

1. **Lesson 1. For Teachers:** Please have the students read the sentences one at a time and correct their pronunciation of each sentence then have them repeat after you. Wait until after they read the sentence (use the number in place of the missing word) to have the students choose the correct answer to fill in the blank. When the students finish the article, move on to the further questions.

### 3[C] – Autism Spectrum Disorders



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2. Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a group of neurological conditions that cause difficulties with speaking, interacting with others, demonstrating affection, and learning. The severity of the disorders varies widely: people with profound ASD may be unable to talk or care for themselves, while those with mild ASD may have barely noticeable communicative disabilities. As babies, individuals with ASD are slower to develop social behaviors such as making eye contact or responding to the sound of their own name. As they grow older they have difficulty relating to others.
3. The social cues and communicative interactions that come naturally to most people are often alien to those with ASD, who have trouble interpreting facial expressions or decoding jokes and banter. ASD characteristics also include repetitive or obsessive behaviors, such as rocking, and a fixation on a particular routine and actions. Even for people with mild ASD, the challenge resented by the disorders can be a barrier to getting an education or holding a job.

4. **Further Questions**\*Ask student to answer the question on their own at first. If the student can't answer correctly, have him look at the last page and read the "example answer" for the question. Have the student try to memorize the answer, if it's too long or difficult, you should divide the sentence into 2 or 3 parts to make it easier to remember. Once they have memorized the answer, the teacher should ask the question one last time so that the student can practice answering. Also if you find any mistakes, please mark the page and let me know ASAP.

5. **1) What happens individuals with ASD as babies?**

*As babies, individuals with ASD are slower to develop social behaviors such as making eye contact or responding to the sound of their own name.*

6. **2) What difficulty is faced by people with even mild ASD?**

*The challenge represented by the disorder can be a barrier to getting an education or holding a job.*

7. The disorders affecting a surprising number of people. One in 88 children in the United States has been diagnosed with ASD, and between 1 and 1.5 million Americans are estimated to be living with one of the disorders. The Autism Society estimates that the number of ASD cases there is growing at a rate of 10 to 17 percent annually, and other countries that test for ASD are showing similar increases. This apparent rise seems shocking, but experts attribute it to the fact that ASD is simply being identified more often than in the past, thanks to more-aggressive screenings and a greater public awareness of the disorder.
8. Although the causes of ASD are still unknown, it is understood to have a strong genetic component. Some advocates for parents of children with ASD have claimed there is a link between ASD and the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine since many of these children begin to show symptoms shortly after being vaccinated. ASD experts, however, say there is no causal connection between the

two, explaining that children receive MMR vaccinations between the ages of one and three which, coincidentally happens to be the time when many ASD symptoms begin to emerge.

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## 9. Further Questions

10. **3) How many people are affected by ASD in the United States?**

11. *One in 88 children in the United States has been diagnosed with ASD, and between 1 and 1.5 million Americans are estimated to be living with one of the disorders.*

12. **4) What have some advocates for parents of children with ASD claimed about ASD?**

13. *Some advocates for parents of children with ASD have claimed there is a link between ASD and the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.*

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14. Though there is no known cure therapies have been developed to help people with ASD acquire the skills needed to function in society. If therapy begins at an age when the development of a child's brain circuitry is still incomplete, better comprehension and social skills can be acquired. Not only is early diagnosis critical for lessening the eventual severity of symptoms but it also provides researchers an opportunity to study how ASD affects patients at its earliest stage, which could lead to the development of more-effective screening, procedures and treatments.

15. A 2004 study, for example, revealed that early, intensive behavioral treatment raised IQ scores an average of 20 points. Thanks to early treatment, according to ASD specialist Dr. Catherine Lord, "almost 80 percent of kids with autism now have some speech by age nine, whereas only 50 percent of these kids were talking 20 years ago." As a result, many children with AD develop coping mechanisms that enable them to attend ordinary schools and interact proactively with others.

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16. **5) What can therapy do if started early?**

17. *If therapy begins at an age when the development of a child's brain circuitry is still incomplete, better comprehension and social skills can be acquired.*

18. **6) What did Dr. Catherine Lord say about the success rate of therapy?**

19. *Almost 80 percent of kids with autism now have some speech by age nine, whereas only 50 percent of these kids were talking 20 years ago.*

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20. After completing school, people with ASD face a new set of problems. Even high-functioning individuals with marketable skills confront social challenges that make it difficult for them to get and keep a job. Danish entrepreneur Thorkil Sonne, whose son was diagnosed with autism, notes that "a job interview is about chemistry and people [with ASD] flunk within the first few minutes."

21. Certain jobs, however, are well suited to ASD-associated characteristics such as fixation on routine and an affinity for repetitive tasks. Sonne founded Specialisterne, an employment agency for people with ASD. The agency places many workers as specialized consultants in the software testing and data management industries—fields where attention to detail and the ability to focus on patterns are prized.

