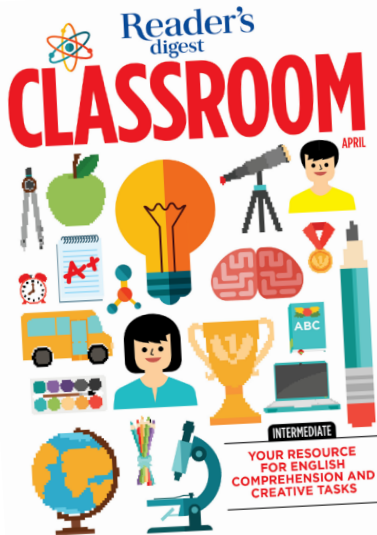


# Answers



## RD Classroom April 2016 Intermediate

Download the question sheets at [www.rdasia.com/rdclassroom](http://www.rdasia.com/rdclassroom). If you missed the April 2016 edition of Asia Reader's Digest at the newsagency, you can go to [rdasia.com](http://rdasia.com) and call the helpful customer service numbers at the top left to order a copy. If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback, please contact us on social media using the details below.

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Read more, learn more and talk with the RD team through Digest's communities online



[facebook.com/ReadersDigestAsia](https://www.facebook.com/ReadersDigestAsia)



[twitter.com/rdasia](https://twitter.com/rdasia)



[pinterest.com/readersdigestasia](https://www.pinterest.com/readersdigestasia)



[www.rdasia.com](http://www.rdasia.com)



## ANSWERS FOR 'MIGHTY MONARCH' (PAGE 38)

### 1. When and where was Queen Elizabeth II born? Was she born at Buckingham Palace? Why or why not?

Queen Elizabeth II was born on April 21, 1926. She was not born at Buckingham Palace, as she was third in line to the throne. Instead she was born at her mother's parents' home in London. Give yourself a bonus point for including the address: 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair.

### 2. Under what circumstances did Her Majesty become Queen? When was she officially crowned? How old was she at the time?

Her Majesty became Queen in February 1952 following the sudden death of her father, King George VI. This occurred when she was visiting Kenya with her husband, Prince Philip. She was officially crowned Queen during her coronation on June 2, 1953. She was 25 years old at the time of becoming Queen and 27 at her coronation. (Award yourself a bonus point if you mentioned the reason for the delay was the difficulty of planning a Coronation in post-World War II Britain.)

### 3. There are two items mentioned in the article that the Queen doesn't have or need. What are they and why doesn't she need them?

The Queen is the only person in Britain who can legally drive without a driver's license. She also does not need to possess a passport to travel to other countries. This is because these items are issued in her name, so it wouldn't make sense for her to give permission to herself to have these items.

### 4. Which year does the Queen classify as her 'horrible year'? Why? For what reason should it have been a year to celebrate?

The Queen refers to the year 1992 as her horrible year, or *annus horribilis* in Latin. This was due to a number of personal scandals within the Royal Family that were made very public. There was also a very damaging fire that destroyed part of Windsor Castle. Instead, 1992 should have been a year to celebrate, as it was the Queen's fortieth anniversary as reigning monarch.

**ACTIVITY** The article refers to the Commonwealth throughout. What is the Commonwealth, which countries are involved and what is the Queen's connection? To help you research and answer the question, use books, the Internet and any other materials. Write down your findings and share them with someone else.

Use your own knowledge and the article to answer this question, but feel free to research the topic further to enhance your understanding. Award yourself a point for each of the following facts covered in your answer. The Commonwealth, known officially as The Commonwealth of Nations, is a voluntary association of 53 independent and sovereign states with a population of more than 2 billion people worldwide. Except for two countries (Mozambique and Rwanda), they were formerly colonies of the British Empire, and share this common history. As the reigning head of state of the United Kingdom, Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth. Despite big cultural and geographical differences, Commonwealth countries are united by a shared commitment to the values of democracy, good governance, world peace, liberty, human rights, equality and free trade. Among the Commonwealth nations are Singapore, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, India and Sierra Leone.

## ANSWERS FOR 'INSTANT ANSWERS: RETROFUTURISM' (PAGE 76)

### 1. What is retrofuturism? How is it different to other predictions of the future, such as prophecies made in ancient times?

Retrofuturism looks back at the past to see how people imagined the world would look in decades or centuries to come. Though predictions have, and will, always be made, the specific term Futurism refers to the art and culture movement that began in 1909 and lasted through the 1920s and influenced the decades that followed. It celebrated what was then regarded as the fast pace of the new century with cars, machines and built-up cities featuring heavily. Retrofuturism draws primarily on the period from the 1920s to the 1950s, but is a current movement,

looking at the contrasts between those visions of the future and what has happened and is still happening in the world. Retrofuturism's impact is felt most strongly in arts and design, but also – like Futurism – in the philosophies about how humans and technology are meant to interact. Unlike ancient prophecies, which were usually very serious and spoke of very specific outcomes for the future, Retrofuturism is more lighthearted and allows for the idea that we can embrace the future in multiple different ways: some by dressing in 1950s-style clothes, some by loving our smartphones and some by wondering why we still don't have flying cars.

## 2. How is Disneyland's Tomorrowland linked to retrofuturism?

Disney's Tomorrowland is a perfect example of retrofuturism. When Tomorrowland was built in 1955, it was a carefully imagined vision of what the future (originally 1986) would look like. Though some of the park's ideas (the Space Race, easy international communication, the power of corporations) may have come to fruition, others failed due to insurmountable technical problems, much like their real-world counterparts. The mid-20th century 'space age' aesthetics of Tomorrowland are classic Retrofuturism.

