

Helping Others



1. Habitat for Humanity International—or Habitat—is a nonprofit organization that helps people in need build houses. Since 1976, volunteers for Habitat have served more than 600,000 families worldwide. According to Habitat, however, there are still more than 1.6 billion people in the world 5 without decent housing. In the article below, Mariko Asano talks about her experience as a Habitat volunteer. She has traveled to the Philippines three times to help build houses for people who need them.

2. I am 24 years old, and I grew up in Nishinomiya, Japan. Several years ago, I went to Negros Island in the Philippines as a Habitat volunteer. This was the first of three trips I have taken to the Philippines as a volunteer. For me, the idea of building somebody’s house abroad was very exciting. The next year I returned to Negros Island as a Habitat volunteer. This time I went as a student leader with 28 classmates from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies.

3. Both the staff and the families on Negros Island became dear friends of the work team I led. Meeting these people was wonderful for each of us. Their lifestyle reminded us of the meaning and value of life. The people also helped us appreciate the more valuable things in life, such as spending time with your family, friends, and neighbors; developing close relationships; helping each other; and appreciating what you do have. These things are sometimes forgotten in an affluent country like Japan.

4. We thought we came to the Philippines to help the Filipino people, but they helped us to see something valuable. They generously offered their food, space, and hearts in a way we were unaccustomed to. (Would you 25 give up your bed for a stranger and sleep on the uncomfortable cement floor at your own house?)

5. When I took my third trip to the Philippines as a Habitat volunteer, I was assigned to a house with young people from around the world. In my group, there were Filipinos, Americans, Indians, Koreans, and Japanese. We worked together to complete a house for a family we met on the site. On the last day, all of us stood inside a room we had built in just a week, feeling a sense of fulfillment. Even now we keep in touch across the world. Some of us are actively involved in Habitat in different countries.

Source: Select Readings by Oxford

A. CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER FROM THE LIST GIVEN: (1 PT)

The reading is about:

1. a woman's experience traveling to the Philippines
2. giving money to people for housing
3. how helping people can change your life

B. ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3PTS)

1. Habitat for Humanity is more than 30 years old.
2. The writer is an employee of Habitat for Humanity.
3. Her team included people from Japan only.

C. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (3PTS)

1. What does Habitat organization do?
2. How many classmates went with Mariko on her second trip?
3. In which country did she volunteer?

D. FIND IN THE TEXT WORDS OR EXPRESSIONS THAT MEAN ALMOST THE SAME AS: (2 PTS)

1. A group or team of people who work together (Paragraph 3):
2. Stay connected to someone by calling or writing (Paragraph 5):

E. WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT REFER TO? (1 PT)

1. She:.....
2. They:.....

KEY AND MARKING SCALE

A. CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER FROM THE LIST GIVEN: (1 PT)

The reading is about: **how helping people can change your life**

B. TRUE OR FALSE + JUSTIFICATION. (3PTS)

1. **True.** Since 1976, volunteers for Habitat have served more than 600,000....
2. **False.** Mariko Asano talks about her experience as a Habitat volunteer.
3. **False.** In my group, there were Filipinos, Americans, Indians, Koreans, and Japanese.

C. WH-QUESTIONS: (3PTS)

1. It helps people in need build houses.
2. This time I went as a student leader with 28 classmates.
3. She volunteered in Philippines.

D. WORD MEANING: (2 PTS)

1. A group or team of people who work together (Paragraph 3): **Staff**
2. Stay connected to someone by calling or writing (Paragraph 5): **Keep in touch.**

E. REFERENCE QUESTIONS (1 PT)

1. **She:** Mariko Asano.
2. **They:** Filipino people.