

1

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Robots to the rescue

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"We're going outside, aren't we," Sky said.

Titus looked down at his son. "Why do you assume that?"

"You wouldn't have brought me here otherwise."

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After what seemed like days, the adults had made the main lights come on again. He noticed the air-circulators began to work again. All that time, his father told him later, they had been breathing unrecirculated air; slowly turning staler and staler as the hundred and fifty waking humans dumped more and more carbon dioxide back into their atmosphere. It soon would have started causing serious problems, but the air became fresher and the ship slowly warmed back up until it was possible to move along the corridors without shivering. The food improved, but Sky had hardly noticed that they had been eating emergency rations during the black-out.

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Now however - in a mood of eager forgiveness - he pushed such thoughts from his mind; awed by the sheer size of the freight bay and the prospect of what lay ahead. What made the place seem all the larger was the fact that the two of them were quite alone. The rest of the chamber was suggested rather than clearly seen; its dimensions only hinted at by the dark.

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Titus halted near one of the small shuttles. "Yes," he said, "we're going outside. I think it's time you saw things the way they really are."

"What things?"

But by way of answer Titus only elevated the cuff of his uniform and spoke quietly into his bracelet. "Enable excursion vehicle 15."

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Sky hopped into the spacecraft, feeling the floor vibrating beneath his feet. The taxi was considerably more cramped inside than it had appeared it would be - the hull thickly plated and armoured - and he had to duck to reach his seat, brushing his head against a gristle-like tangle of internal pipework. He fiddled with the blue-steel buckle until he had it tight across his chest. In front of him was a cool turquoise green display -- constantly changing numbers and intricate diagrams.

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"Word of advice, Sky. Never trust these damned things to tell you that they're safe. Make sure for yourself."

"You don't trust machines to tell you?"

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"What happened to change your mind?"

"You'll see, shortly."

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Parked here and there were various spacecraft. The taxis could enter the atmosphere in an emergency, but they were not designed to make the return trip to space. The delta-winged landers which would make multiple journeys down to the surface of Journey's End were too large to store inside the Santiago; they were attached instead to the outside of the ship and there was almost no way to see them unless you worked on one of the external work crews, as his mother had done before her death.

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There was no hesitation; no questioning his authority. The taxi answered him instantly, lights flicking on; cockpit door craning open. Steam was beginning to vent from ports spaced along the vehicle's side, and Sky could hear the growing whine of turbines somewhere inside the machine's angular hull. He hesitated at the door, until his father beckoned that he lead. "After you, Sky. Go and take the seat on the right of the instrument column. Don't touch anything while you're about it."

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Titus said nothing, but the point could not be denied. Sky had never been in the freight bay before; not even during one of the illicit trips with Constanza. Sky remembered the time she had taken him to see the dolphins, and the punishment that had ensued, and how that punishment had been eclipsed by the ordeal that had followed; the flash of light and the period he had spent trapped alone and cold in the utter darkness of the nursery. It seemed so long ago now, but there were still things that he did not fully understand. No one would speak of that day when the whole ship had turned dark and cold, yet to Sky the events were still clearly fixed in his memory.

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His father settled into the seat next to him. The door had closed on them now, and suddenly it was quieter, save for the continuous rasp of the taxi's air-circulation. His father touched the green display with his finger, making it change, studying the results with narrow-eyed concentration.

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"I used to, once." His father eased the joystick forward now and the taxi commenced gliding along its departure track, sliding past the parked ranks of other vehicles. "But machines aren't infallible. We used to kid ourselves that they were because it was the only way to stay sane in a place like this, where we depend on them for our every breath. Unfortunately it was never true."

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The spacecraft had some technical difficulty upon its take-off. Titus and Sky jolted precariously as their taxi struggled to break through the atmosphere. Sky could feel his body begin to tremble with fear, but focused all his energy preventing that from happening. He did not dare let his father see him being anything but brave.

