Eng. 301(paper 1): Listening Comprehension

Script One

Listen to a conversation between a security officer and a passenger and choose the correct answers.

Security: Excuse me. Do you have any keys or money in your pockets?
Passenger: No. No. I think I've taken everything out.
Security: Okay. Go ahead and walk through the body scanner.
Passenger: Will I feel anything?
Security: No sir. Just walk through and keep your hands in the air.
Passenger: Okay, huh?
[Security alarm goes off . . .]
Security: We need to do some additional screening. Sorry, sir. Please come this way.
Passenger [What? Did I. . . Did you find something?]
Security: Relax sir. Okay? I'm going to open your carry-on bag. As I'm going through it, please do not try to touch it.
Passenger: [Okay.]
Security: Let's see now. Hmmm.. First of all, sir, you can't take any liquids like this bottled water past this point.
Passenger: Ah. Well, I really can't drink any other kind of water. Sierra Springs is the only bottled water I drink.
Security: Sorry sir.
Passenger: [Ah . . .]
Security: And, sir. What's this?
Passenger: [What?]
Security: No, sir, you **cannot** bring a lighter on the plane.
Passenger: But I don't smoke. I mean . . .
Security: You **STILL** can't bring it on the plane.
Passenger: But I have it just in case of emergencies. You know, as an emergency fire starter in case the plane crashes into a dark forest.
Security: Sir. You'll have to leave that here… **What's this**?!!
Passenger: Well...Oh. That's my pocket knife.
Security: A pocketknife?!! It's almost a foot long!
Passenger: Well, it's a special knife given to me by my grandfather, but I only use it to peel apples and fruits. You know.... Things like that.
Security: Sir. I'm sorry, but you can't take that on the plane. In fact, do you have any other prohibited items in your bag?
Passenger: Well, I don't. . .
Security : I mean, didn't you read the sign back there explaining all the items that are not allowed on board?
Passenger: Well, I started to read it, and I then got a little distracted.
Security: A little?!! Sir. How many times have you flown on an airplane?
Passenger: Uh…, it has been a while. I think the last time I travelled by plane was about, uh…, 1980.
Security: Sir. Why don't you come with me?
Passenger: What!!?
Security: I think my supervisor would like to ask you a few questions.
Passenger: Oh, no!

Script Two

Listen to Randall talking about the global issue of homelessness and decide whether the following statements are true or false:

Homelessness has become a global concern in almost every place you go around the world, but we often don't think much about it unless it touches our lives in a personal way. Unfortunately, as human beings, we often come up with simple reasons why people live on the streets or in homeless shelters, and this understanding often limits our abilities to have real sympathy for others. Some reasons can include loss of employment or a horrible event such as a natural disaster that damages or destroys a family's home, and the list goes on and on. But, the facts on homelessness are unpleasant, something I want to discuss as it applies to the United States where I live.

So, first of all, number one:

- In just the United States alone, over half a million people are homeless, with about a third of those being children.
- Number two, about one out of five persons suffer from a mental health issue.
- Number three; about half of women who are homeless have been victims of domestic abuse.
- And number four, around a quarter of the homeless are employed, but, unfortunately, the cost of living for many people is just beyond their means and current income.

There are many things that people can do to relieve the pain and suffering of those who are in desperate need of help.

For me, I just assume that people need help, and I give it to them. One time, my wife and I were about to enter a restaurant when a homeless man came near us for money. Trying to set aside any prejudice about his intentions, my wife simply invited him to join us for dinner. As it turned out, it was a nice evening. The man shared with us his hopes and dreams, and when our meal was over, we expressed well wishes to him and went home, not really knowing if he had a home to return to as well.

To conclude, my intention in telling this story isn't to show how great we were for helping the man. Far from it. So many other people serve humbly and anonymously in far greater ways than we do. Rather, I just want to say that people like you and me can make a small difference in the small acts of generosity we do each day that can make a difference.