

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Seat Number \_\_\_\_\_

# MSU-CELC


Certificate of English Language Competency

## Practice Test #4 (Revised Format)

All items selected from actual CELC administrations from  
Spring 2020 through Fall 2021



**Michigan State University**  
English Language Center

 Do not turn the page until  
you are told to do so.

**Notes for Test of English Writing Ability**

You may use this space to write notes or an outline for the essay. However, you must write the essay on the separate, lined paper provided.

# Think about it, write about it!

## MSU-CELC Test of English Writing Ability

### Instructions


For this section of the test, a proctor has given you a special answer form.

Using a **Number 2 pencil only**, write as much as you can, as well as you can, in an original composition on **one** of the two topics below. You have 35 minutes to complete the composition.

1. Many subjects are taught at school, but not every subject. Practically all schools offer math and science classes, for example, while few schools have courses on how to run a business, or how to make a career as an artist or musician, or how to create websites. Write about one subject that you wish you could study at school that is not typically offered and explain why you chose that subject. Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

OR

2. All parents want their children to learn about money and develop good spending habits, but different families handle this in different ways. Write about what parents can do to best prepare their children to be financially responsible when they become adults. Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

 Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.

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# Listen to this!

## MSU-CELC Test of English Listening Ability

This section of the test is designed to evaluate your listening ability.

You should have three things in front of you:


- a test answer sheet
- a test booklet
- a Number 2 pencil

If you are missing any of these things, raise your hand now, and a test proctor will assist you.

### Instructions for the Listening Ability section

This section has three main parts. Part 1 has short conversations and Part 2 has longer conversations. Part 3 contains a speech and a long conversation.

- There are 30 questions on the listening test. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

 **Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.**

## Part 1—Short conversations

For each question in your test booklet, you will hear a short conversation. Each conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, “**Here is the situation.**”

You will listen to the conversation and choose the letter of the choice that best answers the question that appears in your test booklet. You will not hear the question; you will see it and read it. You will read it quietly to yourself. Use your pencil to mark your answer on your answer sheet.

### Example X:

<p><b>A missing textbook</b></p> <p><b>Here is the situation:</b> You are visiting your friend at his home in the evening. He is getting his things ready for school the next day and asks his mother about one of his school books.</p>	<p>When did the boy last have his math book?</p> <p>a. in the morning b. in the afternoon c. a few days ago</p>
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### 1. Making plans

**Here is the situation:** You were talking with your friend, Beth, and a young man has just interrupted you to ask Beth a question. You wonder what Beth will tell him.

What will Beth do later today?

- a. cook dinner with her friend
- b. meet her aunt for dinner
- c. go to a restaurant with her friend

### 2. Noisy neighbors

**Here is the situation:** There is loud music playing near your house. You go outside and hear this conversation between two of your neighbors.

What will the man do?

- a. call the police
- b. talk to his neighbors
- c. go to the police station

### 3. At the electronics store

**Here is the situation:** You are in an electronics store and notice a man who is trying to help a customer.

Why can the woman NOT find the batteries she is looking for?

- a. She does not know what kind she needs.
- b. The store does not sell the kind she needs.
- c. The camera uses an odd type of battery.

### 4. Sleep problems

**Here is the situation:** You stop by a coffee shop one evening and hear this conversation between a man and a woman there.

What is the woman’s problem?

- a. She has been going to bed very late.
- b. She does not sleep through the night.
- c. She feels out of breath when she wakes up.

### 5. Moving away

**Here is the situation:** You are visiting your friend, Kristin, in her office building when a man gives Kristin some news.

Why is the man moving?

- a. His wife is changing jobs.
- b. He is looking for a new job.
- c. He wants to find better weather.

### 6. Getting ready for a test

**Here is the situation:** You are at the library and meet your classmate, Megan. Her friend approaches her with a question.

What does **Megan** want her friend to do?

- a. help her find her book
- b. let her borrow his book
- c. tell her what to study



**7. A friend's party**

**Here is the situation:** You are at school and hear someone invite your classmate, Ann, to a party.

Why is **Ann** unable to attend Tim's party?

- She has to complete a project.
- She is going to be working.
- She needs to wake up early.

**8. At tennis practice**

**Here is the situation:** You are watching your friend, Chris, play tennis. His mother has just arrived to pick him up and drive him home.

Why does **Chris** ask his mother to wait?

- He wants to visit his friend.
- His friend wants to keep practicing.
- His coach asked him to stay.