## 3. Bruce McCall states that predictions about the future are "always wrong; always hilariously, optimistically wrong". Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

You should feel free either to agree or disagree with this quote.

Those who agree with the quote could say something along the following lines: though no one knows what the future will look like, people can't help but make predictions, as they have been doing since ancient times. Often these predictions are very hopeful, but because it is impossible to look directly into the future, they are inevitably going to be inaccurate. It is the nature of people to be hopeful, and we rarely see the problems that will derail that hope in the future.

Those who disagree with the quote could say something along the following lines: people have been making predictions about the future since ancient times. Although many of them are off the

mark, enough of them have proved correct or close enough that it is a worthwhile exercise. You may even argue that predictions about the future sometimes help to inspire inventions (just as *Star Trek's* communicators were the precursors of smartphones and Captain Nemo's *Nautilus* led to submarines), and in doing so, actually end up shaping the future, so in that sense they are right.

## 4. What are some of the inventions that were predicted but never eventuated? Why do you think that is? You may need to do additional research to answer this question.

There are no wrong answers to this question. Your answer could be based on television programs, books or movies that were set in the future and that showed inventions that are still completely fanciful, or it could be based on old newspapers and scientific articles and documentaries. The reasons these inventions never eventuated could include that they were too expensive to make, they violated basic principles of physics, that science has not developed that far yet, or simply that no-one felt the need to follow through and devote the time, effort and money into developing these inventions.

## ACTIVITY Everyone is curious about what the future holds, and many can't help but make predictions. Sometimes they are correct and other times they can be very wrong. What are your predictions for the future? How might the world be in 10, 50 or 100 years? What new technologies might there be? Write a few paragraphs and share your ideas.

There is no wrong answer for this task. You are encouraged to be as creative and imaginative as you like! Give yourself points if you wrote down your ideas and shared them, and additional points if you spent time practically considering the likelihood of your vision of the future working and what may help it along or stand in its way.

If you are particularly proud of your work, we'd love to hear from you. Turn to page 6 of the magazine for how to contact the editorial team.

## ANSWERS FOR 'THE SECRET LIVES OF PASSWORDS' (PAGE 84)

### 1. The attacks on the World Trade Center caused the deaths of many people, who took with them important personal information. What information did Howard Lutnick need after the attacks?

Howard Lutnick needed his co-workers' passwords to access secure files, accounts and projects relating to the business of Cantor Fitzgerald. Sadly, as so many people died in the attacks and the physical office was destroyed, this information was lost. To help recover the passwords in order to keep the business running, he needed personal information from families and friends of the deceased to recreate his co-workers lost passwords.

### 2. Why may Howard Lutnick have appeared callous? What do you think of Howard's behaviour? Was it justified?

To be callous is to be cold-hearted, cruel and insensitive to others. People who believe that Howard Lutnick's actions were callous may cite the following reasons: he approached the victims' families immediately after the tragedy, and didn't give them enough time to grieve; he seemed to be more worried about the business than the deceased and their families. People who believe that Howard Lutnick's actions were not callous may cite the following reasons: he himself lost friends and a brother in the attack, and was grieving too, but felt that his first priority was to continue the business of Cantor Fitzgerald to ensure the wellbeing of the surviving employees and others involved in the company; the business had been an important part of the lives of those who died and he was maintaining that connection and showing relatives how vital their loved ones had been to the company. Bonus points may be given for noting that Howard had set up security measures to help prevent pestering relatives, however due to the large-scale nature of the disaster, this failed.

### 3. "The same human sentimentality that made Cantor Fitzgerald's passwords 'weak' ultimately proved to be the company's saving grace." What does the writer mean by this?

Experts advise people to create strong passwords, which are hard to crack. This generally means jumbled letters, numbers and symbols, bearing no relation to personal information. However, in Cantor Fitzgerald's case, many of the employees had chosen passwords that included personal information out of sentimental value, such as special dates and names, etc. Such passwords are viewed as 'weak' as they are easy for others to guess. But in the case of Cantor Fitzgerald, where so many passwords were lost at one time, these 'weak' passwords were cracked once personal information was gathered from friends and relatives, which ultimately saved the company.

### 4. Many people ignore the advice of making passwords hard to crack by using a jumble of letters and numbers, and pick a password that is meaningful to them. Have you ever used something from your personal life in a password? (Make sure you don't give away your password itself!)

Your answer should describe examples from your own life. If you have done this, perhaps you used the name of a pet, or the name of the street on which you lived, a favourite holiday destination, or a special date such as a birthday or anniversary. If not, you are clearly very good at IT security!

### ACTIVITY Why is it important to have a strong password that is hard for other people to guess? Why shouldn't you share this information? Can you create a checklist for someone else to use to help them make a good, strong password? Remember not to give any personal information away!

Your answer should contain your thoughts about the importance of passwords and how they are used. Answers could mention the fact that we live in an era when so much personal information is accessed and stored online, and where online fraud and identity theft are a risk. Strong passwords are particularly important when doing online banking, or accessing websites where sensitive personal information is stored, especially when people use public computers. Answers should show that you have understood the article and know how to make a password hard to crack, for

example, by using a random combination of letters (in a mix of upper and lower case) and numbers, rather than actual words or meaningful dates, which are much easier to guess.

A checklist for creating the perfect password should incorporate as many features as possible from below:

- Use a mix of letters and numbers
- Don't include any personal information
- Use characters such as {, & and % where possible
- Use a mixture of capitals and lower-case letters
- Use different languages
- Use different passwords for different accounts