

FOURTH EDITION

READING FOR THE REAL WORLD **INTRO**

Reading for the Real World, Fourth Edition is a four-level series designed for intermediate to advanced English learners looking to improve their academic reading fluency and comprehension.



The fourth edition includes:

- ★ New and updated readings on important current topics from a variety of academic subjects
- ★ Reading comprehension exercises designed to hone comprehension skills such as identifying the main idea, understanding details, and making inferences
- ★ Pre-reading and post-reading exercises to reinforce the New Academic Word List (NAWL) vocabulary words encountered in the readings
- ★ Graphic organizers and other summary activities that provide practice in summarizing texts accurately and concisely
- ★ Supplemental readings that allow students to explore a different area or issue related to the main passage
- ★ Audio recordings of all reading passages to reinforce correct pronunciation and reading fluency
- ★ An interactive application for supplemental learning
- ★ Downloadable materials, including answer keys, words lists, and tests, can be found at

www.compasspub.com/RRW4eIntro



B2



READING FOR THE REAL WORLD

FOURTH EDITION

INTRO

Peggy Anderson • Sam Robinson

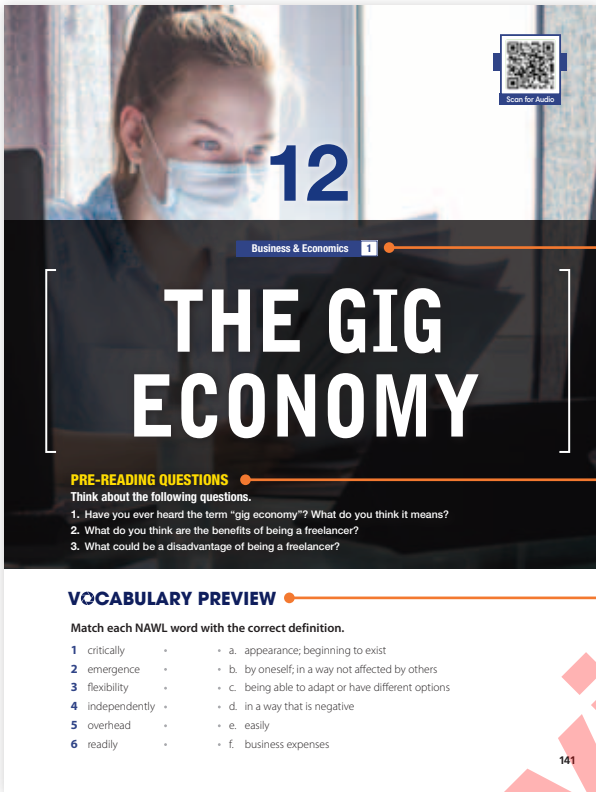


[CONTENTS]

UNIT OVERVIEW				6
UNIT		READINGS	VOCABULARY	PAGE
UNIT 1	 Strange & Unusual	Ghost Detectives	bizarre, client, expertise, initiate, preliminary, publish	9
		The Laughter Epidemic	epidemic, immune, incredibly, infectious, physician, respiratory	15
UNIT 2	 Computers & Technology	The Evolution of Music Media	compact, dominant, medium, revolutionary, superior, swap	21
		Hackers and Crackers	connotation, ethical, exploit, manual, noble, probe	27
UNIT 3	 Health & Medicine	Healthy Body Images	afterward, lifestyle, physically, realistic, surgical, undermine	33
		Pollution in Our Bodies	absorption, commonly, erase, minimize, nonetheless, nutrient	39
UNIT 4	 Social Issues	Crossing Borders, Breaking the Law	inclined, migrate, punishment, sensible, tricky, volition	45
		The Glass Ceiling	deliberately, diverse, inequality, inhibit, interrupt, trait	51
UNIT 5	 Environmental Issues	Living Near Volcanoes	aesthetic, fertility, harvest, kilometer, logical, radius	57
		Water Rights, Water Fights	acute, commodity, drain, monopoly, pesticide, swell	63
UNIT 6	 Law & Crime	Bans on Smoking	authorities, influential, objection, observer, straightforward, strictly	69
		Victimless Crimes	clarify, indirect, legitimate, liable, norms, purely	75

