**READING 1 Meeting 10**

Read the following passage and fill in the blanks with the correct words or phrases below it.

# How Television Has Changed

You really have to get very old before you realize you’re old. I’m in my middle fifties and I don’t feel old yet. However, sometimes I look back at my childhood and \_\_1\_\_ things to the way life is for \_\_2\_\_ kids. Some things have certainly changed.  
shimOne area of change is television. Some changes have been improvements. Some changes, on the other hand, have been \_\_3\_\_.  
shimWhen I started school, most people didn’t have a television; TV was just beginning to get \_\_4\_\_. My father decided to go all out and buy a 16 inch black and white Motorola set. I still remember watching the Lone Ranger save people from the \_\_5\_\_ guys on that awesome electronic machine. That was exciting!  
shimNow, \_\_6\_\_ have larger pictures in full color. The pictures are clearer and the sound is much more realistic. The new high definition sets are made to rival \_\_7\_\_ screens.  
shimThe variety and quantity of programming has \_\_8\_\_ greatly. There are hundreds of channels and more shows than one person could ever watch. There are many fine entertainment and educational \_\_9\_\_. There’s also a lot of garbage, stuff that most parents don’t want their kids exposed to. Overall, we have more choices, and that is good.  
shimI wonder what \_\_10\_\_ will be like when today’s kids are my age.



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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. forget | remember | compare | miss |
| 2. today's | yesterday's | tomorrow's | poor |
| 3. great | huge | setbacks | remarkable |
| 4. gone | replaced | expensive | popular |
| 5. old | good | bad | best |
| 6. films | movies | billboards | televisions |
| 7. movie | video | watch | telephone |
| 8. loss | increased | decreased | played |
| 9. books | shows | authors | awards |
| 10. movies | food | cars | television |

## Who Elects the President?

shimNovember 7, 2000 is a very special day in the United States. Voters all across the nation are \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_ representatives in local and national races. Some people think that they’re voting for the president of our country too. They’re not! Again, they're voting for \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_. These representatives are called electors. They are part of a system called the Electoral College.  
shimIn most states the electors are chosen on a winner take all basis. That makes it possible for one candidate to win the most electors while getting less popular votes nationally than his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_3\_\_.   
shimThe electors will meet in their respective states and cast their votes for president and vice-president on December 18, 2000. The Constitution does not \_\_\_\_\_\_4\_\_ the electors to vote for the candidates that they are pledged to, but they almost always do. On January 6, 2001, just two weeks before the new president and vice-president take office, the votes will be counted in Congress.   
shimIf no one gets a majority (more than half) of the electoral votes, at least 270 out of 538, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_5\_\_ will be chosen by Congress. The House of Representatives will choose (one vote per state) the president and the Senate will choose the vice-president. It’s not likely, but we could actually end up with a president from one party and a vice- president from another.  
shimIn an extremely close election, all kinds of strange outcomes are \_\_\_\_6\_\_. Will the \_\_\_7\_\_\_\_\_ that most voters prefer be the next \_\_\_\_\_\_8\_\_? And when will we even know?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. phoning | asking | wishing | electing |
| 2. president | someone | candidates | representatives |
| 3. mother | election | memory | opponent |
| 4. force | see | remind | popcorn |
| 5. voters | winners | people | guys |
| 6. possible | impossible | good | bad |
| 7. food | election | car | candidate |
| 8. diner | victory | dog | president |

1. **Word Meanings from Context**

***Use the context to help you choose the best meaning or synonym for each highlighted word.***

1. When your plan brings us great wealth, you will be rewarded for your **sagacity**.

a. good looks b. mistakes c. intelligence d. huge appetite for herbs

2. Both sides in the election contest are throwing accusations at each other. The Gore supporters claim that Governor Bush is trying to ***thwart*** the will of the people. The Bush supporters say that Mr. Gore is trying to create votes or assign choices to people who did not really cast votes for president.

What does “***thwart***” mean?

a. help b. figure out c. block d. tickle

3. There is a legal battle raging and the judges are concerned that time is running out.

Lawyers are being asked to ***expedite*** the matter by getting their paperwork in early.

a. quicken b. agree on c. sue d. discuss

4. The Florida legislature believes that it has the power to choose the winner of the election

if the courts haven’t finished their work by December 12. Both houses are controlled by

Republicans and they would surely **resolve** the matter in Bush’s favor.

What does “***resolve***” mean?

a. cancel b. consider c. debate d. settle

5. The election could actually end up being decided in the U.S. Congress. Al Gore’s vice presidential running mate, Joe Lieberman, and perhaps Mr. Gore himself, would be able to vote on the matter. Some would argue that they should **recuse** themselves, but they would probably exercise their right to vote.

What does “***recuse***” mean?

a. step aside and not be involved b. admit that you are wrong  
 c. leave the country d. insist on being heard

Good Luck