

Reading Comprehension Test

Exercise no. 1: Read the following text

Music

5 *For every musician **who** plays an instrument, from drums to the lute, it's practice, practice and more practice. The same principle applies to composers and anyone else **whose** life is music. But our report from the U.S. says that these days, the Net is making it easier and more pleasant for all musicians: log on and all varieties of lessons, help and criticism are at your disposal, because today the Web is home to hundreds of music Courses with various types of piano lessons to personalized, interactive master classes.*

CONSERVATORIES ON LINE

10 If it's lessons you are looking for, you will find that on the Net, instructional web sites have different degrees of sophistication just as real-life music teachers come in different shapes and sizes.

15 Some lessons on the Net are simple black and white pages; others offer full-color streaming. But the idea is this: you call up the site, click on the lesson you want, set the options you want (like tempo and sound), then begin to practice. When you are ready for evaluations, some sites allow you to plug into software for criticism and advice.

20 For example, at www.harmonicacountry.com ten simple lessons are offered to students of the harmonica; you can learn to play Kumbaya in half an hour. Take introductory guitar lessons on www.tonos.com, founded by Grammy Award winners Carole Bayer Sager, Kenneth (Babyface) Edmonds and David Foster. The guitar package is a basic course that promises to give the student enough abilities to play Midnight Special eventually.

25 And it is not necessary that you download courses. Registered students just log in and play. For piano lessons, Sticky, an animated cartoon character, is your guide and teacher; 12 months of eight lessons cost \$15.95. Lessons start with an introduction to the keyboard and note reading and end with instructions on the more difficult passages in Beethoven's masterpiece, Fier Elise.

30 All guitarists will love WholeNote (www.whole-note.com), a site offering more than 900 lessons. Start with such elementary stuff as stringing your guitar and proceed to lessons on playing Stairway to Heaven or other classics with a blues-jazz twist. You can search the archives by style, member name, or ability level and the lessons include musical examples that can be adjusted by the student for tempo, type of guitar style, and number

of times to repeat a particular section. Drummers too find lessons on the net at
www.drumlesson.com, **which** offers video clips and MP3 streaming audio so you can
investigate 50 basic drumbeats. For \$9.95 you can purchase eight weeks of lessons.
Founded by Kalani, **who** has performed with Kenny Loggins, Yanni, Barry Manilow and
35 Dr. John, drumlesson.com is easy to navigate and lessons are provided in clear, detailed
video, audio, text and graphics. Kalani says his online lessons are important supplements
to private instruction. **Some** say the next best thing to live lessons is Mars Music's
website. Mars Music is a U.S. chain of 46 stores that sell music equipment and in-store
40 lessons. Now the company has entered the world of Net teaching with some amazing
technology. On the Mars Music site, the software Learning2Play translates your efforts
into MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). The software is unusual, says Randy
Kroll, a 40-year old database administrator in California **who** decided it was time to learn
to play an instrument - he had played the recorder in elementary school, but couldn't read
a note of music. I like being able to do **it** in the privacy of my own home and at my own
45 pace, he says. MarsMusic lessons so far cover guitar and flute, but should soon be
available for 15 instruments, including clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano and
bass. Each level of lessons (5 lessons for each instrument) costs \$11.95 for a year. Most
music teachers say that online lessons are best when used as add-ons to face-to-face
50 lessons, because a good teacher gives the student constant advice and an internal sense of
how it feels and sounds.
But as the saying goes, 'practice makes perfect' so adding to real- life lessons with online
52 practice can't hurt, can it?

Exercise no. 2: Find the opposites of the following words:

easier	_____
criticism	_____
start	_____
adjusted	_____
find	_____
purchase	_____
best	_____
entered	_____
amazing	_____
hurt	_____

Exercise no. 3: What do these words refer to:

line 1	who
line 3	whose
line 32	which
line 34	who
line 37	some
line 43	who
line 44	it

