

# **EXTRA READING TEXTS**

## **FOR L4 STUDENTS~**

You are given a **set of 10 extension reading texts** on different topics to help expand your English skills, strengthen your reading comprehension, and explore new ideas. **One text** from each set is especially useful for **your in-class writing exam**. Reading them will challenge you, provide helpful background knowledge, and give you inspiration and ideas for your papers.

**Enjoy reading and make the most of it!**

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## 1. The Rise of English as a Global Language

English is often described as a *global language*, meaning it is used by people from different countries who do not share the same mother tongue. Today, English is spoken by more non-native speakers than native speakers, which shows how deeply it has spread across the world. However, English did not become global by accident. Historical, political, and economic factors all played a role in its worldwide influence.

One of the most important reasons for the global spread of English was the expansion of the British Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries. During this period, English was introduced to many regions, including parts of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. In these areas, English was often used in administration, education, and trade. Even after these countries gained independence, English remained important because it connected different ethnic and linguistic groups within the same country.

Another key factor is the economic and cultural power of the United States in the 20th century. After World War II, the U.S. became a global leader in technology, science, entertainment, and business. As a result, English became the main language of international communication. For example, many scientific papers, academic journals, and international conferences use English as their primary language. This means that researchers who want to share their work globally often need to use English.

In addition, English plays a major role in popular culture. Movies, music, television series, and social media content produced in English reach millions of people worldwide. Young people, in particular, are exposed to English daily through platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok. This exposure helps learners improve their listening skills naturally, even outside the classroom.

However, the global dominance of English also creates challenges. Some people worry that local languages may lose importance or even disappear over time. When English is seen as more “useful” or “prestigious,” younger generations

may prefer it over their native language. This can lead to cultural loss and reduced linguistic diversity. Therefore, many linguists argue that while learning English is valuable, protecting local languages is equally important.

In conclusion, English has become a global language due to historical expansion, economic power, and cultural influence. Although it offers many opportunities for communication and cooperation, it also raises important questions about language equality and cultural identity.

## **2. Solitude or Socializing: The Great Living Debate**

The question of whether it is better to live alone or with others is a multifaceted topic that has sparked endless debate in modern sociology. As young professionals and students gravitate toward burgeoning urban centers, the choice between the unbridled freedom of a solo apartment and the communal companionship of a shared residence becomes a pivotal lifestyle decision. Both arrangements offer distinct advantages and psychological hurdles that can profoundly impact one's mental equilibrium and trajectory of personal growth.

Living alone is frequently heralded as the ultimate hallmark of maturity and self-sufficiency. The most immediate benefit is total autonomy; the occupant possesses the final authority on every domestic detail, from the aesthetic nuances of interior decor to the stringent standards of kitchen hygiene. In such a setting, there is no requirement to negotiate the mundane chores of daily life, nor is there the risk of a roommate's auditory intrusions during a period of deep concentration. For many introverts, this solitude serves as a vital "sanctuary"—a place to achieve cognitive restoration after the draining demands of professional social interaction.

Furthermore, the solitary lifestyle acts as a catalyst for self-reliance. When an individual is solely responsible for navigating the complexities of household finances, maintenance emergencies, and administrative tasks, they often develop a level of resilience that is difficult to cultivate in a shared environment. However, this sovereignty over one's space requires a disciplined mindset to avoid the pitfalls of procrastination and domestic neglect.

On the other hand, humans are inherently gregarious creatures, and communal living serves as a potent antidote to the "creeping isolation" that often plagues urban dwellers. Sharing a home—be it with lifelong friends or compatible strangers—establishes a built-in support system that can mitigate the stresses of modern life. Beyond the undeniable emotional benefits, there is a compelling economic rationale: the pooling of financial resources. By splitting exorbitant rent and utility bills, individuals can leverage their combined purchasing power to inhabit safer or more prestigious neighborhoods that would otherwise be financially inaccessible.

Moreover, the shared domestic experience serves as a practical laboratory for developing "soft skills." Constant interaction with others necessitates a high degree of emotional intelligence, encompassing everything from subtle negotiation to formal conflict resolution. Learning to harmonize different lifestyles and temperaments is an invaluable asset in both personal relationships and professional environments.

