

Part 1

You are going to read an article about the actress Nancy Cartwright, who is the voice of well-known cartoon character. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) which you think fits best according to the text.

THE VOICE OF BART SIMPSON

The woman I've come to meet is sitting atop a large plastic cow in the grounds of her Los Angeles home. Small and blonde, she holds an umbrella aloft and gives a mischievous smile for an American magazine photographer. "Hi, there!" she says, giving me a warm, almost motherly wave from her unusual vantage point. Her real name is Nancy Cartwright. Her stage name, however, is a little more familiar: Bart Simpson, the obnoxious, skateboard-touting ten-year-old from the cartoon metropolis of Springfield. It's hard to believe, but this forty-six-year-old mother of two, dressed in a sensible green top and blue trousers, is the yellow-hued rascal who instructed the world to eat his shorts.

"I can bring him out at will", says Cartwright, with a hint of raised eyebrow, her naturally husky voice always seemingly on the verge of breaking into a Bartism, punctuated by his cruel, gloating laughter. "Think about it, it's kind of ideal, isn't it? If I go to a party and someone brings a kid up to me I can go, "Hey, man, what's happening?" and watch the kid's face. I love doing that". My own gawping response is probably similar. The ten-year-old voice coming out of Cartwright is scarily incongruous. It belongs to another world – certainly not here in the lush Californian suburb of Northridge, with its white picket fences, tennis courts, swimming pools and three-car garages. Reckless skateboarding would certainly not be tolerated.

Cartwright, however, has grown tired of deploying Bart's voice as a means to claim traditional celebrity perks, such as a table at the famous Sky Bar. "I tried it once", she says. "It's embarrassing. People are like, "So what?" She has had similarly disappointing encounters with unamused cops and harried flight attendants. Now Cartwright has learnt to relish her anonymous celebrity status. "It's probably because I have the choice to be able to do it whereas most celebrities don't," she concludes. "They're kind of, you know, at the whim of the public, and that must be unnerving."

But there is, of course, something profoundly odd about the fact that Nancy Cartwright is at once both an A-list celebrity and a faceless nobody. So odd, in fact, that it has inspired Cartwright to produce a one-woman show based on what she calls "My life as a ten-year-old boy", which she is bringing to the Edinburgh Festival. The one-woman show takes the audience through Cartwright's real life as a ten-year-old – living in the Midwestern "nowheresville" of Dayton, Ohio – when she won a school competition with a performance of Rudyard Kipling "How the Camel Got His Hump". After that came other competitions, other trophies, and a gradual realization that her voice was perfect for cartoons. By her late teens, Cartwright was working for a radio station where she met a Hollywood studio representative who gave her the name and phone number of Daws Butler, the legendary voice of cartoon favorites Huckleberry Hound and Yogi Bear.

At just 19, and with only that one contact, Cartwright, like so many other winnable starlets, packed her bags and headed west, transferring her university scholarship from Ohio to the University of California. Cartwright, however, was no ordinary blond starlet. "Most people who

come to Hollywood are looking to get on camera”, she says. “My story is quite different. My purpose was to hook up with this pioneer of the voiceover industry, so that’s what I did.” He put her in touch with the directors at the Hanna-Barbara studio and helped her get the voice of Gloria in *Richie Rich* – the adventures of the richest boy in the world.

Then came the call from producers of a 30-second cartoon spot on “The Tracey Ullman Show”. They wanted her to play the role of Lisa Simpson, a nerdy and morally upstanding know-all with a bratty little brother, Bart. “I went in, saw Lisa, and didn’t really see anything I could sink my teeth into”, says Cartwright. “But the audition piece for Bart was right there, and I’m like, “Whoa, ten years old, underachiever and proud of it!””, and I’m going, “Yeah, man – that’s the one I wanna do!” She knew the audition was a success when Matt Greening, the creator of *The Simpsons*, started cracking up and shouting, “That’s it! That’s Bart!” It’s no surprise to learn that Bart’s catchphrase – “Eat my shorts!” – was originally an ad lib by Cartwright. The Bart voice had long been a part of Cartwright’s repertoire, but it didn’t come alive until she saw the pictures of him and read the script. The material, meanwhile, which was pretty heady stuff in the late eighties, didn’t shock her. “You know what,” she says, “I couldn’t believe I was actually getting paid for doing things I would get into trouble for doing as a kid.”

1. In the first paragraph, the writer reveals that on meeting Nancy, he was

- 1) unprepared for her age.
- 2) struck by her ordinariness.
- 3) reassured by her appearance.
- 4) embarrassed by her behavior.

2. The word “gawping” in the 2nd paragraph describes

- 1) a typical reply.
- 2) a sort of laugh.
- 3) a facial expression.
- 4) an involuntary movement.

3. How do adults turn to react when Nancy uses Bart’s voice in public?

- 1) They are confused by it.
- 2) They are unimpressed by it.
- 3) They give her a special treatment.
- 4) They accept that she is a celebrity.

