

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You have found an interesting web article about three unusual jobs. Read the web article.

Text 4 Web article



1 For many people around the world, going to work is not exactly the most exciting proposition. From writing never-ending reports to doing repetitive construction jobs to serving difficult customers at a restaurant, the working world can feel very monotonous. Don't you wish you could get paid for doing something fun, such as eating, bouncing on a bed or swimming like a mermaid? Well, you can! Just ask the enterprising individuals below.



2 Every day, Park Seo-yeon sits in front of her webcam and lets people watch her wolf down gigantic meals. In one sitting at her home studio, Park may devour a huge serving of noodles, a heaping plate of vegetables, and maybe a few crabs to top it off. And then there is dessert, of course. In daily

videos that can last as long as four hours, thousands of people watch her every mouthful over the Internet. These 'eating broadcasts', which Koreans call *mukbang*, have become a huge sensation in South Korea. Park explained that people have told her that they had been able to keep to their diets because of her videos. She also said that loneliness might be a factor for the popularity of *mukbang* as Koreans dislike eating alone. Park, whose nickname is 'The Diva', does fairly well financially too. This lucrative occupation earns her as much as HK\$70,000 per month! If you love eating, this job might be right up your street!

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3 If eating in front of a webcam is not your cup of tea, perhaps being a bed tester could be your dream job. In the UK, Natalie Thomas's job title is Director of Bed Bouncing! For up to eight hours a day, all she does is sit and bounce on beds, ensuring that they are free of lumps and ready for guests to have a perfect night's rest. Premier Inn, which is the hotel chain that Natalie is employed by, even said that they had insured her bottom for millions of dollars recently! The Premier Inn chain has approximately 46,000 beds, which is enough to keep this bed tester busy for many years to come.



4 Do you love swimming in pools or the ocean? Ever thought about becoming a professional mermaid? Mermaid Melissa from the US, who has performed all over the world, does just that. Fascinated by these mythical creatures since she was still in diapers, Melissa told us that she had always wanted to be a mermaid as a child. Melissa's career began at marine parks, training killer whales and dolphins to do tricks. But, for this aquatic adventurer, something was still missing. Instead of working with sea creatures, she wanted to be one. Melissa then trained extensively as a free diver, developing the ability to hold her breath for nearly five minutes at a time, which has allowed her to look cool and composed when she spends time underwater. The next step was to commission someone to make her a lovely mermaid tail, then to learn how to shimmy into it and figure out how to swim as naturally as possible with her legs joined together. Melissa's skill and determination has made her the top performing 'professional mermaid' in the world. Her YouTube videos have millions of views, including one where she swims with a gigantic whale shark, and she has also appeared on numerous television shows.

5 The above professions prove that if you can dream it, you can be it. So, what do you love to do? Why not make it your life's work?

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Comprehension 4 *Your brother wants to know more about the web article. Answer his questions using information from the web article. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 Find words in paragraph 1 that mean the same as the following:

- i) idea _____
- ii) attending to _____
- iii) boring _____
- iv) resourceful _____

2 Who does 'the enterprising individuals below' (line 7) refer to?

3 What does 'it' refer to in line 15?

4 Complete the description of one of Park Seo-yeon's meals. Use ONE word to complete each blank.

To begin with, Park (i) _____ herself a large portion of noodles. Then, she has a heaping plate of (ii) _____. Following this, she may eat a (iii) _____ or two. Finally, she will have something sweet for (iv) _____.

5 What is *mukbang*?

6 According to paragraph 2, who enjoys watching *mukbang*?

- i) _____
- ii) _____



7 How do you think watching Park Seo-yeon helps people keep to their diets?

Challenging reading and comprehension

Unit 8

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- 8 Do you think that Park Seo-yeon needs to have another job? Use evidence from the text to justify your response.

- 9 Find an idiom in paragraph 3 that means 'something someone likes or is interested in'.

- 10 What is Natalie Thomas's official job title?

- 11 Does Premier Inn think that Natalie is doing a good job? Give ONE piece of evidence from the text to support your answer.

- 12 Complete the following sentence.

Natalie Thomas bounces on beds in order to _____

- 13 Why will Natalie Thomas be kept busy 'for many years to come'?

- 14 Use ONE word to complete each blank.

Mermaid Melissa, who is from the _____, is a professional mermaid who _____ all over the world.

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15 Mermaid Melissa's name is an example of what literary device?

A onomatopoeia

B personification

C rhyming

D alliteration

A B C D

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

16 What was Mermaid Melissa's first job involving water?



17 Why does Mermaid Melissa need to look 'cool and composed' while she is underwater?

18 Being a professional mermaid requires special skills. Put a tick (✓) next to each skill that is required.

_____ advanced swimming skills

_____ using diving equipment

_____ breath-holding

_____ familiarity with ocean life

_____ knowing how to perform magic

19 Read the following comments by readers of the web article. Which person are they referring to? Write the name next to each comment.

(i) 'I love mythical creatures and my birthday is coming up. I think hiring this person to perform at my party would make it so magical!'

(ii) 'To be honest, I think this person's job is so weird... how does she stay in shape? She must have to exercise a lot!'

(iii) 'This person's job sounds like so much fun! I wonder if she gets to sleep on the job?'

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20 Match the headings to the outline for Text 4. Write A–D in the box next to the number. I and V have been given. One heading is NOT used.

Headings

- A Swimming for charity
- B An online eating sensation
- C Working as an imaginary creature
- D Keeping guests comfortable

Outline

A, B, C, D

I. Introduction
II.
III.
IV.
V. Conclusion



21 If you had to choose one of the professions featured in the article, which one would you choose? Why?



22 What is your favourite hobby? Do you think you would be able to make a career out of it? How would you go about doing so?