Recent psychological studies suggest that neither arrangement is inherently superior; rather, the "ideal" environment depends on an individual's "optimal level of arousal." For those who are easily overstimulated, the silence of a private studio is a necessity. Conversely, for those who thrive on external stimuli, the vibrant, unpredictable atmosphere of a shared house is where they truly flourish. There is also the "third way"—the rise of co-living spaces—which attempts to synthesize these two worlds by providing private bedrooms alongside expansive, high-quality communal areas. This hybrid model reflects a growing desire for a balance between individual privacy and social connectivity. Ultimately, the decision to live alone or with others is not merely a logistical choice but a reflection of one's current priorities and psychological needs. While the tranquil independence of a solitary flat is a dream for some, the collective energy of a shared home provides the essential social fabric that others require to thrive. Regardless of the path chosen, both experiences offer profound lessons in boundary-setting, self-awareness, and the art of coexistence in an increasingly complex world.

### **3. The Importance of Lifelong Learning**

Lifelong learning refers to the continuous development of knowledge and skills throughout a person's life. In the modern world, education is no longer limited to childhood or university years. Instead, individuals are expected to adapt to rapid social, technological, and economic changes. One of the main reasons lifelong learning is essential is the changing nature of work. Automation and artificial intelligence have replaced many traditional jobs. At the same time, new professions require digital literacy and problem-solving skills. Lifelong learning allows individuals to remain employable and competitive in the job market. In addition to career benefits, lifelong learning supports personal growth. Learning new skills improves self-confidence and mental flexibility. Activities such as learning a language, reading regularly, or attending workshops stimulate the brain and encourage creativity. Research also suggests that lifelong learning has positive effects on mental health. Staying intellectually active may reduce stress and delay cognitive decline in later life. For older adults, learning provides a sense of purpose and social connection. Despite its advantages, lifelong learning presents challenges. Many adults struggle to find time due to work and family responsibilities. Others may feel anxious about returning to education after many years. Fortunately, online learning platforms have made education more accessible and flexible. In conclusion, lifelong learning is a vital part of modern life. It helps individuals adapt to change, maintain mental well-being, and continue growing both professionally and personally.

#### **4. The Impact of Tourism on Local Communities**

Tourism is one of the world's largest industries and plays a significant role in the economies of many countries. Millions of people travel each year to explore new cultures, historical sites, and natural landscapes. While tourism brings economic opportunities and cultural exchange, it also creates social and environmental challenges for local communities. Understanding both sides of tourism is essential for creating sustainable and responsible travel practices.

One of the most obvious benefits of tourism is economic growth. Tourism creates jobs in hotels, restaurants, transportation, and entertainment sectors. For many regions, especially developing countries, tourism is a major source of income. Local businesses such as souvenir shops, cafés, and tour agencies benefit directly from visitors. As a result, tourism can improve living standards and reduce unemployment.

Tourism also encourages cultural exchange. When visitors interact with local people, they learn about traditions, customs, and ways of life. This exchange can promote mutual understanding and tolerance. In some cases, tourism helps preserve cultural heritage. Historical buildings, traditional festivals, and local crafts may receive more attention and funding because tourists are interested in them.

However, tourism can also have negative effects on local communities. One major issue is overcrowding. Popular destinations often struggle with large numbers of visitors, especially during peak seasons. Overcrowding puts pressure on public services, transportation, and infrastructure. Local residents may find it difficult to access basic services due to increased demand.

Another problem is the rise in living costs. In tourist areas, housing prices and rent often increase because properties are converted into hotels or short-term rentals. This makes it harder for local people to afford housing. In extreme cases, residents are forced to move away from their own neighborhoods. This process, known as gentrification, can damage community life and social relationships.

Environmental damage is another serious concern. Tourism can harm natural ecosystems through pollution, excessive water use, and waste production. Beaches, forests, and wildlife areas may suffer due to irresponsible tourist behavior. For example, coral reefs can be damaged by uncontrolled diving activities, and natural parks may lose biodiversity because of heavy foot traffic.

Cultural authenticity can also be affected by tourism. In some destinations, local traditions are simplified or changed to meet tourists' expectations. Cultural performances may become staged rather than genuine. Over time, this can lead to the loss of cultural identity and meaning for local communities.

To reduce these negative effects, many experts support sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism focuses on minimizing environmental damage while maximizing benefits for local people. This includes supporting local businesses, respecting cultural norms, and protecting natural resources. Governments and tourism companies play a key role by creating regulations and promoting responsible travel.