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Eventually, when something like normal shipboard life had returned, Sky managed to sneak back into the nursery. The room was lit, but everything else looked more or less as he had left it; Clown frozen in that distorted shape he had assumed after the flash. Sky had crept closer to examine his friend. Clown had been a kind of moving picture that only made sense when seen from precisely Sky's point of view. Clown had seemed to be physically present in the room - not just painted on the wall. For three years, Sky had never doubted that Clown was in some sense real. Yet his parents had given up responsibility to an illusion.

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You are going to read an extract from a magazine article about following your little passions in life. Six paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A-G the one which fits each gap (41-46). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

Make it happen

'One person with passion is better than forty people merely interested', the author E M Forster once said. Some people's passion may be about winning Olympic gold, discovering a cure for cancer or sailing across the Atlantic single-handed, but passion doesn't always have to involve amazing, earth-shattering feats or superhuman efforts.

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In 1959 Dr Robert White, an American personality psychologist, introduced the term 'effectance motivation', or the urge we all have to engage with our environment to make our influence felt, and to master tasks in a competent fashion. You can see this if you watch children when they're transfixed with mastering a game or task. Time flies and they have no sense of anything going on outside their 'concentration zone': that's a slice of pure passion and emotion in action!

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Sometimes passion can be ignited by things we don't want to happen as much as by those we do. Almost every campaign for public good, from the abolition of slavery through to women's right to vote and Live Aid for Africa, started with a spark of passionate rage that grew to a far-reaching flame. The last of these examples reflecting the growing trend for celebrities fighting for a good cause.

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The truth is that passion can ebb and flow and when we're tired, depressed or despondent it tends to be the first thing to disappear. But according to Christine Dunkley, a psychological therapist, we have a lot of control.

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This is important because being passionate may help us live longer. A study by Professor Thomas Glass examined the impact of activities we might feel passionate about on longevity. The findings were dramatic. 'Social engagement was stronger than things like blood pressure, cholesterol, or other measures of health.' So do something for your health. Ask yourself what you feel strongly about. What would you like to do, change, make, become?

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Every one of us has an interest in something, but it often gets sidelined with the demands of daily life. We may come to view it as an indulgence, or worry we will be judged for it, particularly if the thing we love isn't something we're particularly good at. But passion doesn't necessarily mean being great at something. And what if you don't know where your passion lies?

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Whatever you settle on, the main thing is to find something. Reawaken your passionate side and appreciate the passion in others. You'll find life becomes more fulfilling and colourful. We may not be able to live every minute of every day passionately - that would probably be exhausting! But with a bit of thought and imagination, passion is something we can enjoy experiencing at least a little of every day.

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In fact, if you're not feeling passionate, there is evidence that acting as if you are can help! 'If you jump, throw a fist in the air and shout "Yes!", a feedback loop in your brain will interpret this behaviour as passionate and you'll get a surge of adrenaline,' she explains. 'People who are under-emotive can increase their pleasurable hormonal responses by behaving enthusiastically.'

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If you are not sure exactly what you want to explore, try tasters in subjects you're interested in first. Get a book about it, talk to someone who's done it, find a one-day workshop. Perhaps your passion could simply be trying new things?

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Passion can be as simple as teaching children to play football or getting up early in the morning to photograph a beautiful sunrise. It's not about doing something because you think you should or because it will make you money - it's about doing something you love as well as you can, purely for the love of it.

D

Whether this particular example of passion is misplaced or not is another matter. It's about people standing up for something they really believed in. It was their 'cause', even though few people agreed with their ideals. They were prepared to fight for what they wanted and risked everything in the process.

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It's fairly easy to identify passionate people in the public eye - most people at the top of their profession have needed a hefty amount to get them there. But there's a difference between pure passion and cold, calculating ruthlessness. True passion usually involves a positive gain directed outside ourselves - towards other people or nature. But what if you're struggling to muster enthusiasm for daily life, let alone to feel passionate about anything?

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Consider what you are doing when time seems to fly. What did you love as a child or teenager? Consider anything you've felt 'naturally' drawn towards. What activity never seems like work and always boosts your energy?

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According to international coach Anthony Robbins we each need to find the emotional force that drives us. 'The most important decision we make in life', says Robbins, 'is to focus on something that will get us inspired, excited, something that will move us, something that will ignite a spark.'

