: When you conquer half of the world at any given point in time, you tend to have a lot of things named after you, like the Napoleon complex.

Charlie: That is true. But wait. That makes me wonder. Why can't I think of anything named after Genghis Khan?

Comprehension Questions

1. While on break from playing video games, what did Charlie and Ben do?

A. They bought whipped cream and went jogging through the park.

B. They bought shaving cream and took a walk through the amusement park.

C. They bought ice cream and went for a stroll through the park.

D. They took some time to study a little history.

2. Neapolitan ice cream contains which three flavors?

A. cacao, blueberry, and vanilla

B. chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla

C. chocolate, strawberry, and villain

D. cocoa, strawberry, and villain

3. According to Ben, when you conquer half of the world at any given point in time, ...

A. you tend to have a lot of things named after you.

B. you tend to have a lot of things naming before you.

C. you tend to have a lot of things naming for you.

D. you tend to have a lot of things named into you.

CHAPTER 24:
ESCAPING REALITY

(Charlie and Ben are chatting on the couch after finishing a gaming session.)

Ben: If you're going to go abroad, you have to go to Japan. It's a must.

Charlie: I don't know. Japanese sounds pretty hard.

Ben: Bro, just get a Japanese girlfriend and you'll learn super-fast. You'll be completely immersed.

Charlie: If that were true, wouldn't all tourists come back fluent in Japanese?

Ben: A week or two isn't long enough. You'll be there for at least six months. Think about it. You get to enjoy all the latest games and anime the day they come out in Japan.

Charlie: Maybe. It's a possibility. But if all this sounds so good, why don't you go and study there?

Ben: The only thing I want to study is how to beat this boss we keep dying to.

Charlie: Don't you worry about your future?

Ben: That's future me's problem.

Charlie: You think of new ways to procrastinate every day, I swear. It's impressive, actually.

Ben: I'm just that good.

Charlie: What am I going to do with you?

Ben: Help me beat this boss, of course.

(Charlie lets out a long sigh and shakes his head slowly. After a few seconds of silence, he picks up his controller, ready to play again.)

Comprehension Questions

1. Language immersion entails which of the following?

A. Learning a language while immersed underwater

B. Learning a language through non-stop exposure to the language

C. Learning a language through immersive virtual reality

D. Learning a language through tourism

2. Why does Ben think Charlie should travel to Japan?

A. It's much better than China.

B. He can enjoy all the latest anime and video games the day they are released in Japan.

C. Japanese is the easiest language to learn.

D. Japanese girlfriends are the best girlfriends to have.

3. How does Ben impress Charlie in this chapter?

A. He is very persistent in persuading Charlie to go to Japan.

B. He thinks of new ways to procrastinate.

C. He thinks of a way they can beat the boss in the game.

D. He is the strangest person Charlie has ever meet.

CHAPTER 25:

CAR REPAIRS

(Charlie's car has been acting strange lately. He has brought it to a local mechanic to help diagnose and solve the problem.)

Mechanic: Hi there. What can I do for you today?

Charlie: Hello. My car has been acting up lately. When I stop at a traffic light, the whole car starts vibrating. As soon as I start moving, however, the vibrating stops. Other than that, the car has been running fine.

Mechanic: OK, I see. Let me take a quick look at it and give it a brief test run. In the meantime, have a seat over there in the lounge area. I'll come and get you when I'm ready.

Charlie: Alright. Thanks.

(While Charlie watches TV and makes himself a cup of coffee in the lounge area, the mechanic opens the hood of the car and takes a closer look at the problem. After around 30 minutes, the mechanic calls Charlie to the front desk.)

Mechanic: So, I checked the basics. I found that your oil is good. Your transmission is good. The tires are fine. The battery has no issues. There's no leakage anywhere. So, it's most likely a spark plug issue.

Charlie: Oh, that's good news! I thought it was the transmission.

Mechanic: Nope. Not at all. Now, we can replace all the spark plugs and cylinders for you today with our special tune-up service. Would you be OK with that?

