

## Reading Comprehension 1

Ernest Miller Hemingway was an American writer and journalist. His distinctive writing style, characterized by economy and understatement, influenced 20th-century fiction, as did his apparent life of adventure and the public image he cultivated. He produced most of his work between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and his career peaked in 1954  
5 when he won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Hemingway's fiction was successful because the characters he presented exhibited authenticity that appealed to his audience. Many of his works are classics of American literature. He published seven novels, six short story collections, and two non-fiction works during his lifetime; a further three novels, four collections of short stories, and three non-fiction works were published after his death.

10 Hemingway was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois. After leaving high school he worked for a few months as a reporter, before leaving for the Italian front to become an ambulance driver during World War I, which became the basis for his novel *A Farewell to Arms*. He was seriously wounded and returned home within the year. In 1922 Hemingway married Hadley Richardson, the first of his four wives, and the couple  
15 moved to Paris, where he worked as a foreign correspondent. During his time there he met and was influenced by modernist writers and artists of the 1920s expatriate community known as the "Lost Generation". His first novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, was written in 1924.

20 After divorcing Hadley Richardson in 1927 Hemingway married Pauline Pfeiffer; they divorced following Hemingway's return from covering the Spanish Civil War, after which he wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Martha Gellhorn became his third wife in 1940, but he left her for Mary Welsh Hemingway after World War II, during which he was present at D-Day and the liberation of Paris.

25 Shortly after the publication of *The Old Man and the Sea* in 1952 Hemingway went on safari to Africa, where he was almost killed in a plane crash that left him in pain or ill-health for much of the rest of his life. Hemingway had permanent residences in Key West, Florida, and Cuba during the 1930s and '40s, but in 1959 he moved from Cuba to Idaho, where he committed suicide in the summer of 1961.

## Reading Comprehension

### Questions:

1. Hemingway wrote:

- 1) Science Fiction
  - 2) Biographies
  - 3) Realistic stories
  - 4) Fantasy
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2. Which of the following cannot be deduced about Hemingway?

- 1) He was quite famous in his lifetime
  - 2) He wrote also poetry
  - 3) Some of his work was not published during his lifetime
  - 4) He left his reader space for contemplation
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3. The "Lost Generation":

- 1) Were not French
  - 2) Inspired Hemingway in the writing of *A Farewell to Arms*
  - 3) Assisted Hemingway in the writing of *The Sun Also Rises*
  - 4) Were known political activists
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4. What was the consequence of the plane crash that Hemingway experienced?

- 1) He died
  - 2) He wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*
  - 3) He moved to Key West
  - 4) He suffered pain years later
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5. Hemingway's life can be described as:

- 1) Dull
- 2) A Continuing love story
- 3) Full of adventures
- 4) Never-ending success

## Reading Comprehension 2

On The 24th of May 1906 the famous Swiss hotelier César Ritz opened the London Ritz hotel. The building was neoclassical in the Louis XVI manner, built during the Belle Époque to resemble a stylish Parisian block of flats, over arcades that consciously evoked the Rue de Rivoli. Its architects were Charles Mewès, who had previously designed Ritz's  
5 Hôtel Ritz Paris, and Arthur Davis. The engineering was overseen by the Swedish engineer Sven Bylander. It was the first substantial steel-frame structure in London.

Ritz personally managed much of the hotel's operation for many years. He hired the world-famous chef Auguste Escoffier to provide cuisine to match the opulence of the hotel's decorations; he placed a special bell in the entryway by which the doorman could  
10 notify the staff of the impending arrival of royalty. The high standards to which he held his staff and the ultimate luxury which he provided his guests had been entirely foreign to Victorian Londoners, and the sensation he caused in the hotel industry precipitated a dramatic shift in that industry's focus.

The hotel was owned for some time by the Bracewell-Smith family who also had  
15 significant stakes in the nearby Park Lane Hotel. However the oil crisis in the early 1970s affected business and prompted the family to sell their stake to Trafalgar House in 1976 for £2.75 Million.