**Part 2—Longer conversations**

In this section you will hear longer conversations. Each conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, "**Here is the situation.**" Before listening to each conversation you will read 2 to 4 questions. Listen to each conversation and answer the questions that appear in your test booklet.

**9-12. Student sports teams**

**Here is the situation:** You are talking to your classmate, Chris, when he meets an old friend.

- Which sport has **Chris** played for a long time?
  - soccer
  - basketball
  - swimming
- Why does Chris want to change sports teams?
  - He wants to play more games.
  - He is tired of playing his current sport.
  - His cousin suggested that he try something new.
- What does the young woman say about the man's athletic skills?
  - She thinks he is very talented.
  - She believes he should practice more.
  - She would like to see him play sometime.
- What does Chris plan to do in the following week?
  - talk to the soccer coach
  - go swimming with his cousin
  - ask his friends about switching teams

**13-15. Parents' birthdays**

**Here is the situation:** You just met your friends, Will and Becky. They are talking about what they do on their parents' birthdays.

- Why has Becky never bought birthday gifts for her parents?
  - Her family does not like exchanging gifts.
  - Her parents discouraged their children from buying them gifts.
  - She has never known exactly what to get for them.
- What did Becky's sister do for her mother's birthday last year?
  - She prepared the meals for two days in a row.
  - She cleaned the kitchen and the garage.
  - She helped her dad paint the kitchen.
- What will Becky get her mother for her birthday?
  - a cleaning kit
  - a sewing set
  - a kitchen set

### Part 3—Extended discourse

In this section you will hear a speech and a long conversation. Before listening to each passage, you will have time to read the questions. Each passage has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, “**Here is the situation.**” You will listen to each passage twice, and then you will answer a series of questions that appear in your test booklet.

#### 16-22. Library welcome

**Here is the situation:** A librarian is giving a presentation to you and your fellow students who are visiting the city library as part of a school trip. You are very interested in learning about what the library has to offer, so you pay close attention to what she says.

16. Why does the speaker mention outer space?
  - a. It is her favorite thing to read about.
  - b. The library has a special new book about it.
  - c. It is an example of something people can read about.
17. What is one benefit of a library over a bookstore?
  - a. It is open longer in the evening.
  - b. It has books that cannot be found at the bookstore.
  - c. It allows people to borrow computers as well as books.
18. How many movies can be checked out?
  - a. two at a time
  - b. three at a time
  - c. five at a time
19. Why is it important to bring items back on time?
  - a. You have to pay a dollar if you are late.
  - b. You cannot check out another book if you are late.
  - c. You cannot use the library for three weeks if you are late.
20. What age group can attend Tuesday night events?
  - a. adults only
  - b. children only
  - c. any age group
21. Where can you find the program calendar?
  - a. by asking a librarian
  - b. at the information desk
  - c. on the library website
22. Why did the printing policy change?
  - a. The printers need to be replaced.
  - b. It is expensive to print a lot of paper.
  - c. Some people used the printers too much.



**Part 3—Extended discourse, continued****23-30. A new dog**

**Here is the situation:** It is Saturday morning, and you and your friend Molly are taking Molly's new dog for a walk in a park. Molly sees her friend, Jack, who asks Molly about her dog.

23. How long has the dog lived with Molly?
- one week
  - 10 weeks
  - several months
24. What happened when Molly took the dog for a walk?
- Molly got lost.
  - A plant was damaged.
  - The dog was seriously hurt.
25. What did the dog destroy?
- a brush
  - the couch
  - a pair of new shoes
26. What did the book say was normal for a young dog to do?
- jump onto laps
  - chew on things
  - have trouble on walks
27. Why does Molly say she cannot leave the dog alone?
- The dog might get lost without her.
  - The dog could get hurt in the rose bushes.
  - The dog might destroy things in the house in a couple days.
28. What does Molly plan to do soon?
- get a cat
  - buy more dog toys
  - visit the veterinarian
29. What does Jack say about taking a pet for a walk?
- He does not take his cat on walks.
  - He wants to take her dog for a walk.
  - He taught his cat to walk with a leash.
30. How does Molly feel about owning a pet?
- She wishes she had a cat.
  - She thinks the man would like a dog.
  - She knows that a dog is the right pet for her.

**You have now finished the listening test. Please wait for further instructions.**

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# Grammar you can use!

## MSU-CELC Test of English Grammar

### Instructions


- This grammar test has 30 questions.
- You have 20 minutes to answer all 30 questions. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

### Example

Bob is a good student. He \_\_\_\_\_ every day.

