



ENGLISH PRACTICE Material 2-19-2020

Section One Reading

The meaning of volunteering

1. Volunteering, as some people consider mistakenly is a plethora of people from all walk of life as well as activities, but data from the other side of the world suggest otherwise. For example, a survey on who participated in volunteering by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the United Kingdom (UK) showed that people in higher income households are more likely than others to volunteer. In England and Wales, 57% of adults with gross annual household incomes of £75.000 or more, have volunteered formally In the 12 months prior to the survey date. They were almost twice more likely to have done so than those living in households with as annual income under £10.000.
2. As well as having high household incomes, volunteers also tend to have higher academic qualifications, be in higher socio-economic groups and be in employment. Among people with a degree or postgraduate qualification, 79 per cent had volunteered informally and 57 per cent had volunteered formally in the previous 12 months. For people with no qualifications the corresponding proportions were 52 per cent and 23 per cent at all. However, voluntary work is certainly not the exclusive preserve of the rich. Does the answer not lie perhaps in the fact that the rich tend to have money to allow them the time to be become involved in voluntary work compared to less well-off people?
3. A breakdown in the year 2000 of the range of volunteering activities taken from The Australia Bureau of Statistics gives an idea of the scale of activities in which people are typically involved. Eleven sectors are given ranging from Community and Welfare, which accounted for just over a quarter of the total hours volunteered in Australia, to Law/ justice/ politics with 1.2 percent at the other and of the scale. Other fields included sport/ recreation, religious activities and education, following at 21/1 per cent, 16.9 and 14.3 per cent of the total hours. The data here also seem to point to a cohort of volunteers with expertise and experience.
4. The knock-on effect of volunteering on the lives of individuals can be profound. Voluntary work helps foster independence and imparts the ability to deal with different situations, often simultaneously, thus teaching people how to work their way through different systems. It therefore brings people into touch with the real world; and, hence, equips them for the future.
5. Initially, young adults in their late teens might not seem to have the expertise or knowledge to impart to others that say a teacher or agriculturalist or nurse would have, but they do have many skills that can help others. And in the absence of any particular talent, their energy and enthusiasm can be harnessed for the benefit of their fellow human beings, and ultimately themselves. From all this, the gain to any community no matter how many volunteers are involved is immeasurable.
6. Employers will generally look favorably on people who have shown an ability to work as part of a team. It demonstrates a willingness to learn and an independent spirit, which would be desirable qualities in any employee. So to satisfy employers' demands for experience when applying for work, volunteering can act as a means of gaining experience that might otherwise elude would-be workers and can ultimately lead to paid employment and the desired field.
7. But what are the prerequisites for becoming a volunteer? One might immediately think of attributes like kindness, selflessness, strength of character, ability to deal with others, determination, adaptability and flexibility and a capacity to comprehend the ways of other people. While offering oneself selflessly, working as a volunteer makes further demands on the individual. It requires a strength of will, a sense of moral responsibility for one's fellow human beings, and an ability to fit into the ethos of an organization. But it also requires something which in no way detracts from valuable work done by volunteers and which may seem at first glance both contradictory and surprising: self-interest.
8. Organizations involved in any voluntary work have to be realistic about this. If someone, whatever the age is going to volunteer and devote their time without money, they do need to receive something from it for themselves. People who are unemployed can use volunteer work as a stepping-stone to employment or as a means of finding out whether they really like the field the plan to enter or as a way to help them find themselves.



9. It is tempting to use some form of community work as an alternative to national service or as punishment for petty criminals by making the latter for example clean up parks, wash away graffiti, work with victims of their own or other people. Thus may be acceptable, but it does not constitute volunteer work, two cardinal rules of which are the willingness to volunteer without coercion and working unpaid.

Task1: Reading Passage 3 has nine paragraphs 1 -9

Which paragraph contains the following information?

1. description of what does not satisfy the criteria for volunteer work
2. the impact of voluntary work on the development of individuals
3. the requirement for both selflessness and self-interest in volunteers
4. various areas in which people volunteer
5. the benefit of voluntary work for the young
6. a mistaken view of volunteering

Task 2: Choose the correct letter A, B, C or D.

