

TEXT A

Grameen Bank

By Linda Baxter

The beginning

01 Twenty five years ago, Muhammed Yunus, a Bangladeshi economics
02 teacher, was visiting a village when he met a woman who made bamboo
03 stools. She couldn't afford to buy the bamboo to make the stools, so she
04 had to borrow the money from the bamboo sellers and then pay them a
05 large part of the profit from each one she sold. There was so little money
06 left for her to keep that she couldn't afford to buy more bamboo, so she
07 had to borrow more money. And so the cycle continued with no way out for
08 her. She couldn't borrow money from friends or family because they were
09 as poor as she was. She couldn't borrow from the bank because she had
10 no collateral (property or land) to guarantee that she would pay back the
11 loan.

12 Yunus went around the village and found forty-two people who were in the
13 same situation - trapped in a cycle of poverty with no escape. When he
14 added up the amount of money that they needed to break free of the cycle,
15 it came to just twenty-seven dollars. As Yunus says "I felt ashamed of
16 myself for being part of a society which could not provide even twenty-
17 seven dollars to forty-two hardworking, skilled human beings."

18 He lent them the money and told them to pay it back whenever they could.
19 He got all of it back, so he went to other villages and did the same thing.
20 He always got his money back. The official banks didn't want to get
21 involved in what he was doing, so Yunus started his own bank. The
22 Grameen bank was born, and with it a new approach to lending money –
23 'micro-credit'.

But what makes the Grameen bank so different?

24 The conventional banking system is based on the principle that the more
25 you have, the more you can borrow. Grameen gives priority to those who
26 have nothing, particularly the poorest women. The loans are small and
27 repayments are made in small amounts spread over a year, with a built-in
28 insurance scheme so that the family doesn't become responsible for the
29 loan if something happens to the borrower. There is no legal contract
30 between the bank and the borrower, and no danger of legal action if the
31 repayments are not made – the relationship is based on trust and good
32 faith.

33 Repayment rates are very high for two main reasons. Firstly, borrowers
34 know that they cannot borrow again if they don't repay the first loan. And
35 secondly, they must join a group of other borrowers who all share some
36 responsibility for other members' loans and are encouraged to make group
37 decisions. So there is considerable peer pressure and support from the

38 group to encourage them to pay it all back.
39 Another important difference from conventional banks is that Grameen has
40 a social programme. The system encourages the borrowers to do practical
41 things to improve their living conditions, health and level of education.
42 These are known as the 'Sixteen Decisions' which include, for example,
43 not continuing the dowry system, growing fresh vegetables, organising
44 clean drinking water and good sanitation, education for children, and being
45 ready to help each other whenever necessary. Conventional banks would
46 not consider this to be any of their business.

The success

47 The bank now lends over a billion dollars to more than two million
48 borrowers, 96% of them women, and involving more than half of the
49 villages in Bangladesh. The repayment rate is 99%. The rural economy of
50 the country has improved greatly since the bank started. And the success
51 has spread. This year it was estimated that there are now over 7,000
52 microcredit organizations in the world, lending to over 16 million of the
53 poorest people.

54 Grameen's success in Bangladesh has also shown that the developing
55 world has lessons to teach richer countries like the USA and Britain. Both
56 countries have begun to encourage microcredit schemes based on the
57 Grameen model, in an attempt to deal with their own levels of poverty.

SOURCE: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/magazine/grameen-bank>, accessed in 12/09/2016.

Vocabulary bank

stools (l. 4) - a seat with legs without support for your back.

peer (l.38) - a person with same age or social status as you.

dowry (l. 44) - money/property that a wife/family must pay when she gets married.

TEXT B

Toyota shuts lifts down to save money because of strong yen

01 The car company Toyota is shutting down two elevators at its global
02 headquarters to save money. The world's largest automaker said on
03 Thursday it will shut down two of eight elevators at its main Tokyo office.
04 This is to save electricity and to cut down on the costs of operating the
05 building. One reason for this new move is the strengthening Japanese yen.
06 The yen has become much stronger since the UK voted to leave the EU on
07 June the 23rd. One dollar bought nearly 120 yen in January; now it buys
08 just above 100. A stronger yen means Toyota cars sold overseas are more
09 expensive and profits go down. Toyota's profit for the year ending March
10 2016 was a record ¥2.31 trillion, which is around \$23 billion.

