

## Reading Part 2

Read the text. Use the sentences to complete the text. Choose the correct sentence for each gap. There are two extra sentences you will not need.

### A creative retirement

He checked his readings for one last time. He had mixed feelings as he prepared for this final takeoff. He had been looking forward to this day for quite some time now, yet he knew that he would miss it dearly. He would miss the thrill of the takeoff, the unique sense of freedom you get when hovering so high above the ground. **(1)**\_\_\_\_\_

Most people don't realise how mundane a helicopter pilot's day can really be. All they see is the excitement of the flight. **(2)**\_\_\_\_\_ How little of his time the pilot spends soaring the skies, and how much he spends behind a desk pushing papers. During the course of a regular month he might not make more than two or three flights. For Jeff it had been the summer months that really made his job worth while. It was these months of intense heat when uncontrollable forest fires would break out unpredictably. Sometimes several fires a day. **(3)**\_\_\_\_\_ He sometimes needed to work for as long as 20 hours non-stop, dropping water over the fires, helping evacuate villages that were in danger, carrying supplies to the firefighters and hurrying the injured to hospitals. It was intense and exhausting, true, but it was also fulfilling when you knew that you had made a difference, that the world was a little bit better because of you. **(4)**\_\_\_\_\_

He would miss all this, but he also knew that being retired doesn't mean being useless. Jeff had every intention of continuing to offer to his community. **(5)**\_\_\_\_\_ In fact, there were several causes he had already singled out as deserving of his time and attention. He had been wanting to volunteer for a long time now but he had never been able to find the time. Not until now that is.

**(6)**\_\_\_\_\_ He would prove to everyone that retired does not mean obsolete. Every age group has a place and significance in society. Retirement is just an opportunity to give selflessly and make a dent in the wickedness of the world. After all, they are not called the "golden years" for no reason.

- A He felt there is a lot a retired person with ample free time on his hands can do to help others.
- B After all, he had been a helicopter pilot for 27 years but it was now time to retire.
- C However, this was something he didn't initially like.
- D What they don't know is how much paper work is involved.
- E Now, with his newfound freedom, he could devote all his energy to these causes.
- F Retirement would give him the chance to spend time for himself at last for a change.
- G He would then spend the rest of his time on office duty, training new pilots, reading up on the newest developments and on regular military duties.
- H It was at this time that his job proved to be vital.