INGLESE

COMPRENSIONE DEL TESTO 1

Leggete con attenzione il seguente brano quindi rispondete ai prossimi 10 quesiti.

Memory Magic

Dave Farrow is a Canadian who appears in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the greatest memory. As a student, Dave had a learning disability called dyslexia. Despite his struggles with subjects like reading and writing, Dave found ways to improve his memory in order to do well in school. In 2008, he set a world record by memorizing the order of 59 decks of playing cards in two days. How did his brain store all of this information? According to Dave, anybody’s brain can do it, but it may be interesting to understand how memory works.

Our brain is constantly taking in information through our senses. The information enters our sensory memory, which has the capacity to hold lots of information, but only for a few seconds. If we ignore the information, our brain will discard it. However, if we pay attention to it, the information goes into our short-term memory. This is why learning to pay attention is an important first step to improving our ability to recall what we learn.

To help the brain focus, Dave recommends breaking big tasks down into smaller ones. He sets a timer and works as hard as he can for short periods of time until the timer alarm sounds. Then he takes a small break so as to keep his focus strong.

Our short-term memory can only hold information from 15 seconds to a few minutes. In addition, short-term memory can only hold about seven things at one time. Memory champions like Dave have to hold long lists of information in their short-term memory at one time. To do this, they rely on different tricks. One trick is to look at the first letter of every word they want to memorize. Then, they create their own word, phrase or sentence using all of those letters. This is called an acronym. For example, if you want to remember all the colours in a rainbow, try remembering the name Roy G. Biv. Each letter in this fictional name matches the first letter of a colour: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. When you want to remember the colours of a rainbow, just think of Roy G. Biv and you will have an easier time.

Another trick is to organize information into chunks. For example, when you try to remember a telephone number, your brain usually remembers it in chunks. You remember the area code as one chunk, the next three numbers as a chunk, and the last four numbers as a chunk. This way, your brain only has to remember three things instead of ten. This works for words as well as numbers. Imagine that you wish to improve your vocabulary. Whenever you learn a new word, study words that share the same meaning. This way, you learn several new words at the same time and you only need to memorize one definition.

Remember that if you do not keep using the information, your brain throws it away. If you keep reviewing the information, it will go into your long-term memory. The more you practice recalling the information, the better you will be at remembering it. Try these tips the next time you need to remember a phone number, a new word or some piece of information.

Adapted from web2.uvcs.uvic.ca

01. According to the text, Dave Farrow

A) had problems with some activities at school.
B) had a learning disability caused by his lack of memory.
C) had a speaking problem.
D) used to play cards at school.

Risposta corretta: A

02. The information we receive through our senses

A) is kept in our short-term memory unless we ignore it.
B) goes directly into our long-term memory.
C) is immediately discarded.
D) is important to remember colours and numbers.

Risposta corretta: A

03. According to the article, paying attention is important

A) in the process of improving our memory capacity.
B) in the creation of acronyms.
C) to remove relevant information.
D) to create memory tricks.

Risposta corretta: A

04. Which of the following statements about short-term memory is true?
A) It may be improved using some tricks.
B) It can hold up to 15 items at one time.
C) It can hold information for about 7 seconds.
D) It may be useful to improve reading and writing skills.

Risposta corretta: A

05. According to the passage, Dave suggests

A) dividing our memory exercises into smaller pieces.
B) working for long periods of time without interruptions.
C) keeping lots of information in our short-term memory.
D) memorizing the order of playing cards.

Risposta corretta: A

06. During his training, Dave takes a brief pause

A) to avoid losing concentration.
B) before the timer sounds.
C) to divide his memory exercises into physical activities.
D) only at the end of the day.

Risposta corretta: A

07. Roy G. Biv is

A) a trick to remember a sequence of colours.
B) a memory activity invented by Dave.
C) a real name.
D) a Canadian Guinness World Record winner.

Risposta corretta: A

08. When we have to remember information, organizing it into pieces

A) reduces the quantity of items to remember.
B) increases the number of chunks to remember.
C) makes it more difficult to recall it.
D) helps to learn new words.

Risposta corretta: A

09. According to the article, a useful trick to learn new words is associating

A) words with similar meanings.
B) words with different meanings.
C) words and phone numbers at the same time.
D) three chunks of synonyms.

Risposta corretta: A

10. In this context, the expression throws it away means:

A) eliminates it.
B) stores it.
C) recalls it.
D) selects it.

