



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 12

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Consider the humble lunch break, an outdated relic from an era when people believed eating and working were separate activities.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?

- a) The author genuinely believes multitasking is admirable
- b) The author is mocking multitasking culture through exaggerated praise
- c) The author is neutral and has no opinion on multitasking

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

- a) Straightforward, literal argument
- b) Satire and irony
- c) A personal narrative

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

- a) Increased vacation time and lower workloads
- b) Stress, sleep disruption, and a sense of neglect
- c) Higher salaries for multitaskers

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

- a) Multitasking should be embraced fully and without limits
- b) People should critically reconsider the pressure to multitask constantly
- c) Vacations should be eliminated entirely

True or False

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

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

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

Fill in the Blank

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 The author calls the lunch break an outdated _____ from an earlier era.

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

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.

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.
