

## Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence

### Read the following message.

Dear Mr. Stevens,

I am writing in response to your article that appeared in the April 22nd edition of the Vancouver Sun. In your article, you suggested that people do not take public transit to get to work because of infrequent service. You used the example of how, recently, you had to wait 25 minutes for a bus to the downtown area. As a transit operator, I can assure you that incidents such as yours are rarely the fault of the bus service. Perhaps the focus of your frustration should be directed to city planning officials and residents' commuting habits.

Buses depart from their first station at a particular time, and the schedule of stops along the route is approximately calculated to be correct. However, various factors can interfere with the schedule. The bus may be delayed because of exceptionally heavy roadway congestion or accidents.

I have been working for the Regional Transit System for 10 years. When I first started, there were not enough buses operating to meet commuter needs. However, things have improved greatly in the past few years. They have increased the number of buses and the frequency of service. As well, they have introduced new bus routes from several Vancouver suburbs into the downtown core. During peak hours (Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.), we double the number of buses in operation. In fact, in Greater Vancouver, the typical waiting time for a bus commuter during peak hours now averages 4 to 8 minutes, much lower than other cities such as Calgary and Edmonton.

I assure you that the main problem in public transit today is that we are severely outnumbered by single-passengers' privately-owned vehicles. Despite incentives to encourage public transport, such as affordable prices and free parking lots at the stations, the number of cars on the road suggests the public still finds it more convenient to drive to work. However, if they considered the financial costs of driving, as well as the effect of car exhaust on the environment, they would find that public transit offers a practical and worthwhile alternative, not to mention that it would allow you to arrive to work on time.

Sincerely,

Ed Hooper

### choose the best option according to the information given in the message.

1. Mr. Stevens' opinion was based on

- expert opinions.
- a personal experience.
- public interviews.
- a city planning study.

2. Mr. Stevens received this letter because he

- wrote an article for a local paper.
- works in the city planning department.
- wrote a letter of complaint to Mr. Hooper.

- is one of the city's transit system experts.

3. Ed Hooper believes late buses are caused by

- too much traffic.
- mistakes in bus schedules.
- bad route planning.
- poorly trained bus drivers.

4. According to Ed, transit services

- improved only in suburban areas.
- are learning from other cities.
- are less popular than private cars.
- need more routes to the downtown core.

5. Mr. Hooper thinks public transport is better because

- it is safer than driving in the winter.
- buses connect the city with the countryside.
- it's more environmentally friendly.
- the number of commuters has increased greatly.

6. How does Regional Transit Services try to keep buses on time?

- reducing the number of bus stops on the route
- making sure buses start the route on time
- reducing the number of cars on the road
- improving the transit service computer systems

**Here is a response to the message. Complete the response by filling in the blanks. Select the best choice for each blank**

I completely agree with Mr. Hooper that bus drivers and other transit workers 7. \_\_\_\_\_. I also agree that bus services 8. \_\_\_\_\_, at least in some places. However, Mr. Hooper needs to appreciate this problem from the passenger's point of view. Although it is true that there are a lot more 9. \_\_\_\_\_ now, there are a lot more people, too. Sometimes I can't even get on because it is full. It's nice to see recent improvements such as 10. \_\_\_\_\_. However, more needs to be done, as in some areas, service still needs improvement.

I don't blame the bus drivers, but the Regional Transit System is unreliable. Although I agree with Mr. Hooper that taking a bus may be 11. \_\_\_\_\_ than driving, I think that many people likely prefer comfort. Driving might be the only option.

7)

- should take charge
  - are often unreliable
  - show great promise
  - aim to be on time
- 

8)

- have deteriorated
  - are inconvenient
  - have gotten better
  - are too slow
- 

9)

- roads
  - buses
  - accidents
  - trains
- 

10)

- bigger buses
  - discounted bus tickets
  - car pool programs
  - expanded services
- 

11)

- much more interesting
  - less time consuming
  - far less costly
  - much more convenient
- 

## Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

# CHEF LEE'S COOKING CLASSES



## Authentic Indian Cuisine I

Unlock the flavours of truly authentic Indian cooking! I will focus on the key techniques that make aromatic Indian food.

### Classes Available:

Tue, Feb 11, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (\$90)  
Mon, Apr 7, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (\$90)  
Mon, Apr 14, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (\$75)

## Authentic Indian Cuisine I, Vegetarian

This class is perfect for those who love curry but don't eat meat. Highlights of tonight's all-vegetarian menu include fragrant tomato curry with basmati rice.

Full meal included.



### Classes Available:

Tue, Feb 11, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (\$70)  
Mon, Apr 7, 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (\$90)

## Delights of Morocco

Inspired by a recent culinary tour of Morocco, I have put together a cooking class showcasing the highlights of this region. Full meal and recipe booklet included.

### Classes Available:

Sun, Feb 16, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (\$60)

**A** **Allergy Alert:** *almonds, cashews (can be left out of individual portions)*

## Spanish Cuisine

By popular demand! Delicious Spanish tapas, authentic seafood paella, mouthwatering vegetables, and desserts will be on the menu as we explore some of the highlights of Spanish cuisine.

