

Read the text.

### COSTA RICAN WINNERS



Juan Antonio Marín and Ernesto Fonseca have been two successful Costa Rican athletes who should be recognized as well as many other successful national athletes by the public. Thus, Juan Antonio Marín was an expert and professional tennis player who obtained the Coqui Bowl Title in 1989 in Puerto Rico. It was then that he announced that he would do great things. Besides, Marín really felt proud when he became the first and only Costa Rican who has won the *Copa del Café*. By 1996, he won his second double title at the

Copa del Café after winning against Marcelo Ríos from Chile and Michael Chang from the U.S. Marín also got his first title through the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) at the Swiss Open.

Another example is Ernesto “Lobito” Fonseca, who was registered in the history books as the first motorcycle pilot of the area when he won a title at the age of 17. Besides this prize, he has also won early in his successful career five Latin American titles, four Central American titles, four amateur tournaments in the USA, 12 national titles, and several other categories in motocross.



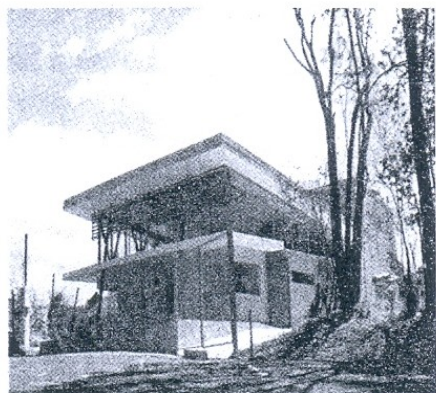
Adapted from the Internet

- 2) Juan Antonio Marín won twice the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) Coqui Bowl
  - B) ATP in Costa Rica
  - C) championship in doubles
  - D) title from the Association of Tennis Professionals
- 3) Juan Antonio Marín, Marcelo Ríos and Michael Chang were \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) champions in doubles
  - B) international soccer players
  - C) competitors at the Copa del Café
  - D) participants at the great Swiss Open
- 4) Ernesto, "Lobito" Fonseca, established a new record as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) fastest motocross pilot
  - B) most successful motorcycle pilot
  - C) youngest pilot in the area that won a title
  - D) first young man who won a category as a tennis player
- 5) "Lobito" Fonseca acquired \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) a few prizes
  - B) national recognition
  - C) an early successful career
  - D) a non-successful profession



Read the text.

## OPERA COMPANY OPENS NEW HEADQUARTERS



Robert Isenberg, a freelance writer who works at The Tico Times, said that if there's one thing that an opera company needs is its space. People cannot rehearse in a garage. Creating the costumes and sets sometimes requires a room with the size of an airplane hangar. So after nearly three decades, the National Lyric Company (NLC) inaugurated a

large self-owned building in Moravia.

Originally proposed in 2012 by Guillermo Madriz -director of the National Music Center (NMC)- and Patricia Conde -director of NLC- the building was completed recently. As Conde said, "For the first time, the National Lyric Company will have its own space." She added that the company was founded in the 1980s and was forced to rent space in order to function.

More than a rehearsal space, the new NLC headquarters will also incorporate offices, a costume shop, laundry facilities, a private parking lot, a projection room and a library. The NLC plans to cultivate young singers from universities and private schools. The new NLC building is located directly adjacent to the National Music Center.

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

- 7) The National Lyric Company hopes to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) find a new place
  - B) cultivate young singers
  - C) build an adjacent house
  - D) make a recreational library
- 8) The company initiated in 1980 in accordance with \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) the NLC director
  - B) an opera vocalist
  - C) the NMC principal
  - D) a rehearsal conductor
- 9) The new building of the NLC includes \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) private offices
  - B) costume shops
  - C) a private school
  - D) a projection room
- 10) According to Robert Isenberg, it is a requirement for an opera to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) score singers
  - B) have a large room
  - C) make their costumes
  - D) find supernumeraries

Read the text.

