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To: IELTS Prep Group

Subj: IELTS Reading lesson 11-08-2017

## Lesson Objective

The student shall be able to use “power words” as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills

## Section One

### Vocabulary

Match the correct word in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to understand definitions of English vocabulary

Column A	Column B
VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
1. <b>Paramount</b> (adjective)	A. Excitable or easily scared. Anxious, spooky, nervous.
2. <b>Stily</b> (adverb)	B. To be or feel repulsive or distasteful about something.
3. <b>Snort</b> (verb)	C. Causing repulsion or horror; horrendous, gross, disgusting, repulsive.
4. <b>Repelled</b> (adjective)	D. Secretly listen to a conversation.
5. <b>Mishap</b> (Noun)	E. More important than anything else; supreme.
6. <b>Gruesome</b> (adjective)	F. To make a sudden sound through one's nose, especially to express indignation or derision.
7. <b>Eavesdrop</b> (Verb)	G. In quiet manner and with little movement.
8. <b>Skittish</b> (adjective)	H. An unlucky accident.

## Section Two

### Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

## ARTICLE 1

### The Michelangelo

“ Yesterday we got off the subject a bit—talking about how artists can be difficult people; they're seen as temperamental, too emotional, et cetera. Well, let's talk about where this image came from. It's a stereotype, of course: not all artists are temperamental. But the stereotype is very common today. We have studied Michelangelo, but I haven't talked about how his personality is the model for the modern image of the artist.



His paintings on the Sistine Chapel are some of the most famous works of art in the world. But, he didn't even want the job when it was offered to him—he considered himself a sculptor first, and didn't want to take time away from that. His sculpting was paramount to him, and he almost refused the job. He was also famous for a quick and fiery temper, and didn't want to take suggestions about his work. He was extremely independent, fighting with powerful religious and political leaders who hired him to create works of art. So, to sum up, the modern image of the artist that we talked about yesterday is largely due to Michelangelo. Oh, I should add that this image we've been talking about is primarily a Western view of the artist. This stereotype of an artist is not so common in other parts of the world.”

## Questions

### 1. Which of these is the correct main idea of the text?

- A. Michelangelo was the greatest artist of his time.
- B. Michelangelo was a better sculptor than a painter.
- C. Michelangelo's personality, more than his art, made him famous.
- D. Michelangelo's personality is the model for a common image of Western artists.



## 2. According to the lecture, why was Michelangelo reluctant to paint the Sistine Chapel at first?

- A. He lost his temper with political leaders.
- B. He wanted to work on his sculpting instead.
- C. He did not want to paint the pictures he was asked to paint.
- D. He was not satisfied with the payment offered.

## 3. Based on the lecture, which of the following is the most correct statement?

- A. The image of the artist, modeled after Michelangelo, is a Western stereotype.
- B. Michelangelo wanted to be the model for the image of the modern artist.
- C. Michelangelo created more art than most artists of his time.
- D. Michelangelo believed he was a better painter than sculptor.

## ARTICLE 2

### Capital punishment

1. For the families of John Wayne Gacy's victims, his death was long anticipated. The man who tortured and murdered 33 young men and boys during the 1970s was finally executed by lethal injection at the Illinois Stateville Penitentiary. Justice would be served; stilly and cleanly, three chemicals were introduced intravenously into his bloodstream. The first drug would knock him out, the second would suppress his breathing, and the last would stop his heart - in no more than 5 minutes.



But Gazy took 18 minutes to die. A clog developed in the delivery tube attached to his arm. He snorted just before death chamber attendants pulled a curtain around him as they struggled to clear a tube. Finally, the two lethal drugs streamed into him. The monster was dead.

### Questions

#### a. How many chemicals are applied in a lethal injection, and what do they do?

2. In September 2, 1983, Jimmy Lee Gray, sentenced to die for the rape slaying of a 3 year old girl, entered the gas chamber in Parchman, Mississippi. Executions of this sort are supposed to end with a quick loss of consciousness. But eight minutes after his executions began; witnesses cleared the viewing area repelled by what they were seeing. Gray, suffocating and purple-faced, died slamming his head against a steel pole.

Opponents of capital punishment charged that the mishap again proved that the death penalty constitutes cruel and unusual punishment. "a lot of people think lethal injection is like putting a dog to sleep," Says kica Matos, research director of the capital punishment project of the National Association for the advancement of colored people's legal defense fund. "But things still go wrong with all types of executions. It's gruesome and barbaric as torture."

### Questions

- b. Did Jimmy Gray die immediately after the injections with no pain?
- c. According to the article, why are some people against the death penalty?
- d. Do you think the prisoner on death row should be free to choose the kind of capital punishment meted out?