Charlie: You need to replace the cylinders too? How much will that cost?

Mechanic: Well, the tune-up service for this older model would keep your car running much longer. If we do the full tune-up, it will come to a total of $440.

Charlie: Oh my god! I'm not sure I can afford that. Can I make a phone call real quick?

Comprehension Questions

1. What is a synonym for the phrase “to act up”?

    A. To act strangely

    B. To act down

    C. To act accordingly

    D. To act fast

2. What appears to be the main problem with Charlie's car?

    A. The spark plugs have gone bad.

    B. The transmission is broken.

    C. The tires are flat.

D. The cylinders are not cylindrical.

3. Why does the mechanic recommend the special tune-up service?

A. Because he wants to be Charlie's new friend.

B. Because it could potentially help an older-model vehicle last longer.

C. Because it will give the vehicle that new car smell.

D. Because it will tune up the car so that it is ready for drag racing.

CHAPTER 26:

A SECOND OPINION

(Charlie is on the phone with his mom.)

Mom: Hello?

Charlie: Hi, Mom. I'm here at the car shop and was wondering if we have enough money to cover the repairs.

Mom: How much is it?

Charlie: Uh, $440.

Mom: Oh lord. What is the issue? What are they replacing?

Charlie: They said it's the spark plugs and possibly the cylinders.

Mom: Honey, that does not cost $440 to fix. We could change all of that for less than $100.

Charlie: But they offered their tune-up service to make sure the car runs better.

Mom: That's called taking advantage of people. Mechanics know most people are not car-savvy, so they offer all kinds of expensive services to drive up the

price. It's all unnecessary crap you don't need.

Charlie: Oh, OK. So, where should we get the car parts?

Mom: It's cheaper to order them online. Let's do that tonight.

Charlie: But how will I get to school tomorrow?

Mom: Well, I'll just have to drive you until the parts come in.

Charlie: That works. And, uh, I'm not sure what to tell Ben. He needs a ride to work tomorrow.

Mom: Ben got a job?

Comprehension Questions

1. What does Charlie's mom think about the mechanic's offer?

    A. She thinks Charlie should take advantage of the deal.

    B. She thinks another mechanic could offer a better deal.

    C. She thinks Charlie is taking advantage of the mechanic.

    D. She thinks Charlie is being taken advantage of.

2. If you are car-savvy, that means...

    A. you have little to no knowledge and experience with cars.

B. you are knowledgeable and experienced with being gullible.

C. you have a lot of knowledge and experience with cars.

D. you are gullible when it comes to cars.

3. How will Charlie get to school tomorrow?

A. Ben is going to drop him off.

B. Ben is going to start working at a new job.

C. His mom is going to drive him crazy.

D. His mom is going to drop him off.

CHAPTER 27:
LEAVING THE NEST

(After fixing the car, Charlie and his mom relax by having some tea and eating some snacks.)

Charlie: That actually wasn't too bad. I thought it would be much harder than it was.

Mom: I told you so!

Charlie: Where did you learn all that stuff about cars? From Dad?

Mom: Absolutely not. I had to learn a lot on my own to survive as a single mom. You have to cut costs whenever you can.

Charlie: I figured that because he was good with electronic repairs he was also good with other kinds of machines.

Mom: He could have at least taught you some of that before he left.

Charlie: Yeah, well, he didn't. And that was a long time ago, right?

Mom: It's been about 10 years now.

Charlie: So, anywho, I think I've decided what I want to do college-wise.

Mom: Oh, what's that?

Charlie: I think I want to try studying abroad.

Mom: Oh. Where?

Charlie: I haven't decided yet, but I'm thinking somewhere in Europe.

Mom: What made you decide to travel?

Charlie: I feel like I have to go out on my own and start some sort of journey.

Mom: You could do that in this country, too. Just get a job and your own place.

(Charlie shuts his lips tightly and stares out the window as a long pause of silence fills the room.)

Mom: If you want to go, you'll have to find a way to pay for it. With your tuition fees, we're already strapped for cash as-is.

Charlie: Then I'll have to find a way.

Comprehension Questions

1. Where did Charlie's mom learn about car repair?

    A. She learned from Charlie's dad.

    B. She taught herself in order to save money.

C. She is a mechanic by profession.

D. All single moms know how to fix a car.

2. Charlie's dad was skilled in what kind of repair?

A. Electric

B. Electrical

C. Electronic

D. Electricity

3. What made Charlie decide to travel?

A. He wants to go find his dad.

B. He wants to start a journey of sorts.

C. He wants to find the love of his life.

D. He wants to impress his mom.

CHAPTER 28:

THE BIG PROMOTION

(Charlie is at the pizza shop, negotiating a promotion to a management position with Lucy.)

Lucy: Are you sure about this? Don't do it unless you're 100 percent sure.

Charlie: I'm 100 percent sure. I have to come up with money somehow, and this will also allow you to take time off.

Lucy: I'm worried about whether or not you can handle the new level of stress that comes with being a manager. The responsibility of the job plus your schoolwork will take a toll on you over time.

Charlie: You said you'd promote me in a heartbeat, didn't you?

Lucy: I didn't think you'd actually want the job.

Charlie: Neither did I until recently. I feel like my life isn't going in any direction right now, so I need to fix that by saving money to travel abroad.

Lucy: You said that you'll leave a year from now to do that?

Charlie: That's right.

Lucy: Well, even if it's just a year, I'd rather have a temporary manager than no manager at all. So, with that said, welcome aboard Manager Charlie.

(Lucy gladly extends her hand and Charlie confidently puts out his to meet hers. They shake hands.)

Lucy: Let me show you around the office.

Charlie: Sure thing.

(Hidden behind the massive stacks of paperwork, Charlie notices a framed picture of a teenage boy, which is sitting on the desk.)

Lucy: I think the best place to start is what you'll be doing the most as a manager here, which is supervising the staff. You tend to be pretty good at handling people, but let me tell you, this is a whole other level!

Comprehension Questions

1. When something takes a toll on you, it means that...

    A. it charges you a fee.

    B. it gives you money.

    C. it drains you of energy.

    D. it provides you with energy.

2. To do something in a heartbeat means...

    A. to do it while frightened.

    B. to do it immediately.

C. to do it while panicking.

D. to do it with passion.

3. What is on Lucy's desk in the office?

A. Stacks of papers and a framed portrait

B. Stacks of papers and a teenage boy

C. Stacks of cash and Lucy's self-portrait

D. Stacks of pizza boxes and burnt cheese

CHAPTER 29:

YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

(Charlie is at the counselor's office to find out more about the study-abroad program.)

Counselor: Have you ever traveled outside the country?

Charlie: I have not, ma'am.

Counselor: OK. And what do you expect to gain by participating in our program?

Charlie: I think studying abroad will help me find my place in the world.

Counselor: I think it absolutely can. Now, are you willing to study and learn a foreign language?

Charlie: Of course.

Counselor: Do you have any experience learning a new language?

Charlie: I took a few classes in high school.

Counselor: Very well. Do you have any questions for me about our program?

Charlie: I'm curious. How did you end up as a counselor here?

Counselor: Oh! Well, I went on my own study abroad trip to Ireland during college and loved every second of it. As a result, I wanted to help others have that same experience at least once in their lives.

Charlie: Ah, that's cool. Can I ask another question?

Counselor: Sure. What is it?

Charlie: Did you ever get homesick while abroad?

Counselor: Of course! But it's a small price to pay for a life-changing experience. There's a saying that sums it up quite nicely. In order to truly gain anything meaningful, something must be sacrificed.