Risposta corretta: A

COMPRENSIONE DEL TESTO2

People often ask which is the most difficult language to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. To begin with, in a first language the level of difficulty is irrelevant as people learn their
mother tongue naturally, so the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a second language. A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese, for instance, because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different. So, the first language can affect learning a second language. The greater the differences between the second language and our first, the harder it will be for most people to learn. Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system, and the pronunciation of Chinese does appear to be very difficult for many foreign learners. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning the Chinese alphabet will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet. Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learned also play an important role, as well as each learner’s motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than people studying a language that has no direct use in their day to day life.

Apparently, British diplomats and other embassy staff have found that the second hardest language is Japanese, which will probably come as no surprise to many, but the language that they have found to be the most problematic is Hungarian, which has 35 cases (forms of a noun according to whether it is subject, object, genitive, etc.). This does not mean that Hungarian is the hardest language to learn for everyone, but it causes British diplomatic personnel, who are generally used to learning languages, the most difficulty. However, Tabassaran (a Northeast Caucasian language) has 48 cases, so it might cause more difficulty if British diplomats had to learn it. No language is easy to learn well, though languages which are related to our first language are easier. Learning a completely different writing system is a huge challenge, but that does not necessarily make a language more difficult than another. In the end, it is impossible to say that there is one language that is the most difficult language in the world. Adapted from www.usingenglish.com/

11. According to the article, learning our mother tongue
   A) is a natural process.
   B) may be more difficult than learning a second language.
   C) may be easier if we use it every day.
   D) may be more difficult in certain cases, such as Chinese or Hungarian.
   Risposta corretta: A

12. If the linguistic distance between our mother tongue and the foreign language is very big,
   A) the foreign language will be more difficult for us to learn.
   B) the foreign language will be easier for us to learn.
   C) it will be impossible to remember all the cases of the foreign language.
   D) we will have to learn a new alphabet.
   Risposta corretta: A

13. According to the article, Japanese people find Chinese language easier because
   A) the Japanese alphabet contains Chinese characters.
   B) pronunciation in both languages is similar.
   C) they study it at school.
   D) the Chinese alphabet and the Roman alphabet are similar.
   Risposta corretta: A

14. All Spanish people
   A) have an advantage over Chinese people when studying Portuguese.
   B) speak Portuguese.
   C) find Chinese easier than Portuguese.
   D) find Japanese easier than Chinese.
   Risposta corretta: A

15. People learn a foreign language faster when they
   A) are motivated.
   B) are high-ranking members of an embassy.
   C) do not use the language on a daily basis.
   D) do not use it at work.
   Risposta corretta: A
16. British diplomats think the most difficult foreign language is
   A) Hungarian.
   B) Japanese.
   C) Tabassaran.
   D) Chinese.

   Risposta corretta: A

17. Which of the following statements about Tabassaran is true?
   A) British diplomats may find it more difficult to learn than Hungarian.
   B) It has fewer cases than Hungarian.
   C) Its alphabet contains Chinese characters.
   D) It is commonly spoken by English diplomats.

   Risposta corretta: A

18. According to the article, British diplomatic staff
   A) study foreign languages on a regular basis.
   B) never study foreign languages.
   C) find it very difficult to learn foreign languages.
   D) have never studied Hungarian.

   Risposta corretta: A

19. According to the article, which of the following statements is true?
   A) Tabassaran is a Caucasian language with more than 35 cases.
   B) The Chinese language uses the Roman alphabet.
   C) Hungarians find it difficult to learn English.
   D) Tabassaran has a simple grammar structure.

   Risposta corretta: A

20. In the passage, what does the word **huge** mean?
   A) enormous
   B) disappointing
   C) reasonable
   D) easy

   Risposta corretta: A

**COMPETENZA GRAMMATICALE**
Scegliete la risposta corretta fra le quattro opzioni (A - D). Una sola risposta è possibile.

