

Aim High 4 Listening Test 9 Answer Key

1

- 1 DB
- 2 DB
- 3 DB
- 4 R
- 5 P

2

- 1 a
- 2 c
- 3 a
- 4 b
- 5 b

3

- 1 less than 5%
- 2 leaflets, posters, and signs
- 3 TV, computers, and computer games
- 4 novels and comic books
- 5 non-fiction books and hobby magazines

4

- 1 They paid someone to read or write it for them.
- 2 He says they are declining now.
- 3 They spend a lot of time playing computer games and watching TV.
- 4 All her friends read books, and most of her friends read something every day.
- 5 He says they read information on online encyclopaedias, they read about the news, or they read information about their hobbies and interests.

[3.6]

Presenter: Hello, and welcome to the show. Today we're talking about reading, and asking the question: Is reading dying out? With me I have Professor Andrew Ball, from Exeter University, and Rebecca Chandler, a teenager from London. First, Professor Ball, do we read less now?

Dr Ball: Well, I think it depends what you are trying to compare. If you go right back in time, to the era when people wrote on scrolls or tablets, most people didn't know how to read. Only a few educated people, less than 5% of the population, knew how to read and write, and other people had to pay someone if they needed to read or write a letter. Nowadays, the vast majority of people in the world are literate – they can read and write, and we are surrounded by the written word, not only in books but in things we see around us in public places – information leaflets, advertising posters, signs. We're reading all the time.

- Presenter:** That's true. But I suppose I'm thinking about comparing 50 years ago to now. 50 years ago there was no TV, no computers, no computer games. Did people read more?
- Dr Ball:** Yes, I think they probably did read more books and newspapers. Most people read a daily newspaper 50 years ago. People nowadays are just as interested in the news, but they watch it on TV or listen to it on the radio. Newspaper sales are declining. Similarly, people spend a lot of time watching films or other programmes on TV in the evenings. 50 years ago they probably spent more time in the evenings reading books. Modern children find books a bit boring compared to TV or computer games.
- Presenter:** Let's bring in Rebecca here. Rebecca, you're a modern teenager. Do you agree with Dr Ball?
- Rebecca:** Yes and no. Yes, I agree that children now spend a lot of time playing computer games and watching TV, and if you ask young people, most of them would say they prefer watching films to reading. But I think they read a lot of books, too. All my friends read books, especially the girls, and I think most of my friends read something every day. Boys don't read as much as girls, I think, but they do still read. Girls read more novels and comic books than boys, and boys read more non-fiction books and hobby magazines, about sport, for example. Young people also read a lot of things online.
- Dr Ball:** I think what Rebecca just said is very true. We're spending a lot more time online, but we're reading a lot online. We may not be reading novels, but we are reading, for example, information on online encyclopaedias or reading about the news, finding information about our hobbies and interests.
- Presenter:** So, people are reading as much, but they aren't reading the same kinds of things.
- Dr Ball:** Yes, that's right.
- Presenter:** Well, that's fascinating. Thank you both for coming on the programme. Now for something completely different, as we move across to ... [fade]