

Practice Test 06

Listening Comprehension and Summary: audio file available on: eslfriend.com

Please listen carefully and summarize the following passage.

I was dealing with a lot of stress from work and I felt I needed an escape, so my friend suggested picking up a new hobby. I wasn't sure which hobby I should try but eventually decided on boxing. There was a boxing gym near my house and I figured I could punch some bags, blow off steam, and maybe lose a few pounds in the process. It has now been over three years since I joined the boxing gym and I plan to have my first exhibition match next week.

Discussion Questions:

Please answer the following questions.

1. What is the most stressful aspect about your work?
2. If you could pick up a new hobby, what would you try?
3. Having some stress at work is better for productivity than no stress. Do you agree or disagree?

Picture Description:

Please describe the picture.



Practice Test 06 Answers

Summary

I was under a lot stress and I wanted to take a break. A friend suggested that I pick up a new hobby. I chose boxing because there was a gym near my house where I could relieve my stress and maybe lose some weight. I have been training for 3 years and I will have my first boxing match next week.

Discussion Questions

1. The most stressful thing about my work is not the work itself, but having to maintain good relationships with everyone I work with. I didn't know that this was so important until a few months of starting this job. Since we need to collaborate with a lot of different teams and people, it was important that I create good relationships with them especially since I will need them for future projects. Making enemies is one of the worst things someone can do at this job, eventually you will need them and having them on your bad side is not what you want.

2. A new hobby I would like to pick up is snowboarding. I never had the chance to go when I was in school and it always looked so cool. I think it would be great to glide down the ski slopes on a snowboard and show off to my friends. I also think it would be exciting to move across the snow quickly and do cool tricks. I think if I get the chance I would want to learn snowboarding as my next hobby.

3. I think it is definitely better to have some stress at work for better productivity. I think that good stress motivates people to try harder and to meet seemingly impossible deadlines. Pressure from the boss can give us an edge when we need to complete things on time and make things happen at work. I think without deadlines and pressure, many things would not get done. They would simply be pushed back and delayed repeatedly.

Picture Description

A baby is meeting Santa Claus during the Christmas holiday. The baby seems nervous about meeting this old man since he is unfamiliar with him. Santa is trying hard to be friendly and to make the baby laugh. The parents of this baby are very proud of this moment as they are taking this picture. The baby will understand this picture much later after a few years.