

READING COMPREHENSION

1. Martela's new centre

The hi-tech glass building epitomises future trends.

“Office work has undergone a radical transformation in the last ten years, placing new demands on office design and furniture,” explains Pekka Martela, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Martela Furniture Company. “Our old facilities could not sufficiently support our teamwork model. Our focus in designing a new building was flexibility and adaptability of the premises, and designing a new building provided us the opportunity to put ourselves in the shoes of our customers”. Ecology and low running costs throughout the life cycle were also considered important.

Architect Mauri Tommila was asked to design the new building. On paper the transparent, spacious glass building he designed perfectly complemented Martela's values and visions.

A social meeting place

More than ever, offices are also becoming social meeting places. People often work in other ways than merely sitting alone at their workstations or desks. The flow of information internally and increasing interaction with colleagues are now considered vital, and have been taken into account in the floor layout of Martela House.

“The design of Martela House is intended to facilitate flexibility and interaction between departments. As a result, an environment is created which enables people to get together for spontaneous meetings. The four rectangular spaces on each floor are ideally suited for open plan offices, each comfortably accommodating 25-30 people. They are large enough to give everyone their own personal space, but small enough for everyone to feel they are very much a part of the same team,” Mauri Tommila explains.

Martela House has double facades made of glass and steel. “Glass materials have developed incredibly in recent years. These days glass buildings are very energy efficient,” the architect says.

Solar energy

Martela House exploits a great deal of solar energy. The sun-heated or cool air between the two sections of double façade is used in the air conditioning and the building is brightened by natural light. These enable savings of up to 10 percent on electricity and on running costs. Natural and artificial light alike are indirectly channeled through the building via the ceiling. This combination provides the best solution for illuminating the office space and providing light to work by. “I don't know of another building in Finland that has the same kind of indirect lighting system,” Mauri Tommila says.

Desk sharing is one of the new methods used in Martela House. Not every employee has his or her own individual workstation. Instead, people have a portable storage trolley containing everything that they need. Whatever else people might need is stored on their laptops. When employees arrive in the morning, they choose a free workstation.

A living exhibition

Martela House also functions as a living exhibition, as the product themselves are on show and in use in a real working environment. The square shaped departments on each floor all are slightly different. Obviously, each department is fitted with Martela furniture, but the range is wide enough to give each department its own particular character. In some department, wood surfaces dominate; in others they are glass and metal.

“People like working in Martela House. Employees have given positive feedback and visitors have been very impressed with what they have seen. Hopefully, many people will be able to visit and draw inspiration from the building,” says Pekka Martela.

Task 1

Read the text and complete the table with your notes based on the text with no more than 5 words, according to the example (0).

	NOTES	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
The problem with the old building	0. <i>wasn't good for teamwork</i>	✓	✓
New demands for designing buildings by changing office work	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
Two main aspects of Martela House when designing the floor layout	5.		
	6.		
The floor layout consists of	7.		
The advantage of modern glass buildings	8.		
The practical use of double facade	9.		
	10.		
The aim of the exhibition in Martela House	11.		
Customer satisfaction with Martela House	12.		
SCORE			

Task 2

Read the text again and use it to decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the table below according to the example (0). Please note that if all your answers are marked as true or as false, your answers will be disqualified.

STATEMENTS	TRUE OR FALSE	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
0. <i>Employees of the company have their own workstations.</i>	<i>F</i>	✓	✓
13. The lighting system of Martela House uses only natural light.			
14. All departments are exactly alike.			
15. The company believes that their sales will grow by the increasing number of visitors.			
SCORE			

2. Secret report: biofuel caused food crises

Biofuels have forced global food prices up by 75% far more than previously estimated according to a confidential World Bank report obtained by the Guardian. The damning unpublished assessment is based on the most detailed analysis of the crises so far, carried out by an internationally respected economist at global financial body.

The figure emphatically contradicts the US government's claims that plant-derived fuels contribute less than 3% to food-price rises. It will add to pressure on governments in Washington and across Europe, which have turned to plant-derived fuels to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and reduce their dependence on imported oil.

The news comes at a critical point in the world's negotiations on biofuels policy. Leaders of the G8 industrialised countries meet next week in Hokkaido, Japan, where they will discuss the food crises and come under intense lobbying from campaigners calling for a moratorium on the use of plant-derived fuels.

It will also put pressure on the British government, which is due to release its own report on the impact of biofuels. The Guardian has previously reported that the British study will state that plant fuels have played a "significant" part in pushing up food prices to record levels.