11 A Toyota spokeswoman said the company decided to shut down the
12 elevators several weeks ago because of the rising yen. The company is
13 also adjusting the temperature of air conditioners to save money. The
14 spokeswoman said Toyota took similar cost-cutting measures after the
15 financial crisis that happened in September 2008. That also made the yen
16 strengthen against the dollar. The spokeswoman said: "These policies are
17 not new." She added: "The key objective for the stoppage of elevators
18 specifically is to raise awareness amongst employees, and to remind them
19 of the commitment that Toyota has towards the idea of increasing
20 competitiveness through staying lean and reducing waste."

Adapted from: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-36742652>, accessed in 14/09/2016.

Questions 1 to 6 are related to TEXT A.

1. According to the text, write true (T) or false (F). Mark the alternative which presents the correct order from the top to the bottom.

- () – Legal action is taken if the repayments are not made.
- () – Most of the banks run social programmes.
- () – Yunus wanted to interrupt the poverty cycle.

- a- T – F – F
- b- F – T – T
- c- T – T – F
- d- F – F – T

2. According to the text, currently the Grameen Bank receives

- a- all the money they lend.
- b- almost all the money they lend.
- c- 96% of the money they lend .
- d- half of the money they lend.

3. The expression 'ashamed of' (line 15) can be replaced without changing the meaning by

- a- happy with.
- b- embarrassed about.
- c- worried about.
- d- sad about.

4. The word 'because' (line 8) can be replaced without changing the meaning by

- a- however.
- b- although.
- c- since.
- d- despite.

5. The word 'if' (line 34) expresses

- a- addition.
- b- consequence.
- c- contradiction.
- d- condition.

6. The word 'their' (line 57) refers to

- a- countries.
- b- levels.
- c- schemes.
- d- lessons.

Questions 7 to 10 are related to the TEXT B.

7. The word “headquarters” (line 02) means
- a- a store that is one of a series of similar shops owned by the same company.
 - b- a local office belonging to a large company or organization.
 - c- a place from which an organization or a military operation is controlled.
 - d- a large shop that sells many different types of goods.
8. Without changing the meaning, the word “profits” (line 09) **can** be substituted by
- a- dividends.
 - b- losses.
 - c- money.
 - d- credits.
9. According to the text, all statements below are incorrect, **except** for.
- a- A strong yen is a good scenario for Toyota.
 - b- The shutting down of the elevators will save about \$23 billion a year.
 - c- Toyota has just shut down the elevators.
 - d- Similar measures had been taken before by Toyota.
10. The pronoun “that” in the sentence “That also made the yen...” (line 15) refers to
- a- financial crisis.
 - b- Toyota.
 - c- dollar.
 - d- September.

*The questions 11 to 13 are about the following text. Read it and choose the correct answer to fill each gap.

What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is a new **(11.)** _____ that was created in 2009 by an unknown person using the alias Satoshi Nakamoto. Transactions are made with no middle men – meaning, no banks! There are no transaction **(12.)** _____ and no need to give your real name. More merchants are beginning to accept them: You can buy webhosting services, pizza or **(13.)** _____ manicures.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/infographic/technology/what-is-bitcoin/>

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 11. a- currency | 12. a- charges | 13. a- ever |
| b- credit card | b- fees | b- among |
| c- change | c- memories | c- besides |
| d- credit | d- chances | d- even |

* As questões 11, 12 e 13 serão consideradas nulas devido a um problema na numeração na prova (cópia física) entregue aos alunos.

14. Read the sentence: 'I'll ask my boss when I can have a day off'.

Mark the correct reported speech for the sentence above.

- a- She said she would ask her boss when she has a day off.
- b- She said she asks her boss when she could have a day off.
- c- She said she asked her boss when she can have a day off.
- d- She said she would ask her boss when she could have a day off.

15. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence below.

'Figures published today show another fall in the _____ of inflation'.

- a- numerous
- b- rate
- c- income
- d- installment

16. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence below.

'_____ traffic on the roads has increased enormously in recent years.'

- a- Goods
- b- Labels
- c- Brands
- d- Companies

17. Read the sentence below.

'Bitcoins can be used to buy merchandise anonymously. In addition, international payments are easy and cheap because bitcoins are not tied to any country or subject to regulation'.