### COSTA RICAN TYPICAL FOOD



**Patacones** are thin slices of deep-fried plantains. This is a popular dish, usually served with refried beans.



**Picadillo** is a side dish of cooked vegetables with meat. It is prepared using chopped onions, garlic and sweet peppers.



**Tamales** are part of the popular Christmas dishes. They are boiled cornmeal pastries stuffed with vegetables, pork or chicken. They are wrapped in banana leaves.



**Ceviche** is made of raw sea bass, shrimp or fish. It's normally prepared with lemon juice, chopped onions, garlic and sweet peppers.

Adapted from Costa Rica Handbook

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text.

- 11) A popular dish that people eat during a holiday is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) ceviche
  - B) tamales
  - C) picadillo
  - D) patacones
- 12) To prepare picadillo and ceviche, Costa Ricans use \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) seafood
  - B) cornmeal
  - C) some vegetables
  - D) some sweet juice

- 13) Ceviche is composed of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) only shrimp
  - B) just pastries
  - C) raw ingredients
  - D) five kinds of spices
- 14) According to the text, people need \_\_\_\_\_ to wrap tamales.
- A) beans
  - B) onions
  - C) sweet peppers
  - D) banana leaves



Read the recipe.

### ELVIS' FAVORITE SANDWICH

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons of melted butter
- 3 tablespoons of peanut butter
- 1 banana, mashed
- 2 slices of bread



#### PREPARATION:

First, mix the peanut butter and mashed banana together. Then, lightly toast the slices of bread. Next, spread the peanut butter and banana mixture on the toast. After that, put another slice of bread on top and put it in a pan with melted butter. Finally, fry the bread until it is brown on both sides.

Adapted from the Internet

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous recipe.

15) To prepare the sandwich, people first need to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) spread the peanut butter
- B) add another slice of bread
- C) fry the bread until it is brown
- D) mix the peanut butter and banana

16) Before toasting the bread, people have to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) spread the peanut butter
- B) put the sandwich in a pan
- C) mix two ingredients together
- D) put the banana mixture on the toast

17) Right after toasting the bread, people have to \_\_\_\_\_

- A) add melted butter
- B) fry both slices of bread
- C) mix the butter with the banana
- D) spread the mixture on the bread

18) The last step is to \_\_\_\_\_

- A) fry the bread
- B) spread the mixture
- C) toast the slices of bread
- D) mix the banana and butter

19) The sandwich has \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) sweet bread
- B) less toast than bread
- C) more peanut butter than melted butter
- D) the same quantity of mashed bananas and peanut butter



Read the text.

### GETTING MARRIED IN COSTA RICA



One of the most important social events in Costa Rica is getting married. The preparation of the wedding begins with the traditional serenade a few days before the wedding ceremony. The groom arrives at his fiancée's house with some red roses for her, surprisingly, with friends and musicians to sing romantic songs. The fiancée, her family and friends listen to it in the house before going out. Priests, judges, and lawyers are the only legally authorized to perform a marriage ceremony. It is a tradition that during the wedding ceremony, the bride wears an elegant white dress and a veil while the groom wears a formal suit. Relatives and friends dress up and go to church to attend the big event. At the end, it is common to sprinkle uncooked rice over the couple outside the church, to wish them well; soap bubbles can be used too. After the religious ceremony, there is a reception with a banquet and music. The couple starts dancing the waltz. Later, the bride dances a waltz with her father, and the groom dances with his mother. Then, the traditional money dance begins, the guests dance with the bride and the groom pinning bills on their clothes. The married couple uses the money collected as extra cash for their honeymoon or other expenses.

Adapted from [pocketcultures.com](http://pocketcultures.com)

Choose the appropriate alternative to answer each question based on the previous text.

20) Who is authorized to carry out the wedding ceremony?

- A) The wedding guests
- B) Relatives and friends
- C) The couple's close friends
- D) Priests, judges and lawyers

21) What is the first activity in a traditional wedding preparation?

- A) A rice ritual
- B) A national concert
- C) The traditional serenade
- D) The soap bubble practice

22) How does the couple usually dress on the wedding day?  
They usually dress \_\_\_\_\_ clothes.

