

II 次の 11 ~ 15 は二人の会話文である。設問に対して最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の <1> ~ <4> のうちから1つずつ選べ。

11 Matt: So, Justin shared the photo you had sent him with Yuka. Ah well, don't worry.
I know how you feel, though.

Belle: But (11) on Anzugram or something?

Matt: No no, don't worry. He won't. It's not that interesting for him or anyone else,
to be honest.

Belle: Do you think I can get him to delete the photo in some way?

Which of the following best fills in the blank (11) ?

- <1> what else he reveals <2> what comes to Justin
<3> what he's done is done <4> what if he puts it

12 Sarah: Hey, Karen! I didn't expect to see you here! What are you up to?

Karen: I was just on my way to meet a friend at a burger place nearby.

Sarah: That sounds fun. Mind if I join you guys?

Karen: (12)! The more, the merrier. Let's go.

Which of the following best fills in the blank (12) ?

- <1> Not always <2> Never mind
<3> Of course not <4> Yes, I do

13 Yuno: Hey Kaishin, what are you doing this spring vacation? I'm considering doing
some volunteer work.

Kaishin: That's a good idea. But I'm not sure how to find volunteer work.

Yuno: Um, I think you can find a lot of volunteer opportunities on the Internet.
Why don't we do some research together?

Kaishin: Yeah, let's do that. I'm interested in education. How about you?

Which of the following kinds of volunteer work would be most suitable for Kaishin?

- <1> talking to the elderly in a nursing home
<2> helping build roads in rural areas
<3> helping raise money for people in war zones
<4> teaching children how to read and write

14

Linda: Albert, do you have a minute? I wanted to tell you something.

Albert: Sure. What is it?

Linda: Well, (14). I wasn't sure if I was going to like it, but we usually meet up on Sunday evening at 8:30 pm, and discuss the book of the month, and it's been a lot of fun. I know you do a lot of reading, so I thought you might be interested.

Albert: Wow, that sounds like fun. So, if you take me there next time, can I become a member too?

Which of the following sentences best fills in the blank (14)?

- <1> I took part in physical exercise while reading
- <2> I joined a book club a few months ago
- <3> I started a new website on reading last week
- <4> I have started working as a full-time English teacher

15

Susan: I went camping with my family at Lake Kawaguchi last week!

Patty: Sounds great! What did you do there?

Susan: First, we pitched our tents. Then, we enjoyed rowing boats and catching some fish. The sunset view of Mt. Fuji from the lake was just amazing! After that, we had a barbecue and fireworks on the shore.

Patty: Wow! I envy you!

Which of the following statements does **NOT** describe Susan's experience?

- <1> Susan enjoyed fishing with her family at Lake Kawaguchi.
- <2> Susan could see Mt. Fuji at midnight.
- <3> Susan has made Patty envious due to her experience.
- <4> Susan was able to see fireworks after the sun set.

Ⅲ 次の会話を読み、下の問い（16～20）に答えるとき、最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の
c1～c4のうちから一つずつ選べ。

Jesse: Have you ever thought about how artificial intelligence might change the job market in the future?

Yugo: Yes, I have. I've heard that some jobs might disappear because AI can perform them more efficiently than humans. Jobs that involve simple and repetitive tasks, such as cashiers and data entry clerks, are likely to be replaced by robots and automated systems.

Jesse: That sounds reasonable. On the other hand, do you think AI will also create new types of jobs?

Yugo: Absolutely. For instance, there will be a greater demand for specialists who can develop, manage, and maintain AI systems. These include AI programmers and data scientists.

Jesse: Are there other types of jobs that might become more important in the future?

Yugo: Yes. Jobs that require creativity, complex problem-solving, and emotional intelligence — such as artists, teachers, and therapists — may become even more valuable, since these skills are difficult for AI to replicate.

Jesse: That makes sense. Speaking of cooperation, how do you think humans and AI can work effectively together in the future?

Yugo: I believe AI can handle large amounts of data and perform repetitive tasks, while humans can focus on creative thinking and decision-making.

Jesse: So, AI could be a tool that supports us, rather than completely replacing us.

Yugo: Exactly. For example, in medicine, AI can analyze medical images quickly, but doctors still need to interpret the results and communicate with patients.

Jesse: I see. What do you think are the abilities that only humans have?