UNIT		READINGS	VOCABULARY	PAGE
UNIT 7	Language & Literature	Steve Jobs's Commencement Address at Stanford University	artistic, gut, instinct, pathway, semester, subtle	81
		"The Premature Burial" by Edgar Allan Poe	decay, diagnosis, pronounce, shortly, terribly, vague	87
UNIT 8	Space & Exploration	Spin-Offs from Space	bacteria, crystal, ecological, lab, outer, utilize	93
		A New Space Race	assignment, donor, nationalism, replicate, sphere, thereby	99
UNIT 9	Sports & Fitness	Yoga and Pilates	fusion, novice, optimal, practitioner, simultaneously, sufficiently	105
		The Future of Sports	athletic, chess, controversy, regime, simulate, strategic	111
UNIT 10	People & Opinions	The Architecture of Wright	architect, integration, mentor, merge, stance, unity	117
		Streaming Services: Helpful or Harmful?	anti-, availability, facilitate, fringe, meaningful, reinforce	123
UNIT 11	Cross-Cultural Viewpoints	Approaches to Education	correctly, elite, fatigue, informal, lecturer, tutor	129
		Responding to Declining Populations	algorithm, allocate, compensate, economist, offspring, projection	135
UNIT 12	Business & Economics	The Gig Economy	critically, emergence, flexibility, independently, overhead, readily	141
		Evolving Wallets	axiom, click, estimation, resistant, simplify, tech	147

[UNIT OVERVIEW]



12

Business & Economics 1

THE GIG ECONOMY

PRE-READING QUESTIONS
Think about the following questions.

1. Have you ever heard the term "gig economy"? What do you think it means?
2. What do you think are the benefits of being a freelancer?
3. What could be a disadvantage of being a freelancer?

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

Match each NAWL word with the correct definition.

1 critically	a. appearance; beginning to exist
2 emergence	b. by oneself; in a way not affected by others
3 flexibility	c. being able to adapt or have different options
4 independently	d. in a way that is negative
5 overhead	e. easily
6 readily	f. business expenses

141

SUBJECT AREA

Reading topics are chosen for their relevance to students in the real world and are organized by academic subject.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Three questions encourage students to activate their existing knowledge about the topic in preparation for reading.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

A simple matching exercise introduces students to the target New Academic Word List (NAWL) vocabulary they will encounter in the reading.



THE GIG ECONOMY

The emergence of the gig economy has changed employment. A gig economy comes about when companies tend to hire freelancers, also known as "gig workers," rather than full-time or permanent employees. Jobs are flexible and temporary. Gig workers taking these jobs connect directly with clients or customers, usually through an online platform. There are estimates that as many as thirty percent of American workers are already involved in gig work.

There are many benefits to this kind of economy, both for workers and for the companies involved. Gig workers can independently choose what jobs they want to take. This is unlike permanent, full-time employees, who must accept whatever tasks their employers give them. These freelancers can take on work that fits their schedules. They can also more readily make money by picking up extra projects.

This has benefits for companies, too. Companies that cannot afford to hire permanent employees can take on freelancers for short-term projects. Additionally, companies are not charged payroll taxes on the money they pay to freelancers. More projects and less overhead mean these businesses make more money. Both gig workers and the companies that employ them have much more flexibility when compared with the traditional economy. Thus, one result of a gig economy is often cheaper and more efficient services. Think of Uber or Airbnb as examples.

However, the gig economy has been viewed more critically in recent years, as certain negatives of the system have become apparent. Given the greater freedom to move between jobs, workers now tend to feel less connection to their workplace and less enthusiasm for the work they do. As a result, businesses are finding it ever harder to hire and keep permanent, full-time staff. Some companies even say they have seen a drop in productivity—that is, neither full-time employees nor gig workers work as hard as fully permanent workforces did in the past. Nevertheless, the reduction in costs made possible by using gig workers likely outweighs these negatives.