Tourists themselves also have responsibilities. Choosing eco-friendly accommodation, avoiding overcrowded attractions, and learning about local customs can make a positive difference. Small actions, when practiced by many people, can significantly reduce tourism's negative impact.

In conclusion, tourism has the potential to bring both benefits and challenges to local communities. While it supports economic growth and cultural exchange, it can also cause social inequality and environmental damage. A balanced and sustainable approach is essential to ensure that tourism benefits both visitors and local residents in the long term.

## **5. The Role of Failure in Personal and Professional Success**

Failure is often viewed as something negative that should be avoided at all costs. Many people associate failure with weakness, embarrassment, or lack of ability. However, modern research and real-life examples suggest that failure plays an important role in personal and professional development. Rather than being an obstacle, failure can be a powerful learning tool.

One reason people fear failure is social pressure. From an early age, individuals are encouraged to succeed in exams, careers, and relationships. Mistakes are often criticized instead of being seen as opportunities for growth. As a result, many people avoid taking risks because they are afraid of failing. This mindset can limit creativity and personal growth.

In professional life, failure is often unavoidable. New projects, business ideas, and innovations involve uncertainty. Many successful entrepreneurs experienced multiple failures before achieving success. For example, companies often fail to launch successful products on their first attempt. These failures provide valuable information about what does not work, allowing improvement in future efforts.

Failure also plays an important role in learning. When people make mistakes, they are forced to reflect on their actions and decisions. This reflection leads to deeper understanding and problem-solving skills. Studies show that people remember lessons learned from failure more clearly than those learned from success alone.

On a personal level, failure helps develop resilience. Experiencing setbacks teaches individuals how to cope with disappointment and stress. Over time, this builds emotional strength and confidence. People who learn to recover from failure are often better prepared to face future challenges.

However, not all failures lead to growth automatically. The key factor is how individuals respond to failure. Those who blame themselves excessively or give up completely may experience negative effects. In contrast, people with a growth mindset view failure as a temporary situation and focus on improvement. This attitude encourages persistence and motivation.

Education systems are beginning to recognize the value of failure. Some schools encourage students to experiment and take risks without fear of punishment. This approach helps students develop critical thinking and creativity. Learning environments that allow mistakes often produce more innovative thinkers.

Despite its benefits, failure remains emotionally difficult. Support from teachers, colleagues, and family members plays an important role in overcoming failure. Constructive feedback and encouragement help individuals turn negative experiences into positive outcomes.

In conclusion, failure is an essential part of success rather than its opposite. It promotes learning, resilience, and innovation. By changing how failure is perceived, individuals and societies can create environments where growth and progress are possible.

## **L4 Reading Passages in Class Two (Cause and effect)**

### **1. The Influence of Social Media on Teenagers' Identity**

Social media has become an essential part of teenagers' daily lives. Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and YouTube allow young people to communicate, share experiences, and express themselves. While social media offers opportunities for creativity and connection, it also plays a powerful role in shaping teenagers' identities. During adolescence, individuals are still discovering who they are, and constant online interaction can strongly influence this process.

Identity formation is a key developmental task during the teenage years. Teenagers experiment with different roles, interests, and appearances as they try to understand themselves. Social media provides a space where they can present different versions of themselves and receive immediate feedback. Likes, comments, and followers often become measures of social approval, which can affect how teenagers view their own worth.

One noticeable effect of social media is comparison. Teenagers are constantly exposed to carefully selected images of others' lives. Many users share only positive moments, attractive photos, or exciting experiences. As a result, teenagers may feel that their own lives are boring or unsuccessful in comparison. This can lead to dissatisfaction, anxiety, and low self-esteem, especially when online approval becomes too important.

At the same time, social media can support identity development in positive ways. Teenagers can explore interests, hobbies, and communities that may not exist in their immediate environment. Online spaces allow young people to connect with others who share similar values or experiences. For some teenagers, especially those who feel isolated, social media provides a sense of belonging and emotional support.

Another important issue is self-presentation. Teenagers often feel pressure to create an image that fits popular trends or expectations. This may lead them to hide parts of their personality or change their behavior to gain acceptance. Over

time, this can cause confusion between one's real identity and online identity. Maintaining this balance can be emotionally exhausting.

Despite these challenges, social media itself is not harmful. Its impact depends on how it is used. Teenagers who are guided to think critically about online content are more likely to develop a healthy relationship with social media. Encouraging authenticity, self-awareness, and offline connections helps reduce negative effects.

