

GRAMMAR ASSESSMENT

Forward This Email

The classic distribution of chain letters and scams **(1) have become** much easier with the invention of the internet. How often have you come across an email in your inbox that seemed too good to be true, like an **(2) unbelievable photo, a heartbreakingly charity story**, or a promise of a windfall of riches? The internet helps these hoaxes spread like wildfire.

The most sympathetic type of these internet hoaxes **(3) involve** a fake charity donation. For instance, making the rounds since 1997, a popular email promises senders that every time they forward the message, Bill Gates will either donate money to **(4) them** or to various charities. Similarly, those heartbreaking photos of sick children posted on Facebook are usually false. Despite the **(5) captions accompanying**, Facebook does not donate a dollar to help the child every time the photo is reposted.

Other popular internet hoaxes **(6) got popular** because they promise people a huge financial windfall. The Bill Gates email sometimes pledges the recipients of the email a check dependent upon the number of times **(7) he forward** the message. Alas, such a check never arrives.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. having become
C. has become
D. becomed
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. unbelievable photo, a heartbreaking charity story,
H. unbelievably photo, a heartbreaking charity story,
J. unbelievably photo, a heartbreakingly charity story,
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. involving
C. involved
D. involves
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. they
H. whom
J. us
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. captions accompanyingly,
C. accompanying captions,
D. accompanyingly captions,
6. F. NO CHANGE
G. gained popularity
H. grow popular
J. had earned popularity
7. A. NO CHANGE
B. he or she forwards
C. it forwards
D. they forward

Some emails are much more harmful, though.

Variations of the so-called “Nigerian Email Scheme”

(8) have cost unsuspecting Americans billions of dollars.

The emails inform **(9) them** that they are owed a large sum of money. The email instructs readers to reply to the message providing their bank account number, social security number, and other **(10) personal sensitive information**. This information is then used for identity theft. Some people have even found their bank accounts to be **(11) a total drain**.

Often times, though, internet hoaxes **(12) were** simply a contemporary means to spread urban legends. For instance, the Neiman Marcus Cookie Recipe myth, around since the 1940s, has been given new life in recent years. The story goes that a woman **(13) asking** a waiter at the Neiman Marcus Café in Houston for the recipe of the delicious chocolate chip cookie she had just ordered, instructing **(14) her** to add the charge to her bill. She thought the recipe cost \$2.50, but was shocked to receive a bill for \$250. In revenge, supposedly, she wrote an email containing the secret recipe, hoping to expose it to the world for free. **(15) It is** unsubstantiated but lives on through cyberspace.

The internet is certainly an efficient and often entertaining mechanism for distributing information, but when it comes to enticing emails, the old saying, “if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is,” is spot-on.

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. has cost
H. had cost
J. costed
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. us
C. whom
D. him
10. F. NO CHANGE
G. personally sensitive information.
H. sensitively personal information.
J. sensitive personal information.
11. A. NO CHANGE
B. totally drained.
C. drained total.
D. a drain, totally.
12. F. NO CHANGE
G. could be
H. be
J. are
13. A. NO CHANGE
B. asks
C. asked
D. was asking
14. F. NO CHANGE
G. them
H. him
J. he
15. A. NO CHANGE
B. She is
C. They are
D. The story is