David and Frederick Barclay purchased the ailing hotel for £80 Million from Trafalgar House, in October 1995, through their company Ellerman Investments. They spent eight  
20 years and £40 Million restoring it to its former grandeur.

## Reading Comprehension

### Questions:

1. It can be inferred from the text that the Belle Époque is a –

- 1) Famous hotel
  - 2) Design
  - 3) Building technique
  - 4) Time period
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2. What caused the sensation (line 12)?

- 1) The high demands from the staff
  - 2) The exquisite food
  - 3) The special treatment of the guests
  - 4) All of the above
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3. The word 'precipitated' (line 12) could be replaced with –

- 1) Changed
  - 2) Brought
  - 3) Regressed
  - 4) Resembled
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4. The word 'they' (line 19) refers to –

- 1) The workers of Ellerman Investments
  - 2) David and Frederick Barclay
  - 3) The owners of the Trafalgar House
  - 4) The bankers
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5. A suitable title for the text would be –

- 1) The Ritz – London's most famous hotel
- 2) César Ritz – the well known hotelier
- 3) London's hotel industry – then and now
- 4) A revolution in the London accommodation business

### Reading Comprehension 3

The Grand Canyon is a steep-sided gorge carved by the Colorado River in the United States in the state of Arizona. It is largely contained within the Grand Canyon National Park, one of the first national parks in the United States. A rail line to the largest city in the area, Flagstaff, was completed in 1882 by the Santa Fe Railroad company. Stage  
5 coaches started to bring tourists from Flagstaff to the Grand Canyon the next year. It was an eleven hour journey. Tourism greatly increased in 1901 when a spur of the Santa Fe Railroad to Grand Canyon Village was completed. The first scheduled train with paying passengers of the Grand Canyon Railway arrived from Williams, Arizona, on September 17 that year. The 64-mile (103 km) long trip cost \$3.95, and naturalist John Muir later  
10 commended the railroad for its limited environmental impact.

The first automobile was driven to the Grand Canyon in 1902. Oliver Lippincott from Los Angeles, California, drove his Toledo Automobile Company-built car to the South Rim from Flagstaff. Lippincott, a guide and two writers set out on the afternoon of January 4, anticipating a seven-hour journey. Two days later, the hungry and dehydrated  
15 party arrived at their destination; the countryside was just too rough for the ten-horsepower auto. A three-day drive from Utah in 1907 was required to reach the North Rim for the first time.

Trains remained the preferred way to travel to the canyon until they were surpassed by the automobiles in the 1930s. Competition with the automobile forced the Santa Fe  
20 Railroad company to cease operation of the Grand Canyon Railway in 1968 (only three passengers were on the last run). The railway was restored and service reintroduced in 1989, and it has since carried hundreds of passengers a day. By the early 1990s more than a million automobiles per year visited the park. Air pollution from those vehicles and wind-blown pollution from Flagstaff and even the Las Vegas area has reduced visibility  
25 in the Grand Canyon and vicinity.

## Reading Comprehension

### Questions:

1. The railroad reaching the Grand Canyon –
  - 1) Was very cheap
  - 2) Did not cause much damage to the natural surrounding
  - 3) Was completed by 1882
  - 4) Was extremely long

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2. Why did operation of the Grand Canyon Railway cease in 1968?
  - 1) It was too expensive to operate
  - 2) It could not hold many passengers
  - 3) It was too slow and it took too much time
  - 4) People preferred going there by cars

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3. The word 'vicinity' (line 25) could be replaced by –
  - 1) Surroundings
  - 2) Elsewhere
  - 3) Creek
  - 4) River

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4. What happened due to pollution?
  - 1) Wind blew from Flagstaff
  - 2) The railway ceased to operate
  - 3) The air got darker
  - 4) It got harder to see through the air

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5. A suitable title for the text would be :
  - 1) Tourism in the Grand Canyon
  - 2) The Grand Canyon – Transportation
  - 3) The railway leading to the Grand Canyon
  - 4) Features of the Grand Canyon