Full meal and recipe booklet included.

**A** **Allergy Alert:** *This meal contains shrimp*

### Classes Available:

Mon, Jan 27, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (\$90)

**Location:** All classes take place at Gesicki Recreation Centre, 3421 Edmond St., Burnaby, V5H 5V3

Go to my website [www.chefleecooking.ca](http://www.chefleecooking.ca) to enter a contest and WIN a meal for two at *The Bombay Curry House*. You will also find more recipes and cooking tips.

**A** Possible risk of allergic reaction from ingredients

**V** Only uses vegetarian ingredients

Read the following email message about the diagram on the left. Complete the email by filling in the blanks. Select the best choice for each blank

To: <jjohn@worldmail.com>  
From: <gjenson@worldmail.com>  
Subject: Cooking Classes

Hi Johanna,

Here's a link to the info on those classes by the chef who's just been to 1.\_\_\_\_\_. I thought it would be fun if we took a class together. If it doesn't matter to you which one, maybe we should just pick 2.\_\_\_\_\_ because we both love cooking with nuts! Of course, I could take the meat curry class while you take the vegetarian version, although the scheduling of these two classes makes me wonder if Chef Lee is actually 3.\_\_\_\_\_. In any case, if we went with this plan on February 11th, your class and mine would end 4.\_\_\_\_\_. If we wanted something earlier in the year, though, there's the 5.\_\_\_\_\_ cooking class which starts a week or two earlier than the others.

Over to you,

Gina

1)

- Morocco
  - Mexico
  - Spain
  - India
- 

2)

- Vegetarian Indian Cuisine
  - Authentic Indian Cuisine
  - Delights of Morocco
  - Spanish Cuisine
- 

3)

- going to end the class on time
  - planning to cancel April 14th
  - using quality ingredients
  - teaching both of them
- 

4)

- in a delicious full course meal
  - at pretty much the same time
  - up costing us the same amount
  - within half an hour of each other
-

5)

- Moroccan
  - Indian
  - Spanish
  - Vegetarian
- 

**choose the best option.**

6. Gina seeks Johanna's

- assistance.
  - permission.
  - advice.
  - input.
- 

7. The overall goal of the message is to

- communicate a decision.
  - schedule an appointment.
  - discuss a possibility.
  - express a preference.
- 

8. Gina appears to be

- serious.
  - demanding.
  - interested.
  - reluctant.
- 

- **Reading Part 3: Reading for Information**

- **Read the following passage.**

- A. "Snowbirds" are characteristic of, and perhaps even unique to, Canada. The term refers not only to birds who prefer to avoid the frigid weather by migrating south, but to people, most typically retirees, who do the same. Since Canadian citizens are allowed to reside in the United States for a maximum of 182 days during a 12-month period, many take advantage of this every November by heading south until spring. Florida is perhaps the most popular US destination for snowbirds, but others choose to spend the winter months in South Carolina, Georgia, or Arizona.

B. Though seemingly ideal to most Canadians, the main drawback of this lifestyle is the expense of being a snowbird. First, there is the cost of the trip. Snowbirds who drive to sunny US destinations each year must consider the cost of fuel and, due to the distance involved, typically the cost of at least one night in a hotel. Some snowbirds travel by motorhome to avoid hotels, though what is saved in accommodation costs is often made up for in higher gas spending. Snowbirds who prefer to fly must consider the cost of the plane ticket, as well as the added expense of renting a vehicle for the duration of their stay.

C. The second and most considerable expense related to going south is the price of owning or renting a second home. Some snowbirds choose to invest in a motorhome. This is a huge strain on the budget initially, but believed by some to be more economical over the long term. However, most snowbirds either rent or own a condo or house in the United States. Many people believe that this expense will be offset by not using their home back in Canada for the winter, but they still have to pay property taxes during their absence. Furthermore, many need to continue paying for gas and other utilities. Further still, although services such as phone, television, and internet can be suspended, there is often a fee involved.

D. Other expenses, while comparatively nominal, are nonetheless vital. These can include monthly insurance and home-maintenance fees. As Canadian provincial medical coverage does not apply to medical expenses incurred in the United States, snowbirds need to purchase adequate medical coverage on their own. A snowbird's home-maintenance costs usually include paying someone in Canada to shovel their driveway and periodically check on their property (required to keep up home-insurance coverage), forwarding mail, and so on.

