

# March 31st

- Check vocabulary and frequent grammar errors
- Discuss reading text, vocabulary, distancing and opinion
- Practise answering questions with synonyms
- Discuss academic settings

# new vocabulary

- everything is fine
- I'm starting to get into; I've started listening
- immerse myself in
- open your mind to
- goes on stage wearing a modern outfit
- Pergolesi, Nigel Kennedy
- have a good ear

# grammar

what you said

what you should have said

find someone who gives me a reference

will give

I would lie him

lie to

If they will

the situation is not changed

the situation has not changed

no one recycling

no one recycles

# Time questionnaire



## About you

- On a typical weekday morning, are you normally pushed for time?
- Do you have any electronic gadgets which you think really save you time?
- What do you usually do to kill time when you're waiting at an airport or at a station?
- When you go shopping, do you like to buy things as quickly as possible or do you prefer to take your time?
- Is there anything or anybody who is taking up a lot of your time at the moment?
- Are you usually on time when you meet friends? Does it bother you when other people aren't on time?
- Do you like to get to the airport or station with time to spare or at the last minute?
- When you were younger, did your parents give you a hard time if you came back home late?
- When you do an exam, do you tend to have time left at the end or do you usually run out of time?

## Do you agree?

- Both partners need to take the same amount of time off when they have a baby.
- Retired people have too much time on their hands. They should be encouraged to carry on working longer.
- Everyone would benefit from seeing a psychotherapist from time to time.
- By the time they are 21, all young people should be living independently of their parents.
- It's only a question of time before governments impose a complete ban on alcohol and smoking.



## 1 READING & SPEAKING



### a Talk to a partner.

1 Which of the following do you do? To what extent do you think doing one thing affects how well you do the other?

- Talk on a hands-free mobile while you are driving.
- Talk on the phone while you are doing housework or cooking.
- Check your emails or chat online while you are working or studying.
- Look at a website while you are having a conversation on the phone.
- Listen to music while you are studying / working.
- Listen to music while you are doing exercise.
- Send a text while talking to a friend.

2 Are there any other activities you do simultaneously?

3 Have you ever made a mistake or had an accident because you were multitasking?

4 Do you think multitasking helps you to use your time better?

b Work in pairs, **A** and **B**. You are going to read different articles about new research into multitasking. Read your texts and be ready to tell your partner about the following:

- what the research has shown
- what sort of multitasking people do
  - a) during the day
  - b) during the evening
- Mark Vickery and his wife's experience
- what he thinks the pros and cons are
- a typical teenager's attitude to multitasking
- what the research has shown about multitasking
- what things we can do successfully simultaneously
- what happens when people try to do two or more related tasks simultaneously
- problems that arise from multitasking when you are driving

c Now tell each other the main points in the articles you have just read.

**A**

## Multitasking = 31/7

- 1 Latest research suggests that typical middle-class city-dwellers now have so many time-saving gadgets that they can fit into 24 hours the same quantity of tasks that a decade ago would have taken 31 hours to complete.
- 2 For many people, the frenzy starts over breakfast, reading emails on a hand-held BlackBerry® while making toast. It carries on in the car where a driver with a Bluetooth® earpiece holds a conference call while keeping an ear on the radio and checking the satnav.
- 3 Work is then a blizzard of emails, phone calls, and meetings, often happening simultaneously. However, according to OTX, an American consumer research organization, the most intense period of multitasking appears to be in the evening. 'People will be pressing the television remote control while using a wireless laptop computer balanced on their knee, emailing and texting friends on a mobile phone, and holding a conversation with friends or family members,' said Patrick Moriarty, one of the authors of the report. 'They may be far more mentally engaged than they are in the office.'
- 4 According to the study, while television remains the main focus of attention in the evening, nearly half the respondents were also using computers and phones to catch up with friends, update their Facebook or other social networks, or download and listen to music.
- 5 Mark Vickery, 35, from Medway, Kent, agreed that for him and his wife Susan, an NHS doctor, the evening was the peak of multitasking. 'Both of us are out of the house during the day,' said Vickery, a marketing manager. 'When we come back in the evening we tend to have a lot of technology on the go. We'll be using online banking, Facebook, and email, and programming the TV shows we want to watch later.'
- 6 'On the one hand it's good – you get more done. On the other hand, when I left university seven years ago, life was much simpler. There was more talking face-to-face and more time spent over dinner.'