- A) up in white
- B) formal and elegant
- C) informal and suitable
- D) casual and appropriate

23) What are two main aspects carried after a wedding?

- A) Rice and music
- B) Fast food and some guests
- C) Nice decoration and flowers
- D) The ceremonies of a lawyer and a priest

24) When does the dance traditionally begin?

- A) Before the parents' dance
- B) After the newlyweds' waltz
- C) At the moment of the money collection
- D) When the bride and groom leave for their honeymoon



Read the text.

## POLLUTION

Environmental pollution is one of the most serious problems that humanity and all other living things are facing today. Polluted air can damage crops, and it can cause illnesses. Some air pollutants reduce the capacity of the atmosphere to filter out the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation causing skin cancer and global warming. Another serious problem is that water and soil pollution put at risk the farmers' ability to grow enough food.



The relationships among all living and non-living things in an environment make up an ecological system, called an ecosystem. Pollution that seems to affect only one part of the environment may also affect other parts. For example, smoke from a power plant might appear to harm only the atmosphere, but rain can wash some harmful

chemicals out of the sky and put them onto land as well as into waterways. In fact, ocean pollution endangers many marine organisms.

Pollution also comes from one specific point or location, such as a sewage (waste matter from human bodies and factories) pipe spilling dirty water into rivers. Besides, rain water can wash gasoline, oil, and salt from the streets and parking lots, and go into the drinking water supply. The irrigation of soil in dry areas can leave fields flooded. Another way to pollute soil is the use of fertilizers and pesticides; these products can limit the ability of soil organisms to process waste.

Adapted from the Internet

Choose the appropriate alternative to answer each question based on the previous text.

25) What kind of pollution can damage the atmosphere?  
Definitely \_\_\_\_\_ pollution

- A) air
- B) soil
- C) some water
- D) a type of marine



26) In which way can pollution affect farmers?

By \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) filtering the sun's ultraviolet radiation
- B) washing the chemicals used in crops
- C) reducing their capacity to plant the soil
- D) affecting their abilities to produce enough food

27) What does an ecosystem consist of?

- A) Pollution
- B) Pollutants
- C) Harmful chemicals
- D) Living and non-living things

28) What can cause water pollution?

- A) Irrigation
- B) Drinking water
- C) Soil organisms
- D) A sewage pipe

29) What do fertilizers and pesticides do?

They \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) supply drinking water
- B) increase the quality of life
- C) wash gasoline, oil and salt
- D) disable soil organisms that process waste

Read the text.

### TOURISM AT UVITA ISLAND

Uvita Island is located near the Port of Limón on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. This island will become a tourist attraction and a biological research station, through a cooperation agreement between the Board for the Development of the Atlantic Basin (JAPDEVA, in Spanish) and the local government of the canton of Limón



As a national heritage, the development of Uvita Island will be strictly controlled according to authorities, in order to preserve its marine and land resources. The small island has abundant vegetation, and it is surrounded by coral reefs. Even though this island has received different names since 1512, when Christopher Columbus

visited the area, its most popular name is Uvita. The translation for that word would be roughly "small grape". Its name responds to the fact that a unique tree to the Caribbean grows there and whose fruit looks like grapes.

Adapted from La Nación Digital

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text.

30) Uvita Island is located \_\_\_\_\_ Limón.

- A) distant from
- B) far away from
- C) close to the Port of
- D) at the side of Port of

31) Uvita Island will become a tourist attraction thanks to the effort of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) the tourists
- B) people from Limón
- C) the national authorities
- D) JAPDEVA and the local government

- 32) Uvita Island will be a future \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) fishing attraction
  - B) international treasure
  - C) station for research and tourism
  - D) national project to remove vegetation
- 33) Tourists will be able to enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ at Uvita Island.
- A) only the coral reef
  - B) the islands around
  - C) different kinds of fruits
  - D) its exuberant vegetation and coral reefs
- 34) The biological reserve will be rigorously controlled by authorities \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) since it is an old law
  - B) to keep the island agreement
  - C) because there is a new tree species
  - D) to protect its marine and land resources
- 35) The island takes its name from \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) foreigners who like that name
  - B) a traditional Caribbean name for grapes
  - C) Christopher Columbus, who called it like that
  - D) a specific kind of tree that grows on the island



Read the text.