Yugo: I think empathy and emotional understanding are unique human characteristics. AI cannot truly understand feelings or build genuine relationships.

Jesse: Also, humans have common sense and moral judgment, which are difficult for AI to replicate.

Yugo: Yes, ethical decisions require values and context that AI might not fully grasp.

Jesse: So, our strengths lie in creativity, empathy, and ethics, while AI excels at data processing and automation.

Yugo: Right. By combining these strengths, humans and AI can achieve more than either could alone.

- 16 How does Yugo describe the jobs that might disappear?
- <1> Easy and boring jobs might disappear in the future.
 - <2> Only creative jobs like artists and teachers will disappear in the future.
 - <3> AI will replace jobs that require emotional intelligence and human communication.
 - <4> AI will not affect any existing jobs in the future.
- 17 According to the conversation, what new types of jobs will AI create?
- <1> AI will have no impact on the job market and there will be no change in the types of jobs available.
 - <2> Jobs related to data and programming will appear.
 - <3> All jobs will disappear.
 - <4> Only jobs for artists and musicians will remain.
- 18 What advice would Yugo most likely give to someone trying to decide on a future career?
- <1> Learn how to build robots.
 - <2> Avoid the use of AI altogether.
 - <3> Replace human workers with machines completely.
 - <4> Develop skills that cannot easily be done by AI.
- 19 According to the conversation, what is the ideal cooperation between humans and AI?
- <1> AI should handle large amounts of data, while humans focus on decision-making.
 - <2> AI should replace humans in all tasks to improve efficiency.
 - <3> Humans should do all the work without using AI.
 - <4> Humans and AI should work separately without cooperation.
- 20 According to the conversation, what abilities are humans good at that AI cannot easily replicate?
- <1> Humans are good at processing large amounts of data quickly.
 - <2> Humans can perform repetitive tasks better than AI.
 - <3> Humans are good at emotional understanding and moral judgment.
 - <4> Humans are better at calculations and automation than AI.

IV 次の英文を読み、下の問い (21 ~ 25) に答えるとき、最も適当なものを、それぞれ 1 ~ 4 のうちから一つずつ選べ。

We are witnessing an explosion of ways to agree. Even a professional observer of linguistic change struggles to keep up with the different ways that young people have to say *yep*. This shows not only how language evolves but also how dialects mix. And it's fun.

Back in the days of Middle English, the way to communicate agreement was *yea verily*. Also *forsooth* — “sooth” meant “truth”. Today we use *yeah*. Not *yes*: In most circumstances, *yes* has a distinctly (22) tone, a hint of displeasure with whoever is asking the question. Or it can sound socially awkward. *Yeah* adds an “ah” on to *yes* that softens it up, just as it does with *nah*, in a “no offense” way. *Yep* subs in a “p”, which can make it seem more friendly, as it does for *nope*.

All fine options, but nothing compared to what Black American English has produced. *Right on!* was probably the first phrase to gain national attention in the late 1960s. By the late 1970s it was starting to sound ²³dated. Before long, one was more likely to say *word* (or *word up*). Also, we got *mos def* and *true dat*.

²⁴These examples have been key markers in the influence of Black American English on the language as a whole. Beyond individual words, they have contributed a sense of language as a creative zone. Young speakers all now expect a constant turnover in ways of saying *yep*.

White American dialects have been fertile ground as well. I remember when a white friend of mine suddenly used *primo!* My friend said it was a popular word among young folk in the Massachusetts area she came from. *Totes* originated in white dialects, as did *totally*.

A West Coast friend reports that her (white) teenage boys currently use *peak*, *fire* and *facts*. On the East Coast I recently met a (white) 20-something whose preferred word was *period*. One can only begin to imagine all the variations to be found between.

