

2 Reading Comprehension – Answer Key

Text: “My brain has crashed”, from: Düwel/Grün, *The Media*, Viewfinder Topics New Edition plus (München: Langenscheidt, 2011), pp. 42f.

B MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which stylistic device was used here: “hitched a ride on the information superhighway” (l. 15)?

- metaphor

2. A paraphrase of “[S]he is very much alive to the wonders of the web” (ll. 13 f.) would read...

- She is aware of the wonders of the web.

3. What are the technical weaknesses of the computer, according to the author? (More than one answer can be correct.)

- Computers can crash and connections terminate.
 Software may need updating.

4. What’s RSI? (More than one answer can be correct.)

- gamer's thumb (origin: excessive use of gamepad)
 Rubik's wrist (origin: repetitive use of Rubik's cube)
 Blackberry thumb
 iPod finger

C QUESTIONS ON THE TEXT

1. Find another headline for the text.

Other titles could be for example:

“Computer Chaos Prevails”

“Information - Highway to Hell?”

2. What does the headline “My brain has crashed” reveal about the article’s subject matter?

Even though the headline is not completely clear, the reader may well know that “My brain has crashed” is an article about the disadvantages of computers and/or the internet., especially if he/ she has already seen the illustration: computer and monitor. It might be supposed that the author will criticise the influence of computers on everybody’s lives.

3. Find examples of metaphorical and informal language in the text.

To create a familiar atmosphere, Fleming uses informal language in the first paragraph (“Sick of...?”/ “get up off your butts”). To stress the biggest disadvantages of modern technology, she uses several metaphors in lines 60ff.: “All the stuff pouring in causes congestion, takes up space, reduces productivity, floods the basement, and hyperventilates the attic.”

(Daniela Pröls)