More evident, however, are the downsides experienced by gig workers themselves. Legally speaking, gig workers are considered self-employed rather than employed. This means that they do not qualify for certain benefits. As a result, companies do not have to provide these workers with health insurance, pensions, or sick leave. Unfortunately, being self-employed also affects government benefits. Gig workers cannot receive unemployment insurance, as the government does not recognize them as having been employed. This became a particular issue during the COVID-19 pandemic, when large numbers of gig workers found that they did not qualify for government support.

There has been a growing push to provide gig workers with more protection and benefits. However, changes are slow in coming and are usually challenged by companies that use these workers. Like it or not, though, the gig economy is probably here to stay. In the end, it exists because businesses, workers, and customers all have something to gain.

What change have companies noticed in recent years?

- a. The efficiency of their workforces has decreased.
- Gig workers are more hard-working than full-time employees.

Why do gig workers feel receive some government benefits?

Reading Time: minutes seconds 457 words

gig n. a job of a short or uncertain length of time
payroll n. the total amount of money that a company pays to all of its employees
apparent adj. easy to see or understand

workforce n. the group of people who work for a particular organization or business
outweigh v. to be greater than (someone or something) in weight, value, or importance
self-employed adj. a part of something that you do not want or like; a disadvantage
qualify v. earning income from your own business or profession rather than by working as an employee for someone else
pension n. an amount of money that a company or the government pays to a person who has retired from work
protection n. the state of being kept from harm, loss, etc.

142 143

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Questions in the margins help students monitor their comprehension of the structure and content of the passage.

MAIN READING

An engaging reading educates students on an academic topic of high interest.

READING COMPREHENSION

Mark each statement as true (T) or false (F) according to the reading.

1. Fewer than one-third of Americans work in the gig economy.
2. Using gig workers tends to increase a business's tax bill.
3. The gig economy has changed the way employees view work.
4. Governments do not consider gig workers to be employees.
5. Companies are supporting efforts to change the gig economy.

Choose the best answer according to the reading.

1. What is this passage mainly about?

- a. The history of the gig economy
- b. Why it is a bad idea to become a gig worker
- c. The pros and cons of a gig economy
- d. How the gig economy should change

2. In paragraph 3, the phrase **freelance economy** means _____.

- a. an economy where there are many freelance workers
- b. an economy where most workers are permanent employees
- c. an economy that offers cheaper and more efficient services
- d. an economy that does not provide benefits for part-time workers

3. Which downside of the gig economy was NOT mentioned in the passage?

- a. Gig workers do not have the right to many benefits.
- b. It is difficult for businesses to hold on to staff.
- c. Gig workers get paid lower wages than employees.
- d. Workers are becoming less committed to their jobs.

4. Which statement would the writer most likely agree with?

- a. The gig economy is generally beneficial.
- b. Flexibility is more important than job security.
- c. The traditional economy is better for society.
- d. Companies should stop hiring gig workers.

Look for the answers in the reading and write them on the lines.

1. In what ways do businesses benefit from the gig economy?

2. Why does being considered "self-employed" negatively affect gig workers?

SUMMARY

Fill in the blanks with the phrases in the box.

readily make money cheaper and more efficient	company benefits gives more flexibility	unemployment insurance not legally considered
--	--	--

Gig Economy	
Positives • The gig economy is _____ to companies and workers. • It can result in _____ services. • Companies can get more projects and have less overhead. • Workers can choose what tasks they want and more? _____	Negatives • Gig workers are _____ employees. • Gig workers do not get _____ such as health insurance. • Gig workers cannot receive some basic government benefits, like _____

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box. Change the form if necessary.

critically	emergence	flexibility	independently	overhead	readily
------------	-----------	-------------	---------------	----------	---------

1. Jane prefers to work _____ rather than as part of a group.
2. You need _____ in order to be able to adapt to changes quickly.
3. Most of a company's _____ is usually the salary it pays to its employees.
4. Since the _____ of online banking, fewer people pay bills in person.
5. You can more _____ learn a language if you practice it every day.
6. Some of the company's employees are speaking _____ about their poor working conditions.