For questions 13–18, you must choose which of paragraphs A–G on page 9 fit into the numbered gaps in the following newspaper article. There is one extra paragraph which does not fit in any of the gaps.

Indicate your answers on the separate answer sheet.

A CONSUMING ADDICTION

Shopping used to be nothing more than a way of obtaining food, clothing and other necessities of life. Today, however, shopping symbolises the materialistic culture of western society and its popularity as a leisure activity reflects the rise of consumerism.

13

Having more money has meant spending patterns have changed. While traditional models of economic behaviour assume that consumers are rational and weigh up the costs and benefits before making a purchase, anyone who has ever walked into a shop and left five minutes later with a new jacket and £80 less in their wallet knows that this theory does not always hold true.

14

Her research on consumer behaviour identified impulsive buying as an attempt by shoppers to bolster their self-image, particularly for those who suffered from so-called compulsive buying or shopping addiction, a condition that affects 2 to 5 per cent of adults in the West.

The three-year study compared excessive buyers to a similar group of ordinary consumers. Excessive shoppers were more materialistic and believed that buying goods was a pathway to success, happiness and identity. "Excessive buying is a coping strategy to fill the gaps between how shoppers feel about themselves and the person they want to be," Dr Dittmar said.

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Her research also reveals that certain types of goods are more likely to be bought on impulse than others. Those most frequently reported – clothes, jewellery, ornaments – are closely related to self-image and appearance. This finding is contrary to usual theories about impulse shopping, which explain it as a short-term gratification winning out over longer-term concerns such as debt.

16

In other words, shoppers were more willing to wait for "low impulse" goods such as kitchenware, than they were for clothes or other "high impulse" items. However, it was found that some of the 60 consumers asked to maintain a shopping diary for the study often regretted their impulsive purchases. Dr Dittmar said, "When people had explicitly bought for self-image reasons, regret was more likely to occur."

17

The conclusions drawn by Dr Dittmar about the treatment of compulsive shoppers are that prescribing anti-depressant drugs might solve the problem but only as long as sufferers continue to take them. Instead, they needed therapeutic help to address the underlying causes such as poor self-image.

18

"In no sense do these people directly force anyone to buy anything. But they are very sophisticated, making advertisements and shopping environments very seductive and playing on the idea that if you buy product X you will be much more attractive."

- A** Dr Dittmar said that the idea that consumers' impulsiveness differed, depending on the type of goods, was also supported by the finding that shoppers were less willing to delay gratification for items bought on impulse.
- B** But there are pitfalls, such as debt and addiction to buying. Addicts shop for shopping's sake rather than to buy what they need.
- C** Helga Dittmar, senior lecturer in psychology at Sussex University, has found that consumer goods are the material symbols of who a person is and who they would like to be.
- D** Her research also raises questions over the methods used to attract shoppers and encourage them to buy. Although advertisers and retailers increasingly appeal to consumers' self-image, Dr Dittmar said it was very difficult to argue that these factors were responsible for compulsive shopping.
- E** Although there were other ways of dealing with poor self-image, such as over-exercising or alcoholism, she said that shopping had become one of the most important strategies. This was especially true for women, who were three times more likely to be compulsive shoppers than men, as shopping was a socially approved activity, and allowed those who do not go out to work to get out of the house, Dr Dittmar said.
- F** But this finding was ambiguous because shopping addicts were more motivated by self-image than ordinary shoppers and were more likely to regret their actions. "It's not quite clear which way round this relationship goes, but there is a link between being very concerned with self-image goods and regretting impulse buying."
- G** This has been made possible by the 75 per cent increase in disposable income in the past 20 years. The number of credit cards in use has more than quadrupled, and the amount of outstanding consumer debt has almost tripled in the same period.

Tip Strip

Remember to:

- read the main text first, ignoring the gaps.
- highlight words that refer to people, time references and linking words.
- look for links both before and after the gaps. The text describes research into consumer addiction so look for links between explanations, examples and conclusions.

Question 14: Who does 'her' refer to?

Question 16: 'In other words' suggests that the missing paragraph says the same thing as this one.