Another example is *mm-HMM*. This is what linguists call a melodic expression. Thus we can even count a kind of singing among our ways to agree, much of it driven by Black American English. Language changes, dialects mix — even in how we say *yeah!*

(We Are at Peak ‘Yep’ and It’s Wonderful by John McWhorter
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- 21 According to the passage, which of the following is true?
- <1> Linguists have no problem counting the words that young people use to agree.
 - <2> Linguists have a lot of fun mixing languages and dialects.
 - <3> Young people use a lot of different words or phrases to show agreement.
 - <4> Young people agree with each other far more than professional linguists do.
- 22 Which of the following best fills in the blank (22)?
- <1> beautiful
 - <2> chilly
 - <3> friendly
 - <4> violent
- 23 Which of the following is closest in meaning to the underlined word dated?
- <1> lovely
 - <2> old-fashioned
 - <3> romantic
 - <4> timely
- 24 Which of the following does the underlined phrase these examples refer to?
- <1> *Yeah* and *nah*
 - <2> *Peak* and *period*
 - <3> *Primo!* and *totes*
 - <4> *Right on!* and *true dat*
- 25 According to the passage, white American dialects _____.
- <1> have many ways to show agreement, just like Black American English.
 - <2> have fewer ways to show agreement than Black American English.
 - <3> have more ways to show agreement than Black American English.
 - <4> are more melodic than Black American English.

V 次の英文を読み、下の問い（ ～ ）に答えるとき、最も適当なものを、それぞれc1)～c4)のうちから一つずつ選べ。

In the opening days of 2022, after a huge volcanic eruption, Tonga went (26). The underwater eruption sent tsunami waves across the country and blanketed the island's white coral sands in ash. The strength of the eruption severed Internet connectivity with Tonga, causing a communication blackout at just the moment that a crisis was unfolding.⁽²⁷⁾

When the undersea cable that provides the country's Internet was restored weeks later, the scale of the disruption was clear. The lack of connectivity had impacted recovery efforts, while at the same time seriously affecting local businesses, many of which depend on money sent from abroad.

The disaster exposed the extreme vulnerabilities of the infrastructure that underpins the workings of the internet. Contemporary life is really inseparable from an operational Internet, says Nicole Starosielski, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley. In that way, it's much like drinking water — a utility that underpins our very existence. And like water, very few people understand what it takes for it to travel from a distant reservoir to our kitchen taps. Modern consumers have come to imagine the Internet as something unseen in the atmosphere — an invisible “cloud” just above our heads, raining data down upon us. Because our devices aren't (30) any cables, many of us believe the whole thing is wireless, says Starosielski, but the reality is far more extraordinary.

Almost all Internet traffic — including video calls, movie streams, emails and social media feeds — reaches us via high speed links on the ocean floor. These are the veins of the modern world, stretching almost 1.5 million km under the sea, connecting countries via physical cables which funnel the Internet through them.⁽³¹⁾

That the data that powers financial, government, and some military communications is traveling through cables not much thicker than a hose pipe and protected by little more than the seawater above them, has in recent years become a cause of concern. For many experts, the greatest risk to the Internet is the uneven spread of the cable infrastructure that crosses the globe, binding the world's digital networks together. As of 2023 there were more than 500 communications cables at the bottom of the ocean, but a quick look at the map of the world's undersea cable networks shows they are largely centered around economic and population

centers.

The unequal spread of cables is clearest in the Pacific, where a territory like Guam, with a population of just 170,000 and which houses a US naval base, has more than 10 Internet cables connecting to the island. New Zealand, with more than 5 million people has seven. Tonga has just one. After the 2022 eruption in Tonga, governments across the world took action, commissioning reports into the weaknesses within the existing undersea cable network, while tech companies worked to improve networks to ensure such an event never occurred again.

For now, the economic situation favors the building of more cables across the western world and into emerging markets, where the digital demand is ⁽³⁴⁾ booming. Despite the warnings of experts, there is a real risk that places like Tonga will continue to have blackouts, threatening the very promise of digital equality that the Internet was founded on.

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26 Which of the following best fills in the blank (26)?

- <1> away <2> crazy <3> dark <4> on holiday

27 Which of the following is closest in meaning to the underlined word unfolding?

- <1> admiring <2> happening <3> predicting <4> tidying

28 According to the passage, which of the following sentences is true?

- <1> Tonga's Internet access was not affected by the volcano.
<2> Tonga lost Internet access for a few weeks and businesses suffered.
<3> Tonga's Internet access was soon restored and businesses restarted.
<4> Tonga got a new Internet cable after money was sent from overseas.

29 According to the passage, why is Internet access like drinking water?

- <1> Both are essential nowadays, but few people understand how they reach us.
<2> Both are in the sky above us and travel a long way to get to our homes.
<3> Neither one of them can be seen until it comes out of the sea onto land.
<4> Neither one can be separated from the other nowadays.

