

ベーシックセンター

英 語

700 words

次の文章を読み、下の問いの ~ に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の①~④のうちから一つずつ選べ。

Last summer my sister, Katie, and I traveled around the United States for a month. We visited many parts of the country, eating at various kinds of restaurants: Chinese, Hawaiian, French, Japanese, Cuban, and Thai. Before every meal, my sister performed the same little ceremony. She pulled out her digital camera and photographed the food.

“What are you doing?” the waiter or waitress sometimes asked, afraid that there was something wrong with the food.

“It’s just part of our travel diary,” Katie would reply as she put away her camera and began to eat.

At first, I laughed at her behavior. As our travels continued and we put the pictures into my computer, however, I saw the value in having a record of such things. We could just click on a photo and be reminded not only of the meal but of other things that had happened during that part of our journey.

“Oh, that’s the restaurant we visited just after we saw that huge flock of ducks at the lake,” Katie might say. The photos were like a diary, but much easier and faster to put together. If asked to write it all out in a diary, we would soon get tired of the task. But with one click of the camera, there is a picture which serves as a reminder.

This kind of “travel diary” is very practical in the age of digital cameras. In the past we had to wait a day or more for the film to be developed. That was very inconvenient. We used to take a lot of pictures but once we stuck them in albums, we rarely looked at them. In contrast, it’s very easy to keep digital photographs in a PC. And because we use computers almost every day, the photographs are only a click away.

We can now easily share these memories with many more people than in the past. Look on the Internet and you can find people from many parts of the world sharing their lives with friends and relatives — and strangers — through their digital photographs. With the development of the camera-cellphone combination, sharing photos has become even more convenient. The trend

continues with many traditional camera makers announcing that they will stop producing most, if not all, of their film-based cameras.

Another element of the convenience of digital photos is economic. The cost of digital photography is extremely low. Keeping photos on our computers is nearly free. Printing them out is easier than before, too, though the cost of ink and paper is still fairly high. Since we need only print out the ones we want, however, the overall cost is lower than in the past. With more photos stored electronically rather than on paper, cost is not a big concern.

The convenience of digital photography is changing the way we record our experiences. The kinds of photos Katie took as we traveled around the U.S. were quite different from those that travelers in the past typically took. Katie didn't take pictures of us standing near some famous tourist site. "We don't need to prove that we were here," Katie would say, adding, "I want to remember the little things we are doing on this trip." One look at the pictures you find on the Internet shows that she isn't the only one with that idea. You'll find pictures of people brushing their teeth or sitting in the car or watering their flowers; any seemingly unimportant activity can become something worth recording.

As new technology becomes available, our ideas of how to use things change. In the past, cameras were mainly used to record special events. For example, as Katie was looking through some old albums from our grandmother's house the other day, she cried, "When did these people have a life? All they did was go to weddings, anniversaries, and graduation ceremonies!" Today, however, using digital cameras, we can easily record everything we do. Moreover, there is software being developed that will do much more. For example, it will be able to automatically collect emails, photos, and appointments on your computer to record almost everything you do. Such software, when further developed, will preserve more and more of our lives as we actually live them.

"Oh, here's that delicious chicken dish we had in that little town in Louisiana. Remember that?" my sister says as we look through some of the pictures. Not only do such pictures remind us of the common activities that make up our actual lives, but they also teach us to appreciate these everyday experiences.

問1 Katie performed "the same little ceremony" to .

- ① demonstrate the quality of her new digital camera
- ② enjoy talking with waiters and waitresses
- ③ help her remember events from their trip
- ④ prove to the restaurant manager there was a problem

問2 The writer laughed at Katie because he .

- ① believed she should pray before eating instead
- ② didn't see the point of taking photos of each meal
- ③ preferred film-based cameras to digital cameras
- ④ thought she was spending far too much money

問3 The writer talks about some aspects of the convenience of digital photography. How many of these aspects does the writer explain, and what are they?

- ① Two: the ease of making the photos and the ease of sharing them.
- ② Three: the ease of making the photos, the ease of sharing them, and the overall lower cost.
- ③ Four: the ease of making the photos, the ease of sharing them, the overall lower cost, and the higher quality of the photos.
- ④ Five: the ease of making the photos, the ease of sharing them, the overall lower cost, the higher quality of the photos, and the ease of remembering things.

問4 Before digital cameras, one thing people commonly did when traveling was to take pictures .

- ① as a reminder that they were at tourist attractions
- ② of expensive meals they had during the trip
- ③ so that they could upload them onto the Internet
- ④ to remember their daily, rather trivial activities

問5 By saying, "When did these people have a life?" Katie was referring to the fact that .

- ① it was not clear to her when those pictures had been taken
- ② none of the photos showed them engaging in everyday activities
- ③ people in the past generally lived for a shorter time than we do now
- ④ they did not seem particularly happy at weddings, parties, or ceremonies

問6 The main idea of the passage is that .

- ① digital photography is changing the way we keep track of our lives
- ② people have become more careless about taking photos than they were in the past
- ③ the digital camera is one of the most important inventions in human history
- ④ we should carry digital cameras to help us remember important events

問7 In regard to what digital photography is bringing about, the writer is .

- ① basically happy but has some reservations
- ② not sure whether we should accept it
- ③ somewhat undecided about what attitude to take
- ④ very positive about the changes