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- Neutral topic perspective allows students to reflect and form their own opinions
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- Vocabulary List with example sentences

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2



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Read to Achieve 2

READING
SUCCESS WITH 100 ARTICLES

Common European Framework

CEF	Read to Achieve
A2	1
B1	2
B2	3



Content Area Reading:
Science, Technology,
Engineering, Arts and Society

Stephen Bachman

**HONG KONG
THIRD EDITION**

Read to Achieve 2

READING
SUCCESS WITH **100** ARTICLES

Stephen Bachman

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Sports: Extreme

Track 002

Free Solo

Imagine **clinging** to the side of a tall rock wall with only your fingers and your shoes. High up above the ground where there's no one to help you, nothing to protect you—a moment of **fatigue**, one wrong step, one slip might mean the end of your life. That is free soloing.

Apart from bravery, a free soloist must **have** strength, flexibility, and balance. The climber
5 must have the hunger to keep going and not give up. They also need the ability to stay focused on the small details, like where to put their hand next, hour after hour. The routes to the top are complicated, so they need to be ready for anything from the beginning to the end of the climb.

Due to its dangers, most **climbers** do not attempt to free solo. If a climber falls, they have
10 nothing to catch them. The higher someone climbs, the risk of injury or death increases, and not every climb **ends** in success. Marc-Andre Leclerc often free soloed on ice and snow. He was the first person to solo winter climb Torre Egger, a 2,685-meter peak in South America's **Andes**. Unfortunately, he died while doing the sport he loved. Some guess that up to 100 people a year die while free soloing.

15 You might be asking yourself, "Is it worth the risk?" Alex Honnold, a legend in the climbing world, thinks it is. His successful free solo **ascent** of El Capitan in California (USA) in 2017 was described by some as one of the most amazing athletic achievements of all time. El Capitan is a 914-meter Yosemite rock that is infamous for being one of the hardest climbs in the world. Honnold climbed to its peak with nothing more than a bag of chalk for his hands
20 and a pair of shoes. "The casual observer might think free soloing is all crazy and reckless," explains Honnold. "But you can't have a long career unless you spend a tremendous amount of time thinking about risk and minimizing it to ensure your own safety."



Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct answer for each question.

- _____ 1. What is the author's main purpose for writing this article?
- (A) To persuade people not to free solo
 - (B) To encourage people to try free soloing
 - (C) To give a balanced viewpoint on the sport
 - (D) To describe the daily life of a free solo climber
- _____ 2. Which item CAN'T be used during a free solo climb?
- (A) Bag
 - (B) Rope
 - (C) Chalk
 - (D) Climbing shoes
- _____ 3. What is the main topic of the second paragraph?
- (A) The dangers and risks of free soloing
 - (B) Tips on how to navigate tough routes
 - (C) The required mental and physical qualities for free soloing
 - (D) The success and achievements of a famous free soloist
- _____ 4. Why was Marc-Andre Leclerc mentioned in the article?
- (A) To highlight the dangers of free soloing
 - (B) To describe his free solo training process
 - (C) To compare his achievements against Alex Honnold's achievements
 - (D) To give an example of someone who free solos in extreme weather
- _____ 5. What does "reckless" mean in the last paragraph (line 20)?
- (A) Angry
 - (B) Quick
 - (C) Careful
 - (D) Thoughtless
- _____ 6. What is Alex Honnold's main point in the last paragraph?
- (A) Climbing El Capitan is actually easy if you prepare well.
 - (B) Free soloing is too dangerous to have a long career.
 - (C) Courage is the most important thing for free soloing.
 - (D) Free soloing is not as dangerous as most people think.



Hydrogen Energy for the Future

Hydrogen is a special element that can be found in plants, animals, and even in us! It makes up a big part of the universe, about 75 percent of its mass and 90 percent of its atoms. It's everywhere! More people are looking to hydrogen as an **alternative** energy source that we can use.

- 5 Some of our current energy sources, like fossil fuels, are not good for the environment. Fossil fuels, which give us about 80 percent of the world's energy, can harm nature. When we dig them up, it can destroy habitats, pollute water, and make the air dirty. Burning fossil fuels also releases harmful gases into the atmosphere. One of the main gases is carbon dioxide. This, alongside other harmful gases, traps the heat from the sun which causes our planet to warm up.
- 10 The **excess** heat causes climate change and global warming which can greatly harm our planet and everything living on it.

