

**PLACEMENT TEST – SAMPLE 1**



**A. Read the following text and fill in the blanks in the summary that follows.**

If scientists are to be believed, robots could soon be teaching computers to school children. Experts have long promised that robots would start to do daily household chores. But with the exception of a robotic vacuum cleaner, currently on sale in Japan, this has yet to be properly materialized. Now, a British company is re-designing a robot, developed by a team at Reading University, into a full-fledged education aid in an attempt to make computing lessons more fun for kids, as “The Daily Telegraph” reports. According to the scientists, children can programme the MechRC robot to move it around, make it dance or play games. The battery-operated robot which can back flip, is programmed via a computer. Students have to programme each of the 17 joints to make sure the robot does not fall over and moves smoothly. In the classroom mechanics can seem dry and abstract, but when a robot is involved it's like giving a kid a cartoon character to interact with. (Words 164)

Vocabulary: full-fledged = completely developed / back flip = turn back

Source: EMBO reports 7, 5, 474–476 (2006) - [www.embo.org](http://www.embo.org)

**Summary (one or two words are missing in each blank)**

<b>The new generation of educational robots</b>	
Scientists believe that soon robots could be teaching (1)..... at schools.	
A robot (2)..... by a team at Reading University is being re-designed by a (3) ..... in order to be used for educational purposes.	
They are trying to develop a robot capable of making (4)..... lessons more fun for kids.	
Now, children can programme the new robot to (5)....., (6)..... or (7) .....	
Students must make sure the robot does not (8) ..... and moves (9)..... .	
In class, it's as if kids are given a (10) ..... to interact with.	

(5 points)

**B. Read the text and choose the correct word for each blank.**

Robots are one of the \_\_\_(1)\_\_\_ intriguing technological advancements of our time. They are doing \_\_\_(2)\_\_\_ these days from making your morning cup of coffee and keeping your house clean, to helping with \_\_\_(3)\_\_\_ military training and saving lives in the operating room. Robots are now \_\_\_(4)\_\_\_ humans to go to places and see things that they never before \_\_\_(5)\_\_\_ possible.

- |   |                |               |                |              |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | a. more        | b. very       | c. most        | d. biggest   |
| 2 | b. nothing     | b. everything | c. anything    | d. something |
| 3 | a. advancing   | b. advanced   | c. advancement | d. advances  |
| 4 | a. allowed     | b. allow      | c. allowing    | d. allows    |
| 5 | a. have dreamt | b. has dreamt | c. dreaming    | d. dreamt    |
- (5 points)

**C. Choose the correct answer.**

- Turn off the computer! You \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of computer games for today!  
a. have already played      b. played enough      c. are playing
- I \_\_\_\_\_ the Net yesterday when I came across an interesting site about endangered animals.  
a. was surfing      b. surfed      c. had surfed
- I \_\_\_\_\_ a computer this Saturday. Would you mind showing me how to get on line?  
a. buy      b. am buying      c. can buy
- Last weekend, I \_\_\_\_\_ hours on my computer working on my Geography project.  
a. have spent      b. was spending      c. spent
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the information on the Internet is not accurate or reliable.  
a. no      b. much      c. many
- I am sorry but I haven't received \_\_\_\_\_ of your mails. Will you send them again?  
a. no      b. anything      c. any
- You are not alone if you find that your child knows \_\_\_\_\_ about the Internet than you do.  
a. more      b. as much      c. a lot
- My computer is very \_\_\_\_\_ and always crashes. I'll get a technician to look at it.  
a. stubborn      b. noisy      c. dangerous
- Google, which is an \_\_\_\_\_ search engine, was established in 1998.  
a. efficient      b. old fashioned      c. complicated
- When I was younger I was \_\_\_\_\_ of playing computer games.  
a. good      b. interested      c. fond

(10 points)

**PLACEMENT TEST / SAMPLE 1**

**ANSWERS**

**A. Summary**

1. computers
2. developed
3. British company
4. computing
5. move around
6. make it dance
7. play games
8. fall over
9. smoothly
10. cartoon character

**B.**

1. ( c ) most 2. ( c ) anything 3. ( b ) advanced 4. ( c ) allowing 5. ( d ) dreamt

**C.**

1. a 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. a 8. b 9. a 10. c