4.1. LISTENING: LISTENING COMPREHENSION BASED ON NEWS REPORTS- AND DOCUMENTARIES, PRECIS WRITING, SUMMARISING.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION BASED ON NEWS REPORTS

Report on Michael Dell

Watch the video, and pay attention to it.

VIDEO LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOi4b7XeSMg

Answer the listening comprehension questions given in the following

1. How much of his own money did Michael Dell invest in his company when things were going

bad?

a. $700 million dollars

b. $70 million dollars

c. $7 million dollars

2. What was the result of this gamble?

a. He made more than 2 million dollars.

b. He lost half of his money.

c. The stock fell, but Dell made money.

3. When did Michael Dell start his career?

a. In a dorm room

b. 22 years ago

c. 56 years ago

4. Apart from lowering prices on computers, what is Dell doing to turn around it's business?

a. Trying to improve customer service Answer:

b. Outsourcing

c. Closing some customer service centers

5. According to this report, Dell

a. agreed to an exclusive partnership with Intel

b. bought 2 million shares of Intel

c. will no longer only be using Intel chips

LISTEN TO THE DOCUMENTARY
Listen to the following documentary about global warming and state if the statement is true (T) or false (F).
VIDEO LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTQ3Ko9ZKg8

a). Engineers have found the solution to global warming. T/F
b). A new machine can extract CO, from the air and make it disappear. T/F
c). The name of the machine is very easy to remember. T/F
d). Using the machine may be better than storing CO, underground. T/F
e). The technology is still up to two decades away from everyday use. T/F
f. Only a smaller version of the machine is in use today. T/F
g). Fuel produced by the machine will replace petrol. T/F
h). Fuel produced by the machine will create further pollution. T/F

Answer: (a)..... (b)..... (C)... (d). (e).. .).. (g).. (h).....

PRECIS WRITING/ SUMMARISING

Precis comes from a French word "précis", and is literally translated "as precise, clear, up to the point". The precis meaning pertains to a summary of any writing piece, be it a book, an article, or a novel. What is typical for this unusual type of assignment is the outline of the main points and arguments presented in the given text. Any deep or critical analysis should not be provided in precis, but it should nevertheless objectively explain the situation narrated in this or that literary piece.

Summary vs. Precis

We've already mentioned before that precis is basically a text summary. But in fact, there's a fine line between the two terms. A summary is a brief statement that succinctly covers the main points of a given text. Whereas precis should have a title and be 1/3 of the total words in the original passage. Also, summary broadly discusses the main events in general, while precis focuses on every detail and deeply analyzes a particular situation.

PRECIS FORMAT

To wrap up the information mentioned above, let's schematically define the typical format of a nicely-written precis.

In the introductory sentence: Indicate the author's name, article/book title, date of publishing in parenthesis, and topic you want to discuss.

In the main body: Write a sentence that provides clarification of how the author formulates and further explains the main point of the reading. Write a sentence wherein include a statement that reflects the author's purpose. Use the "in order" phrase to develop this sentence. Write a sentence with a description of the presumed audience and the depiction of connection which the author establishes with readers.

In the conclusion: Present a finishing remark of 2-3 sentences to shed light on the author's intended idea for the book or article. Give a 1-sentence restatement of the major claim which the author used to develop their evidence in the reading.

The first step of precis lies in studying the text. The second one - in structuring your précis. The third phase is dedicated to revision and proofreading.

For example, a precis for a short article will, as a rule, be 50-100 words long.