

Rapid Reading

Lesson 2 Rapid Reading / True or False

各 Part の英文を見開き1ページで見ることができます。True or False の問題を使用して、速読の練習をすることができます。

Part 1

Thomas the Tank Engine is a blue steam engine in a British children's book series. He first appeared in 1946. In the stories, Thomas has many adventures with his fellow locomotives on the Island of Sodor. This series is still read by children in more than 160 countries today.

Thomas also appears in an animated television show called *Thomas & Friends*TM. In the show's 22nd series in 2018, Thomas leaves Sodor for the first time. He travels around the world and meets new engine friends in India, China, Australia, and other countries. The show's creators worked to feature more female characters in the show by adding two female engines to the Steam Teams, a group of steam engines including Thomas who are the main characters.

In that year, the United Nations (UN) decided to work with a US toy maker which has Thomas' brand and makes its animation. They incorporate some of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the storylines of several episodes from that series.

Part 2

The 17 SDGs were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. They are what the UN created to help achieve a better and more sustainable future for everyone. The UN has a hope of meeting the goals by 2030. Their global challenges include improving education, achieving gender equality, and fighting climate change. People all over the world are now working to achieve these goals.

The UN and the toy company see great value in the goals. They chose six of the SDGs that were a natural fit with the kind of stories that are often seen in *Thomas & Friends*TM: Quality Education (Goal 4), Gender Equality (Goal 5), Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6), Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11), Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12), and Life on Land (Goal 15).

Part 3

Here are examples of how three of the goals were brought into the world of Thomas: Goal 11: Thomas talked about living in cities. He said, "Cities need good transport networks to help people get from their homes to school and work." Thomas also said that more people should use public transport, instead of private cars, to help clean the air.

Goal 12: Thomas talked about reusing and recycling. He gave the example of his friend Reg. Reg works at a scrap yard and knows if waste can be reused or recycled. Thomas said, "When something is broken and can't be repaired, Reg recycles it! Once, he even made a Christmas tree from scrap!"

Goal 15: Thomas said that it is especially forests that we should take care of. "Nearly all the insects, plants, and animals on Earth live in forests," he said. "When I

visited China, I traveled through a bamboo forest, and I was really lucky to see a panda in the wild! When I went to India, I saw monkeys in the coconut trees."

Part 4

The world today is quite different from how it was when Thomas the Tank Engine was first created. People's values have greatly changed. There are also new problems that people face today. The SDGs in *Thomas & Friends*TM are an important response to these changes.

It is very early in their lives that children form ideas about the world around them. The messages in the SDG episodes are easy to understand, and they give life lessons. For example, the episodes can help children learn about the importance of diversity. The stories are about engines of both genders who work together. The engines feel a responsibility to take care of the environment and are excited about receiving a good education. They can help children learn important values at an early age.

total words 609

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TRUE OR FALSE

1. () 2. () 3. ()

1. Thomas leaves Sodor for the first time and travels around the world and meets new friends.
2. The United Nations hopes to meet the goals by 2030.
3. The life lessons in the SDG episodes are too difficult for children to understand.