

A

After eight years' gliding experience, Lyn has achieved her Bronze and Silver Badges and is an Assistant Rated Instructor. She hopes to go on and earn more badges, as well as becoming a Full Rated Instructor in the future. Her role as an instructor provides her with some of gliding's most rewarding moments.

B

To those of us on the ground gazing up, the pilot's skills are there for all to see, as the glider soars effortlessly on the warm air thermals. Lyn is not one to boast about her training though.

C

But for all the achievement of solo flight, glider pilots have to work for one another, and this is another side of gliding that Lyn enjoys and appreciates.

D

So with the first solo flight behind you, what's next?

E

Lyn thinks for a moment when she's asked if she's ever had any emergencies to contend with.

F

As a result, a friend of hers flew in a glider alongside her along the Innsbruck Valley at mountain top height... that's around seven thousand, for hundred feet.

G

To get the Silver, for example, you have to get over 1,000m in height, complete a five-hour flight and then a 50 km flight to a designated airfield.

H

As PA to our Managing Director, Lyn has to be pretty level-headed, but in her spare time, she likes nothing better than to have her head in the clouds, indulging in her passion for gliding.

Reading – Part 2

You are going to read a magazine article about being liked. For questions 8-15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

LOVE ME DO!

I've just got to talk about this problem I'm having with my postman. It all began a year ago, after the birth of his first child. Not wanting to appear rude, I asked him about the baby. The next week, not wanting him to think I had asked out of mere politeness the week before, I asked all about the baby again. Now I can't break the habit. I freeze whenever I see him coming. The words 'How's the baby?' come out on their own. It's annoying. It holds me up. It holds him up. So why can't I stop it?

The answer, of course, is that I want him to like me. Come to think of it, I want everyone to like me. This was made clear to me the other day. I found myself in the bank, replying 'Oh, as it comes' when the cashier asked how I'd like the money. Even as she was handing me the £20 note, I realised I'd have no small change with which to buy my newspaper. But, not wanting her to dislike me (she'd already written '1 x £20' on the back of my cheque), said nothing.

In order to get the £20 note down to a decent, paper-buying size, I went into the grocer's. Not wanting to buy things I didn't actually need (I do have some pride, you know), I bought some large cans of beans and a frozen chicken for dinner that night. That got the price up to a respectable £5.12, which I duly paid. I then bought my paper at the station with my hard-gained £5 note.

With my sister, it wasn't the postman who was the problem, but the caretaker of her block of flats: 'All he ever does is moan and complain; he talks at me rather than to me, never listens to a word I say, and yet for some reason I'm always really nice to him. I'm worried in case I have a domestic crisis one day, and he won't lift a finger to help.'

I have a friend called Stephen, who is a prisoner of the call-waiting device he has had installed on his phone. 'I get this beeping sound to tell me there's another call on the line, but I can never bring myself to interrupt the person I'm talking to. So I end up not concentrating on what the first person's saying, while at the same time annoying the person who's trying to get through.'

What about at work? Richard Lawton, a management trainer, warns: 'Those managers who are actually liked by most of their staff are always those to whom being liked is not the primary goal. The qualities that make managers popular are being honest with staff, treating them as human beings and observing common courtesies like saying hello in the morning.' To illustrate the point, Richard cites the story of the company chairman who desperately wanted to be liked and who, after making one of his managers redundant, said with moist eyes that he was so, so sorry the man was leaving. To which the embittered employee replied: 'If you were that sorry, I wouldn't be leaving.' The lesson being, therefore, that if you try too hard to be liked, people won't like you.

The experts say it all starts in childhood. 'If children feel they can only get love from their parents by being good,' says Zelda West-Meads, a marriage guidance consultant, 'they develop low self-confidence and become compulsive givers.' But is there anything wrong in being a giver, the world not being exactly short of takers? Anne Cousins believes there is. 'There is a point at which giving becomes unhealthy,' she says. 'It comes when you do things for others but feel bad about it.'

