

# Reading

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

## The Magic Touch

### I

“A great way to make money and to get people to like you.” But is that all that a career as a magician is about? Lance Burton insists that it is much more than that. Lance was introduced to the world of magic by chance. When he was only four, he was taken to his first Christmas party, where the star was a magician. During the performance, the magician asked for a volunteer and young Lance dashed onto the stage. To his amazement, silver coins were pulled out of his ears. That was the start of Lance’s love affair with magic.

### II

From the beginning, he was fascinated with the idea of mystery and power. While other kids his age were playing football, Lance spent a lot of time at the local magic shop, reading and studying everything he could lay his hands on. He was soon giving performances to his neighbours and any other spectators whose attention he could catch. One of the people who noticed him was top magician, Harry Collins who, as it turned out, was none other than the magician who had changed Lance’s life at the Christmas party.

### III

Harry became Lance’s teacher and taught him everything about magic skills and techniques. But making it to the top needs a mixture of talent, hard

work and opportunities. Lance was lucky – he had them all! He rapidly built a reputation for himself with the big names in the world of magic and show business. With his good looks, charm and ability, he stood out everywhere. He was constantly asked to give live performances and appear on TV.

### IV

Lance has become famous at home in America and abroad. He has won many competitions and has twice been named “Magician of the Year”. However, Lance is different from many other modern magicians. Although technology and the use of videos and computers have become part of modern magic, he has always believed that old-fashioned magic is still the most important. He doesn’t follow modern trends regarding either equipment or clothes. No jeans and tie-dyed shirts for him. Since he first started performing as a teenager, he has always worn a white tie and black jacket.

### V

However, magic is not a nine-to-five job. There is no fixed salary, no opportunities for promotion or benefits like pension or holiday pay. In fact, for many magicians worldwide, there is no job security at all. Only very few enjoy fame and fortune like Lance.

### A Answer the following questions in your own words.

- Why was Lance’s first Christmas party an important event in his life?  
.....
- Explain the importance of Harry Collins in Lance’s life.  
.....
- What is unusual about Lance’s attitude to magic?  
.....

### B Choose the best answer according to the text.

- At the Christmas party:
  - Lance was the star of the party.
  - the magician took coins out of his own ears.
  - Lance couldn’t wait to go onto the stage.

- When he was young, Lance:
  - often visited a magic shop.
  - played football with his friends.
  - studied hard at school.
- The writer:
  - thinks magicians have a lot of holidays.
  - doesn’t think a magician is a secure job.
  - thinks magicians are rich and popular.

### C Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning.

- With his good looks, charm and ability, he stood out everywhere.  
People noticed him .....
- Only very few enjoy fame and fortune like Lance.  
Lance is one of .....

**D Find words or expressions in the text that mean the same as:**

1. ran quickly (paragraph I) .....
2. attractive personality (paragraph III) .....
3. fashion (paragraph IV) .....

## Writing

**Write an essay of between 80-120 words, expressing your opinion about the advantages or disadvantages of having an ordinary job as opposed to an unusual one.**

# The Magic Touch – Answers

## Reading

- A**
1. He saw a magic show at the Christmas party and fell in love with magic.
  2. Harry Collins introduced Lance to magic.
  3. He thinks that the old type of magic is the best.

- B**
1. c
  2. a
  3. b

- C**
1. People noticed him because of his good looks, charm and ability.
  2. Lance is one of very few who enjoy fame and fortune.

- D**
1. dashed
  2. charm
  3. trends

## Writing

Answers will vary. Accept all logical and grammatically correct answers.