READING COMPREHENSION

Questions of various types help students assess their comprehension of the reading's main idea, key details, and more.

SUMMARY

A summary exercise provides practice in understanding passage structure and in identifying the important information in a reading. Exercise types include graphic organizers, fill-in-the-blank paragraphs, and more.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

A fill-in-the-blank exercise reinforces the target NAWL vocabulary learned in the reading.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Uber and Its "Employees"

Uber Technologies, Inc. is well known for being the "face" of the gig economy. First established in 2009, Uber has grown to become a global company, making billions of dollars yearly. And the way it did this was through the gig economy. You might think Uber provides transportation services, but this is not entirely the case. Instead, what Uber mainly provides is a connection between independent drivers and riders who want to hire them. Uber sets the fees and terms and then gets a share of each fare.



It is not surprising, then, that Uber is a big supporter of maintaining the gig economy. It is also one of the major companies resisting changes to the working conditions of gig workers. Drivers have gone to court, and legal changes have been proposed by governments. Nevertheless, both Uber and the US Department of Labor maintain that the drivers are "independent contractors" and thus do not qualify for benefits as full employees. Gig workers, for Uber and other large companies, continue to benefit from the flexibility such jobs can offer. But they still risk financial hardship when the economy is bad.

However, a recent court decision in the UK could change things. The UK Supreme Court has ruled that Uber drivers are employees, not independent contractors. Uber will have to provide better payment or benefits to its UK workers. And no doubt, Uber drivers in other countries are hoping this will inspire changes for them as well.

Fill in the blanks with information from the reading.

1. Uber connects _____ with riders and takes a share of each fare.
2. The US government and Uber both argue that the drivers do not _____ for _____.
3. Because of a recent ruling in the UK, Uber drivers in that country will be getting _____ or benefits.

EXTENSION

Talk or Write About It
What do you think about the gig economy? Do you think its positives outweigh its negatives? Are there many gig workers where you live? What kind of jobs do they do?

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

A short reading provides more practice as well as an additional perspective on the topic.

EXTENSION

Extension questions encourage students to synthesize information, relate the reading content to their existing knowledge and opinions, and express their own ideas on the topic through speaking or writing.

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES

Get the most out of *Reading for the Real World, Fourth Edition* with our free supplemental resources. Visit www.compasspub.com/RRW4eIntro for downloadable word list, progress tests, teacher's guide, and writing worksheets.

WRITING WORKSHEETS

READING FOR THE REAL WORLD INTRO

WRITING WORKSHEET

Unit 12: Business & Economics

Reading 1: The Gig Economy

I. GENERATE IDEAS

Read each sentence. Does it show a positive of a gig economy, or does it show a negative? Write + (positive) or - (negative). Add one or two more sentences.

- _____ Companies can make more money in a gig economy.
- _____ Gig workers are less protected than regular workers.
- _____ Gig workers can have more flexibility than regular employees.
- _____
- _____

II. OUTLINE

Complete the outline using ideas from above or other ideas. Make sure to write at least two reasons or details that support your topic sentence.

Topic sentence (check one): _____ I think the positives of the gig economy outweigh its negatives.
_____ I think the negatives of the gig economy outweigh its positives.

Supporting reason/detail 1: _____

Supporting reason/detail 2: _____

Supporting reason/detail 3: _____

III. WRITE

Use the outline above to write your paragraph.

GENERATE IDEAS

A scaffolded idea-generation exercise enables students to build on the arguments they developed in the Extension section of the lesson.

OUTLINE

An outline exercise allows students to create a rough structure for the short writing exercise that follows.

WRITE

A writing exercise gives students freer practice using the vocabulary and ideas they learned in the lesson.