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## 22. Further Questions

23. **7) What set of problems can people with ASD face after completing school?**

24. *Even high-functioning individuals with marketable skills confront social challenges that make it difficult for them to get and keep a job.*

25. **8) Where does Specialisterne place many workers?**

26. *The agency places many workers as specialized consultants in the software testing and data management industries.*

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27. Specialisterne is not the only company to view ASD as a potential asset. In Chicago, a company called Aspiritech trains people with ASD to test software. These companies are not motivated solely by altruism; the very traits that cause people with ASD so many difficulties also enable them to excel at certain jobs. For example, they can spot software bugs and design flaws at a much earlier stage in development than most engineers, which can save millions of dollars—and companies are willing to pay well for it.

28. Some call his approach the “dandelion philosophy.” Much as dandelions can be perceived as a weed in some environments and a nutritious herb in others, ASD traits can be viewed as a detriment or an asset. “Who decides if something is a weed or an herb?” he asks. “Society does.” By helping those with ASD find environments where their aptitudes are valued, companies like Specialisterne are fundamentally changing society’s perspective on the disorders.

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## 29. Further Questions

30. **9) How can people with ASD excel at certain jobs?**

31. *For example, they can spot software bugs and design flaws at a much earlier stage in development than most engineers.*

32. **10) What is the dandelion philosophy?**

33. *Much as dandelions can be perceived as a weed in some environments and a nutritious herb in others, ASD traits can be viewed as a detriment or an asset.*

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34. **\*Choose the correct answer from these choices.**

35. **(38) The increase in the number of ASD cases recorded in recent years is most likely due to**

- 1 the decline in measles, mumps, and ruella infections, which used to make it difficult for doctors to recognize signs of ASD in young children.
- 2 an increase in the number of infants receiving certain vaccines that can in some cases cause symptoms of ASD to appear
- 3 the development of a genetic test for the disorders, which allows doctors to identify carriers of the ASD genes before symptoms become recognizable.
- 4 a stronger effort to detect the disorders, along with a more widespread understanding of ASD by society at large.

36. **(39) According to the author of the passage, what is one reason early diagnosis of ASD is important?**

- 1 Children who are diagnosed with ASD early will not be subject to treatments that were developed for other, unrelated disorders of the brain.

42. **2** Younger children with ASD are better able to learn techniques for managing their symptoms than older children, whose brains are more developed.
43. **3** It enables children with ASD to avoid psychological stress later in life by allowing them to come into contact with other children who have ASD.
44. **4** ASD screening procedures have proven to be most accurate when the patients being screened are very young children.
45. **(40) What is one thing Thorkil Sonne believes about people with ASD?**
46. **1** The main social barrier to success they face in the workplace is that their co-workers do not know how to relate to them.
47. **2** One reason companies are not eager to hire them is that they often lack specialized training in the areas where they have potential to excel.
48. **3** They are often passed over during the hiring process because they have trouble taking part in social interactions in ways that are necessary.
49. **4** Even when they do not serve directly to increase a company's profits, they still tend to have an overall positive effect on the company.
50. **(41) Sonne's "dandelion philosophy" implies that**
51. **1** employees with ASD become more productive when their co-workers cooperate to help them overcome social difficulties in the workplace.
52. **2** if awareness of the number of people with ASD increases, more resources will be dedicated to the prevention and treatment of the disorders.
53. **3** companies that employ workers with ASD should make a greater effort to recommend such employees to firms outside the technology sector.
54. **4** as the characteristics that set people with ASD apart from others come to be perceived as beneficial, they will gain greater acceptance.

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55. **Answers for "Further Questions"** 

1. **1) What happens individuals with ASD as babies?**
2. *As babies, individuals with ASD are slower to develop social behaviors such as making eye contact or responding to the sound of their own name.*
3. **2) What difficulty is faced by people with even mild ASD?**
4. *The challenge represented by the disorder can be a barrier to getting an education or holding a job.*
5. **3) How many people are affected by ASD in the United States?**
6. *One in 88 children in the United States has been diagnosed with ASD, and between 1 and 1.5 million Americans are estimated to be living with one of the disorders.*
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12. *Almost 80 percent of kids with autism now have some speech by age nine, whereas only 50 percent of these kids were talking 20 years ago.*
13. **7) What set of problems can people with ASD face after completing school?**
14. *Even high-functioning individuals with marketable skills confront social challenges that make it difficult for them to get and keep a job.*
15. **8) Where does Specialiterne place many workers?**
16. *The agency places many workers as specialized consultants in the software testing and data management industries.*
17. **9) How can people with ASD excel at certain jobs?**
18. *For example, they can spot software bugs and design flaws at a much earlier stage in development than most engineers.*
19. **10) What is the dandelion philosophy?**
20. *Much as dandelions can be perceived as a weed in some environments and a nutritious herb in others, ASD traits can be viewed as a detriment or an asset.*

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