Without changing the meaning, the words "In addition" (line 1) **can** be substituted by these words, **except** for

- a- furthermore.
- b- moreover.
- c- besides.
- d- nevertheless.

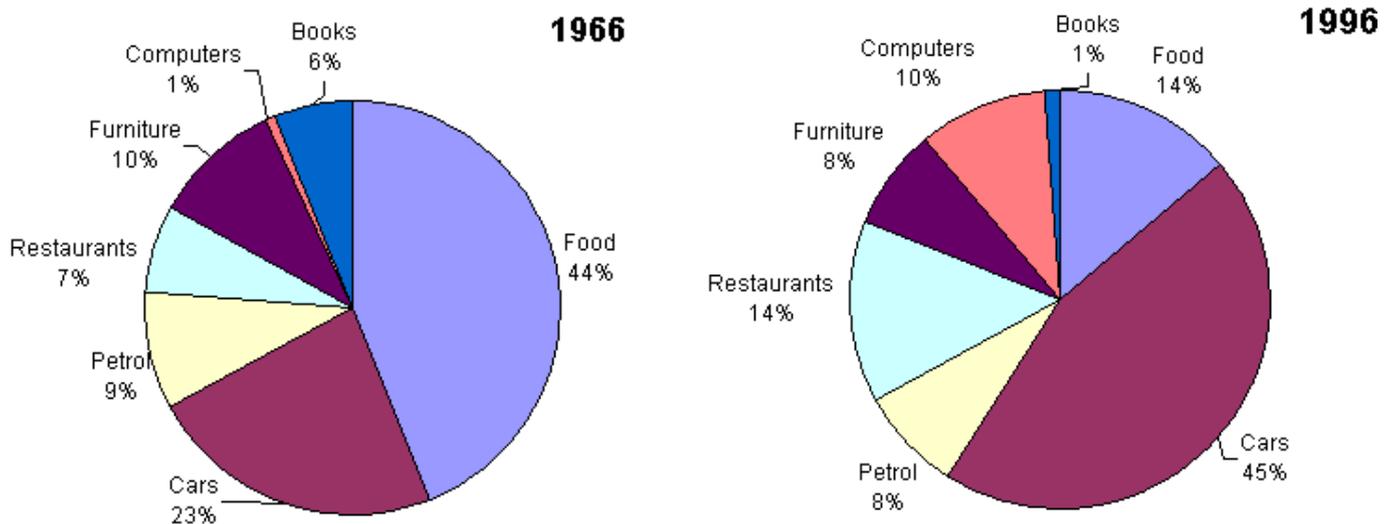
18. Read the sentence below.

'Small businesses may like bitcoins because there are no credit card fees.'

Without changing the meaning, the verb "may" can be replaced by

- a- might.
- b- must.
- c- couldn't.
- d- mustn't.

19. Look at the graphics below and read the description.



'The outlay on cars doubled, _____ from 23% in 1966 to 45% in 1996.'

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence above.

- a- rising
- b- decreasing
- c- lowering
- d- showing

20. Choose the word that has the same meaning as 'transaction' in the sentence below.

'Using the Internet can significantly reduce transaction costs.'

- a- charge
- b- deal
- c- property
- d- profit

GRADE DE RESPOSTAS QUESTÕES OBJETIVAS

Questão	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Resposta	D	B	B	C	D	A	C	A	D	A

Questão	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Resposta	A	B	D	D	B	A	D	A	A	B

ATENÇÃO !

Respostas rasuradas serão desconsideradas.

WRITING

I. Write a formal email.

Write an email to a colleague giving some news about a project: its progress, problems and solutions, any budget or staffing issues.

You decide the project you want to talk about. Suggestions: sustainability of the company; recycling; cut down costs, or any other idea you have

Remember, the project is in development, you will give some news about it.

(Write between 80 and 100 words and do not use contractions)

II. Write a formal e-mail.

You saw this advert in the newspaper:

Job Title: Currency Trader

Description: Currency traders buy and sell foreign money.

Benefits: The pay is high.

Requirements: You have to keep up with the news. You must understand financial markets.

Drawbacks: It's very stressful.

Write an email applying for this position. Why are you suitable for this job?

(Write between 50 and 70 words and do not use contractions – only the body of the e-mail will be counted)