Scan for Audio

2

Computers & Technology 1

THE EVOLUTION OF MUSIC MEDIA

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Think about the following questions.

1. When and how do you **listen** to music?
2. When and how **did** people listen to music in the past?
3. How do **you think** people will listen to music twenty years from now?

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

Match each NAWL word with the correct definition.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 dominant | • | a. causing or relating to a great or complete change |
| 2 swap | • | b. higher in quality |
| 3 compact | • | c. smaller than other things of the same kind |
| 4 revolutionary | • | d. a form or system of communication or entertainment |
| 5 superior | • | e. to exchange for something else |
| 6 medium (<i>pl. media</i>) | • | f. the most common; the most important |

The Evolution of Music Media



Chances are you sometimes listen to music on the radio. Maybe you've downloaded your favorite songs to your phone, but you also stream the latest music online. And your parents and grandparents probably have some old CDs and

5 **vinyl**¹ records. These days, we have so many music **formats**² to choose from. How did we get so many choices? Well, ever since the music industry was born, companies have been trying to make it more

10 **convenient**³ for people to play their favorite music when and where they choose.

Vinyl records were the first **medium** for commercial music

15 **reproduction**⁴. This was the most popular music format from the 1950s until the 1990s. The standard kind of vinyl record was the LP. "LP" **stands for**⁵ "long play," as these were

20 the first records that could continuously play twenty minutes or more of music. Of course, no one could carry LPs around and listen to them on the bus or subway. Record players, or turntables, were too big. So teenagers

25 usually gathered at a friend's house, where they listened to records together. In that way, music was a social activity.

Why were the most common type of vinyl records called "LPs"?



- ¹ **vinyl**
- ² **format**
- ³ **convenient**
- ⁴ **reproduction**
- ⁵ **stand for**

- n.* flexible plastic material
- n.* a form; a layout
- adj.* easy to use
- n.* the act of copying something
- v.* to mean; to signify

In the 1970s, Sony began selling a **revolutionary** device: the Walkman. This **portable**⁶ device allowed music lovers to take their music anywhere and listen to it privately—even in public places. The Walkman played **compact**³⁰ audiocassette tapes, which were a new kind of music format.

Cassettes lost popularity with the introduction of the compact disc, or CD. CD technology was released in the United States in 1983, but it took until the mid-1990s for this format to dominate the music market. One reason is that CDs and CD players were fairly expensive at first. Also, many people thought vinyl records had a **superior** sound. In fact, there are still some LP **enthusiasts** who prefer listening to records.

At the start of the 21st century, CDs held the largest **portion**⁷ of the market. But by 2007, sales of CDs had fallen sharply as people **swapped** them for the new digital format, MP3. By **converting**⁸ music to MP3 files, users could store several times more music on a CD. But more important was the 1997 invention of the MP3 player, and, a few years after that, the smartphone—**devices**⁹ that could hold thousands of songs. They allowed users to buy music online, download it, and listen to it immediately.

Change didn't stop there, of course. In recent years,⁴⁵ online streaming on platforms such as YouTube and Spotify has been replacing downloadable MP3s as the **dominant** medium in places with reliable internet access. In 2018, YouTube reported that more than a billion people streamed music on their app each month. Both YouTube and Spotify now allow users to access ad-free music streaming for a monthly **fee**¹⁰, and the popularity of these services is growing fast.

No one knows what the future holds for music media. But think about how many new formats have been invented in the past century. We can probably expect⁵⁵ another revolutionary new way to listen to music before very long.

Underline one reason why CDs did not immediately replace other music media.

Smartphones allow you to stream your favorite music anywhere.

Reading Time: _____ minutes _____ seconds 508 words

- ⁶ **portable** *adj.* easy to carry or move around
⁷ **portion** *n.* a part of a larger amount
⁸ **convert** *v.* to change (something) into a different form
⁹ **device** *n.* an object or machine made for some special purpose
¹⁰ **fee** *n.* an amount of money that must be paid

READING COMPREHENSION

A Mark each statement as true (T) or false (F) according to the reading.

