第一章 近方

短篇新闻

Exercise One

Directions

In this exercise, you will hear six news reports. At the end of each news report, you will hear two or three questions. Both the news report and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D).

News Report One

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 1. A) Her friend Erika.
 - B) Her little brother.
 - C) Her grandfather.
 - D) Her grandmother.
- 2. A) By taking pictures for passers-by.
 - B) By working part-time at a hospital.
 - C) By selling lemonade and pictures.
 - D) By asking for help on social media.

News Report Two

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 3. A) Finding cheaper ways of highway construction.
 - B) Generating electric power for passing vehicles.
 - C) Providing cheap energy for five million people.
 - D) Testing the efficiency of the new solar panel.
- **4.** A) They can stand the wear and tear of natural elements.
 - B) They can be laid right on top of the existing highways.
 - C) They are only about half an inch thick.
 - D) They are made from cheap materials.

News Report Three

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 5. A) Endless fighting in the region.
 - B) The hazards from the desert.
 - C) Inadequate funding for research.
 - D) The lack of clues about the species.
- **6.** A) To observe the wildlife in the two national parks.
 - B) To identify the reasons for the lions' disappearance.
 - C) To study the habitat of lions in Sudan and Ethiopia.
 - D) To find evidence of the existence of the "lost lions."
- 7. A) Baby lions.
 - B) Lion tracks.
 - C) Some camping facilities.
 - D) Traps set by local hunters.

News Report Four

Questions 8 and 9 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- **8.** A) How college students can improve their sleep habits.
 - B) Why sufficient sleep is important for college students.
 - C) Why college students are more likely to have stress problems.
 - D) How college students can handle their psychological problems.
- **9.** A) It is not easy to improve one's sleep habits.
 - B) It is not good for students to play video games.
 - C) Students who are better prepared generally get higher scores in examinations.
 - D) Making last-minute preparations for tests may be less effective than sleeping.

News Report Five

Questions 10 and 11 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- **10.** A) Whether more airports should be built around London.
 - B) Whether more investment should be made to improve airport facilities.
 - C) Whether the British Airports Authority should sell off some of its assets.
 - D) Whether the Spanish company could offer better service.
- 11. A) Inefficient management.
 - B) The poor ownership structure.
 - C) Lack of innovation and competition.
 - D) Lack of runways and terminal capacity.

News Report Six

Questions 12 to 14 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 12. A) Report the nicotine content of their cigarettes.
 - B) Set strict limits on production of their cigarettes.
 - C) Take some steps to reduce the nicotine content.
 - D) Study the effects of nicotine on young smokers.
- 13. A) The biggest increases in nicotine yields tended to be in brands young smokers like.
 - B) Big tobacco companies were frank with their customers about the hazards of smoking.
 - C) Brands that contain higher nicotine yields were found to be much more popular.
 - D) Big tobacco companies refused to discuss the detailed nicotine content of their products.
- **14.** A) They promised to reduce the nicotine content in cigarettes.
 - B) They have not fully realized the harmful effects of nicotine.
 - C) They were not prepared to comment on the cigarette study.
 - D) They will pay more attention to the quality of their products.

Listening Scripts

News Report One

A nine-year-old girl in New Mexico has raised more than \$500 for her little brother who needs heart surgery in Houston, Texas this July. Addison Witulski's grandmother Kim Allred said Addison probably overheard a conversation between family members talking about the funds needed to get her little brother to treatment. "I guess she overheard her grandfather and me talking about how we're going to get to Houston for my grandson's heart surgery," said Allred. She decided to go outside and have a lemonade stand and make some drawings and pictures and sell them. Addison and her friends Erika and Emily decided to sell lemonade for 50 cents a cup and sell pictures for 25 cents each. Before Allred knew it, New Mexico state police officers were among the many stopping by, helping them reach a total of \$568. The family turned to social media expressing their gratitude, saying "From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to deeply thank each and every person who stopped by!"

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 1. Whom did Addison raise money for?
- 2. How did Addison raise money?

News Report Two

Last week, France announced that the country would pave 621 miles of road with solar panels over the next five years, with the goal of providing cheap, renewable energy for five million people.