21. What ____________ for Christmas?
   A) are you doing
   B) you will do
   C) are you making
   D) do you make

   Risposta corretta: A

22. You haven't seen Scorsese's latest movie, ____________?
   A) have you
   B) you have
   C) do you
   D) have you seen

   Risposta corretta: A
23. Mike speaks ___________ that nobody understands him.
   A) so quickly
   B) such fast
   C) too quick
   D) enough fast

   Risposta corretta: A

24. You ___________ buy all those books. You can borrow them at the library.
   A) don't have to
   B) mustn't
   C) should
   D) aren't necessary to

   Risposta corretta: A

25. What time is your train tomorrow? I can ___________ you to the station if you want.
   A) take
   B) collect
   C) fetch
   D) carry

   Risposta corretta: A

26. Last summer we went on holiday ________ Spain.
   A) to
   B) in
   C) at
   D) into

   Risposta corretta: A

27. I've lived in Rome _________________.
   A) since I was born.
   B) since I am born.
   C) from 2008.
   D) since seven years.

   Risposta corretta: A

28. - I love pizza!
   - ______________.
     A) So do I.
     B) I love too.
     C) So I do.
     D) I too.

   Risposta corretta: A

29. When we ___________ finish the test, we'll have a break and relax.
   A) ø
   B) will
   C) are going to
   D) shall

   Risposta corretta: A

30. Susan needs someone to look ___________ the baby while she's at work.
   A) after
B) for  
C) behind  
D) up

Risposta corretta: A

31. ___________, is there an internet cafe near here?

A) Excuse me  
B) I'm sorry  
C) It's a pity  
D) Pardon

Risposta corretta: A

32. Do you know when ___________?

A) the train leaves  
B) does the train leave  
C) the train does leave  
D) is leaving the train

Risposta corretta: A

33. The woman __________ son you met at the party is my English teacher.

A) whose  
B) that  
C) the whose  
D) the whom

Risposta corretta: A

34. She saves __________ money every month.

A) a little  
B) a few  
C) many  
D) few

Risposta corretta: A

35. The internet connection was very bad and I __________ call my parents on Skype.

A) wasn't able to  
B) couldn't manage  
C) couldn't to  
D) managed to

Risposta corretta: A

36. What's the __________ experience you've ever had at school?

A) worst  
B) worse  
C) worse than  
D) better

Risposta corretta: A

37. Whose phone is ringing?

A) Mine!  
B) The mine!  
C) The my!  
D) My!

Risposta corretta: A
38. I ______________ your mother recovers quickly from the operation.
   A) hope  
   B) wait  
   C) expect  
   D) wait that
   Risposta corretta: A

39. ______________ it was raining, we went out for a walk.
   A) Although  
   B) However  
   C) But  
   D) Even
   Risposta corretta: A

40. What ______________ if you lost your cell phone?
   A) would you do  
   B) you will do  
   C) will you make  
   D) you could do
   Risposta corretta: A

41. ______________! Where did you buy it?
   A) What a beautiful jacket  
   B) What jacket beautiful  
   C) How a beautiful jacket  
   D) How beautiful jacket
   Risposta corretta: A

42. He was very ______________ because you didn't reply to his email.
   A) upset  
   B) anger  
   C) disappointing  
   D) worry
   Risposta corretta: A

43. Before the invention of the printing press, books ______________ on animal skins or stones.
   A) were written  
   B) were writing  
   C) were wrote  
   D) have being written
   Risposta corretta: A

44. It's snowing! Don't forget to take your ______________ with you!
   A) gloves and scarf  
   B) shorts and ring  
   C) pockets and umbrella  
   D) wallet and sweater
   Risposta corretta: A

45. I'll ______________ after dinner.
   A) do the washing-up
B) make the wash-up
C) do the wash
D) make the washing

Risposta corretta: A

46. He would like to study abroad but he can’t _______ it.
   A) afford
   B) allow
   C) permit
   D) let

Risposta corretta: A

47. - Is John coming with us?
    - I ________.
   A) don’t think so.
   B) don’t believe it.
   C) think not.
   D) imagine that not.

Risposta corretta: A

48. The doctor _________ lose weight.
   A) told me to
   B) said me to
   C) said me that I
   D) told to me to

Risposta corretta: A

49. _________ lived in Chicago?
   A) How long has Tom
   B) For how long Tom has
   C) Since how long has Tom
   D) For how much has Tom

Risposta corretta: A

50. He lives in Rome, but all his _________ live in Sicily.
   A) relatives
   B) parents
   C) fathers
   D) familiars

Risposta corretta: A

Domande di riserva

51. He loves his job _________ the low salary.
   A) despite
   B) in spite
   C) although
   D) however

Risposta corretta: A

52. Last year the teacher _________ the students to the Natural History Museum.
   A) took
   B) has taken
   C) has brought
D) taken

Risposta corretta: A