**Reading Comprehension**
*Directions: In this part of the test you will read one passage. Answer the questions by choosing the best choice (1), (2), (3), or (4). Then mark your answer sheet.*

In the exploration of the linguistic life cycle, it is apparent that it is much more difficult to learn a second language in adulthood than it is to learn a first language in childhood. Most adults never completely master a foreign language, especially in phonology, hence, the ubiquitous foreign accent. Their development often <u>fossilizes</u> into permanent error patterns that no teaching or correction can undo. Of course, there are great individual differences, which depend on effort, attitudes, amount of exposure, quality of teaching, and plain talent, but there seems to be a cap for the most adept adults in the best circumstances.

Many explanations have been advanced for children's superiority in language learning: <u>they</u> exploit Motherese (the simplified, repetitive conversation between parents and children), make errors not self-consciously, are more motivated to communicate, like to conform, are not set in their these proposed advantages are unlikely, based on what is known about how language acquisition works. Recent evidence is calling these social and motivation explanations into doubt. Holding every other factor constant, a key factor stands out: simple age.

Systematic evidence comes from psychologist Elissa Newport and her colleagues. They tested some Korean and Chinese-born students at the University of Illinois. The students had spent at least ten years in the United States. The immigrants were given a list of 276 simple English sentences, half of them containing some grammatical error. The immigrants who came to the United States between the ages of 3 and 7 performed identically to American-born students. Those <u>who</u> arrived between the ages of 8 and 15 did worse the later they arrived, and those who arrived between 17 and 39 did worst of all and showed huge variability unrelated to their age of arrival.

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**1- The main purpose of the passage is to ----------.**
  1) discuss the nature of language acquisition
  2) report about research on how language is learned
  3) emphasize the effect of the age factor on language learning
  4) compare overall factors in first and second language learning

**2- The word "fossilize" (line 4) is closest in meaning to ----------.**
  1) get old         2) get completed         3) become active         4) become permanent

**3- The word "they" in line 8 refers to ----------.**
  1) mothers         2) children         3) explanations         4) research studies

**4- According to this passage, a research finding shows that ----------.**
  1) the immigrants learn language better than foreigners
  2) young students have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years
  3) most international students have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years
  4) the age of introduction to a second language negatively affected learning

**5- The word "who" in lines 20 refers to ----------.**
  1) students         2) researchers         3) psychologists         4) colleagues

**6- Why did the researcher examine immigrants?**
  1) To count the number of immigrants to the U.S.
  2) To identify age differences in language learning
  3) To analyze immigrants' speech characteristics
  4) To compare different nationalities in language learning

**7- In which line(s) in this passage, does the author imply that children acquire their mother tongue easily?**
  1) line 18         2) line 13         3) lines 1-2         4) lines 8-9

## 1. 3

💣 Main Idea {  1. Omitting detailed information
            2. Omitting more general information

1. Choose a key word in the question.
2. Skim in the appropriate part of the passage for the key word or idea.
3. Read the sentence that contains the key word or idea carefully.
4. Look for the answer that restates an idea in the passage.
5. Eliminate any definitely wrong answers and choose the best answer from the remaining choices.

## 2. 4

💣 *Vocabulary Questions:*
1. Find the word in the passage.
2. Read the sentence that contains the word carefully.
3. Look for *context clues* to help you understand the meaning.
4. Choose the answer that the context indicates.

## 3. 3

💣 *Pronoun Reference:*
1. Find the pronoun in the passage (line)
2. Look for nouns that come before the pronoun.
3. Read the part of the passage before the pronoun carefully.
4. Eliminate any definitely wrong answers and choose the best answer from the remaining choices.

## 4. 4

💣 *Detail Questions:*
1. Choose **a key word** in the question.
2. **Scan** the appropriate place in the passage for the key word (or related idea).
3. **Read the sentence** that contains the key word or idea carefully.
4. **Eliminate** the definitely **wrong answers** and choose the best answer from the remaining choices.

## 5. 1

Like question no. 4.

## 6. 2

💣 A purpose question is often phrased like the following:

| Why does the author mention (X)? | The author mentions (X) for which of the following reasons? |
|---|---|
| The author mentions (X) in order to… | The author does (X) in order to… What is the author's purpose in mentioning… |
| The author includes the information of (X) in order to… | The author uses (X) as an example of… |

💣 You will also see answers that contain phrases like the following :

| to show/to illustrate<br>to criticize/to question<br>to account for/to explain | to support/to refute/to oppose<br>to contrast/to compare |
|---|---|

1. Read the question carefully and understand what you are being asked
2. Make sure you understand the whole paragraph.
3. Look for transition words. These often are a huge clue to why the author included certain information.
4. Consider the big picture of the paragraph.  Usually, the question is related to the big picture of what the paragraph is trying to present.

5. Use the process of elimination. Answers are often incorrect if they are too extreme (words like none, never, forever, always, etc.), if they are not mentioned, or if they are untrue according to information in the paragraph.

7. 3

💣 *finding Specific information:*
1. Choose a key word or idea in the question.
2. Skim the lines in the passage that are listed in the answers to the question. You should skim for the key word or idea.
3. Choose the answer that contains the line numbers of a restatement of the question.

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