I am now trying hard to say to people 'I feel uncomfortable about saying this, but...', and tell myself 'Refusal of a request does not mean rejection of a person' and I find I can say almost anything to almost anyone.

Solution:

16 B, 17 D, 18 G, 19 E, 20 A, 21 C

- 8 Why does the writer ask the postman about his baby?
 A He is interested in the baby.
 B He wants to create a good impression.
 C The postman is always polite to him.
 D The postman enjoys a chat.
- 9 The writer went into the grocer's so that
 A he had some food for dinner that night.
 B he could buy a newspaper there.
 C he could ask for £20 in change.
 D he could buy something to get some change.
- 10 What do we find out about the writer's sister and the caretaker?
 A She doesn't want to risk offending him.
 B She doesn't pay attention to him.
 C He refuses to help her.
 D He asks her for advice.
- 11 How does Stephen feel about his call-waiting equipment?
 A He gets annoyed when it interrupts him.
 B He is unable to use it effectively.
 C He finds it a relief from long conversations.
 D He doesn't think it works properly.
- 12 Managers are more likely to be popular if they
 A help staff with their problems.
 B make sure the staff do not lose their jobs.
 C encourage staff to be polite to each other.
 D do not make too much effort to be liked.
- 13 When is it wrong to be 'a giver'?
 A when it makes you ill
 B when it does not give you pleasure
 C when you make other people unhappy
 D when you are unable to take from others
- 14 What do we learn from this article?
 A If you tell the truth, it will not make people like you less.
 B If you take time to talk to people, they will like you better.
 C You should avoid unpleasant situations where possible.
 D You shouldn't refuse other people's requests for help.
- 15 Why was this article written?
 A to analyse the kinds of conversations people have
 B to persuade people to be more polite to each other
 C to encourage people to have more self-confidence
 D to suggest ways of dealing with difficult people

Solution:
 8 B, 9 D, 10 A, 11 B, 12 D, 13 B, 14 A, 15 C

Reading – Part 3

You are going to read a magazine article about a woman who goes gliding. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs (A-H) the one which fits each gap (16-21). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

IN PERSON

Twelve months ago, it was Lyn Ferguson who had the honour of cutting the ribbon to declare our Oakham Distribution Centre and offices open.

0 H

I had my first glider flight when I was sixteen, but it wasn't until January 1986 that I took it up seriously. My boys had gone to school, I had lots of spare time and I thought, 'What am I going to do?' It just so happened that I had the opportunity to go up in a glider as a passenger to see if I liked it. I did.

16

Really, it's very easy. All you need is coordination. The average person needs about 60 flights before they can go solo, completely alone, which sounds a lot, but the average instruction flight only takes around eight minutes, so training doesn't take long. I once did eleven trips in a day when I was training.

17

Well, once you've done it alone, you can register with the British Gliding Association, then work towards your Bronze Badge. Each badge after that is about height, distance and endurance.

18

Then, there are 10 km flights (straight out and back to the beginning), and 300 km flights, which show navigation skills. They're flown in a triangle starting and finishing at the airfield.

19

Once, when I was in Australia, I lost height whilst attempting a 300 km flight and had to select a field to land in. Luckily, I spotted a field with a tractor in it and was able to land there. I think the farmer was pretty surprised when a glider suddenly landed next to him! He did let me use his phone, though.

20

When you have a student who's finding things difficult, you convince them that they can do it. When they do, they're so pleased with themselves. When you land and they say 'I can do it', it's brilliant.

21

Flying is the main part, but there are other angles too. Gliding is like everything else. What you put in is what you get out. It's all about team work too. Everybody mucks in to push gliders around, pull cables in and generally help out. You can't do it on your own. I've met people in gliding from all walks of life, from lots of different countries, that I would never have met if I didn't go gliding.

So, next time you see a glider soaring overhead, it may well be Lyn flying her way to another badge or, knowing her love of the sport, just gliding for the sheer fun of it.