

Listening and Reading

Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

LISTENING

Task 1

For items **1-10** listen to part of a lecture about reading in Great Britain. The lecture was delivered in 1995. Decide whether the statements (**1-10**) are **TRUE (A)**, or **FALSE (B)** according to the text you hear. You will hear the text **TWICE**.

1. The British are comparatively uninterested in reading books.
A. True **B. False**
2. Salman Rushdie won the Nobel Prize in 1981.
A. True **B. False**
3. Fourteen winners of the Booker Prize were writers from former British colonies.
A. True **B. False**
4. Detective fiction is a typically British literature genre.
A. True **B. False**
5. Romances written by Norah Lofts are reviewed in the serious literary press.
A. True **B. False**
6. In 1993, the most popular novels among British readers were of average or low quality.
A. True **B. False**
7. British publishers sell as many poetry books as novels.
A. True **B. False**
8. Many of the British poets who perform on radio and at arts festivals do not teach at colleges and universities.
A. True **B. False**
9. The British library contains a copy of all the books produced in Great Britain.
A. True **B. False**

10. There are 6,000 copies of Shakespeare's plays in the British library.

A. True

B. False

Task 2

For items **11-15** listen to an episode of Pushkin House Podcast and answer the questions. Choose the correct answer (**A, B or C**) to answer questions **11-15**. You will hear the text **only ONCE**.

11. Which is NOT true about Frenkie

A. she's a volunteer at Pushkin house.

B. she has never been to Russia.

C. she is interested in Russia.

12. Vijay Menon made his journey to Russia in

A. 2013

B. 2018

C. 2015

13. Vijay's day job is

A. making software.

B. publishing.

C. writing.

14. People in Moscow underground

A. laughed at him.

B. trapped him.

C. were glued to him.

15. Vijay thinks the Russians are

- A. attractive
- B. outgoing
- C. helpful

INTEGRATED LISTENING AND READING

Task 3

Read the text below, then listen to a talk on the same topic. You will notice that some ideas coincide and some differ in them. Answer questions **16-25** by choosing **A** if the idea is expressed in **both** materials, **B** if it can be found **only in the reading text**, **C** if it can be found **only in the audio-recording**, and **D** if **neither** of the materials expresses the idea.

Now you have 10 minutes to read the text.

Why Do We Teach?

“Why do you teach?” It is a question we quietly ponder at times and one that those outside the profession occasionally ask. How we answer this question reveals a lot about the profession.

Often we recall those rare and special occasions when our actions result in a breakthrough moment for a student. Many years ago, I had a girl in my junior special needs class who passionately loved the colour purple. The staff of the school knew that wearing purple was dangerous. Her response to seeing the colour was extreme and at best would result in her throwing herself at whoever was wearing the purple item and clinging to them with all her might. At worst, it would be a catalyst for a fit and would end with calls for medical assistance. One day we were cleaning paint brushes in the sink. Blue paint mixed with red in the sink and the signs of over-excitability emerged as the water flowing down the drain turned purple. I removed one of the brushes and almost immediately the purple vanished and the water returned to a much less exciting colour. I slowly returned the brush to the flow and the purple came back. Repeating the process a few times allowed the girl to enjoy her favourite colour without the usual dangers. By the end of that year her family was able to paint a wall in her bedroom purple. It remained her favourite colour but became one she could calmly enjoy. Moments like this are special.

Teaching is something closely linked to our concept of self. We are teachers. It is part of our nature and our professional practice is an expression of who we are. It connects with a desire to share and to partake in something bigger than ourselves. An opportunity to make the world a better place by shaping the next generation. We teach

because we believe what we do matters and has purpose.

We teach because we choose a career path where every day brings a new challenge, every day is different and our creative abilities are required. Teaching is an art form, a rich canvas for self-expression and imagination. We take the raw material from the syllabus, blend it with our understandings of our students' needs and create patterns of learning that engage, inspire and empower. Our classrooms reveal our passions, our creativity and our values. We maintain a performance schedule like no other artist, with morning, matinee and afternoon shows every day of the week and frequent evening, pre-dawn and all-day events. It is no wonder that by Friday we are ready to collapse.

Our roles are diverse. We are, on a daily basis a mix of administrator, counsellor, nurse, cleaner, photocopier repairer, data analyst, detective, consultant, curriculum expert, mathematician, entertainer, scientist, author, actor and so much more. Learning new skills and adapting to change are the norm and it is this diversity that ensures we are never bored. We work with limited resources and discover novel ways of turning every moment into a chance for learning. We are worn down by the challenges and built back up by the triumphs.

Only those who have taught a class for a year, who have struggled with the challenges faced by students and who have shared in the moments of success will truly understand why we teach. Teaching is a beautiful thing to be a part of.

By Nigel Coutts

Now listen to a talk made by a teacher and then do the tasks (questions 16-25), comparing the text above and the talk. You will hear the talk TWICE.

- 16 Teachers make mistakes sometimes.
- 17 Teaching will never make you bored.
- 18 Teachers become actors when doing their job.
- 19 Teachers' main task is to teach their subjects.
- 20 Teaching is a way of self-expression.
- 21 Teachers may raise their students' self-esteem.
- 22 Teachers are worn down by tough kids.
- 23 It is not all their students that teachers like.
- 24 Teachers influence their students' lives.
- 25 Teachers are adaptable.

READING

Task 4

Read the text and answer questions **26-40** below.