In conclusion, social media plays a significant role in shaping teenagers' identities. It can both support and challenge their development. Helping teenagers understand these influences allows them to use social media in a more balanced and positive way.

## **2. Peer Pressure Among Teenagers**

Peer pressure is a common and influential part of teenage life. During adolescence, young people begin to form stronger connections with their peers and gradually seek independence from their families. Friends, classmates, and social groups start to play a central role in shaping teenagers' attitudes, behaviors, and decisions. While peer pressure is often associated with negative outcomes, it can also have positive effects depending on the situation and the individuals involved.

Teenagers are at a stage of life where identity development is especially important. They are trying to understand who they are, what they believe in, and where they belong. In this process, peers often become a reference point. Teenagers observe how others dress, speak, and behave, and they may adjust their own actions to match those around them. This tendency is not always conscious; sometimes it happens naturally as part of social interaction.

One reason peer pressure is so powerful during adolescence is the need for social acceptance. Being part of a group gives teenagers a sense of belonging and emotional security. Acceptance by peers can increase confidence, while rejection

can lead to feelings of loneliness or low self-esteem. As a result, some teenagers may feel uncomfortable expressing their true opinions if they fear being judged or excluded. Instead, they may choose to follow the group, even when they disagree internally.

Peer pressure can appear in both direct and indirect forms. Direct peer pressure involves clear encouragement or pressure to behave in a certain way. For example, a teenager may be urged to skip school, try smoking, or break rules to gain approval. Indirect peer pressure is more subtle. Teenagers may change their behavior simply by observing others and wanting to fit in. For instance, seeing friends spend hours on social media may encourage similar habits, even without spoken pressure.

The influence of peer pressure is also connected to emotional development. Teenagers often experience strong emotions and may struggle with impulse control. In group situations, excitement and shared energy can lead to decisions that would not be made individually. This is especially true in risky situations, such as experimenting with alcohol, dangerous activities, or online challenges. In these moments, peer approval can feel more important than potential consequences.

However, peer pressure is not always harmful. In many cases, it can encourage positive behavior. Teenagers may be motivated to study harder, participate in sports, or develop healthy habits because their friends value these activities. Being part of a supportive peer group can improve academic performance and emotional well-being. Friends can encourage each other to set goals, solve problems, and develop social skills.

The role of peer pressure has become even more complex with the rise of social media. Online platforms allow teenagers to compare themselves constantly with others. Likes, comments, and followers can create pressure to appear popular, attractive, or successful. This digital environment can increase stress and anxiety, especially when teenagers feel they do not meet these expectations. At the same time, online communities can provide support and connection, particularly for those who feel isolated in their offline lives.

Not all teenagers respond to peer pressure in the same way. Personality, self-confidence, and family support play an important role. Teenagers who have strong communication with their families and feel valued at home are often better prepared to resist negative peer influence. They are more likely to make independent decisions and set personal boundaries. In contrast, those who lack support may rely more heavily on peer approval.

Education also plays a crucial role in helping teenagers deal with peer pressure. Schools that encourage critical thinking and open discussion help students recognize social influence and make informed choices. Teaching teenagers how to say no, express their opinions, and respect differences can reduce the negative effects of peer pressure. When teenagers understand that disagreement does not necessarily lead to rejection, they feel more confident in being themselves.

In conclusion, peer pressure is a natural and unavoidable part of teenage life. It reflects teenagers' need for connection, identity, and acceptance. While it can lead to risky behavior and emotional challenges, it can also promote positive growth when peer influence is supportive. Helping teenagers develop self-awareness, confidence, and strong support systems allows them to navigate peer pressure more effectively and make healthier decisions.

### **3. The Role of Education in Reducing Social Inequality**

Education is often seen as one of the most powerful tools for social change. It provides individuals with knowledge, skills, and opportunities that can improve their lives. In many societies, education is considered a key factor in reducing social inequality and promoting equal opportunities. However, access to quality education is not equal for everyone.

Social inequality often begins early in life. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds may face challenges such as limited resources, poor school facilities, and lack of support. These factors can affect academic performance and long-term success. Education has the potential to break this cycle by offering skills that improve employment opportunities.

Quality education not only increases job prospects but also promotes critical thinking and social awareness. Educated individuals are more likely to participate in democratic processes and contribute positively to society. Education also encourages understanding between different social groups, reducing prejudice and discrimination.

