

TRANSKRYPCJA NAGRAŃ

Task 1.

SPEAKER A

Computers can now understand quite a bit about language. Advanced software uses specific search words to find and sort documents, but can also filter documents by definitions. So a user who types the word 'dog' will also find documents that mention 'man's best friend'. But some programmes go further. Company executives can easily mine documents for any illicit activities and interactions of their staff. The software picks up instances when a sensitive document has been edited by an unauthorized person. It can also detect subtle changes in the style of email communication such as a shift from breezy to unusually formal, which can raise a red flag.

SPEAKER B

As a lawyer for over three decades, I remember we used to dig through piles of papers preparing for criminal or administrative cases. Sometimes providing documents for one lawsuit took dozens of low-ranking office workers who laboured for months and, obviously, had to be paid. Nowadays, special software can analyze documents in a fraction of the time, at a fraction of the expense. Plus, people get bored and tired, and computers don't. Last year, we had to search through half a million documents under a deadline of one week. The software did it in two days. We then needed just one more day to do the sifting, that is to identify the documents most relevant to the case. At this point humans need to come in. Maybe in the future machines will be able to do that as well...

SPEAKER C

The technological progress we're experiencing right now is happening so fast that it is hard to keep track of all the latest developments. Every day brings new computer software which is designed to make our life easier and increase efficiency in the workplace. Indeed, computer software is omnipresent, even nuclear power plants or missile systems depend on it. It's scary to think what would happen if, for some reason, there was a major computer failure. A more down-to-earth fear is that too many jobs are, or can potentially be, replaced by technology. However, in my opinion, there is no reason to immediately assume - as people often do - that technology creates unemployment. Thanks to innovative technologies new areas of employment are opening up. The only problem is to adjust to the ever changing demands of the job market.

adapted from www.nytimes.com

Task 2.

Text 1

Hello. I'm Sarah Steward. In today's programme, I'm talking to Larry O'Connell about intentional communities, an issue on which Larry can be called an expert as he has been living in intentional communities for decades.

I have a hard time when the notion of intentional communities comes up in casual conversation. I don't know how to explain the idea simply. Any suggestions?

Larry: Intentional community is a term which refers to groups of people who live together on the basis of explicit common values, which could be economic, social, environmental, spiritual, psychological, or any combination of these. Generally, communities own land together, though not always, because some groups are sceptical about it. The key thing for me is that people want to live with others who share their core beliefs. So long as groups don't advocate violent practices or attempt to interfere with an individual's right to freely leave if dissatisfied, I'm happy to help disseminate information about what communities are doing and what they represent because I'm all for it.

Sarah: You've lived in one community or another since 1974. How did you get interested in this phenomenon?

Larry: I greatly valued my experience of dormitory living in college. It offered a combination of peer stimulation and support which I thrived on. I started missing it terribly soon after graduation. And then in the winter of 1973 I stumbled across Kathleen Kinkade's book, 'A Walden Two Experiment' and that led me to examine intentional communities as an option. I think in a way I sought a community to recapture the college experience, the feeling of sharing your life with other people. So I joined one such community and I'm still in one today, although a different one. And I hope I finally found what I was looking for.

Sarah: Is living in a community something people need to study, or is it something that can be learned just through experience? What do you think?

Larry: People learn about and approach communities in many ways. In my opinion, no single way is best. I think that serious seekers should start with reading all they can about available options. But it's not enough to make an informed choice. You need to set aside time to visit groups you are interested in, get in touch with people living this kind of life. The combination of the two is absolutely necessary if you are seriously considering joining a community. Often, people will find that first-hand experience helps them to define their intellectual preferences. You may realise that these things you thought were important may not be so much, and things that didn't matter suddenly do. All of this makes you a more savvy shopper when it comes to knowing what will be a good fit for you.

Sarah: Which aspects of the intentional community movement are changing and how?

Larry: The concept has been around for the last 50 years with new terms appearing now and then, but a lot of those apparently novel ideas are old wine in a new bottle. There has been one noteworthy demographic shift since 1960: there are a bunch of people over 40 or 50 who are trying community for the first time. At the beginning of the movement, there was very little of that. While folks in their 20s and 30s are still the bulk of those experimenting with cooperative living, now other age ranges are joining the party in significant numbers.