7. The ONS survey was done to find out
- a. why people undertook volunteering.
 - b. how many people participated in volunteering.
 - c. how many rich people did volunteer work.
 - d. which people were involved in volunteering.
8. The ONS survey found that people with university qualification were
- a. as likely to volunteer as those with no qualifications.
 - b. more likely to volunteer than those with no qualifications.
 - c. less likely to volunteer than those with no qualifications.
 - d. the only group likely to do formal volunteer work.
9. It is suggested that rich people volunteer as a result of having
- a. clearer goals.
 - b. fewer children.
 - c. more spare time.
 - d. greater guilt.
10. Volunteer work benefits people by teaching them how to
- a. function in system.
 - b. communicate clearly.
 - c. deal with failure.
 - d. overcome shyness.

Learning lifelong Lessons from Volunteering

10. At least one local school has started a service organization for middle-school-age students. Why is it important for kids to get involved in community service?
11. I think what kids do at a young age kind of sets a tone, the foundation, for their positive **involvement** in the life of a community for years to come. When I was 11 or 12 years old, I used to cut the grass for the church. You didn't make a lot of money, but I took



pride in what I did. Now, I run this organization (Save Our Neighborhoods and Streets). Right now, adults are measuring the degree to which kids show enthusiasm, creativity, effort, resourcefulness. When they are volunteering, they get to expand their skills, especially if they have some mentoring going on along with the community service.

12. Is it ever too early for kids to get involved in community service? I don't think so. We've got kids who played in our fifth-grade basketball league, and we find that the kids want to help out with the concession stand or work a video camera. I've got kids who are just **eager** to help out. There needs to be opportunities for their humanity to be recognized, that they can make a contribution.
13. What's the benefit of getting kids, say in the second or third grade, involved rather than waiting until they are in high school? I think if you can involve them and provide the mentoring that goes along with that, in some way reward them, it will just be more in their mindset. I can tell the kids who come from a home where giving has been part of the culture of that home. If we in the community can offer a place where young people can experience the rewards of giving back, it will become a lifelong value.
14. What are the options available to local youth interested in getting involved? For us, we've had it where our basketball players have to do three acts of kindness, and it might be **shoveling** someone's snow. There's a broad array of opportunities. We have some of our teenagers in 11th and 12th grade help coach fifth- and sixth-graders; that's a measure of giving back. Soup kitchens, I think the ARC ... Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity. There are a lot of chances.
15. What can parents do to get youth interested in serving their community? For some kids, maybe the **intrinsic** reward isn't enough. I think if they can see the reward (it helps). Maybe the reward is a 'thank you.' Maybe it's a stipend of some sort. Maybe it's just including them in part of your family, part of your life. Definitely, the appreciation is something that every child should feel.
16. Is there any kind of community service you would recommend over anything else for youth? Probably befriending, tutoring, being an example and mentoring another child.

Why I love volunteering

17. Over the last few years, I have discovered that one of my favorite things to do in my free time is to volunteer. I have volunteered for a variety of different organizations and carried out a variety of different roles. These have included simple, everyday activities like taking dogs for walks at an animal rescue center and running activities for children at an after-school club. But I have also volunteered for some more professional roles, like translating and managing a charity event.
18. However, no matter what kind of volunteering, I have always loved it and I would encourage others to give it a go. Here are my top four reasons why I think volunteering is so worthwhile.

It's an opportunity to gain experience and skills.

19. 3. By volunteering, you are carrying out a job – even though you're not being paid – so you can gain valuable experience and skills which are likely to be useful in the future. For example, many volunteering roles will help you to gain experience in working as a team.

You can meet new people.

20. 4. One of the best things about volunteering is meeting the other volunteers! They are likely to be very interesting and inspiring people and might just turn out to be great friends too.

It's a way to gain confidence.

21. Many people who do voluntary work say that it has helped them to feel more confident in all sorts of ways. For example, I have always been quite a shy person, but my volunteering experience has helped me to gain confidence in talking to strangers and even in front of a crowd!



You can have lots of fun!

6. Doing an activity that you wouldn't normally do, with like-minded people, should mean that you have a really fun time. You will also feel good knowing that you are doing something for a good cause.

- 22.** 7. These are just a few of the many reasons why I suggest that you look for volunteering opportunities in your local town or city. There are many different things that you can get involved with, and remember that any type of volunteering is good volunteering. If you like, you can start with something small and who knows what it will lead to! The most important thing to remember is that as well as helping others, you can get a great deal out of it too!