Called the Wattway, the road will be built through joint efforts with the French road-building company Colas and the National Institute of Solar Energy. The company spent the last five years developing solar panels that are only about a quarter of an inch thick and are strong enough to stand up to heavy highway traffic without breaking or making the roads more slippery. The panels are designed delicately and can be installed directly on top of the existing roadways, making them relatively cheap and easy to install.

France is not the first country to kick around the idea of paving its road with solar panels. In November 2015, the Netherlands unveiled a 229-foot-long bike path paved with solar panels as a test for future projects. However, this is the first time a panel has been designed to be laid directly on top of the existing roads and the first project to install the panels on public highways.

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 3. What was France's purpose of constructing the Wattway?
- **4.** What is special about the solar panels used in the Wattway?

News Report Three

Lions have disappeared from much of Africa, but for the past few years scientists have wondered if the big cats were hanging about in remote parts of Sudan and Ethiopia. Continuous fighting in the region has made surveys difficult.

But scientists released a report Monday documenting, with hard evidence, the discovery of "lost lions."

A team with Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, supported by a charity organization, spent two nights in November camping in a national park in Northwest Ethiopia. The researchers set out six camera traps to capture images of lions, and identified lion tracks.

The scientists have concluded that lions are also likely to live in the neighboring national park across the border in Sudan. The International Union for Conservation of Nature previously considered the area a "possible range" for the species, and local people reported seeing lions in the area, but no one presented convincing evidence.

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 5. What has made it difficult to survey lions in remote parts in Sudan and Ethiopia?
- **6.** What was the main purpose of the research?
- 7. What did the researchers find in the national park in Northwest Ethiopia?

News Report Four

You probably think college students are experts at sleeping, but parties, preparations for tests, personal problems and general stress can wreck a student's sleep habits, which can be bad for the body and the mind. Texas Tech University is even offering a class called "Improving Your Sleep Habits." People suffering from sleep loss are at an increased risk from obesity, psychological problems and car crashes. Students who do not get enough sleep have poor attendance and lower grades. On top of all that, a new study published in the journal Learning and Memory finds you are probably better off sleeping than making last-minute preparations for a test. Two hundred college kids were taught to play some unfamiliar video games. Subjects who learned the games in the morning lost some skills when they played again 12 hours later. But they did much better after getting a good night's sleep. So if you really want to do your job well, do not forget to get some sleep.

Questions 8 and 9 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- **8.** What is the news report mainly about?
- 9. What is the finding of the new study published in the journal *Learning and Memory*?

News Report Five

Long queues, delayed flights and overcrowding at airports have become almost as much a topic for conversation in Britain as the traditional complaint about the weather. Meanwhile, there are complaints that the poor service at London's major airports is discouraging foreigners from doing business in Britain.

Much of the criticism is directed at the British Airports Authority, which runs seven major airports, including the three main ones serving London. The Competition Commission is now to investigate whether the British Airports Authority needs to sell off some of its assets. The idea is that competition between rival operators would lead to better service at airports.

The British Airports Authority, recently bought by a Spanish company, says the root cause of the problem is not the ownership structure, but lack of runways and terminal capacity, which it is addressing through a program of heavy investment.

Questions 10 and 11 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 10. What is the Competition Commission going to investigate?
- **11.** What is the root cause of the poor service at British airports according to the British Airports Authority?

News Report Six

Under the law in Massachusetts, tobacco companies have to measure the nicotine content of every type of cigarette and report the results.

The Department of Public Health in Boston gathered and carefully examined the figures and then drew its conclusions. A hundred and sixteen brands were looked at for the study. Ninety-two were found to have higher nicotine yields than they did six years ago. The biggest increases tended to be in brands that are popular with young smokers. That worried the department because of the addictive nature of nicotine. Stan Glance, a professor of medicine in San Francisco explained why. "The amount of nicotine that's delivered in every cigarette is 10% higher than it was six years ago, which means that it's easier to get hooked and harder to quit. Big tobacco companies have always insisted that they are frank with their customers about the dangers of smoking and provide enough details for them to make an informed decision. However, none of them were prepared to comment on this study or discuss the detailed nicotine content of their products."

Questions 12 to 14 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 12. What do tobacco companies have to do under the law in Massachusetts?
- 13. What do we learn from the study by the Department of Public Health in Boston?
- 14. What do we learn from the news report about big tobacco companies?