- a. to study
- b. is study
- c. studies
- d. studying


The correct answer is c. You would mark “c” on your answer sheet.

 Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.

31. Johanna was probably at the party last night \_\_\_\_\_ I saw her car outside.
- maybe
  - although
  - because
  - despite
32. Their mother reminded them \_\_\_\_\_ their room before dinner.
- for cleaning
  - to be cleaned
  - by cleaning
  - to clean
33. When we get to the park, there will be several places \_\_\_\_\_ we can have lunch.
- which
  - where
  - what
  - when
34. Would you mind \_\_\_\_\_ the lights?
- to turn
  - turning
  - to turn off
  - turning off
35. The students were pleasantly surprised by \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher told them.
- that
  - it
  - what
  - which
36. The team's goal for this year \_\_\_\_\_ win the championship.
- is to
  - they will
  - is
  - will
37. After the staff attended the training, they were able to use the software without \_\_\_\_\_ trouble.
- some
  - the
  - any
  - many
38. As long as the snow \_\_\_\_\_ falling, the airplanes were unable to take off.
- was continuing
  - continues
  - continued
  - has continued
39. Judging from the way he sounds, Brian \_\_\_\_\_ to be very happy.
- appears
  - has appeared
  - is appearing
  - appear
40. Sarah bought a laptop, which \_\_\_\_\_ for her schoolwork.
- used by her
  - uses
  - it is used
  - she uses
41. When I get home, I \_\_\_\_\_ straight to bed!
- will have gone
  - should have gone
  - am going
  - must be going
42. Sarah couldn't come to the party \_\_\_\_\_ neither could Tom.
- as
  - even
  - and
  - also
43. Michael and Lauren \_\_\_\_\_ the best of friends.
- have ever not been
  - have never been
  - were never be
  - never were being
44. Susan often wears \_\_\_\_\_ outfits.
- usually
  - not usual
  - unusual
  - unusually

45. I hope one day I \_\_\_\_\_ able to travel all around the world.
- was
  - will be
  - going to be
  - will have
46. My aunt and uncle left before I \_\_\_\_\_ a chance to say goodbye.
- have
  - had
  - will have
  - would have
47. If I were you, I \_\_\_\_\_ until tomorrow to do my homework.
- would not wait
  - would not waiting
  - should not wait
  - have waited
48. Jack decided \_\_\_\_\_ any dessert because he is on a diet.
- not having
  - not to have
  - has not had
  - will not have
49. Before \_\_\_\_\_ to the store, you should make a list of what you want to buy.
- to go
  - gone
  - going
  - go
50. The problem may look \_\_\_\_\_, but it can be solved with careful planning.
- complicated
  - complication
  - complicating
  - complicates
51. My cousin Jackie has read \_\_\_\_\_ all of the books by her favorite author.
- near
  - near to
  - nearly
  - near as
52. Stacy does not like \_\_\_\_\_ chocolate or vanilla.
- both
  - either
  - some
  - neither
53. Based on the news report, \_\_\_\_\_ the museum will be closed for several more weeks.
- clearly that
  - it is clear that
  - to be clear that
  - which was clear that
54. My sister does not like coffee and \_\_\_\_\_ do I.
- either
  - neither
  - also
  - so
55. My cousin is \_\_\_\_\_ because he is going on a trip.
- exciting
  - excitable
  - excitingly
  - excited
56. My doctor said I need exercise, so now I go to the gym \_\_\_\_\_ possibly can.
- as often as I
  - more often I
  - often as I
  - as I often
57. Volunteering to help plan the neighborhood party taught me \_\_\_\_\_ to be a party planner after all.
- what I did not want
  - if I did not want
  - who I did not want
  - that I did not want
58. Judging someone solely \_\_\_\_\_ their looks often turns out to be a regrettable decision.
- the base of
  - on the basis of
  - was based on
  - by the basic

59. Getting regular exercise is a good idea if you want to lose weight, but watching how much you eat \_\_\_\_\_ important.
- a. is more than
  - b. to be more
  - c. is even more
  - d. has even been
60. Since we have been working on this computer problem for more than two hours, I think it is a good idea \_\_\_\_\_ now.
- a. take a break
  - b. to take a break
  - c. for taking a break
  - d. taking a break

 You have now finished the grammar test. Please wait for further instructions.