Food projects in the UK

1. Do you ever throw away food at home? Have you ever thought about what happens to the food that shops and supermarkets don't sell? Well, you might be shocked to find out that approximately one third of food produced for human consumption gets lost or wasted. What's more, around 800 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy life.
2. Many people in the UK and across the world are trying to do something about this imbalance and make use of thrown-out food that is perfectly edible. For example, there is a café in Leeds (UK) whose meals are all created using unsold food from supermarkets, including a lot of vegetables, fruit, fish and other items. This unwanted food is turned into delicious soups, casseroles, sauces and curries that feed the hungry people of Leeds. Customers simply pay what they can afford, or help with the washing up. In just ten months, 10,000 people were fed at this café, using twenty tones of unwanted food!
3. Also, last year the UK's first food waste supermarket opened. The supermarket is near Leeds and works on a 'pay as you feel' basis; customers pay whatever they want for the produce. The stock changes daily but you can usually find things such as pasta, fresh vegetables, sauces, fruit and milk there. Some low-income families have said that it has changed their lives.
4. 'Fuel for School' is another food waste project. Surplus food from supermarkets such as dairy, vegetables, fruit and bread is used to feed hungry schoolchildren whose families may not be able to afford to buy them lunch or snacks.
5. Some people in the UK practice 'skipping', which means going to bins and skips and finding food in there to eat. Often the food is packaged, within its use-by date and is perfectly fine to eat!
6. I have always been very conscious of the amount of food we waste, and I very rarely throw food away. I lived in Leeds for three years, and have had lunch at a food waste café, and it was delicious. I couldn't believe that it was all food that supermarkets had thrown away! I have also participated in projects such as 'Foodcycle', using supermarkets' unwanted food to cook meals for refugees and asylum seekers.
7. More cafés like this are being opened in other parts of the UK such as Bristol and Manchester, and it is now becoming a worldwide phenomenon. I think this is an amazing initiative as food waste is one of the world's biggest problems. I also believe that the law should be changed, so that supermarkets don't throw away so much perfectly good food!

Volunteering in Nigeria

8. Nigeria is a country in West Africa. It has a population of 184 million people, making it the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria is famous for crude oil, Nollywood (Nigerian Hollywood), music and fashion.
9. In 2015 I volunteered in Nigeria for 7 months. My role was to set up youth clubs in primary and secondary schools. The purpose of the youth clubs was to teach children life skills such as teamwork, science and maths. Setting up youth clubs in Nigeria was a fantastic experience. I got to help other people and learn about Nigerian culture first-hand. In particular I learnt about Nigerian food, clothing and languages.
10. I discovered there is a wide variety of food in Nigeria. Nigerian food has a lot of flavour, spice and colour. Rice, beans, meat, yam and cassava are staple food items. The most common meats are goat, chicken, beef and pork. The most famous Nigerian dishes are jollof rice, fried rice, akara, *moin moin*, *egusi* soup and *ogbono* soup. My favourite Nigerian food is beans and plantain porridge. My favorite Nigerian drink is *zobo* which is made from hibiscus leaf and pineapple.



11. As well as wearing Western clothing, such as jeans and T-shirts, Nigerians also wear traditional clothing. Traditional clothing is bold with bright colors, eye-catching patterns and unique shapes. Nigerians wear traditional clothing on Fridays and Sundays, and for special occasions such as weddings. Nigerians either make the clothes themselves or get them made at a tailor. Fabric is available at local markets and when you go to a tailor there are lots of designs to choose from.
12. The official language in Nigeria is English. English was introduced to Nigeria when Nigeria became part of the British Empire in 1901. English is mainly spoken in big cities. Outside of these cities people speak lots of other languages. In fact, there are over 521 languages that have been spoken in Nigeria. These languages came from different ethnic groups. There are over 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria. The most popular languages are Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba. There is also Nigerian Pidgin. Pidgin means a simplified language that developed between two or more ethnic groups that did not have a language in common. Nigerian Pidgin includes a mixture of different languages but mainly draws from the English language.

Volunteering is fun!

