

Language Skills HW

21st Century Non-Fiction

- Reading for Meaning
- Building Vocabulary

Context Question: What is a 'millennial'? Find out before you read and write the answer here: _____

Task 1: Reading for Gist

1. Use the Clues - Highlight the contextual information, e.g. title, date, summary information
2. Track the Topics – Underline and read the first sentence only of each paragraph. Circle key words and phrases that tell you: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

In this extract from *The Guardian* newspaper, British comedian Joe Lycett discusses how he feels about being referred to as a 'millennial'.

'I'm a millennial... Get me out of here!' (27/05/2017)

There are many terms that have been used to describe me: man, comedian, disappointment. In the last few years, a new one has been added to the mix: millennial. It sounded quite cool at first, as if I were part of some exclusive club with a neon logo, until I did a bit of digging and discovered that it actually means that the year I was born and the liberal parenting style of my mother and father have resulted in an adult who can't build meaningful relationships, will never have true job satisfaction and is addicted to his phone.

There was a video doing the rounds titled 'Millennials In The Workplace' that made some clarifications: a clip from a conference being held in what looked like an Amazon warehouse. The main speaker is the renowned author and motivational guru, Simon Sinek, a glossy advice-robot who tells you that social media is ruining your life (albeit through the medium of a video on Facebook). He says we send text messages all the time because, when we get a reply it releases dopamine. "No, Simon," I thought, "if I want a release of dopamine, I will drink a bottle of merlot." Sinek says we struggle to have face-to-face conversations. To which the answer is: "No, Simon, I am fantastic at face-to-face conversations after drinking a bottle of merlot."

I had heard it all before, but it still made me cross. Sure, millennials get impatient if their Amazon Prime delivery doesn't arrive within hours of ordering, but that's because most of our patience will be used up waiting approximately 700 years to buy our first flat. I resent being told that I'm lazy, entitled and addicted to my phone by a man from a generation that enjoyed affordable housing, free further education, a reasonable job market and a normal-shaped Toblerone. I resent being told this because, in my case, Sinek is absolutely right.

A few months after watching the video, I'm in a house I've just bought in Birmingham (not London, obviously; I'm not a Russian oligarch), desperately Googling what a house is and how to work one. I am a rare millennial who managed to buy property thanks to a mix of highly lucrative TV panel show work and employing Gary Barlow as a financial adviser. I have no idea what I have to do and I want someone else to do it for me. One of the neighbours informs me of something called "bin day". I

discover that this is the day when you need to prepare the bins to be emptied. Apparently, my parents have spent my entire life preparing bins behind my back.

Sensing my confusion, my recently retired father offered his services as "project manager" for house renovations. Officially, he is helping because I am too busy to do it myself, but we both know it's because, left to my own devices, the house would have collapsed within three months on account of me trying to get a new kitchen fitted by a Deliveroo driver.

It's not just the new house in which my shortcomings are becoming clear. According to Sinek, millennials have been raised to expect unrealistic levels of job satisfaction with minimum effort. This is absolutely me. A good day's work consists of a leisurely brunch, writing one joke, an hour's nap in the afternoon and then maybe 20 minutes on stage in the evening. Writing this article is the most work I've done in ages, if you don't count curating one of the most magnificent Instagram accounts on the internet.

Sinek's most annoyingly accurate observation is our addiction to our phones. Checking it for updates is now a reflex, and without my little device, I essentially serve no purpose. I know that when the nuclear dust settles, there'll be no appetite for someone who's witty on Instagram. But when the land is submerged under melted ice caps, it'll be we millennials that have to continue the species, our only hope resting in the fact that the new iPhone is waterproof.

Irked by Sinek's thorough and accurate deconstruction of my kind, I have tried in vain to de-millennial myself. I've attempted tech-free days when I turn off the phone and stare at the iPad instead. I've endeavoured to do things in the *real* world with *real* people: I've started going to a sculpture class, but ended up offending my beautiful friend by accidentally sculpting her to look like Ainsley Harriott. The problem is that the real world is so monstrously complicated that the reassuring constant newness of my little internet world always wins.

I am now reconciled to the fact that I am a millennial through and through. I'll be at peace with my fate when the apocalypse comes: engulfed in flames while searching for a phone charger.

3. Jot the Gist – Write down what this Source is about in 1-2 sentences max.

This text is about.....

Task 2 - Reading for Meaning:

Re-read the text and answer these questions about it.

No.	Question	Answer
1.	What three words have been used to describe Joe Lycett in the past?	
2.	What does the speaker say millennials do all the time because it releases dopamine?	
3.	What type of communication does the speaker say that millennials struggle to have?	
4.	What does Lycett say causes millennials to become impatient?	
5.	What does Lycett resent being told?	
6.	Where is the house Lycett has just bought?	
7.	What does one of his neighbours inform him about?	
8.	What role does Lycett's father agree to take on?	
9.	Complete the sentence: "According to Sinek, millennials have been raised to expect..."	
10.	What does Lycett claim he will be busy searching for when the apocalypse comes?	

Task 3 - Building vocabulary

Choose 3 words from the text above which fit into one of the three categories here:

Key to categorise your chosen words:

U – Unfamiliar. I have no idea what this word means

F – Familiar, but I'm not sure a) exactly what it means and/or b) how to use it in a sentence

VF – Very familiar. I'm confident about this word, but I rarely use it in my speaking or writing.

Now fill in the table below:

word:	U / F / VF?	Definition – dictionary or your own	Example – use the word in a sentence that demonstrates its meaning.
1.			
2.			
3.			