# Read about it!

## MSU-CELC Test of English Reading Ability

### Instructions

This reading test has four passages. Each passage is followed by a series of questions.

- You have 50 minutes to answer all 30 questions. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

 Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.

## Reading Activity 1

**Here is the situation:** You are checking out some new smartphone apps that are available and see the following article in a technology blog. Read the article carefully and answer the questions that follow.

### Innovative new apps



#### iTranslate Converse

Translation apps are nothing new, but iTranslate Converse takes communication to another level. Here is how it works: Imagine you want to communicate with someone who speaks Dutch—but you do not know Dutch. First, you open the app and set both your own language and the target language, which would be Dutch in this example. Then, you speak clearly into the microphone of your phone. The app translates your message and plays audio to the listener. The other person hears your message in their language (Dutch) through your phone's speaker. Then, they can speak to you in Dutch. The app translates and plays their message for you in your language.

#### Tunity

Have you ever wanted to watch your favorite sports team on television in a public place, such as a restaurant, but the TV was too far away for you to hear clearly? If yes, then Tunity is an app that you may find useful. This free app does something unique: You hold your phone up and let the app scan a television, which can be relatively far away. It then will find the channel and play its sound through your phone. You listen to the sound that is linked to the video you are watching on the TV that you can see. So, in your local restaurant, for example, you can put in ear buds and hear the sound of the TV across the loud room. Alternatively, it can also be used to hear the broadcast sound of a silent TV whose volume has been turned off. Currently, Tunity can be used in major US areas, with future potential to become more viable in other areas such as European and Asian cities. You can use this app with all popular phone brands.

#### Vanido

For people that like to sing, Vanido is an app to explore. Acting as a virtual vocal coach, it is designed to help you refine your abilities. Using techniques similar to gaming apps, Vanido increases in difficulty based on your history and guides you to sing in perfect tune. In this way, it is like your own voice teacher inside your phone. The app captures your voice through your phone's microphone while you listen through earbuds or headphones. Vanido helps you find your own vocal range, gives you exercises, and even lets you sing along with popular songs.



61. How does the iTranslate Converse app help with communication?
- It adjusts to different dialects within a language.
  - It changes spoken words into written messages.
  - It gives users suggestions based on their location.
  - It allows people who do not share a language to communicate.
62. What is the purpose of Tunity?
- to watch television from anywhere, on your phone
  - to increase the sound of a television near you
  - to get local news when you are traveling
  - to control a television near you
63. In what situation would Tunity be most useful?
- replaying something in a sports game
  - sitting in a waiting room with a silent TV
  - enjoying a TV show while riding on a bus
  - watching a TV show with friends far away
64. What is one disadvantage of Tunity?
- It only works well in the US
  - It is only available on iPhones.
  - It must be used near a television.
  - It does not stream current, live TV.
65. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **viable** in Paragraph 2?
- affordable
  - realistic
  - quality
  - usable
66. How is Vanido like a gaming app?
- It gets harder over time.
  - You compete against others.
  - It has both free and paid levels.
  - You play the role of a singer.
67. What is required to use Vanido?
- headphones
  - a voice instructor
  - a song collection
  - a separate microphone

## Reading Activity 2

**Here is the situation:** Your teacher recently asked you to write a paper about food people eat in the summer. You found the following article about ice cream cones, which seems to be relevant to your assignment. Read the article carefully and answer the questions that follow.

### Frozen fun



By Anthony Hall

To many people, ice cream cones on a hot summer day are a favorite tradition. But why? Where did they come from?

According to one woman, Jane Marchiony Paretti, her father, Italo Marchiony, invented the ice cream cone. He moved to the United States from Italy in the 1890s. He sold flavored ice treats and ice cream in the town of Hoboken, New Jersey. That was before there were paper or plastic cups and bowls, so he used glass cups. Unfortunately, the cups often broke, and sometimes people would just walk away with them. It also meant he had to bring a lot of clean dishes to work in the morning and clean a lot of dirty dishes at the end of the day. His solution was to make **an edible cup** that could be enjoyed along with the ice cream. He baked pieces of thin, sweet bread, called waffles. While the waffles were still warm, he folded them into the shape of ice cream cups. He then sold ice cream in the cups, and his customers loved not only the idea but also the taste.

It took a lot of time to make individual cups, so Mr. Marchiony designed a device that he could simply pour the waffle batter into and bake 10 ice cream cups at a time. In 1902, he received a patent, which is permission from the government to say the invention was his and no one else could claim it as their own.