## ALLERGIES

An allergy is the immune system's reaction to certain grass, plants, flower pollen, pets, animals, insect stings, food, etc. The immune system protects people from diseases by fighting germs like bacteria and viruses, but when people have allergies, it overreacts.



When the immune system reacts to one of these *allergens* (a substance that can cause an allergic reaction), people have symptoms that mean that they are allergic to them. This causes sneezing, a bothersome runny nose, itching eyes and ears, and other reactions like minor headaches that people get with allergies. Thus, some items on the list, such as food may cause a red itchy skin

rash. Allergens can cause breathing problems like asthma all the time, but others might bother people only during certain seasons. For instance, people might be allergic to pollen from flowers, which is present in the air only in the spring. There is no cure for allergies, but there are several types of medications to help ease annoying symptoms like a congestion and a runny nose. In fact, these allergy drugs include antihistamines, decongestants, nasal sprays, corticosteroids and a combination of drugs.

Adapted from [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

Choose the appropriate alternative to answer each question based on the previous text

36) What are some substances that generate allergies?

- A) Nasal sprays
- B) Antihistamines
- C) Grass and food
- D) Eye and ear drops

- 37) What is a common consequence of allergies? It is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) lack of sneezing
  - B) severe headache
  - C) constant runny nose
  - D) strong immune system
- 38) How can people treat allergies? People can \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) get some rest
  - B) use hormones
  - C) take corticosteroids
  - D) use cold-relief medication
- 39) Besides pets, what else could provoke allergies?
- A) Antihistamine
  - B) Decongestants
  - C) Physical activity
  - D) Pollen from flowers
- 40) What can people confront from suffering allergies? People can \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) develop a strong immune system
  - B) have problems with their respiratory system
  - C) suffer a negative reaction from allergy drugs
  - D) use just one type of medication to avoid allergies

Read the text.

### TICOS ABROAD WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE ONLINE

The Supreme Elections Tribunal (TSE) is developing a software application that will allow Ticos abroad to register through the Internet. It means they won't have to visit a Costa Rican consulate to do so.



Currently, Ticos who are abroad and wishing to vote during the national process of elections must register with the nearest consular office. They must bring a recent passport-sized photograph with a blue background and fill out a form to be handled by consulate officials.

A change in the country's Electoral Code in 2009 states that Ticos registered in other countries may have access to vote. It also states that the registration system must be up and running before the date of the next presidential elections. For procedures on an authorized consulate list and more info about the online registration platform, people can visit the TSE's website <http://www.tse.go.cr/votext/votext.htm>.

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

Choose the appropriate alternative to answer each question based on the previous text.

- 41) What will the TSE use for the future presidential election process abroad?
- A) An old electoral code
  - B) A software application
  - C) A traditional voting method
  - D) A consular office in Costa Rica





- 42) What will Ticos abroad **not need** to vote?  
They will **not need** to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) own an old code
  - B) get a national code
  - C) travel to Costa Rica
  - D) have any identification card
- 43) What does the TSE's new disposition consist of?  
Ticos in another country \_\_\_\_\_ to become a voter.
- A) need not register
  - B) have to fill out a very special card
  - C) should go to a Costa Rica's embassy
  - D) have to register at the nearest consular office
- 44) What must Ticos abroad do at the consular office?  
They must \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) come to the country
  - B) change the dates of the elections online
  - C) use an old passport to ask for information
  - D) fill out a form and have a passport-size picture
- 45) How can citizens abroad obtain more information about voting?  
By \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) asking the consulates
  - B) calling the TSE's office
  - C) being attentive to newsreels
  - D) accessing the TSE's web page

Read the text.

### MY JOB

Working for an old ambulance service can really be hard, although you usually have to get experience from it. Definitely, it is not fun working with poor equipment, deteriorated vehicles and bad services. Even if people face these job conditions, they keep high standards.