- 1 _____ At the start of the 21st century, LPs were the dominant music medium.
- 2 _____ The Walkman played a new type of music medium.
- 3 _____ CDs became the standard music medium in the 1990s.
- 4 _____ Some people think LPs have a better sound than CDs.
- 5 _____ Streaming has replaced other media worldwide.

B Choose the best answer according to the reading.

DETAIL 1 Which is true about vinyl records?

- a. They replaced an earlier commercial format.
- b. They helped make music portable.
- c. They were played on turntables.
- d. They replaced the audiocassette tape.

INFERENCE 2 What can be inferred about audiocassettes?

- a. They made music less of a social activity.
- b. They were only produced by Sony.
- c. Many people still prefer them to MP3s.
- d. All of the above

VOCABULARY 3 In paragraph 4, the word **enthusiasts** means _____.

- a. fans
- b. brands
- c. makers
- d. experts

DETAIL 4 When were compact discs first introduced in the US?

- a. In the 1950s
- b. In the 1970s
- c. In the 1980s
- d. In the 1990s

C Fill in the blanks with information from the reading.

- 1 LPs were not a portable music medium because _____ were too big.
- 2 The invention of _____ made audiocassettes less popular.
- 3 One reason that CDs were slow to dominate the market was that they were initially pretty _____.

SUMMARY

Fill in the blanks with the phrases in the box.

made music portable
by 2007

buy music online
streaming services

for decades
more convenient

As music media evolve, listening to music becomes ¹ _____.

Past

LPs

- First commercial medium
- Dominated ² _____
- Made music social

Audiocassettes

- Sony introduced the Walkman in the 1970s
- ³ _____

Present

CDs

- Became popular in mid-90s
- Sales fell sharply
- ⁴ _____

MP3s

- Made storage easy
- Allows users to
- ⁵ _____ and enjoy it immediately

Future

- ⁶ _____ are starting to replace MP3 downloads
- Other revolutionary ideas?

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Fill in the blanks with the words in the box. Change the form if necessary.

superior

medium

compact

swap

dominant

revolutionary

- Only _____ cars can fit into this parking space.
- Tourism is the _____ industry in several Caribbean countries.
- The invention of rock and roll marked a _____ change in popular music.
- It is worthwhile to pay more for quality shoes because their _____ materials will last longer.
- Since you don't like sitting by the window and I do, we should _____ seats.
- In the 1940s, radio was still the most important _____ of mass communication.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Can Musicians Still Make Money?



The technology we use to access and listen to music is constantly evolving. And while such changes usually benefit music fans, they don't always help musicians. When the MP3 format became popular, people quickly discovered how to download music without paying for it. Piracy—getting and sharing music illegally—reduces the income that musicians make from their work. Now streaming services are reducing musical artists' profits even further.

FREE DOWNLOAD



Consumers can pay a monthly fee for streaming services that allow them to listen to an unlimited amount of music online. As a result, fewer MP3 files are being purchased and downloaded. Internet music services must pay royalties (fees) to record companies in order to play the songs that these companies own. But most of that money is kept by the record companies, and little is left over for the musicians.

One songwriter and keyboardist kept track of his royalties from streaming over three months. His songs were played more than 14,000 times—but he made only \$35.09. Even major stars have similar experiences. Members of the British bands Led Zeppelin and Radiohead have participated in a government investigation of streaming services and their profits.

Of course, famous musicians can make a lot of money in other ways: by giving huge concerts, selling their songs for ads, and so on. But new and lesser-known musicians do not have these options. It is easier than ever for young musicians to share their work with the world. But with piracy and streaming, it is getting harder for them to make a living from it.



Fill in the blanks with information from the reading.

- 1 Getting and sharing music illegally is called _____.
- 2 The fees paid for playing songs owned by _____ are called royalties.
- 3 It is becoming _____ for new musicians to make money from their music.



EXTENSION

Talk or Write About It

What is your preferred way to get and listen to music? Why?