Mr. Marchiony's business **flourished**. His daughter claims that he even ran out of the cups one day and had to ask the waffle vendor next to him to twist waffles into a cone shape for him. He started selling the ice cream in these cones, and everyone loved them. The popularity of these ice cream cones soon spread across the nation.

In the years that followed, there were other people who claimed to have invented the ice cream cone, including a relative of Mr. Marchiony. However, after reading about these other claims and looking up the patent history, I would say that Mr. Marchiony's story is the one most likely to be true. We may never have more proof than what I have shared here, but one thing is not debatable: the world loves ice cream cones!

68. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **an edible cup** in Paragraph 2?
- a cup you can eat
  - a cup that is popular
  - a cup that will not break
  - a cup in the shape of a cone
69. Why did Mr. Marchiony invent a new device?
- He wanted to prove the invention was his.
  - Getting just the right shape was hard to do.
  - He was tired of washing dishes every night.
  - Making ice cream cups by hand took too long.
70. What did Mr. Marchiony receive from the government?
- official recognition for his idea
  - money to help start his business
  - a patent for his ice cream flavors
  - permission to sell ice cream cups
71. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **flourished** in Paragraph 4?
- was not prepared
  - faced competition
  - was uncertain
  - did very well
72. Why did Mr. Marchiony ask the vendor to make cones?
- He had run out of ice cream.
  - He had run out of glass cups.
  - He had run out of ice cream cups.
  - He had run out of ice cream cones.
73. What does the author say about what really happened?
- He cannot decide which story is true.
  - He thinks he figured out the true story.
  - He has more research to do now.
  - He tells the reader to research the story.
74. What is the main purpose of this passage?
- to explain why ice cream is so popular
  - to present the history of ice cream cones
  - to give proper recognition to the waffle maker
  - to teach people how to make ice cream cones

### Reading Activity 3

**Here is the situation:** One morning you saw the following article about unusual libraries in your local newspaper and it attracted your attention. Read it carefully, and answer the questions that follow.

## Little Free Libraries



In 2009, a man named Todd Bol wanted to honor his mother's memory. She had been a schoolteacher, so he built a small wooden box, a bit larger than a mailbox, and made it look like a one-room schoolhouse. Then he added a glass door and a sign that said "Little Free Library." He filled this box with used books and attached it to a post in his front yard. The idea was that anyone walking by could simply take a book to read. Likewise, if anyone had a book they were ready to pass on, they could leave it there for someone else to take. Todd hoped that this book swap would be something that his neighborhood might appreciate, but he never even considered that it would become a worldwide movement.

**Before he knew it**, Todd had strangers coming up to his door to ask about the Little Free Library in his yard. They wanted to start Little Free Libraries in their hometowns, too. He gladly told them what to do, and within a year, Todd formed a nonprofit organization to run the Little Free Library movement. In less than ten years, there were more than 75,000 Little Free Libraries, in all 50 US states and 88 countries worldwide. Officials estimate that over a million books have changed hands, and that number grows daily.

Most Little Free Libraries look similar to each other, thanks to free building plans on the official website. The organization strongly encourages Little Free Library **caretakers** to build them by recycling materials, for example, by reusing wood. Some people have designed them to look like famous buildings, cartoon characters' homes, spaceships, and more. The organization does note, though, that some city governments have rules about what types of things a person can build in their yard, and it encourages everyone to follow those rules.

Maggie Blum, who put a Little Free Library in her yard, says it was something she would do again. She checks on it regularly to make sure it is in good condition and has a good selection. "One day the library will be full of books, and the next day, they will all have been taken. It is fun to see the variety of books that people read and share." She encourages everyone to start one, adding that it has become a social spot for neighbors to stop and chat.

75. What surprised Todd?
- how easy it was to make his project
  - that his project spread around the world
  - how many books he needed for his project
  - that his neighbors liked his project so much
76. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **Before he knew it** in Paragraph 2?
- He did not expect it.
  - It had already happened.
  - Someone else planned it.
  - He had been waiting to find out.
77. Why did people visit Todd's house?
- to build Little Free Libraries together
  - to help form a nonprofit organization
  - to ask to buy the books in his Little Free Library
  - to find out about starting more Little Free Libraries
78. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **caretakers** in Paragraph 3?
- people who visit Little Free Libraries
  - people who pay for Little Free Libraries
  - people who manage Little Free Libraries
  - people who donate books to Little Free Libraries
79. Why does the article mention famous buildings?
- as a rule of where Little Free Libraries cannot be placed
  - as an example of what some Little Free Libraries look like
  - as an example of where some Little Free Libraries are located
  - as a suggestion of where some Little Free Libraries could be built
80. Who has rules about what the Little Free Libraries can look like?
- designers
  - the organization
  - individual people
  - city governments
81. What did Maggie Blum say is a benefit of having a Free Little Library?
- There is always a book to read.
  - It is a good way to see neighbors.
  - It is a fun project to build and decorate.
  - It is inexpensive to join the organization.
82. What is the main purpose of the article?
- to show how influential parents can be
  - to get people to donate money to libraries
  - to inform people about a unique type of library
  - to provide students with an alternative to mobile devices