Sarah: Thank you, Larry.

adapted from www.questionriot.com

Text 2

In the programme tonight, our guest is Professor Joan Howard, who will give a short lecture about the history of fireworks.

For hundreds of years, people have been awed by the bright lights and big noise of fireworks. We can't imagine Independence Day without them but how did they find their way to the US? It is commonly held that the Chinese made the first fireworks by filling bamboo shoots with gunpowder. It is said that they used them to frighten enemies in battle and exploded them at the New Year with the hope that the sound would scare off evil spirits. Tradition has it that Marco Polo brought this invention to Europe from there. It's fair to say, however, that the origins of fireworks are shrouded in smoke; the China story is widespread, and possibly true, but fireworks may in fact have developed in the Arab world. Whatever the origins, we know that early settlers carried a supply of fireworks to the New World. It's recorded in a letter which Captain John Smith sent to the English court that he launched them in Jamestown in 1608. In this way, to the amazement of Native Americans who were either impressed with or scared of the invention, colonists could enjoy the entertainment hugely popular back in England.

According to many researchers fireworks became known in Europe during the 1300s, probably after returning Crusaders brought them from the East. Florence was the European centre of firework manufacturing. But in the 15th or 16th century fireworks were just one feature of a celebration rather than its focus. For instance, at religious festivals Italians carried simple plaster figures that spewed fireworks from their eyes and mouths. During the 1700s firework displays became more elaborate and more popular with European royalty. French king Louis XV ordered extravagant displays of fireworks at Versailles, at the wedding of his grandson, and Russian tsar Peter the Great put on a five-hour show after the birth of his son. Today fireworks are a key part of celebrating Independence Day in the United States, Guy Fawkes' Day in the United Kingdom, Bastille Day in France, and New Year festivities around the world.

adapted from www.infoplease.com

Task 3.

Have you heard the slogan "if you love it, set it free"? Has it ever occurred to you that this slogan could refer to books? Well, if it hasn't, I'd like to tell you about a great idea I've recently discovered.

A few days ago my friend Lyle intrigued me with a post about a book-focused website called BookCrossing.com. As I explored the site I saw that thousands of people had logged on to pass on their best-loved books to complete strangers. By giving information about where they have left their book, people make it possible for other site users to track it and pick it up. I realized that it presents an interesting concept which I decided to call "random acts of literary kindness". My imagination was hooked. I started wondering what book I could give away and whose life it would affect. Finally, I went for *Empire Falls*.

New Year's Day dawned with the crisp breeze of opportunity. I was ready for my first subversive action of the year. I signed up on BookCrossing.com under the pseudonym Poppyseed, registered my chosen novel's title and description and recorded the book as being dropped off at the post office. Now I had to do it. I was accountable to the thousands of fellow BookCrossers who had braved the wild before me, leaving their books to find new homes like seeds scattered on untilled soil.

With the book registration marker securely taped onto page one, my book was ready to be released. As I entered the post-office, I kept hoping another customer wouldn't be waiting behind me, stopping my clean getaway with a polite, "Excuse me, I believe you left your book on the ledge." Would I deny it was my book, or would I explain that I wanted to leave my

book behind, their eyes narrowing in an attempt to understand this craziness? After all, that's not what we're accustomed to. We are not expected to leave items that we value for whomever might come along to help themselves. We are to protect what is ours, guard it and display it on shelves, at best give it to somebody we know well, but not to somebody who happens to be passing by. This is why such a simple act as giving away an enjoyable book to a complete stranger can make a difference to your life. In doing the unexpected, the mundane everydayness of life sparkles with the joy of passing on a good read to the good fortune of fate.

To my surprise, within an hour of leaving *Empire Falls* to fend for itself, I received an e-mail that its new owner had already found it! A fellow BookCrosser had gone hunting on the site and noticed a drop-off location close to her home. She must have rushed to the post office and nabbed the book, beginning her own bookcrossing adventure. I'm planning on leaving another book in the wild some day soon. I have no idea whether this one will roam the city streets for months or leave urban life altogether to travel down prairie roads.

adapted from www.watershedonline.ca