

Práctico Octubre

Inglés Maestros



PRÁCTICO 1:

1. Answer to the following questions according to what you hear in the recording.

- How are called students who don't do an assignment because they find it too ridiculous? Where do this kind of students end up?
- According to Noam Chomsky, which kind of people do you find in the elite universities?
- Which characteristics do sciences and engineering require from the future scientists/engineers which is not promoted in the actual educational system?
- How are Japanese people described in the recording?
- What change in students did actually happen in the 60s?

2. Fill in the gaps with the words missing from the transcript of the recording.

- The educational system namely it's a system of _____ of the young and I think that's correct
- If people are learning things you just can't control, you can't make them just _____ what they heard.
- There's a lot of pressure to turn the schools into the _____ and there's a lot of support for it.
- The curriculum that finishes them off no but and I think that's the purpose really I mean the purpose is just to _____.

3. Describe the meaning fo the following expressions and words mentioned in the recording.

'He couldn't think his way out of a paper bag'-

Flux-

Grievances-

Set somebody off-



READING/USE OF ENGLISH

‘Why gossiping at work is good for you’

Gossiping at work is generally frowned upon. But research shows that we can 1. _____ benefits by leaning into harmless office chit-chat.

There are many things we might miss about working in the office: free coffee, free air conditioning, an excuse to wear something other than sweatpants.

But the thing we might miss the most is other people – and our conversations with them. Specifically, how Mike’s partner just had another baby, how the fridge is filled with Jane’s 2. _____ old lunches, that the IT help desk is as slow as ever and how the boss gave Mark and not Jean that 3. _____ rise. In other words: gossip.

While some gossip can be 4. _____ and unprofessional, other types of gossiping can be fun, normal, even healthy and productive. Experts say that talking about others behind their 5. _____ doesn’t have to be a guilty office 6. _____ – it can be a useful tool to navigate the workplace and learn important information.

“I think, generally, gossip is a good thing,” says Elena Martinescu, a research 7. _____ at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, who’s 8. _____ studied the psychology of gossiping. “According to evolutionary theory, humans have developed gossip in order to facilitate co-operation in a group.”

By talking about other people, we can learn whom to collaborate with and whom to stay away 9. _____, something that helps a group work better together. This ingrained behaviour translates to the modern workplace, she says, “where it is equally important to be aware of which colleagues one can trust and who one should be careful with”.

Matthew Feinberg, a professor of management at the University of Toronto, who’s also studied gossip, points out that there are different types of gossip. “When gossip is just ‘talking 10. _____ – ‘commenting on someone’s appearance for example – that serves no positive purpose, and therefore is negative, damaging and problematic.” But research shows that most gossip is pretty 11. _____.

A 2019 study, for example, showed that when researchers recorded conversations of around 500 participants, the vast majority – more than three-quarters – of the conversations weren’t positive or negative, but neutral. It could be banal information travelling through the grapevine, like ‘I heard Mary’s daughter is majoring in marketing’ or ‘Pete is on holiday in Cornwall’. So even though the same study showed that we gossip a *lot* – an average of 52 minutes a day, in fact – the content is largely not as salacious as we assume.

“I think the biggest misconception is that gossip is always this negative cattiness – talking badly about somebody behind their backs. But surveys suggest that the primary reason people do it is because they really just want to make sense of their environment,” says Shannon Taylor, a professor of management at the University of Central Florida, US, who studies workplace dynamics.

Gossip can “validate our emotions” and help us figure out where other people stand on things, he says, and that gossip helps us make sure if the way we’re “perceiving the world in the same



way as other colleagues and coworkers receive it. It’s really about information gathering.” So, if someone at work says something like “Ralph has been taking a lot of sick leave recently,” it could open the door for others to share their judgments and evaluations – that maybe Ralph’s rampant sick leave could account for his poor job performance, for example. It can help you gauge how much sick leave is regarded as “appropriate” among your colleagues (regardless of formal policy) as well as who’s empathetic or mean towards Ralph.

Gossip isn’t just about information-gathering, however. Hearing gossip about colleagues can also make us more self-reflective, while being the subject of gossip can cause people to change their behaviour.

In a 2014 study, Martinescu and her colleagues asked participants to fill in questionnaires about incidents that involved hearing both negative and flattering gossip about others. The researchers found that while negative gossip made the listener feel superior to the person being gossiped about, thus boosting self-esteem, it also made the listener feel more vulnerable to similar treatment. Meanwhile, listening to flattering gossip gave listeners ideas about how to improve themselves, so they could be more like the person being gossiped about.

In a similar vein, Feinberg says one of the pluses of office gossip is “keeping selfish and immoral individuals in check”. In a 2014 study, he and his team found that “individuals who behaved selfishly or immorally were much more likely to have people gossip about them so that everyone else in the larger group knew about their behaviour”, he says. “As a result, recipients of this gossip were more likely to avoid interacting with them; the recipients often ostracised them.”

4. Read the article from BBC titled ‘Why gossiping at work is good for you’ and fill in the gaps with the missing words. There are 9 extra words.

Shoulders	Backs	Reap	Starving
Extensively	Moldy	Petty	Ugly
Pay	Been	Associate	Worker
From	Trash	Benign	Harmful
Of	Nerve	For	Pastime

5. British and American English have spelling differences. In the BBC article ‘Why gossiping at work is good for you’, look for three words which are preferred in UK spelling. Then, write the same three words with the US spelling.



6. Describe the meaning of the following words and expressions from the BBC article.

Frowned upon:

Grapevine:

Rampant:

7. Identify the words from the text which correspond to the following phonemes:

/ə'wei/:

/'kɒl.i:gs/:

/'wɜ:k.pleɪs/:

/tʃek/:

8. In the following sentence, look for two words formed with an inflectional suffix and two other words formed with a derivational suffix.

“I think the biggest misconception is that gossip is always this negative cattiness – talking badly about somebody behind their backs. But surveys suggest that the primary reason people do it is because they really just want to make sense of their environment.”

INFLECTIONAL:

DERIVATIONAL:

9. Complete each sentence using the word in brackets in an appropriate form.

A) The thing I'd like the most would be to have dinner at that restaurant. (more)

There's _____ to go to that restaurant.

B) When Tom screamed at the kid, he completely ignored him. (Took)

The kid _____ when he screamed at him.

C) What the teacher said was not very clear. (Lack)

There _____ in what the teacher said.

D) It was only when it got dark that the bats left the cave. (Fell)

It was not _____ that the bats left the cave.

E) The bear avoids eating berries unless there is no alternative.

Only _____ eat the berries. (Resort)