Many people believe hydrogen is a safer energy source for the Earth. Unlike fossil fuels, hydrogen produces no carbon dioxide. Instead, when hydrogen is turned into energy, the only **byproduct** is water vapour which has no adverse environmental effects.

- 15 But there are some challenges. Right now, it's expensive to turn hydrogen into energy. This is mainly because hydrogen has the lowest density of all gases. This means the amount of hydrogen needed for just a small amount of energy takes up a lot of space. This means we need special ways to store and transport it.

- 20 Despite this, some places are starting to use hydrogen energy. In countries like China, the United States, Japan, and South Korea, a few cars and buses are already powered by hydrogen. In Hong Kong, for example, a bus company wants to replace all their diesel buses with electric or hydrogen-powered ones by 2045.

Hydrogen has the potential to be a great solution for our homes, cars, and factories. It can help us reduce harmful gases and protect the environment. Although it's not widely used yet, it could become a major part of our energy supply in the future.



Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct answer for each question.

- ____ 1. What is the main characteristic of hydrogen as an element?
- (A) It is rare and difficult to find.
 - (B) It is highly dangerous and catches fire easily.
 - (C) It can be found in various sources.
 - (D) It is only used in scientific experiments.
- ____ 2. What is NOT mentioned as a harmful effect of using fossil fuels?
- (A) It can destroy habitats.
 - (B) It can pollute the water.
 - (C) It can make the air dirty.
 - (D) It can cause rising sea levels.
- ____ 3. What does the word “adverse” mean in the third paragraph (line 14)?
- (A) positive
 - (B) harmful
 - (C) lasting
 - (D) immediate
- ____ 4. Which of these is NOT a reason why turning hydrogen into energy is expensive?
- (A) Hydrogen is not readily available.
 - (B) It is hard to turn hydrogen into energy.
 - (C) Hydrogen requires special storage and transportation methods.
 - (D) A lot of hydrogen is needed to produce a small amount of energy.
- ____ 5. According to the author, what’s the main benefit of using hydrogen?
- (A) It produces water.
 - (B) It can be found everywhere.
 - (C) It does not produce harmful gases.
 - (D) It is cheaper to produce than fossil fuels.
- ____ 6. Why was Hong Kong mentioned in the fifth paragraph?
- (A) It doesn’t use fossil fuels.
 - (B) It doesn’t use hydrogen energy.
 - (C) It is already using hydrogen energy.
 - (D) It was the first place to discover hydrogen energy.



Typhoon Mangkhut

Typhoon Mangkhut was an extremely powerful storm that struck in the middle of September, 2018, mainly affecting the Philippines, Guam, and southern China. It was a Category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale, with winds over 252 kilometers per hour.

When Mangkhut hit Guam, it caused 80 percent of the island's electricity to stop working.

- 5 The **destruction** was worse in the Philippines, where Mangkhut killed over 100 people due to high winds and flooding. On the island of Luzon, home to millions of people, heavy rains led to mudslides in the mountains. Thousands of people living in coastal lowlands had been moved to safety before Mangkhut arrived, but one mudslide swept away a house that was home to workers who were working at an illegal goldmine. Forty of those workers, sadly,
- 10 passed away.

- After hitting the Philippines, Mangkhut turned towards Hong Kong, and the highest typhoon warning was issued. Residents were warned ahead of time to stay indoors to avoid flying debris. The rising sea level also became a cause of worry, and sections of the city's MTR system were blocked for a time due to flooding and damage caused by the storm. Authorities
- 15 also **forbid** residents from getting too close to the shore.

- At the Hong Kong airport, nearly 900 flights were either delayed or canceled as a result of the storm, causing havoc with **transportation**. As the winds reached their highest strength, more than 47,000 trees were knocked down by the winds, blocking many major roads in the city. After hitting Hong Kong, Mangkhut moved on to mainland China. In Guangdong,
- 20 China's most populated province, almost 2.5 million people were evacuated before Mangkhut made landfall.