However, education systems themselves can sometimes reinforce inequality. Differences between public and private schools, urban and rural areas, and access to higher education can create gaps. Without supportive policies, education alone may not be enough to solve inequality.

To be effective, education must be inclusive and accessible. Scholarships, early childhood education programs, and teacher training can help reduce inequalities. When education is combined with social support, it becomes a powerful force for change.

In conclusion, education plays a central role in reducing social inequality. While challenges remain, investing in inclusive education systems can create a more fair and balanced society.

#### **4. The Effects of Urbanization on Modern Life**

Urbanization refers to the increasing movement of people from rural areas to cities. Over the past century, cities have grown rapidly due to industrialization, economic opportunities, and improved infrastructure. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas. While urbanization brings development and innovation, it also creates social and environmental challenges.

Cities offer access to education, healthcare, and employment. Many people move to urban areas in search of better living standards. Cities are centers of culture, technology, and communication, providing opportunities that may not exist in rural areas.

However, rapid urban growth can cause problems such as overcrowding, pollution, and housing shortages. Traffic congestion and air pollution affect

physical health, while noise and fast-paced lifestyles increase stress levels. Social inequality is also more visible in cities, where wealth and poverty often exist side by side.

Urban life can also affect social relationships. While cities are full of people, individuals may feel isolated due to weak community connections. At the same time, cities offer diversity and exposure to different cultures, which can promote tolerance and creativity.

Sustainable urban planning is essential to reduce negative effects. Green spaces, public transportation, and affordable housing improve quality of life. When cities are designed with people's well-being in mind, urbanization can be a positive force.

In conclusion, urbanization has transformed modern life in many ways. Understanding its effects allows societies to create healthier and more inclusive cities for the future.

## **5. The Influence of Advertising on Consumer Behavior**

Advertising plays a significant role in modern society and strongly influences how people think, feel, and behave as consumers. From television commercials and billboards to social media promotions and online advertisements, individuals are exposed to advertising messages on a daily basis. While advertising helps inform consumers about products and services, it also shapes preferences, creates desires, and affects decision-making processes, often without people being fully aware of its impact.

One of the main purposes of advertising is to attract attention. Companies compete to stand out in a crowded market, using creative visuals, catchy slogans, and emotional messages. Advertisements are designed not only to present a product but also to create an association between the product and certain feelings, such as happiness, success, or confidence. As a result, consumers may begin to desire a product because of how it makes them feel rather than because of its actual usefulness.

Advertising also influences consumer behavior by shaping perceptions of needs. In many cases, advertisements suggest that people are missing something in their lives and that a particular product can solve this problem. For example, beauty advertisements often promote the idea that physical appearance must meet certain standards. This can lead consumers to believe that they need specific products to feel attractive or accepted. Over time, repeated exposure to such messages can change how people view themselves and their needs.

Another important aspect of advertising is brand loyalty. Companies aim to create strong emotional connections between consumers and their brands. When people repeatedly see positive messages about a brand, they may begin to trust it and choose it over others, even if similar products are available at lower prices. This loyalty can influence purchasing habits for years and may even be passed from one generation to another.

The rise of digital advertising has further increased the influence of advertising on consumer behavior. Online platforms collect data about users' interests, search histories, and online activities. This information allows advertisers to create personalized advertisements that are more likely to attract attention. As a result, consumers may feel that advertisements are speaking directly to them, which increases the chances of engagement and purchase.

However, advertising does not affect all consumers in the same way. Factors such as age, education, cultural background, and personal values influence how people respond to advertisements. Younger consumers, for example, may be more influenced by social media influencers, while older consumers may trust traditional advertising methods more. Understanding these differences allows companies to target specific audiences more effectively.

Despite its benefits, advertising also raises ethical concerns. Some advertisements exaggerate product benefits or hide important information. Others promote unrealistic lifestyles or encourage excessive consumption. This can lead to financial stress, environmental damage, and dissatisfaction. In response, many consumers have become more critical and selective, choosing brands that value honesty and sustainability.

Education plays an important role in helping consumers understand advertising strategies. Media literacy allows individuals to analyze messages critically and recognize persuasive techniques. When consumers are aware of how advertising works, they are better able to make informed decisions rather than emotional or impulsive ones.

In conclusion, advertising has a powerful influence on consumer behavior by shaping desires, perceptions, and choices. While it helps connect consumers with products and services, it also affects values and lifestyles. Developing awareness and critical thinking skills enables consumers to navigate the advertising world more consciously and responsibly.