

(8)

- 1 Nevertheless
- 2 For this reason
- 3 On the contrary
- 4 In exchange

(9)

- 1 learn from their mistakes
- 2 change their behavior frequently
- 3 seek attention from humans
- 4 have distinct personalities

(10)

- 1 evolved more slowly
- 2 is easier to explain
- 3 developed for different reasons
- 4 causes more problems

Read each passage and choose the best answer from among the four choices for each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and mark your answer.

U.S. Seniors and the Internet

Although online technologies were first developed by and targeted at younger generations, seniors are now the fastest-growing segment of Internet users in the United States. A survey by the Pew Internet and American Life Project reported that in 2005, just 26% of 70- to 75-year-old Americans used the Internet, whereas today, that figure has risen to 45%. If people aged 60 to 69 are included, the figure jumps to nearly 60%. Experts say the percentage of computer-literate seniors will continue to increase as people who are already comfortable with computers retire and use online technologies to help them stay informed and socially involved.

Once seniors get online, they eagerly embrace the ways in which the Internet can improve their lives. Although they are still far behind younger people in their use of social-networking websites, they regularly use e-mail, make Internet phone calls, and access online photo-sharing services to keep in touch with family and friends. For those who have limited mobility or are homebound, such forms of communication can help combat loneliness and depression. In addition, seniors are increasingly using the Internet for shopping, banking, and researching health issues. Studies have shown that being able to purchase goods and services and manage their finances online helps seniors retain their sense of independence.

Businesses are adapting quickly to profit from this trend. An ever-growing number of websites are directed at seniors, focusing on everything from medical information and diet advice to leisure travel and activities to do with grandchildren. Manufacturers are also developing products specifically aimed at senior

citizens. Computers with simplified and enlarged desktop displays have been designed to help users with little or no experience perform basic tasks. Specially adapted mice and keyboards with larger buttons are also easier for seniors to use.

On the downside, the Internet is a gold mine for criminals. Seniors in particular are targeted — not only because they are typically wealthier than other age groups but also because they may be less aware of Internet fraud, especially “phishing” e-mails. These e-mails, which look authentic and often feature actual bank or credit card logos, usually tell recipients that their bank account is being updated. The e-mails then instruct them to connect to a website where they are requested to enter confidential information, such as their account number and password. This information is then used to steal money from their account or obtain credit cards and loans in their name.

(11)

What can be said about the relationship between seniors and the Internet?

- 1 Most seniors were unaware of the usefulness of the Internet until marketing firms began promoting it to them.
- 2 While it took seniors longer than other age groups to start using the Internet, they are now key contributors to its growth.
- 3 Although the Internet's early development relied on young people, seniors were the first to use it on a regular basis.
- 4 Decreasing Internet use by seniors aged 70 to 75 means they now spend less time online than seniors aged 60 to 69.

(12)

What is one significant effect that Internet use has had on seniors?

- 1 A high rate of participation in social-networking websites means fewer seniors are being treated for depression.
- 2 It has inspired some of them to start up their own websites to sell products aimed at other seniors.
- 3 Seniors who regularly use the Internet tend to suffer from more health problems due to decreased physical activity.
- 4 Performing online transactions has improved seniors' lives by allowing them to function without relying on others.

(13)

The issue of Internet crime is considered to be especially relevant to seniors because

- 1 they may have difficulty recognizing that some e-mails they receive are not actually from official sources.
- 2 the simplified computers they use cannot run the anti-phishing software needed to protect private information.
- 3 websites offering them medical and travel information lack security, enabling criminals to steal personal data.
- 4 they often forget to update passwords for their online bank accounts, making these accounts less secure.