## ARTICLE 3

### Big Brother

Workplace privacy has always been a sensitive issue that weights a boss right to know what's going on in the office against an employee's right to be left alone. But in Illinois that delicate balance has been upset and by a new state law that permits Bosses to eavesdrop on employees' work phones. As originally conceived by telemarketers and retailers the law was intended solely to enable supervisors to monitor service calls for courtesy and efficiency. but on its way to Republican Governor Jim Edgar for a December 13th signing, the measure was reworked to embrace any listening in that serves "educational, training or research purposes" without defining inappropriate monitoring, the final bill is more permissive the laws in many other states as well as the federal wiretap law, which instructs listeners to hang up if they chance upon a personal call.



These leaves Illinois's workers skittishly wondering who might be listening in, and when. After all, in this era of expanding work hours and Contracting Leisure Time, who hasn't used the office phone to learn the results of an anxiously awaited medical test or to do battle with a creditor? "I don't condone the misuse of company telephones, but suppose to go home with a marital or financial problem. Clearly, you're in Jeopardy if your employer knows something about those kinds of things," says a union chief whose organization represents Northwest Airlines telephone-reservation operators. "It's a George Orwell kind of thing."

#### Questions:

- What was the original reason for bosses to hear employees' phone calls?
- What should listeners do if they hear a personal call according to the new law?
- What has happened in modern society that makes it more likely that employees will use company phones for personal use?

## ARTICLE 4

### Safety At The Sea

- Forget razor fish. The lesser weever is the fish to look out for on British beaches. The fish, which has venomous spines on its gills and dorsal fin, is common in many areas of the UK, including the Cardigan Bay area of Wales. It lies virtually buried in the sand with just its mouth and fin exposed, a trap for hapless fishermen and beachgoers wading around in the shallows. If you stand on a weever fish, you are likely to feel a sharp prick-like sensation which gets worse and spreads along your leg, often causing swelling.



Many people have an allergic reaction to the fish and may start to sweat, develop a rapid pulse and feel nauseous as the poison gets further into the body. Some people collapse as a result. Others can develop chest pain, although the sting is not fatal. People who have been stung should take painkillers and if they develop an allergic reaction to the sting, a course of antihistamines is recommended.

Other common poisonous fish on Britain's beaches include jelly fish and the stingray, which, if disturbed, can use its tail to venomous effect.

#### Questions

#### Which of these is NOT true of the lesser weever?

- Its sting is not lethal.
- It buries itself deep in the sand completely.
- Simple medicines are usually sufficient to deal with the effects of a sting.

#### Which of these sentences best summarizes the two paragraphs?

- It talks about the most common fishes in the British waters
- It talks about the most common health problems of British people.
- It talks about the weever fish found in British beaches and its venom effects.



## 2. Sea currents

But fish are the least of your worries on the beach. The force of the sea is much more dangerous than anything swimming about inside it. Over the weekend, two people nearly drowned in the Bournemouth area after getting out of their depth swimming. One was just 16 years old. They are both now in stable condition in hospital.

"We were much more hit by that than sunburn cases where the message seems to be getting home," said a spokesman for the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. In other areas, the situation was less dramatic with a handful of sunburn and sprained ankles reported in other sunspots, including Cornwall, Blackpool and Brighton. Coastguards are warning the public not to swim if there is a red flag flying on a beach and to find out about local tides and currents.

### Questions

**Which of these is the more serious danger on a British beach?**

- Sharks
- Sunburn
- Deep water

## 3. Safe swimming

The Coastguard Agency says people should not swim if they feel unwell, for at least an hour after a meal, if they have been drinking alcohol or if they are cold and tired.

They also warn against swimming alone, swimming too far out to sea and snorkeling if you have breathing problems. And you should avoid cliff edges, even on gentle slopes, when they have been dampened by sea spray.

One organization that aims to help swimmers who get into trouble is the UK's answer to Baywatch, the Surf Lifesaving Association of Great Britain. Founded in 1955 and based on an idea originated in Australia, it now has 81 branches and has made 17,500 rescues.

The association has three types of member: Nippers (aged eight to 12), Junior (aged 12 to 16) and seniors and Masters. Its motto is 'Vigilance and Service'. All members are surfers trained in lifesaving skills.

They paddle out across the waves to save struggling swimmers. Most of their money comes from fundraising events, but local councils also provide some funding. Another danger on the beach is pollution. A recent survey of UK beaches showed more than 10% are failing to meet minimum standards for clean water.

The Marine Conservation Society said raw sewage was still being pumped into the sea in some areas and was finding its way onto beaches. But the water companies say the society's standards are too tough and that 90% of British beaches pass European standards.

### Questions

**Which of these people should be safe swimming?**

- A person who has just eaten.
- A person who has celebrated with non-alcoholic beer.
- A person who feels hot and dizzy.

**What sentence best summarizes the pollution situation on UK beaches?**

- Most beaches are not clean enough for European standards.
- There are some very dirty beaches, but most are fine.
- The water companies are arguing about the best way to improve UK beaches.