13. One rainy afternoon I was sitting at home feeling so bored. Instead of feeling sorry for myself, I wanted to meet people and have new experiences so I decided to start volunteering. I logged onto my computer and found a website where I could volunteer on a farm in France.
14. Volunteering provides so many opportunities to have fun and share great stories. My time working on a farm was a new experience for me. It was basically a free holiday as food and accommodation were provided. However, it was not your typical holiday as I had to look after fifteen horses and sleep at the top of a tower in a fourteenth century castle! I soon discovered that I was an awful farmer but it did not matter because I made some great friends and also improved my French.
15. However, you do not need to go abroad to volunteer. I have had plenty of adventures at home as volunteering can become a hobby. For example, I love singing so I had a good laugh waving my arms in an attempt to conduct my local choir. I did slowly improve and it felt great to conduct the choir in a concert. At university, I organized a concert for charity with my friends. It was really fun finding bands and raising money for a cause we believe in.
16. It is true that you feel good volunteering but there are also other advantages. I once volunteered as a steward at a charity sports event where the organizers gave me cupcakes from an expensive London bakery to thank me for my services. I also volunteered in a charity shop so I found loads of nice cheap clothes to update my wardrobe.
17. While this is all fun, my favorite aspect of volunteering is creating and sharing stories. My terrible attempts at farming have given me hilarious stories to tell! Talking to volunteers from different countries and backgrounds has also helped me learn more about the world. I feel thankful to have had so much fun with many nice people thanks to volunteering.

Voluntourism – a new trend of volunteer tourism

1. Have you ever thought about going abroad to volunteer? Making a difference in a country less fortunate than your own is seen by most as a really positive thing to do. However, not everyone is in favor of this so-called 'Voluntourism'.
2. Volunteer tourism is a growing fashion – in 2015, it was estimated that 10 million volunteers helped on projects abroad. These include building houses or hospitals, teaching English in schools, helping locals get to grips with computers, installing water filters, looking after children in orphanages, and much more.
3. However, there's an argument that volunteers take away jobs from locals who would have otherwise done that work. Yes, sometimes volunteers have specific knowledge which can benefit communities, such as IT skills or speaking English as a native language. However, in some cases they are put to work on construction sites, for example, depriving locals of a job on that project. Additionally, many young travelers are untrained for the role. This could become a health and safety problem on construction sites or when caring for children.
4. I volunteered myself last year in a library and school in Ghana. I helped to resshelf books, talked to the librarian about the running of the library and played games with the children. This was an enriching experience for myself, and the librarian and teachers really



valued help and ideas on what they could improve, often based on my experience of European libraries and schools. However, I'm not a qualified teacher or librarian, and I felt like the locals were far too trusting of my opinion and decisions, just because I come from a more developed country.

5. Furthermore, the booming industry is seen by some as just that – an industry, a way for companies to make money. It's estimated that up to \$2 billion was spent by volunteers last year in 2015. Surely it would be better if this money were directly donated to an established charity, equipped to spend the money where it is needed the most? Instead, most of the money is going to profit-seeking tourism companies, while local communities only see a fraction of it. My trip to Ghana was part of a college project, so I organized everything myself. However, I met some Danish girls who had paid €7000 each to a company to volunteer at an orphanage – barely any of which was spent on the orphanage itself.
6. Finally, volunteering abroad also helps you develop as a person, and is a shining addition to a CV. I think volunteer projects are usually very valuable for communities, but often benefit the participant just as much, if not more, than those they are helping.

Online volunteering

1. Technology is everywhere. We see it any place we go and, in fact, almost all of us carry some piece of technology with us every time we leave the house. What I always forget, though, is just how useful and powerful technology can be when we want to help others.
2. There is not a single room in my house that does not have some gadget lying around in it. Whenever I am at home, providing that I am not sleeping, I am almost always using at least one electronic device. If you walked into my living room on any given day, you would find that, first, I have the television on (along with the other related appliances, such as the DVD player or my current favorite games console). At the same time, even though multi-tasking is definitely not my strongpoint, I usually have my laptop resting on my knee, or I will be using my tablet or mobile phone. In the background, the technology that I am not using will most likely be on charge somewhere in the house. Even when I'm not at home I am constantly using my phone, and at work or in cafés, I sit down and connect to the local wireless network on my laptop.
3. I must admit, though you have probably already guessed it, that I waste a lot of time on the computer and the time I spend on it could be much better spent if I were to commit to a little online volunteering.
4. The technology we carry about everywhere can have a great power to do good for the world and to help others and recently I discovered just how much online volunteering there is to do in the world. From using your language skills to do translations, to developing and managing projects and helping with IT work, there is so much that so many people can do to help people in their own countries and across the world. The United Nations, in fact, has a huge page on its website designed for recruiting volunteers.
5. This work can support the poor and help charities who otherwise would not have the funding to pay for staff. Many organizations only require you to work an hour a week – some even less. And the support provided by online volunteers can really help make a difference to those in need.

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