"Political leaders seem intent on suppressing and ignoring the strong evidence that biofuels are a major factor in recent food price rises", said Robert Bailey, policy adviser at Oxfam." It is the imperative that we have the full picture. While politicians concentrate on keeping industry lobbies happy, people in poor countries cannot afford enough to eat.

Rising food prices have pushed 100m people worldwide below the poverty line, estimates the World Bank, and have sparked riots from Bangladesh to Egypt. Government ministers have described higher food and fuel prices as "the first real economic crises of globalisation".

Since April, all petrol and diesel in Britain has had to include 2.5% from biofuels. The EU has been considering raising that target to 10% by 2020, but is faced with mounting evidence that that will only push food prices higher.

The report argues that production of biofuels distorted food markets in three main ways. First, it has diverted grain away from food for fuel, with over a third of US corn now used to produce ethanol and about half of vegetable oils in the EU going towards the production of biodiesel. Second, farmers have been encouraged to set land aside for biofuel production. Third, it has sparked financial speculation in grains, driving prices up higher.

Other reviews of the food crisis looked at it over a much longer period, or have not linked these three factors, and so arrived at smaller estimates of the impact from biofuels. But the report author, Don Mitchell, is a senior economist at the Bank and has done a detailed, month-by-month analysis of the surge in food prices, which allows much closer examination of the link between biofuels and food supply.

Supporters of biofuels argue that they are a greener alternative to relying on oil and other fossil fuels, but even that claim has been disputed by some experts, who argue that it does not apply to US production of ethanol from plants.

Task 1

Read the text and complete the table with your notes based on the text with no more than 6 words, according to the example (0).

	NOTES	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
The organisation behind the report on food crises	0. <i>World Bank</i>	✓	✓
Advantages of plant-derived fuels	1.		
	2.		
Effects of biofuel use on food markets	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
Environmental activists' demand regarding biofuels	6.		
SCORE			

Task 2

Read the text again and use it to decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the table below according to the example (0). Please note that if all your answers are marked as true or as false, your answers will be disqualified.

STATEMENTS	TRUE OR FALSE	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
0. <i>The Bank's analyst conducted his investigations by examining data monthly.</i>	<i>T</i>	✓	✓
7. The riots in the developing countries can be linked to the rising food prices.			
8. The various studies mentioned agree about how much biofuels contribute to the rising food prices.			
9. Experts worldwide agree that biofuels are more environment-friendly than fossil fuels.			
10. American and European governments alike depend on plant-derived fuels more and more.			
SCORE			

WRITING SKILLS

Task 1

Study the table, and describe it in about 120-160 words, using the 10 given words or expressions in their right forms. You may include numerical data as well to support your description, which should refer to tendencies and contain comparisons.

Worldwide Smartphone Sales to End Users by Operating System in 2013 (Thousands of Units)

Operating System	2013 Units	2013 Market Share (%)	2012 Units	2012 Market Share (%)
Android	758,719.9	78.4	451,621.0	66.4
iOS	150,785.9	15.6	130,133.2	19.1
Microsoft	30,842.9	3.2	16,940.7	2.5
BlackBerry	18,605.9	1.9	34,210.3	5.0
Other OS	8,821.2	0.9	47,203.0	6.9
Total	967,775.8	100.0	680,108.2	100.0

Source: Gartner (February 2014)

Words and expressions to use:

account for	equal	refer to
compare	gain	represent
competition	increase	suffer
corresponding	popular	

0. The table shows the number of smartphones with different operating systems sold in 2012 and 2013, and the corresponding market shares.

Task 2

You have bought an amplifier, but you have some problems with the delivery. (Your name and address in this role: Kovács Imre/Ildikó, sole proprietor, 12 Rose Street, Manchester, M6 7T2)

Write a letter to the manufacturer, (Celetron System, 15 Bond Street London SW2 NE1), in 140-160 words.

In the letter you should

- complain about:
 - being overcharged
 - late delivery
 - a missing part (lead)
- write about
 - the action you want them to take

LISTENING COMPREHENSION**Text 1**

Listen to the text about the way the selling of bottled water is regulated in the American city of Concord.