**BlackBerry®** hand-held device which makes available email, mobile phone, web browsing, etc.

**Bluetooth®** technology that makes it possible for various devices and peripherals to communicate with each other and with the Internet without the need for cables

**satnav** a navigation system that receives information via satellite

**B**

# The great myth of multitasking

- 1 You open the door to your teenage daughter's room. 'What are you doing?' you ask.  
'Nothing much,' she answers. 'Burning a CD, doing my homework, helping Jade with hers on MSN...'  
'All at the same time?'  
'Sure, it's easy.'
- 2 While your daughter may be convinced that she can do all these things at the same time, a number of recently published neuroscience research papers argue that this is not in fact the case. Apparently what is really happening is that our brains juggle these tasks, rapidly switching from one to the other and choosing a sequence in which to do them.
- 3 This may seem counter-intuitive. Multitasking is a perfectly natural everyday occurrence. We can cook the dinner while engrossed in a soap on TV or we can chat to a friend while walking down the street without bumping into anybody or getting run over. However, research suggests that there is an enormous difference between how the brain can deal with what are referred to as 'highly practised tasks', such as stirring or walking, and how it responds when, for example, you think about adding another ingredient or you decide to change the direction in which you are walking. In this case, our brains will require us to concentrate on the activity at hand.
- 4 The problem, it seems, occurs when human beings try to carry out two or more tasks that are in some way related. We can see the effect of this if we look at what happens when people use mobile phones while driving (even if they are hands-free). Most people feel they are capable of driving and having a conversation at the same time. This is fine until they need to process language while driving, for example on a road sign. Then the language channel of the brain gets clogged and the brain can no longer cope. A similar thing occurs if the conversation turns to something visual, for example your friend describing what their new flat looks like. In this case, as you try to imagine what they are describing, the visual channel of the brain is overloaded and you can no longer concentrate on the road.
- 5 David E Meyer, director of the Brain, Cognition, and Action laboratory at the University of Michigan, who is considered to be one of the world's experts in this field, believes that human beings 'will never, ever be able to overcome the inherent limitations in the brain for processing information during multitasking. It just can't be done, any more than the best of all humans will ever be able to run a one-minute mile.'

**MSN** here refers to *MSN messenger*, an online instant messaging service

**a soap** *informal* a soap opera

## LEXIS IN CONTEXT

d Work with the same partner. Find words which mean:

A

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* a small tool or device that does something useful (Para 1)
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* a state of great activity (Para 2)
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* a snowstorm, a large quantity of things that may seem to be attacking you (Para 3)
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ **PHR V** find out what people have been doing, get their latest news (Para 4)
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* the top of a mountain, the point when sb / sth is best, highest, or strongest (Para 5)

B


- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ *verb* to throw a set of three or more objects in the air and catch and throw them again quickly, one at a time, to try to deal with two or more activities at the same time (Para 2)
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* so interested in sth that you give it all your attention (Para 3)
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ *verb* to deal successfully with sth difficult (Para 4)
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ *verb* block (Para 4)
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ *verb* to succeed in dealing with a problem that has been preventing you from achieving sth (Para 5)

### Metaphors

When you look up a word in the dictionary, the first meaning(s) listed will normally be the literal meaning(s) and metaphorical meanings will be listed later. However, if you know the literal meaning of a word or phrase you can often guess the metaphorical meaning in a text, e.g. if you know the literal meaning of *blizzard* you can easily understand the metaphor *a blizzard of emails*.

- e After reading the two articles, do you think that multitasking saves you time, or are you probably wasting time by doing things less effectively? Give examples from your own experience.

## 2 GRAMMAR distancing

- a Look at the highlighted phrases in the two articles. What do they have in common?
- b  **p.140 Grammar Bank 2B.** Read the rules and do the exercises.
- c You are a journalist. Your editor has asked you to write a paragraph about one of the news stories whose headlines are below. However, she has asked you to be careful what you say, as the facts haven't been confirmed yet. Choose one story and write a paragraph of approximately 100 words.

**EATING CHIPS HELPS YOU STUDY BETTER!**

**Footballer's wife seeks divorce**

**POLITICIAN LINKED TO CHARITY SCANDAL**

**Is jungle plant the key to eternal youth?**

# homework

- What's wrong with these?
- It was happened.
- She was graduated.
- drewed
  
- CVs:  
<https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/free-cv-template/>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/cvs-and-cover-letters/example-cvs>