## Reading Activity 4

**Here is the situation:** One day after school you saw this interesting article in an entertainment magazine. Read the text carefully and answer the questions that follow.

### Stephen Hillenburg and the story of Spongebob Squarepants



Stephen Hillenburg always loved art. However, in the early 1980s, when he was in college at Humboldt State University in Northern California, no one knew that he would leave such an impact all around the world. After all, he was studying to be a science teacher. No one could have predicted that the beloved characters from his immensely popular animated television show, “Spongebob Squarepants” would eventually infiltrate nearly every modern society around the world.

Born in Oklahoma, Hillenburg had first been a marine biology teacher at the Orange County Marine Institute in the Los Angeles area. It is not commonly known, though, that his degree from Humboldt, a college near the border of Oregon, was actually in Natural Resources with an emphasis on marine resources. After his time at the Marine Institute, Hillenburg went back to school for a graduate degree in cartoon animation.

Next, having learned the technical skills of animation, Hillenburg made some films on his own. These were seen by Joe Murray, who had a show with the Nickelodeon TV network. Impressed, Murray asked him to join his team and take on a directing role for his cartoon show, “Rocko’s Modern Life.” In a later interview, Hillenburg stated, “that experience was really important for me, because I really would not have known how to put a show together without that experience.”

During his time directing, Hillenburg caught the attention of Martin Olson, a writer on the show, with a comic book Hillenburg had created called *The Intertidal Zone*. It was something he had made to teach about tide pools in his teaching career. About Olson’s interest, Hillenburg said, “It started me thinking, ‘if I am going to do a show, I would do it about invertebrates and these crazy animals that exist in the ocean.’ And it would be the perfect **fusion** of things that I did. It was that moment where I said, ‘maybe I should pursue this.’” And the rest is pop culture history.

“Spongebob Squarepants” has become so far-reaching that it has been called a “worldwide cultural phenomenon.” In The Netherlands, a flower has been named after Spongebob. Elsewhere, his picture appears on everything from gumballs to women’s headscarves. Someone even sent Hillenburg a video of Russian soldiers singing the Spongebob theme song while marching. From a simple beginning as a marine biologist, Stephen Hillenburg, in the end, made the whole world smile.

83. When Hillenburg first went to college, what were his plans about drawing?
- He wanted to draw for marine textbooks.
  - He hoped to draw for educational television.
  - He did not plan on using drawing in his career.
  - He planned to teach students to draw marine life.
84. After Hillenburg taught at The Marine Institute, what happened next?
- He made his own films.
  - He worked as a director.
  - He became a student again.
  - He taught at a graduate school.
85. Why did Nickelodeon Studios hire Hillenburg?
- because of a college internship
  - because they had seen his films
  - because his friends worked there
  - because they needed a marine expert
86. Who was Joe Murray?
- a filmmaker that Hillenburg hired
  - the TV executive who asked for “Spongebob”
  - an artist who was Hillenburg’s friend
  - the creator of another television show
87. What was “The Intertidal Zone”?
- the title of Hillenburg’s first animated film
  - the place where his television characters lived
  - the show that Hillenburg first directed
  - an educational comic Hillenburg had created
88. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **fusion** in Paragraph 4?
- combination
  - energy
  - job
  - drawing
89. What does the article say about Russian soldiers?
- They made a new Russian song about Spongebob.
  - They told Hillenburg they like Spongebob.
  - They sang the Spongebob song as a group.
  - They watch Spongebob videos after they march.
90. What is the main focus of this article?
- details about Hillenburg’s college years
  - how Hillenburg became rich and famous
  - the background of Spongebob and its creator
  - why Spongebob is the most watched cartoon

**This is the end of the test.  
Please wait for further  
instructions.**



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