Comprehension Questions

1. What does Charlie expect to gain by participating in the study abroad program?

A. Help in finding his place in the world

B. Help in finding the world

C. Help in placing the world on himself

D. Help in himself in his world placing

2. What kind of experience does Charlie have in learning a foreign language?

A. He has no experience in learning a foreign language.

B. He has a black belt in learning foreign languages.

C. He took a few classes in high school.

D. He took karate classes as a kid.

3. What does it mean to be homesick?

A. To miss one's home while living abroad

B. To be sick of one's home while living abroad

C. To be sick while living at home

D. To miss a day at work because one is sick

CHAPTER 30:
INTERVIEW WITH A POLYGLOT

(To learn more about language learning, Charlie has been watching videos on YouTube. One video in particular catches his attention. It's an interview with a polyglot who is discussing how he came to learn eight different languages.)

Interviewer: You're saying you didn't learn any of these languages through school?

Polyglot: That's correct. Spanish was the first one I learned. I took Spanish classes during grade school, but it felt like we were just memorizing lists of vocabulary words and grammar rules. Those classes did nothing to help me understand spoken Spanish or speak like a native.

Interviewer: So, how did you go about learning those things?

Polyglot: In college, I had a lot of free time on my hands. I got bored with watching TV and movies and playing video games after school, so I decided to do something more challenging with my time. I figured that going all out to learn Spanish would be the best thing I could do. I spent all my free time watching TV shows and movies in only Spanish, with no English subtitles.

Interviewer: Wow. How much of it could you understand at first?

Polyglot: Practically zero. It was very hard at first but also very exciting. After a few days of watching, I started noticing certain words and phrases were being

repeated over and over. I wrote those down in my notebook and I looked them up online after each show ended. I kept repeating this process over and over. After a few months, I realized I could understand 90 percent of the Spanish in TV and movies. Shortly after, speaking came very naturally. I was so amazed by the learning process that I went out and applied the same technique to as many foreign languages as I could.

Comprehension Questions

1. What was the polyglot's issue with Spanish classes?

A. They were too expensive.

B. They were too boring and dull.

C. It felt like the teachers didn't care about what they were teaching.

D. It felt like the students were just memorizing lists of words and grammar rules.

2. How did the polyglot learn Spanish during college?

A. He spent all of his free time studying and getting the best grades possible in class.

B. He spent all of his free time watching Spanish TV and movies with no English subtitles.

C. He spent all of his free time watching English TV and movies with Spanish subtitles.

D. He spent all of his free time memorizing lists of vocabulary words and grammar rules.

3. How did the polyglot learn the other foreign languages?

A. He wrote down certain words and phrases over and over.

B. He realized that he could understand 90 percent of any other language after learning Spanish.

C. He repeated vocabulary and grammar rules over and over until he had memorized them.

D. He applied the same technique to as many other foreign languages as he could.

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ANSWER KEY

Chapter 1:

1) B

2) D

3) C

Chapter 2:

1) A

2) B

3) C

Chapter 3:

1) D

2) D

3) C

Chapter 4:

1) B

2) A

3) D

Chapter 5:

1) C

2) D

3) C

Chapter 6:

1) A

2) D

3) D

Chapter 7:

1) D

2) A

3) D

Chapter 8:

1) B

2) A

3) B

Chapter 9:

1) C

2) A

3) D

Chapter 10:

1) B

2) B

3) C

Chapter 11:

1) C

2) A

3) C

Chapter 12:

1) A

2) B

3) B

Chapter 13:

1) D

2) B

3) D

Chapter 14:

1) C

2) C

3) C

Chapter 15:

1) A

2) C

3) A

Chapter 16:

1) D

2) A

3) B

Chapter 17:

1) B

2) A

3) B

Chapter 18:

1) D

2) D

3) D

Chapter 19:

1) C

2) B

3) A

Chapter 20:

1) B

2) D

3) B

Chapter 21:

1) A

2) D

3) C

Chapter 22:

1) A

2) B

3) C

Chapter 23:

1) C

2) B

3) A

Chapter 24:

1) B

2) B

3) B

Chapter 25:

1) A

2) A

3) B

Chapter 26:

1) D

2) C

3) D

Chapter 27:

1) B

2) C

3) B

Chapter 28:

1) C

2) B

3) A

Chapter 29:

1) A

2) C

3) A

Chapter 30:

1) D

2) B

3) D