Based on the text, decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the table below, according to the example (0). *Please note that if all your answers are marked as true or as false, your answers will be disqualified.*

STATEMENTS	TRUE OR FALSE	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
0. <i>It is forbidden to sell water in bottles smaller than 1 litre</i>	<i>T</i>	✓	✓
1. The new law was initiated by the authorities.			
2. Jean Hill thinks bottled water is harmful to people's health.			
3. The new law came into force on 1 January.			
4. Shops are allowed to sell soft drinks in small bottles.			
5. Local shops expect the new law will help their business.			
6. Anna Davidson is against the new law.			
7. The consumption of bottled water in the U.S. is 50 billion litres per year.			
SCORE			

Text 2

Listen to the text about the lift business. Use what you heard to complete the table with your notes of no more than 3 words each, according to the example (0).

Notes on the lift business

Four firms →*two thirds*..... of global market 0. (*Example*)
 Otis (America), Kone (Finland), ThyssenKrupp (Germany),
 Schindler (.....) (1)

High-rise offices use (2)

This year: worldwide demand for lifts: (3)

Maintenance

\$2,000-5,000 / year cost of keeping lifts (4)

Profit margin: (5)

More stable revenue than from (6)

Lift companies: ½ of profit from (7)

Newcomers to the market need: network of (8)

The lift industry

Lifts are becoming more (9)

Pricy luxury offers:cabins (10) and smarter (11)

Sideline: keycards and services (12)

Remote performance monitoring → fewer costly trips (13)

MARKING BOX													
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.✓													
2.✓													
SCORE													

SPEAKING SKILLS

Task 1: Professional discussion

Task 2:

Situation 19

Examiner's copy

THE EXAMINEE'S ROLE

You are a distributor of photocopiers. You keep getting complaints from your customers saying that in model TX-1900 the paper is often stuck or the machine stops working for no obvious reason.

- Call the manufacturing company and forward the problem.
- Ask if a recall notice could be put in the press
- Suggest other solutions
 - compensation
 - free service

THE EXAMINER'S ROLE

You are the head of the sales department of a company producing photocopiers.

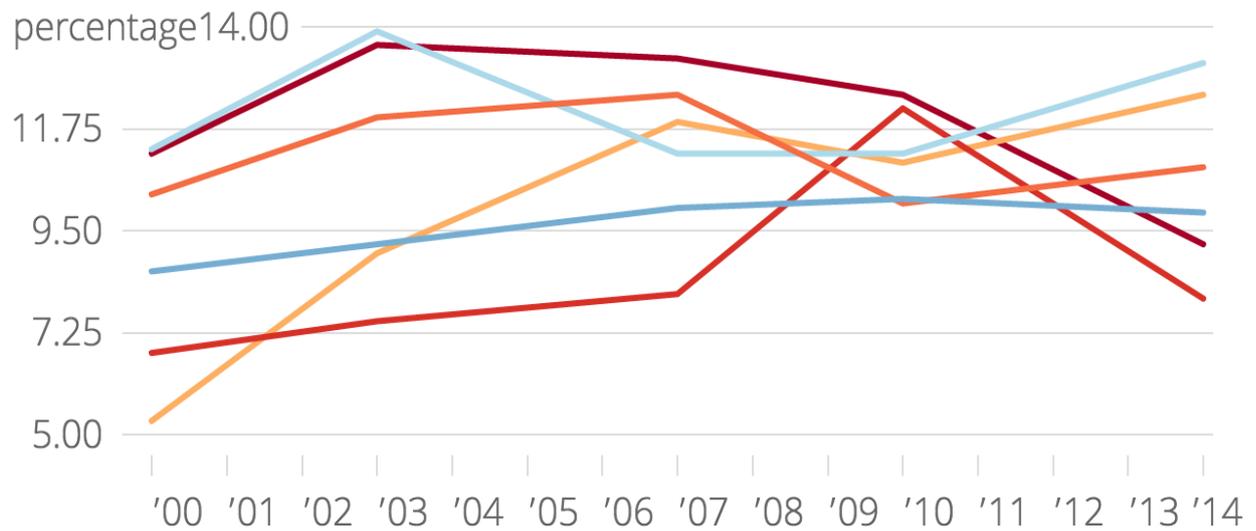
- *Try to convince the caller that this is the first time you have heard complaints about this series. (So far you have only received excellent feedback from you clients)*
- *Suggest that only quality paper should be used.*
- *If the problems persist the photocopiers should be returned to the firm and the money refunded.*
- *Say you will consider the other suggestions*
- *Invite the caller for a visit in the showroom for a demonstration session*

Task 3:

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Women Inventors 2000-2014

■ Australia ■ Chile ■ Finland ■ Greece ■ Israel ■ US



Made with Chartbuilder

Data: <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=54676>