- Many scientists predict that in the future we will see more and more severe storms such as Typhoon Mangkhut. This is because of the phenomenon of global warming, which most scientists agree is a product of human activity. If we want to stay safe in the future, we
- 25 will have to find a way to combat the effects of global warming, starting with lowering our negative effect on our own environment.

Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct answer for each question.

- _____ 1. When did the typhoon strike?
- (A) The beginning of September
 - (B) The middle of September
 - (C) The end of September
 - (D) The beginning of October
- _____ 2. What is true about the goldmine mentioned in this article?
- (A) The typhoon missed it.
 - (B) It was very successful.
 - (C) Nobody worked there.
 - (D) It was not built legally.
- _____ 3. How many goldmine workers in the Philippines passed away during the typhoon?
- (A) 40
 - (B) 100
 - (C) 140
 - (D) 900
- _____ 4. What happened to the city's MTR system in Hong Kong?
- (A) It stopped operating because of mudslide.
 - (B) Some sections of it were blocked due to flooding.
 - (C) About 900 trains were canceled.
 - (D) A train was hit by flying debris.
- _____ 5. What does "evacuated" mean in the fourth paragraph (line 20)?
- (A) Hurt badly
 - (B) Moved to a safe place
 - (C) Rescued from water
 - (D) Given food and water
- _____ 6. What will likely happen in the future according to this article?
- (A) Fewer typhoons will occur.
 - (B) More severe storms will happen.
 - (C) Our environment will be saved.
 - (D) Global warming will stop.



Inside a 4D Film

A lot of people think that 3D films are pretty cool. When you watch a 3D film, it sometimes feels like you can reach out and touch the things that you see. In the future, however, 3D might be **replaced** by something even more **advanced**: 4D.

What you see in a 4D film is the same as what you see in a 3D film. The screen is the same, and the glasses are the same. 4D films are different because they don't only use 3D technology. People in the audience also feel physical things during the films.

Let's look at a few examples. Let's say that you're watching a film about earthquakes. If you're watching a 4D film, maybe your seat will suddenly start to shake. It will feel like you're in the middle of an earthquake, but you're not. The 4D effects are making your seat shake. Or perhaps during the film, one of the characters gives flowers to another character. The people in the movie theater might suddenly smell flowers.

The point of 4D films is to make people feel like they are in the film. When we watch films these days, we only use two senses: our sense of sight and our sense of hearing. If we use our other senses, the film might feel more real to us.

4D films already exist. The film *Avatar* was released everywhere in 3D, but in South Korea, it was also released in 4D. People who watched *Avatar* in 4D felt wind and rain. They also smelled smoke from the weapons in the film, and sometimes their seats moved.

Will 4D replace 3D films? It's possible, but we can't be sure yet. One problem with 4D films is that it's very expensive to show them in theaters. Before a theater shows a 4D film, it has to buy a lot of special equipment. However, 4D films are **catching on**. Other films shown in 4D include *Shrek 4-D*, and *Iron Man 3*.



Reading Comprehension

Choose the correct answer for each question.

___ 1. Which film was NOT shown in 4D?

- (A) *Avatar*
- (B) *Spider-Man 3*
- (C) *Shrek*
- (D) *Iron Man 3*

___ 2. What is one problem with 4D movies?

- (A) They are expensive.
- (B) They are a little dangerous.
- (C) They don't feel real.
- (D) Actors don't like them.

___ 3. What does the second sentence of the sixth paragraph mean?

- (A) We know that it's not possible.
- (B) We know that it definitely will happen.
- (C) It might happen, but we don't know yet.
- (D) We can't be sure because there are no 4D movies yet.

___ 4. Which of the following is NOT true about 4D movies?

- (A) They use the same glasses and screen as 3D movies.
- (B) Some have been shown in South Korea.
- (C) When you watch them, your seat might shake.
- (D) Movie theaters that show them don't need special equipment.

___ 5. In line 2 of the second paragraph, what does "they" refer to?

- (A) 4D films
- (B) Glasses
- (C) Screen
- (D) 3D technology

___ 6. What would only happen during a 4D movie?

- (A) The sound would be very loud.
- (B) You would feel like you could reach out and touch the things that you see.
- (C) Water would fall on your head.
- (D) You would wear special glasses.