Getting up in the middle of the night five or six times can really mess up a person's sleep pattern and tire people out. Then, workers go into these loud and unpredictable scenes, sometimes bars, car wrecks or people's homes, and have to work with high standards. In these situations, they must watch out for their partners' safety and themselves. Doctors, nurses, technical staff at hospitals and clinics believe this job implies great job rewards.

My parents are not very happy with my occupation, but although I have heard my parents say that this is not the kind of job they wanted for me; I love it and I am crazy about this occupation. In fact, feeling pleased with a job is what matters, and this is how I feel about the ambulance service.

Adapted from the Internet

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text.

46) The job described in the text is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) fun but not difficult
- B) not difficult or risky
- C) stressful and dangerous
- D) very easy and enjoyable



47) According to the text, it is difficult to work with \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) young people
- B) high standards
- C) poor equipment
- D) excellent co-workers

48) The person says that some people \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) have a lot of free time
- B) do not understand this job
- C) have just a few things to do
- D) believe this job is great for everybody

49) The person who describes the job is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) a firefighter
- B) an architect
- C) a paramedic
- D) an accountant

50) According to the text, this job \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) has predictable scenes
- B) is enjoyed by everybody
- C) makes people sleep a few hours at night
- D) has lots of resources based on performance

Read the text.

### COSTA RICAN WOMEN'S FACTS

Due to a growing influence from other countries and cultures, Costa Rican women have changed culturally as well. This has altered many values, namely those dealing with marriage, sex, and family. Nonetheless, many women still have a remarkable attachment to traditional roles and values.



Family also remains important in Costa Rica, since most women and men choose to stay in their parents' home until marriage. Professional Costa Rican women have the same or similar dilemmas as women from the first world. While still having the responsibilities of motherhood and wifehood, women also take on the responsibilities that originate from employment. To make matters worse, some working women do not have the courage of delegating the household chores to their husbands, which make their workload extra harsh. Upper and middle-class families commonly have live-in maids, but younger couples cannot afford it, and so the women often take on the chores, too.

Adapted from the Internet

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text.

51) The text is about women's \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) confusions
- B) work without salary
- C) new values in society
- D) lack of responsibilities

- 52) Women have to be responsible for their \_\_\_\_\_ plus motherhood and wifehood.
- A) jobs
  - B) parents
  - C) couples
  - D) dilemmas
- 53) Costa Rican women's values have changed because of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) their discreet behavior
  - B) their cultural background
  - C) a growing foreign influence
  - D) their noteworthy attachments
- 54) Women **have not** learned to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) deal with marriage
  - B) defend their culture
  - C) share the housework
  - D) take on responsibilities
- 55) Many women's values related to \_\_\_\_\_ have changed recently.
- A) some dilemmas
  - B) different cruel employment
  - C) their family, marriage and sex
  - D) extra responsibilities with themselves



Read the text.

### ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL TRIPLY IN THE FUTURE

The Costa Rican population is undergoing a metamorphosis. Although the population level has remained almost the same since 2009, the size of one group in society is growing fast. Currently, there are some 330,000 elderly people or senior citizens in the country, but it is estimated that by 2025 there will be one million people over the age of 65. That is three times the number of seniors today



To give people an idea of what has happened, it is easy to compare the old structure of the population pyramid. For its size, the groups of children and young people from zero to 24 were the base of the pyramid. Now Costa Rican society has gradually shaped into an amphora type vase, that is to say that the group size of the young people is smaller than that of seniors, which is becoming larger.

Life expectancy in Costa Rica is at 79.3, an age that is being surpassed quickly by many elderly people; for example, Chepito, Costa Rica's oldest man who is 115 years old. He lives in a nursing home in Piedades de Santa Ana. Other examples are Frederick Baltodano, a 94-year-old man who lives in the National Geriatrics Hospital, and his wife Molly Aragon who is at the age of 92. The challenge for the country today is that seniors today are living longer, but despite the strong fight against the diseases of aging, their medical attention is increasing a lot.

