

第69回 (令和4年7月) 文章入力スピード認定試験 (英語) 問題

This is a story about a gecko. A long time ago, one of floor boards 70
was decided to be changed, because it got rotten in a house. A joiner soon 146
ripped off the board and took a look. He found a gecko hooked by a nail 219
and it was turning round and round under the board. When the joiners were 294
making a fuss, a master of the house came out. He said that it must have 368
been nailed when this house was repaired five years ago. The joiners 438
wondered how it could survive for five years. One of them studied around 512
and he found a trail of another gecko on a nearby wall. He could figure 585
out that his friend had taken this trail to bring something to eat for his 660
fellow. They were surprised that even a gecko had a friendship. Everyone 735
was impressed by a gecko which helped his friend, and they saved the nailed 811
gecko. 820

Now it is the leisure time of the day. The glossary defines a 884
scrapbook as an empty book to collect and preserve photos, newspaper 953
articles, and other papers. Today, to scrapbook is also used as a verb, 1,026
and it becomes a popular new hobby. We talked with a woman, who runs a 1,098
club for people who love to scrapbook. 1,139

You may ask what the members exactly do. When she makes a scrapbook 1,209
page, she takes a few family photos and put them into a layout, which is 1,282
one that uses fancy paper, stickers, drawings, words to show the theme and 1,357
so on. For example, she is working on a page about her son called the 1,428
first day at school. On that page, there is a photo of him and one of his 1,503
drawings, and she decorates it with alphabet stickers. She uses many 1,573
things on her pages, such as ribbons, stickers, beads, and more. When you 1,648
make a scrapbook, you put words and pictures together to show the important 1,724
times in your life. It is like a personal history. 1,778

You wonder why everyone got started. When she was a child, she always 1,850
saved bits of paper. Things like movie tickets, vacation postcards, and 1,923
even paper napkins were her collection. She loved looking at them and 1,994

remembering. She made her first scrapbook at the age of ten when her father passed away. When she looked through his desk, she found the most wonderful things, like the anniversary cards from her parents and photos of his army days. She could not throw away anything, so she made two scrapbooks, one for her brother and one for her.

One question comes to your mind how they learn about new scrapbooking techniques and trends. Internet is a great resource for new ideas. Many new scrappers, people who make scrapbooks, work with their computers, using digital photos and special software. But her favorite place to get new ideas is at scrapbooking trade shows. These shows feature new materials and techniques, offer workshops, and are a great way to meet people with the same interests.

Another question is why scrapbooking is so popular these days. She thinks people want to preserve their family history and display it for other people to see. When you make a scrapbook, you can pass the stories on to your children and your grandchildren. So many people today want to do that. In the United States alone, there are two thousand five hundred local scrapbooking stores. It is amazing numbers. They sell paper and other supplies for scrapbooking. On the net, you can find scrapbooking websites from other countries. It is now universal. We all have boxes of pictures, and we all want to keep those precious memories. That is the real meaning of scrapbooking, sharing your family experiences and your story.

If you wanted to watch a sitcom or a sporting event, you would have to watch it from your television in former times. As Internet technology improves, more shows and movies are becoming available online. Television Broadcasting companies are putting their prime time shows directly on the net, and movie rental stores are converting their DVD collections to digital libraries. This is probably a good change, for viewers. People

can now pick exactly what they want to watch and decide when and how they want to watch it. A study done by a company found that more than half of Americans, fifty-six percent, surf the Internet while watching television, and approximately forty percent say that they read blogs or go on social networking sites at the same time. This trend could be a problem for television stations though. Advertisers cannot get a response from viewers, and they do not want to pay money if their commercials are not being seen. In contrast, people who watch things online seem more engaged with what they watch. They read and write comments on the show, they look up details about the show, and they are less likely to ignore ads. For broadcasters, online viewers may turn out to be more loyal fans.

Changing the habits of people takes time. Even though many people are interested in watching television on the net, some may not want to make the switch completely. Some might be persuaded to, but only under certain circumstances. According to the study, almost half of television viewers, forty-four percent, would cancel their cable television if they could get the same programs for free online. However, the number fell to sixteen percent when people were told they had to pay a small fee for online viewing. This is strange, because monthly cable bills of most households are the same or even more than what they would pay for the same shows online. It is possible that people have become so used to getting online entertainment for free that they learn not to value it as much.

Even with growing interest in online entertainment, people still think watch television shows with their friends and family is important. People used to think that watching television would make families spend less time together, but it actually brought families closer for a few hours each night. Now it is feared that viewing shows online could make people more isolated. Who knows? Perhaps as online programming becomes more popular, people will find a way to make it into a social activity.