E. Not given in any of the above paragraphs.

**Decide which paragraph, A to D, has the information given in each statement below. Select E if the information is not given in any of the paragraphs.**

1. The United States is often chosen by Canadians as a winter travel destination.

- A
  - B
  - C
  - D
  - E
- 

2. The highest cost for snowbirds is paying for a place to live in the United States.

- A
  - B
  - C
  - D
  - E
- 

3. In general, Canadians start to prepare for a snowbird lifestyle in their 40s.

- A
  - B
  - C
  - D
  - E
-

4. Canada has a special arrangement with the United States concerning temporary residence.

- A
  - B
  - C
  - D
  - E
- 

5. Housing options in the United States can be called expensive overall.

- A
  - B
  - C
  - D
  - E
- 

6. When in Canada, most snowbirds reside in houses rather than apartments.

- A
  - B
  - C
  - D
  - E
- 

7. The Canadian post office charges a fee to forward mail to the United States.

- A
  - B
  - C
  - D
  - E
- 

8. It is not unusual for retired Canadians to spend the winter in the United States<sup>9</sup>. The increasing strata fees may make being a snowbird less appealing nowadays.

- A
  - B
  - C
  - D
  - E
- 

9. The increasing strata fees may make being a snowbird less appealing nowadays.

- A
  - B
-



- C
  - D
  - E
- 

#### Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

##### Read the following article from a website.

Online social media has become the most popular form of communication amongst students in North America. Students communicate online for as much as 8 hours a day. While the debate continues whether this is a milestone in communication, or a step-back in real human interaction, many are left wondering about the changes in social protocol. Nick Thompson, a science teacher at Grayson Secondary School, recently received "friend requests" on his personal Facebook and Twitter pages from several students. Unsure how to proceed, Thompson addressed the issue in a staff meeting and found other teachers to be facing the same dilemma. Consequently, the school's staff are conferring about whether to implement a policy that prohibits educators connecting with their students online.

Annette Curtis, the school's principal, consulted two experts to facilitate a verdict. Gregory King, educational researcher at Bostwick College, maintains that online relationships with students increase the risk of teacher misconduct. "The surest way to prevent inappropriate conduct is to forbid casual contact on online platforms," King advises. "Student-teacher relationships after-hours is hardly a requisite for learning, and social media is simply a distraction."

Despite such concerns, other experts contend that such restrictive policies are retrogressive and limit the potential for education outside the classroom. Marissa Lang, professor of instructional technology at Sherman Institute for Technology, argues for the positive contributions that social media can make. "School is a limited geographic space," Lang explains. "Education, on the other hand, is boundless. Websites generate an important sense of communal learning that continues far beyond classroom walls, allowing students to collaborate with both peers and teachers."

While there is always the risk of misconduct in any school situation, guidelines can prevent such issues. Lang advises that educators use a professional account that is altogether separate from their personal social network. Teachers should get permission from parents to proceed with online communications, and use privacy settings to protect their personal information. "Using these protocols, along with monitoring what students post, will go a long way to preventing inappropriate behaviour while concurrently utilizing social media to enhance education," Lang says. "We live in an age of technology; why not use it to its best advantage?"

##### choose the best option according to the information given on the website.

###### 1. Online social media

- decreased the amount of time students spent studying.
  - has diminished social interaction in the student population.
  - has become a popular theme in school debate activities.
  - has raised questions about acceptable social conduct.
- 

###### 2. Teachers are

- concerned about the use of social media in the classrooms.
  - worried that social media may cross a professional boundary.
  - unwilling to befriend their students in social media.
  - confused by the proliferation of complex technological innovations.
- 

### 3. The school's principal

- has called on specialists to help advise on the teachers' conundrum.
  - has prohibited after-school interactions between teachers and students.
  - considers online social media to be a distraction that should be avoided.
  - will consider student-teacher interactions after-hours as misconduct.
- 

### 4. Both experts agree that teachers conduct should be restricted to

- interactions that have been given formal parental consent.
  - distributing and explaining educational material.
  - interactions occurring on school premises.
  - educational and counselling activities approved by the principal.
- 

### 5. Marissa Lang believes social media

- broadens educational avenues for learning.
  - makes students more socially aware.
  - encourages students to study more.
  - promotes technological education.
- 

**The following is a comment by a visitor to the website page. Complete the comment by choosing the best option to fill in each blank.**

I think it is 6. \_\_\_\_\_ to have teachers connecting with students on social media. Email is about as far as it should go, and no further. Really, 7. \_\_\_\_\_ on social networks is no different to going into the students' living rooms after school. Certainly, I can see 8. \_\_\_\_\_

students online. For example, students could easily get help with assignments and teachers could post additional course material. But maybe the advantages come at an inappropriate price. For example, there are benefits to the teacher going into a student's living room and giving them a free lesson. It doesn't mean that 9. \_\_\_\_\_. By way of analogy, it would be nice to hang with my psychologist or my doctor online, but psychologists and doctors 10. \_\_\_\_\_ and so should teachers.

6)

- educationally sound
  - entirely inappropriate
  - an injustice
  - certainly ethical
-

7)

- teachers issuing online assignments
  - collaboration among students
  - teachers liaising with students
  - a restrictive educational forum
- 

8)

- benefits from connecting with
  - severe risks being created for
  - social inequalities emerging with
  - possibilities for corruption of
- 

9)

- teachers are acting inappropriately
  - it's an educational opportunity
  - it's a sensible thing to do
  - students require additional tuition
- 

10)

- socialize with their clients
  - always charge for services
  - fraternize with clients
  - set limits to their practice
-