Question 18: Who are 'these people'?

For questions 17–22, you must choose which of the paragraphs A–G on page 81 fit into the numbered gaps in the following magazine article. There is one extra paragraph which does not fit in any of the gaps.

Indicate your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Terrorised by a Collar Stud The Worst of Times

*Glen Baxter talks to
Danny Danziger*

I had a terrible stammer from about nine to 18, when I went to a speech therapist who cured me. So there are a few hellish years in there. Because there are certain words you stumble over, you do anything rather than hit against those words right away, so you would invent ways of asking for things, you found little phrases which helped.

17

The stammer was pretty bad. I was unable to go on buses and pay the correct fare, because the correct fare was sixpence, which I couldn't say – at least not before I got to my destination. And as I could say eightpence, that was easier. I'd pay eightpence.

18

Anyway, I went into this shop and I was standing at the counter for ages and ages, and I finally

said. 'U-d-do you have any c-c-collar st-st-studs? And the man in the furniture shop, which was next door to the haberdashery shop – I'd gone into the wrong shop – he said. 'I am really sorry, but we haven't got any left, but if you pop next door they might have one or two.'

19

But of course the more you think about it the worse it gets, so by the time I actually arrived at the shop, I was a complete jibbering wreck.

When I was in junior school there was this pressure to pass the 11-plus examination. My brother had passed it.

20

I didn't have any staying power. I couldn't concentrate on anything if things were boring. I was under pressure to get the 11-plus and get out of there, and I guess it must have been a bit too much. I was very good at English but when they collected the English exam, I had turned over two pages by mistake, so there were two pages I hadn't done. The headmaster just said, more or less, 'That's it', and I was devastated.

21

So I passed the exam, but I still had the stammer, and I then went to see a speech therapist.

22

If I meet somebody who stammers, I start to do it unconsciously, and if I talk about stammering – it's building up in me now – I'll start stammering in a minute.

- A** My brother was very clever, people always wanted me to be more like my brother and do well at school, but I was a nuisance, chattering and mucking about and not being serious about subjects, and I just used to love drawing all the time.
- B** She got us all to lie down on the floor and let our toes relax, and then consecutively everything else, and my mother used to do it with me in the evenings: half an hour of lying on the floor just relaxing – and it seemed to work.
- C** Like going into a shop for oranges: if I wanted to buy an orange, I'd say, 'Uh, by the way, do you happen to have any oranges?' I couldn't just say, 'Can I have an orange please?' And of course if you go into a shop which is full of oranges and say 'Uh, by the way, do you have any oranges?', of course they've got oranges, I mean, it's completely ridiculous, and so I spent a lot of my childhood in this crazy atmosphere.
- D** But I was the only boy to get the 11-plus out of that entire school. And when I went to grammar school, there were lads in my class and girls too, from schools where 95% of everyone who took the 11-plus automatically passed.
- E** You either passed the 11-plus and got out of that school or you became one of these big lumps who used to hang around. And if you were fat, or if you had got a stammer, you were bound to be bullied. Kids are cruel, aren't they?
- F** I remember once my parents told me to go to the haberdashery shop to get a collar stud for my dad's shirt. It was probably just a mission to get me out of the house, looking back on it now.
- G** He was very, very nice about it. In my panic about having to say 'collar stud' on my way there, I'd been thinking: now when I go into the shop I've got to be careful not to say collar stud straightaway.

Part 7

KEY

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Titus looked down at his son. "Why do you assume that?"

"You wouldn't have brought me here otherwise."

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- D Her research also raises questions over the methods used to attract shoppers and encourage them to buy. Although advertisers and retailers increasingly appeal to consumers' self-image, Dr Dittmar said it was very difficult to argue that these factors were responsible for compulsive shopping.
- E Although there were other ways of dealing with poor self-image, such as over-exercising or alcoholism, she said that shopping had become one of the most important strategies. This was especially true for women, who were three times more likely to be compulsive shoppers than men, as shopping was a socially approved activity, and allowed those who do not go out to work to get out of the house, Dr Dittmar said.
- F But this finding was ambiguous because shopping addicts were more motivated by self-image than ordinary shoppers and were more likely to regret their actions. "It's not quite clear which way round this relationship goes, but there is a link between being very concerned with self-image goods and regretting impulse buying."
- G This has been made possible by the 75 per cent increase in disposable income in the past 20 years. The number of credit cards in use has more than quadrupled, and the amount of outstanding consumer debt has almost tripled in the same period.

