

1. By the mid-20th century, space exploration ---- to capture the imagination of scientists worldwide, although the approaches ---- significantly between the USA and the USSR.

- A) began / were varying
- B) begins / vary
- C) had begun / varied
- D) has begun / vary
- E) was beginning / have varied

2. ---- mastering a musical instrument appears effortless for some prodigies, it requires years of dedicated practice for most people.

- A) Now that
- B) Once
- C) Unless
- D) Because
- E) Although

3. **Despite advancements in digital communication, face-to-face interactions remain crucial in building trust and fostering strong relationships, ---- virtual meetings offer convenience and efficiency.**

- A) since
- B) because
- C) while
- D) until
- E) so

4. ---- gardening traditionally being a springtime activity, many gardeners extend their growing season through techniques like greenhouse gardening.

- A) Rather than
- B) Because of
- C) Despite
- D) In the light of
- E) On behalf of

5. Libraries frequently arrange popular books ---- bestsellers and new releases near the entrance, attracting visitors to explore the entire collection.

- A) in favour of
- B) aside from
- C) in contrast to
- D) including
- E) such as

6. ---- early psychologists like Sigmund Freud focused primarily on the unconscious mind, behaviorists such as B.F. Skinner emphasized observable behavior and its environmental influences.

- A) Just as
- B) So that
- C) While
- D) Given that
- E) As long as

7. ---- encouraging physical fitness, team sports like soccer also promote camaraderie and teamwork among participants.

- A) Compared with
- B) In spite of
- C) Instead of
- D) In addition to
- E) According to

8. NASA's primary goal is to explore outer space and conduct scientific research, ---- inspiring future generations to pursue careers in STEM fields.

- A) thereby
- B) moreover
- C) on the other hand
- D) in other words
- E) but

9. Video games are often criticized for their potential impact ---- physical health, especially when players spend prolonged periods sitting and engaging ---- minimal physical activity.

- A) over / towards
- B) of / to
- C) on / with
- D) through / among
- E) in / for

10. Einstein's theory of relativity, named after the renowned physicist Albert Einstein who revolutionized our understanding ---- space, time, and gravity, remains fundamental ---- shaping modern physics.

- A) of / in
- B) in / for
- C) with / to
- D) beyond / towards
- E) during / over

Social media platforms have profoundly impacted communication and interaction in modern society. These platforms facilitate instant connectivity and information sharing among individuals globally. Despite **their** advantages in fostering virtual communities and spreading awareness, concerns have arisen regarding privacy violations and the spread of misinformation. Researchers and policymakers advocate for regulations that balance the benefits of social media with the need to protect user data and ensure accurate information dissemination. The evolving landscape of social media continues to shape public discourse and influence societal norms.

It is evident from the passage that social media platforms ----

- A) have no impact on modern society
- B) facilitate instant connectivity
- C) are regulated effectively

The underlined word 'their' in the passage refers to ----.

- A) concerns
- B) social media platforms
- C) privacy violations

The increasing demand (1)---- environmentally friendly transportation has prompted many companies to develop electric vehicles. (2)---- electric vehicles have gained popularity, their limited charging infrastructure can cause range anxiety for potential buyers. (3)----, efforts to expand charging networks are underway, (4)---- to address this concern and strengthen the appeal of electric vehicles. Additionally, the development of more advanced battery technologies is underway to further weaken the barriers to widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

1. A) in B) on C) for
2. A) Although B) Since C) Given that
3. A) In fact B) However C) Thus
4. A) aimed B) aiming C) to aim

Steel, a versatile and durable material, played a crucial role (1)---- the industrial advancements of the 20th century. Its high strength made it suitable for various applications, (2)---- construction and manufacturing. Moreover, the addition of other alloys, such as chromium and nickel, enhanced steel's properties and made it resistant to corrosion. Yet, (3)---- the emergence of alternative materials, steel remains widely used today due to its cost-effectiveness and reliability.

1. A) among B) in C) for
2. A) such as B) besides C) instead of
3. A) despite B) due to C) as well as

Many animals have different ways to communicate with each other, (1)---- various signals and behaviors. Therefore, they can convey important information (2)---- warnings, mating calls, or territory marking. However, (3)--- humans study and understand these animal communication systems, it can be challenging to decipher their messages. Since animals communicate in ways different (4)---- human language, it requires careful observation and research to interpret their intentions. As a result, scientists continue to study and learn more about animal communication (5)---- insights into their fascinating world.

1. A) using B) used C) to use
2. A) instead of B) due to C) such as
3. A) since B) unless C) in case
4. A) from B) of C) into
5. A) to gain B) gaining C) gained

(1)---- the advent of the internet, accessing and sharing information has become much easier. (2)---- the internet provides a vast amount of data, people can quickly find answers to their questions and stay updated on various topics. Rather than relying (3)---- on traditional sources like books or libraries, individuals can now explore a wide range of online resources. As a result, the internet has revolutionized the way we gather and disseminate information, (4)---- it more convenient and accessible for everyone.

1. A) Despite B) Due to C) Rather than
2. A) Unless B) Although C) Since
3. A) rapidly B) solely C) severely
4. A) made B) making C) to make

How many friends does the average person have? A study conducted at Cornell University in the USA aimed to answer this question by investigating the number of close friends adults typically have. The researcher interviewed over 2,000 adults aged 18 and older. Participants were asked to name individuals with whom they had discussed serious matters in the past six months. Results showed that 48% mentioned one person, 18% mentioned two people, and approximately 29% mentioned more than two. In contrast, a recent report from Facebook claimed that the average user on their platform has 130 friends. However, the Cornell study found the average number of close friends to be significantly lower – precisely 2.03. The researcher explained that the disparity arises from differing definitions of 'friend'. On Facebook, a friend could be someone met briefly or never met in person, whereas in the study, friends were defined as individuals with whom participants felt comfortable discussing personal issues.

According to the passage, ----.

- A) there is no remarkable difference between the findings of the research and those of Facebook
- B) friendships formed on Facebook may be more genuine and enduring
- C) nearly half of the participants mentioned only one person
- D) the study found that 95% of people report having a diverse group of friends
- E) the Cornell University study found the average number of friends to be higher than expected

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According to the passage, the researcher from Cornell University believes that _____.

- A) conducting research on adults over 18 years old makes the results more valid
- B) some participants were hesitant to respond to his inquiries
- C) the discrepancy in findings can be attributed to the sincerity of individuals
- D) most people maintain fake profiles on social media, which impacts all research
- E) additional research is essential to definitively answer the question of "How many friends does the average person have?"

It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

- A) participants were asked to identify their closest friend
- B) people tend to form more friendships on social media, contrary to the researcher's expectations
- C) all participants in the study were adults aged 18 and above
- D) the average American has more than two close friends
- E) the findings of the study, involving at least 2,000 adults, were recently published