

## Reading Comprehension 1

### Bill Gates

He's the most famous businessman in the world. Many pages have been written about how he has dominated the revolution in personal computing. But we know little about him as a person. Here's a familiar anecdote which may show his personality: when Bill Gates was in the sixth grade, his parents decided that he needed some kind of help. He was at war with his mother Mary, an extrovert woman who believed that he should do what she told him. She would call him to dinner from his bedroom, which she had given up trying to make him clean, but he would not respond.

"What are you doing?" she once asked him.

"I'm thinking," Bill answered.

"You're thinking?"

"Yes, Mom, I'm thinking," he said aggressively. "Have you tried thinking?"

Finally, his parents decided to send him to a psychologist. The psychologist concluded that Bill was extremely intelligent. After a one year session and a large amount of tests, the psychologist told Bill's parents:

"You're going to lose. You had better adjust to it because there's no use trying to punish him. It's useless to try to compete with him."

A lot of computer companies have concluded the same.

#### 1. Do we know much about his non-professional life? Why?

- a. Yes. A lot has been written about his computing revolution.
- b. Yes. Because he is a very famous person. You can see him on TV, the news or the Internet.
- c. No. Because there is very little information about his private life.
- d. Yes. This text shows an anecdote.
- e. No. Because he has got problems with his mother and his psychologist.

#### 2. Why did Bill's parents think that he needed a psychologist?

- a. Because he talked to his mother aggressively and didn't do what she told him.
- b. Because he liked computers a lot and spent all day playing with them.
- c. Because he was in the sixth grade and his parents were worried.
- d. Because he was very intelligent.
- e. Because he wanted to be a businessman

#### 3. Why did the psychologist conclude that it was useless to compete with Bill?

- a. Because a great number of computer companies can't compete with him.
- b. Because punishing him was not a solution, he had his own ideas.
- c. Because his parents were not very intelligent.
- d. Because Bill didn't want to compete with his parents.
- e. Because he was very slow; he spent a year answering tests.

#### 4. The psychologist, after treating Bill Gates for over a year, advised his parents to:

- a. continue more extensive psychological therapy for their son
- b. use strong repressive measures to discipline their son
- c. resign themselves to their son's particular character and motivations
- d. try to convince their son to obey them for his own good
- e. find him a girlfriend and/or hobby to distract him from his obsessive thinking

#### 5. A lot of computer companies have since concluded that Bill Gates:

- a. is an excellent business man and astute manager
- b. is in a league all his own

- c. is a great innovator and very hard to compete with
- d. is very resolute in pursuing his objectives
- e. all of the above

**6. Find in the text the word which has the following definition: "complete or drastic change of the methods, conditions, etc."**

- a. war
- b. psychologist
- c. amount
- d. anecdote
- e. revolution

**7. Find one synonym in the text for SORT.**

- a. kind
- b. little
- c. help
- d. personality
- e. intelligent

**8. Bill Gates was considered a problem child by his mother**

- a. True
- b. False

**9. Bill Gates was considered a problem child by his psychologist**

- a. True
- b. False

**10. The term 'pages' in the text is a synecdoche for books or volumes or much printed material**

- a. True
- b. False

**11. 'Personal computing' in the text refers to what Bill Gates did in the privacy of his home as a child**

- a. True
- b. False

**12. Bill Gates never attended public or private elementary school**

- a. True
- b. False

**13. Mary Gates seems to be the authoritarian figure in the family during Bill's adolescence**

- a. True
- b. False

**14. Conflicts between Mary and Bill are the results of their being both extroverts**

- a. True
- b. False

**15. The young Bill Gates seems to have a lot of respect for his mother's intelligence**

- a. True
- b. False