4. How does Nancy feel about keeping a relatively low profile?

- 1) nervous about the effects on her future career
- 2) unsure that it was a good choice to make
- 3) relieved not to be more in the public eye
- 4) sorry not to be recognized more often

5. What do we learn about Nancy’s one-woman show?

- 1) It features the wide range of voices she can produce.
- 2) It exposes the strangeness of voiceover work.
- 3) It celebrates other famous cartoon characters.
- 4) It traces the development of her early career.

6. Why did Nancy originally decide to go to Hollywood?

- 1) She had got a place on a course there.
- 2) She already had the offer of job there.
- 3) Her ambition was to become a film star there.
- 4) There was somebody who could help her there.

7. Nancy got the part of Bart Simpson as a result of

- 1) volunteering to do an audition for it.
- 2) being rejected for the part of his sister.
- 3) contributing to part of the script of the show.
- 4) successfully playing a male character in another show.

8. In the last paragraph, the word “bratty” means

- 1) not firmly fastened in place.
- 2) a badly behaved child.
- 3) someone who is very good at doing something.
- 4) feeling very ashamed and sad because you know that you have done something wrong.

Part 2

For questions 9 – 23 select the most appropriate word (1 - 4) to complete each gap .Mark the correct number on your answer sheet.

Dreaming of Becoming a Lifeguard? Think Twice!

After watching the internationally known TV programme *Baywatch*, many people are **9**_____ to become lifeguards. The lifestyle, as shown on TV, is quite glamorous — beautiful people enjoy the sunshine and **10**_____ adventurous lives. Yet would-be lifeguards should remember a few basic **11**_____ before signing up for a life-saving course. Firstly, **12**_____ to be a lifeguard involves hard, physical work, and the classes one must take are very time-consuming. Second, working in this **13**_____ is not usually glamorous — far from it. Watching a **14**_____ of children splashing around in a swimming pool is nothing **15**_____ of boring. Finally, it is not easy to find employment in this field, and even those lucky enough to find a job are often poorly paid. On the other hand, swimming lap after lap in a public pool while **16**_____ to be a lifeguard is an excellent way of keeping physically **17**_____. Also, it is **18**_____ to know how to rescue people who are in **19**_____ of drowning. It may be true that lifeguarding is 95% boredom and 5% **20**_____, but the feeling of saving someone's life is indescribable. To **21**_____ up, lifeguarding is not all "fun in the sun". It's a lot of hard work. Still, one who has **22**_____ both its advantages and disadvantages may decide that it is a rewarding, worthwhile occupation which **23**_____ their character.

- 9.** 1) provoked
2) drawn
3) attracted
4) tempted

- 10.** 1) lead
2) conduct
3) guide
4) pass

- 11.** 1) happenings
2) events
3) facts
4) incidents

- 12.** 1) certifying
2) qualifying
3) equipping
4) rehearsing

13. 1) task
2) work
3) employment
4) job

14. 1) group
2) team
3) mass
4) company

15. 1) little
2) less
3) small
4) short

16. 1) coaching
2) exercising
3) training
4) instructing

17. 1) firm
2) correct
3) shaped
4) fit

18. 1) invaluable
2) intelligent
3) worthy
4) priceless

19. 1) matter
2) danger
3) risk
4) hazard

20. 1) activation
2) action
3) acting
4) act

21. 1) conclude
2) finish
3) sum
4) end

22. 1) judged
2) worked
3) considered
4) thought

23. 1) adjusts

- 2) suits
- 3) adapts
- 4) applies

Part 3.

In each sentence (24-30) one of the words or phrases (1, 2, 3 or 4) must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct.

24. For decades the food industry has been known serving up sugary or fat-laden products, promoted with ceaseless advertising.
- 1) For decades
 - 2) has been known
 - 3) promoted with
 - 4) ceaseless
25. Japan's latitudinal spread, ranging from subtropical in the south to sub-arctic in the north, makes that a wide diversity of flora and fauna.
- 1) latitudinal spread
 - 2) subtropical
 - 3) makes that
 - 4) wide diversity
26. After a muscle fiber has worked intensely for while, it begins to lose potassium, and that dampens the fiber's ability to contract.
- 1) After a
 - 2) while
 - 3) and that
 - 4) ability to
27. Scientists have uncovered evidence for an innate satisfaction in human beings giving people their comeuppance.
- 1) uncovered
 - 2) for an
 - 3) in human
 - 4) giving
28. In 2002, 20 million people in the United States were reported have asthma - a chronic inflammatory lung disease characterized by wheezing, difficulty breathing, chest tightness and coughing.
- 1) were reported
 - 2) characterized by
 - 3) difficulty breathing
 - 4) and coughing
29. Charters are self-governed schools that operate independent of local school boards, however with public money.
- 1) are
 - 2) that
 - 3) of
 - 4) however
30. Since 2001, the company's annual revenue from ticket sales and contributions grown by 85 percent, to \$42.9 million.
- 1) Since
 - 2) annual
 - 3) from
 - 4) grown