Tip Strip

Remember to:

- read the main text first, ignoring the gaps.
- highlight words that refer to people, time references and linking words.
- look for links both before and after the gaps. The text describes research into consumer addiction so look for links between explanations, examples and conclusions.

Question 14: Who does 'her' refer to?

Question 16: 'In other words' suggests that the missing paragraph says the same thing as this one.

Question 18: Who are 'these people'?

For questions 17–22, you must choose which of the paragraphs A–G on page 81 fit into the numbered gaps in the following magazine article. There is one extra paragraph which does not fit in any of the gaps.

Indicate your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Terrorised by a Collar Stud The Worst of Times

*Glen Baxter talks to
Danny Danziger*

I had a terrible stammer from about nine to 18, when I went to a speech therapist who cured me. So there are a few hellish years in there. Because there are certain words you stumble over, you do anything rather than hit against those words right away, so you would invent ways of asking for things, you found little phrases which helped.

17 C

The stammer was pretty bad. I was unable to go on buses and pay the correct fare, because the correct fare was sixpence, which I couldn't say – at least not before I got to my destination. And as I could say eightpence, that was easier. I'd pay eightpence.

18 F

Anyway, I went into this shop and I was standing at the counter for ages and ages, and I finally

said. 'U-d-do you have any c:c-collar st-st-studs? And the man in the furniture shop, which was next door to the haberdashery shop – I'd gone into the wrong shop – he said. 'I am really sorry, but we haven't got any left, but if you pop next door they might have one or two.'

19 G

But of course the more you think about it the worse it gets, so by the time I actually arrived at the shop, I was a complete jibbering wreck.

When I was in junior school there was this pressure to pass the 11-plus examination. My brother had passed it.

20 A

I didn't have any staying power. I couldn't concentrate on anything if things were boring. I was under pressure to get the 11-plus and get out of there, and I guess it must have been a bit too much. I was very good at English but when they collected the English exam, I had turned over two pages by mistake, so there were two pages I hadn't done. The headmaster just said, more or less, 'That's it', and I was devastated.

21 D

So I passed the exam, but I still had the stammer, and I then went to see a speech therapist.

22 B

If I meet somebody who stammers, I start to do it unconsciously, and if I talk about stammering – it's building up in me now – I'll start stammering in a minute.

A My brother was very clever, people always wanted me to be more like my brother and do well at school, but I was a nuisance, chattering and mucking about and not being serious about subjects, and I just used to love drawing all the time.

B She got us all to lie down on the floor and let our toes relax, and then consecutively everything else, and my mother used to do it with me in the evenings: half an hour of lying on the floor just relaxing – and it seemed to work.

C Like going into a shop for oranges: if I wanted to buy an orange, I'd say, 'Uh, by the way, do you happen to have any oranges?' I couldn't just say, 'Can I have an orange please?' And of course if you go into a shop which is full of oranges and say 'Uh, by the way, do you have any oranges?', of course they've got oranges, I mean, it's completely ridiculous, and so I spent a lot of my childhood in this crazy atmosphere.

D But I was the only boy to get the 11-plus out of that entire school. And when I went to grammar school, there were lads in my class and girls too, from schools where 95% of everyone who took the 11-plus automatically passed.

E You either passed the 11-plus and got out of that school or you became one of these big lumps who used to hang around. And if you were fat, or if you had got a stammer, you were bound to be bullied. Kids are cruel, aren't they?

F I remember once my parents told me to go to the haberdashery shop to get a collar stud for my dad's shirt. It was probably just a mission to get me out of the house, looking back on it now.

G He was very, very nice about it. In my panic about having to say 'collar stud' on my way there, I'd been thinking: now when I go into the shop I've got to be careful not to say collar stud straightaway.