



Part I – **READING COMPREHENSION** – Read the following text and answer questions 1 to 10.

**BRITISH VS. AMERICAN EMPIRE – WHICH IS GREATER?**

ConvinceMe.net is the ultimate debating website. When your argument convinces someone, you gain a point. It's your chance to convince the world that you are right! Fight for your side! The first person to get 10 points wins and receives the title "King of the Hill". The debate below is about the British and the American Empires.



**Aurelio:** Modern America is as large and powerful, if not more than the British Empire in **its peak** in the 1800s.

**Rajio:** The very idea that modern America is as large and powerful as the British Empire was at its peak is absurd. Read even the smallest piece of history about the British Empire – **it** reveals that it was tremendously larger and more powerful than present day America is.

**Aurelio:** What are the two **main** powers that a hyper power needs? Military and economy. Bigger does not mean better. No empire has had a larger

economy or military presence or technological **edge** over other countries than the US has today.

25 The US accounts for 41 percent of global military expenditure (680 billion). The US has a military presence in over 70 percent of the globe. As for the economy, at the end of World War II the US accounted for 50 percent of the economy, 45-50 percent of manufacturing capacity, 75% of the world's industrial military capacity. Now was Britain ever as powerful as that or as any other empire? The US also has the highest GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in history.

35 **Redwallwarrior:** The British Empire is far better than the American Empire. America is not even an empire and there is no emperor. **Plus** America was once part of the British Empire and America is Britain's child and the child is never going to be better than the parent.

**PRC:** Modern military technology is certainly important, but the British Empire wins easily.

Adapted from: [www.convinceme.net](http://www.convinceme.net)

**I – UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT**

- The main idea of the text above is:
  - to convince that the American Empire will never be as great as the British Empire.
  - to say that the American and the British Empires are the greatest in the world.
  - to give an example of the type of debate at ConvinceMe.net.
  - to show the US today is larger than the British Empire.
- The text above says that:
  - For Aurelio, Britain is as powerful as the US now.
  - Britain's most powerful period was in the 1800s.
  - Britain's military power is as large as the US power.
  - The US economy was never as good as the British.
- Choose the **CORRECT** alternative according to Aurelio's arguments in the text.
  - The British economic growth was bigger in the 1800s than the American one is today.
  - The American military capacity is not as big as the British was three centuries ago.
  - The US Gross Domestic Product is not higher than in any other country today.
  - For Aurelio, the British power was not as powerful as the American Empire.
- Choose the **INCORRECT** alternative according to the text.
  - For Redwallwarrior, the US will never be as great as Britain because it was once its colony.
  - The American government maintains groups of soldiers around most of the world.
  - One of the participants does not consider the United States an empire.
  - All the participants agree on which country is the most powerful.

**II – REFERENCE**

- The word '**it**' (line 17) refers to:
  - the smallest piece of history
  - the British Empire
  - present-day America
  - the peak
- The word '**its**' (line 12) refers to:
  - the peak
  - Modern America
  - the British Empire
  - the US

**III – VOCABULARY**

- In the text, the word '**peak**' (line 12) means:
  - projecting point
  - point of greatest value
  - top of a mountain
  - mountain



29. *Nina doesn't have many books in Spanish.*  
 a) Nina has no books in Spanish. c) Only a few of Nina's books are in Spanish.  
 b) None of Nina's books are in Spanish. d) A few of Nina's books are not in Spanish.
30. *They wouldn't like to spend Christmas in town.*  
 a) They want to go to a different place for Christmas. c) They don't like spending Christmas in town.  
 b) They don't enjoy Christmas in town. d) They hate spending Christmas in town.

Answer questions **31 to 40** according to the instructions.

31. Choose the option in which the simple past form of the verbs is **CORRECT**.  
 a) learned / put / left b) fixed / drunk / robbed c) payed / played / burned d) costed / knew / cried
32. Choose the option with the **CORRECT** definition.  
 a) A talkative person does not talk much. c) In the spring plants begin to grow again.  
 b) A cupboard is a flat board on the wall. d) Onions are small round biscuits.
33. Choose the **CORRECT** option in relation to the use of the verb '**gone**'.  
 a) Kate has gone in Europe several times. c) When has Kate gone out?  
 b) Has Kate ever gone to Europe? d) Kate's not in town. She's gone away.
34. Choose the option in which all the words are in the same vocabulary group.  
 a) bridge / road / pea b) fridge / cooker / oven c) hall / jam / crisps d) toast / stairs / chips
35. Choose the option in which all the past participle verbs are **CORRECT**.  
 a) had / came / known b) forgotten / wore / won c) given / taken / waken d) made / sat / woken
36. Choose the option in which the underlined vowels have the same pronunciation as the vowel in the verb '**fell**'.  
 a) met / said b) had / felt c) left / ran d) slept / sang
37. Choose the option in which the underlined letters in both words are **SILENT**.  
 a) enough / caught b) laugh / though c) high / neighbour d) though / cough
38. Choose the option in which the letters '**s**'/'**es**' at the end of both verbs are pronounced as in '**makes**'.  
 a) moves / draws b) speaks / fights c) notices / invites d) argues / phones
39. Choose the option in which the letters '**-ed**' at the end of both verbs are pronounced as in '**promised**'.  
 a) used / dressed b) rained / phoned c) visited / advertised d) fixed / helped
40. Choose the option in which the underlined word is **INCORRECT** in the sentence.  
 a) There's a school just through our house. c) They walked through the forest to the lake.  
 b) The robber came in through the window. d) The bullet went straight through his arm.

For questions **41 to 50**, fill in the blanks with the appropriate word(s) and mark the **CORRECT** alternative.

Badoo is a social networking website. It is in most of the world, but the site is \_\_\_\_\_<sup>41</sup> in Latin America, Spain, Italy, and France. Badoo is the 52<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_<sup>42</sup> site in France and the 117<sup>th</sup> globally. In a recent study, it received \_\_\_\_\_<sup>43</sup> score for privacy among 45 social networking sites. The site \_\_\_\_\_<sup>44</sup> in London during the social networking boom of 2006. It evolved from Andrei Andreyev's \_\_\_\_\_<sup>45</sup> dating site. In 2008, a Russian investor \_\_\_\_\_<sup>46</sup> US\$30 million for a 10% stake in Badoo. They \_\_\_\_\_<sup>47</sup> the money to improve Badoo in Russia, where the social networking market \_\_\_\_\_<sup>48</sup> to grow. When a member pays for it, Badoo gives their profile \_\_\_\_\_<sup>49</sup> on the site for a limited time. At the end of 2007, reports showed that 20% of Badoo's then 22 million users \_\_\_\_\_<sup>50</sup> this function once a month.

41. a) active more b) more active c) activer d) activest  
 42. a) more popular b) more popular than c) most popular d) the most popular  
 43. a) more low b) lower than c) lowest d) the lowest  
 44. a) began b) has began c) begun d) has begun  
 45. a) earlier b) earlier than c) earliest d) the earliest  
 46. a) payed b) has payed c) paid d) has paid  
 47. a) are going use b) are using c) have use d) using  
 48. a) begin b) begun c) has began d) is beginning  
 49. a) more prominence b) more prominence than c) most prominent d) the most prominent  
 50. a) accesses b) is accessing c) accessed d) has accessed

