



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 12

Answer Key

The Modern Guide to Doing Absolutely Everything at Once

Congratulations. If you are reading this while also answering an email, half-listening to a podcast, and thinking about what to make for dinner, you have already mastered the most essential skill of modern life: doing many things badly at the same time, all day, every day, forever.

Consider the humble lunch break, an outdated relic from an era when people believed eating and working were separate activities. Today's efficient professional understands that a truly productive lunch involves eating a sandwich with one hand, replying to three Slack messages with the other, and somehow also making eye contact with a coworker who is describing their weekend in painstaking detail. Studies on multitasking suggest that human attention does not actually divide efficiently across tasks, but studies, as we all know, were written by people who apparently had time to conduct studies, a luxury many of us can no longer imagine affording.

Then there is the modern vacation, a period of time technically spent away from the office but functionally indistinguishable from being at the office, except with sand in your shoes. The truly dedicated multitasker does not simply relax on a beach. They relax on a beach while checking email every forty minutes, just to be safe, because nothing says "I am fully present with my family" quite like refreshing an inbox under a beach umbrella.

Naturally, none of this comes without cost. Doctors report rising rates of stress, sleep disruption, and a general sense that something, somewhere, is always being neglected. But before you consider addressing this problem directly, perhaps by doing fewer things at once, ask yourself: would you really want to be the only person at the dinner table not secretly checking their phone? Multitasking, after all, is not a flaw in modern life. It is modern life's proudest achievement, and we should all be doing more of it, just as soon

as we finish these other seventeen things.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What is the author's actual attitude toward multitasking, despite what the text literally praises?

Answer: b) The author is mocking multitasking culture through exaggerated praise

2. What literary technique is the author primarily using in this passage?

Answer: b) Satire and irony

3. What real-world costs of multitasking does the passage mention, even while joking about it?

Answer: b) Stress, sleep disruption, and a sense of neglect

4. What is the author's likely underlying message to the reader?

Answer: b) People should critically reconsider the pressure to multitask constantly

True or False

5. The author sincerely believes checking email on vacation shows genuine presence with family.

Answer: False

6. The passage references real research on how human attention functions during multitasking.

Answer: True

7. The passage's tone is meant to be read completely literally, without irony.

Answer: False

Fill in the Blank

8. The author calls the lunch break an outdated _____ from an earlier era.

Answer: relic

9. The passage says multitasking is modern life's proudest _____.

Answer: achievement

Think and Explain

10. Identify one specific example of hyperbole (exaggeration) in the passage and explain what point the author is really making through that exaggeration.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers identifying an example such as checking email every forty minutes on vacation or eating a sandwich while replying to messages and making eye contact with a coworker, explaining that the exaggeration highlights how absurd and unsustainable constant multitasking

actually is.

11. This passage is an example of satire. Explain what real-world issue the author is critiquing, and how recognizing the satirical tone changes a reader's understanding of the text's message.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers noting that the author is critiquing modern work culture's glorification of constant busyness and multitasking, and that recognizing the satire reveals the opposite of the literal message: rather than praising multitasking, the author is warning against it.