Adapted from [www.insidecostarica.com](http://www.insidecostarica.com)

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text.

56) Today's Costa Rican aged population is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) living longer than in the past
- B) at the middle of the population pyramid
- C) facing new diseases and health problems
- D) becoming a minority group in terms of population

57) Medical care for the elderly \_\_\_\_\_ in Costa Rica.

- A) is highly expensive
- B) exceeds one million colones per person
- C) costs around one million colones per person
- D) is the responsibility of the National Geriatrics Hospital

58) Currently, Costa Rican society has \_\_\_\_\_

- A) increased its young population
- B) decreased its elderly population
- C) more aged people than young people
- D) more young people than elderly people

59) In 2025, about one million people will \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) surpass the age of 65
- B) be under the age of 65
- C) need medical assistance
- D) be living in nursing homes

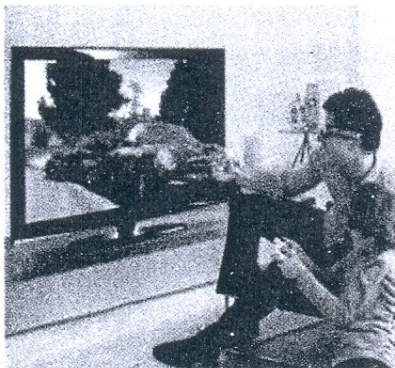
60) In the past, young people used to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) support elderly people
- B) be a minority group in the country
- C) be the base of the population pyramid
- D) be at the top of the population pyramid



Read the text.

### THE TELEVISION



The television was born from the conjunction of a series of simultaneous but well-developed research. The original discovery of “photo telegraphs” in the middle of the XIX century (the word television wasn’t used until 1900) owns its advances and development to several investigators who worked with transmitting images via electromagnetic waves.

The television has a great influence within homes. One of its purposes was to socialize the culture such as the study of life, needs, aspirations and ways of thinking and acting. Dominant economic groups have demanded the television to fulfill their needs. Besides, the television has provided people a way of having fun, keeping people informed and also acquiring some general culture. However, it also presents a variety of negative programs that contain lots of violence and other problems that people can adopt as their own lifestyle.

Adapted from La Nación, 2006

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text.

- 61) According to the text, \_\_\_\_\_ is the result of different research.
- A) the photo telegraph
  - B) violent socialization
  - C) an electromagnetic image
  - D) the development of television



- 62) The television \_\_\_\_\_ around the world.
- A) never assures the study of life
  - B) has a dominant place at homes
  - C) has developed no interest among people
  - D) doesn't have control over people who watch it
- 63) According to the text, \_\_\_\_\_ is a negative fact about television.
- A) keeping people informed
  - B) avoiding violent programs
  - C) having fun with television programs
  - D) the transmission of violent programs
- 64) A positive effect of the television is that it \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) responds to violence in the house
  - B) has no influence within the homes
  - C) transmits cultural aspects of a country
  - D) develops interests on photo telegraphy inventors

- 66) To shop online and have the purchase delivered means that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) stores deliver the product online
  - B) clients buy in the store as in the past
  - C) consumers pick up the products later
  - D) customers place orders online and the store sends the products
- 67) Buying products online at Best Buy will allow shoppers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) walk up and down the aisles
  - B) come to the store several days later
  - C) show up 20 minutes after the online purchase
  - D) return the products as soon as the online purchase is made
- 68) In-store pick-up, customers \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) reserve and avoid the commitment
  - B) shop online and pick up the orders in the store
  - C) pay the products at the store and check-out counters
  - D) make online purchases and wait for the products at home
- 69) The customers of Best Buy will \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) use special parking
  - B) avoid going to a store anyway
  - C) have their own in-store system
  - D) waste time when selecting the items at the store

- 70) Michael Burgess' concern about a pick-up system when reserving is that people \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) always dislike saving money
  - B) most of the time buy a lot of products
  - C) never have a lot of time to buy the products
  - D) almost always avoid finishing the process of buying