The Dreamy Aesthetic of Cottagecore

(A) On Saturdays, Jessica knits. Maybe she'll go to the farmer's market for some fresh fruit or try a new craft, like beeswax candle-making. She wears long flowing dresses in floral patterns with puff sleeves and spends her free time reading with her cat and tending to her plants. On Instagram and TikTok, where she shares images of her rosy-tinted life, her followers look on in wonder, asking if she lives in a forest cottage somewhere in the English countryside of *The Secret Garden* or *Middle Earth*. Jessica has amassed a following of more than 200,000 on TikTok because she makes Orlando in central Florida seem like a fairy tale. She is an influencer of cottagecore, the soothing, (26) ... aesthetic dominated by meadows, teacups, and pretty cottages.

(B) Here is what cottagecore looks like. It's the stuff of flowy prairie dresses and sourdough starters, of hand-dried wildflower arrangements and hand-stitched quilts strewn on antique beds, of handmade pies cooling in open windows with the sun shining in. It is illustrations from *Frog & Toad*, it is a laughably difficult (27) ... on how to make homemade rosewater whispered to you in a British accent. It is eyelet blouses and soft cardigans and hair ribbons and much blush.

(C) The word "cottagecore" first appeared as a hashtag around 2018 and quickly boomed as an internet phenomenon. But what *The New York Times* called a "budding aesthetic movement" is in fact just the latest iteration of movements that romanticize the countryside, an age-old nostalgia for an agricultural life that humans routinely long for when human invention accelerates the pace of modern life. (28) ..., the Arts and Crafts movement of the 19th and 20th centuries was a reaction to the Industrial Revolution and Victorian-era opulence. The countercultural movement of the 1960s and its back-to-nature, DIY ideal that carried into the 1970s was in part a rejection of capitalism.

(D) Nevertheless, cottagecore has become the standout aesthetic of 2020 for the same reason that everything else happened in 2020. When the pandemic hit, idle homemaking became more like an inescapable reality. Cottagecore under lockdown,

then, became a way to change the terror and **(29)** ... into something adorable. Every time there was a spike in cases, there was a spike in cottagecore posts and hashtags right along with it.

(E) The sentiments around and about the aesthetic are described as “wistful”. Like, “Oh God, if only I could have this.” Or “Just looking at this thing brings me joy and this is what I need right now.” It is like a wish that “maybe things would be and feel different if we went back to our roots, and looked a little bit like in our parents’ times.’ The glaringly obvious irony is that cottagecore is the first movement that has existed almost exclusively online, posted and participated in through a smartphone from cluttered apartments or suburban bedrooms.

(F) Most online cottagecore followers praise the virtues of second-hand shopping, growing vegetables, and cooking food at home. They’re also proponents of all cute and handmade clothing things. Through that lens, cottagecore is a subculture devoted to a simpler and more considerate lifestyle. In times of anxiety, people seek self-soothing products such as weighted blankets, slime, organic skincare, food-making videos, and more. With eco-friendly blankets, vegan leather handbags, and billowy dresses, Cottagecore fashion completes the idea of a thoughtful, ‘in sync with nature’ lifestyle.

(G) But for many, cottagecore is more than just an aesthetic. Noemie Sérieux, founder of the Instagram account CottagecoreBlackFolk, says that her account is “a community,” one that has allowed her to expand the traditional definitions of cottagecore that referred to it nearly exclusively as a white, colonial-era, European aesthetic. She recounts, that when she set up her own Instagram account, “I wanted to be as inclusive as possible for my people,” consciously showcasing a wide variety of Black people **(30)** ... a range of sizes, genders, skin tones, and religions. For Noemie, it’s important to remember that cottagecore takes place in the present, and that it’s capable of reclaiming the past. “For those of us who don’t see people who look like us, a little reimagining of these periods as inclusive rather than exclusive is just as important as preserving the complete history,” she says.

Questions 26-30

In each of the paragraphs (A-G) a word is missing. These words in a DIFFERENT WORD FORM are listed below:
compass
drudge
escape
similar
tutor
DERIVE NEW WORDS from the given words to fill in the gaps 26-30 .

Questions 31-35

Are the statements **31-35 true, false or not given**? If a statement is **true**, circle **A** on your answer sheet. If it is **false**, circle **B** on your answer sheet. If it is **not given**, circle **C** on your answer sheet.

31. Cottagecore as a subculture exists mostly in a digital form.
32. Cottagecore subculture recreates actual life of the countryside.
33. A strong connection to environmentalism underlies the aesthetic of cottagecore.
34. Stylistic components of cottagecore are in natural colors or palettes of warm tones.
35. The pandemic brought about the appearance of cottagecore.

Questions 36-40

For questions **36-40** choose one answer **A, B, C** or **D** which best fits according to the text.

36. Being the cottagecore trend follower Jessica
 - A) makes posts demonstrating her genuine life.
 - B) perceives herself as a fantasy book character.
 - C) creates images of picture-perfect pastoral fantasy.
 - D) tries to make her home town resemble rural England.

37. During the pandemic the interest in cottagecore

- A) ran counter to what happened outside.
- B) dropped due to the fear of the outside world.
- C) was in no way affected by the disease.
- D) helped to cope with daily routine.

38. The cottagecore perception is mostly about

- A) yearning for a rural lifestyle.
- B) moving house to the countryside.
- C) finally returning to your ancestral home.
- D) spending time in the great outdoors.

39. In Part F cottagecore lifestyle is described as

- A) inconsistent and debatable.
- B) ordered and consistent.
- C) “green” and comforting.
- D) inexpensive and rational.

40. The stereotyped cottagecore imagery

- A) offers an opportunity to pay tribute to the past.
- B) summarizes new limited elements.
- C) highlights racial and gender issues.
- D) praises white, female, and colonialism.

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET