

Lifelong Learning: Adapting Skills in a Changing World

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

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Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

- A** In today's fast-paced world, the concept of lifelong learning has gained tremendous importance. With technology advancing rapidly, individuals must continuously adapt their skills to stay relevant in the job market. For instance, Sarah, a graphic designer in her thirties, decided to learn coding to enhance her capabilities. She enrolled in an online course that taught her the basics of HTML and CSS. This new skill not only improved her job prospects but also allowed her to take on more challenging projects at work, ultimately boosting her confidence and creativity. Sarah's story illustrates how being open to new learning opportunities can lead to significant personal and professional growth.
- B** Moreover, lifelong learning is not confined to formal education. Many people engage in self-directed learning to acquire new skills or hobbies that enrich their lives. For example, John, a retired teacher, took up woodworking after his retirement. He started by watching tutorial videos online and gradually built his own furniture, which gave him a sense of accomplishment. This not only kept him engaged but also connected him with a community of fellow woodworking enthusiasts who shared tips and ideas. Both Sarah and John exemplify the idea that learning can happen at any age and in various forms, whether through structured courses or informal hobbies. As the world evolves, embracing lifelong learning ensures that individuals remain adaptable and prepared for the challenges ahead, fostering a mindset that values growth and exploration.

Vocabulary Glossary

Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
tremendous	very large or great	<i>The new movie was a tremendous success.</i>
enhance	to make something better	<i>Reading books can enhance your vocabulary.</i>
capabilities	skills or abilities to do something	<i>She has great capabilities in problem-solving.</i>
enrolled	signed up for a course or school	<i>He enrolled in a cooking class last month.</i>
prospects	chances or possibilities for success	<i>The job has good prospects for promotion.</i>
acquire	to get or learn something new	<i>He wants to acquire a new language.</i>
accomplishment	something done well after effort	<i>Winning the race was a big accomplishment for her.</i>
exemplify	to show or be a good example of something	<i>Her actions exemplify kindness and generosity.</i>

Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. She decided to _____ in a photography course to learn more.
2. His new skills improved his job _____ and led to a promotion.
3. The athlete's _____ performance won her a gold medal.
4. He was able to _____ a lot of new knowledge from the training.
5. Completing the marathon was a significant _____ for him.
6. Her dedication to helping others _____ the spirit of community service.

Comprehension Questions

These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.

Question 1

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Lifelong learning is essential for adapting to changes in the world.
- B. Formal education is the only way to learn new skills.
- C. Technology is the biggest challenge in today's job market.
- D. Retired people should focus on hobbies.

Question 2

Why did Sarah decide to learn coding?

- A. To change her career completely.
- B. To improve her design skills and take on more projects.
- C. To become a software engineer.
- D. To join a community of coding enthusiasts.

Question 3

What does the passage suggest about self-directed learning?

- A. It is only useful for retired individuals.
- B. It can enrich life and provide personal satisfaction.
- C. It requires formal classes and instructors.
- D. It is not as effective as formal education.

Question 4

How did John's woodworking hobby benefit him?

- A. He started a new business.
- B. He became a famous carpenter.
- C. He felt a sense of accomplishment and found community.
- D. He stopped learning new things.

Question 5

What does the author suggest about lifelong learning?

- A. It is only necessary for young professionals.
- B. It helps individuals remain adaptable to changes.
- C. It is a new trend that will soon fade.
- D. It is only relevant in technology fields.

Discussion & Writing Prompts

Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).

1. In the passage, Sarah learned coding to enhance her design work. Do you think learning coding is essential for people in all creative fields today, and why?

2. Paragraph 2 mentions John connecting with a community of woodworking enthusiasts. How important do you think community support is in learning new skills, and can it impact your motivation?

3. The passage discusses lifelong learning as a way to adapt to changes in the world. Do you agree with this view, and can you provide examples from your own experiences or observations?

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 A

Q2 B

Q3 B

Q4 C

Q5 B

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 enroll

FIB2 prospects

FIB3 tremendous

FIB4 acquire

FIB5 accomplishment

FIB6 exemplifies

Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

✓ A — Lifelong learning is essential for adapting to changes in the world.

The passage focuses on the importance of lifelong learning to adapt to changes.

✗ B — Formal education is the only way to learn new skills.

The passage states that learning can occur outside formal education.

✗ C — Technology is the biggest challenge in today's job market.

While technology is mentioned, it is not the main focus.

✗ D — Retired people should focus on hobbies.

The passage discusses hobbies but not as the main idea.

2. Why did Sarah decide to learn coding?

✓ B — To improve her design skills and take on more projects.

Sarah learned coding to enhance her design skills and handle more challenging projects.

✗ A — To change her career completely.

The passage does not mention her changing careers.

✗ C — To become a software engineer.

She learned coding to enhance her current job skills, not to become a software engineer.

✗ D — To join a community of coding enthusiasts.

Joining a community is mentioned in John's story, not Sarah's.

3. What does the passage suggest about self-directed learning?

✓ B — It can enrich life and provide personal satisfaction.

The passage gives the example of John, who finds personal satisfaction through self-directed learning.

✗ A — It is only useful for retired individuals.

The passage states that self-directed learning is for anyone, not just retirees.

✗ C — It requires formal classes and instructors.

The passage shows that self-directed learning can happen informally, without formal classes.

✗ D — It is not as effective as formal education.

The passage does not compare its effectiveness to formal education.

4. How did John's woodworking hobby benefit him?

✓ C — He felt a sense of accomplishment and found community.

John's hobby gave him a sense of accomplishment and connected him with a community.

✗ A — He started a new business.

The passage does not mention John starting a business.

✗ B — He became a famous carpenter.

There is no mention of John becoming famous.

✗ D — He stopped learning new things.

The passage highlights John's ongoing learning through his hobby.

5. What does the author suggest about lifelong learning?

✓ B — It helps individuals remain adaptable to changes.

The passage emphasizes lifelong learning as a way to remain adaptable and prepared for change.

✗ A — It is only necessary for young professionals.

The passage provides examples of lifelong learning at different ages.

✗ C — It is a new trend that will soon fade.

The passage suggests lifelong learning is important, not a passing trend.

✗ D — It is only relevant in technology fields.

Lifelong learning is discussed in various contexts, not just technology.

MORE B2 LEVEL READING PRACTICE

Letters Refugee Camp Family Story Hope — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/letters-refugee-camp-family-story-hope>

Global Health Preparedness Lessons Recent Pandemics — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/global-health-preparedness-lessons-recent-pandemics>

Climate Migration Communities Move — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/climate-migration-communities-move>