

**THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY  
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**GULISTAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Hamdamov U.E**

**Collection of Reading Comprehension  
Exercises**

U.E.Hamdammov

Collection of Reading Comprehension Exercises.

Department of Foreign Languages.

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The given collection of reading comprehension exercises is recommended to use by teachers, researchers, and students during practical sessions. Suitable for self-study or class work.

Compiler: U.Hamdammov – Senior teacher of Foreign Language Department

Reviewer: E.A.Hamdammov - The People's teacher of Uzbekistan.

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## READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

### PART I.

#### Text 1

**Complete the following short passage using the words given below.**

live, am, after, because, to go, run, studies, helps, have, working,

My name is Hans. I (1)---- a mechanic. I (2)---- in London, I (3)---- a brother and a sister. My sister is a university student. She (4)---- medicine. She is going to be a doctor. My brother doesn't want (5)---- to university. (6)----he wants to be a mechanic like me. He comes and (7)---- me in my shop on Sundays. He hasn't finished his education yet. (8)---- his education, he is thinking of (9)---- with me. We will (10)---- the business together.

#### Text 2

**Complete the following short passage using the words given below**

ride, my, am, his, plays, I, works, have, his, goes

#### My Family

My name is Alen. I (1) ---- sixteen years old. I don't (2) ---- a large family. I live with my parents and (3) ---- brother. I also have a puppy dog. (4) ---- name is King. My mom is a teacher. She (5) ---- at a high school. She teaches Spanish. My dad is an engineer. He works for a big company. He can drive or (6) ---- his bike to work. I have a brother. (7) ---- name is Ryan. He is ten years old. He (8) ---- to elementary school. He (9) ---- basketball and tennis. (10) ---- love my family!

#### Text 3

**Complete the following short passage using the words given below**

#### My Teachers

as, am, his, her, drive, us, go, I, plays, my

My name is Dorin. I (1) ---- a first grade student. I (2) ---- to Greystone elementary school. I like (3) ---- school. I also like my class teacher. (4) ---- name is Elizabeth. She is tall and slim. She (5) ---- long blonde hair. She is very beautiful. She teaches us a lot. She can (6) ---- a truck. I also like my PE teacher. (7) ---- name is Todd. He is twenty-seven years old. He (8) ---- many games with us. He teaches (9) ---- basketball and tennis. (10) ---- love my teachers!

#### **Text 4**

**Choose the correct answers to complete the following short passage.**

#### **My School**

Hi I'm Joshua. I am 11 years old. I (1) ---- at Sahakyan school. It is a very big school. I love my school and (2) ---- teachers. They are very nice. I (3) ---- many good friends. I (4) ---- playing basketball with my class-mates after school. I like all my classes, but math is my favorite (5) ---- this year. I sit in the front row of class. I (6) ---- getting up early and I am sometimes late. I have a sister. (7) ---- name is Lea. she (8) ---- only nine. She (9) ---- painting a lot. She (10) ---- to be an art teacher.

- |          |       |              |            |
|----------|-------|--------------|------------|
| 1. study | goes  | ride         | do         |
| 2. my    | I     | you          | am         |
| 3. has   | have  | am           | is         |
| 4. likes | live  | like         | go         |
| 5. drink | work  | color        | subject    |
| 6. jump  | play  | doesn't like | don't like |
| 7. her   | they  | his          | he         |
| 8. is    | am    | are          | goes       |
| 9. works | like  | eats         | likes      |
| 10. wish | wants | want         | wishing    |

## Text 5

Choose the correct answers to complete the following short passage.

### Luis Pierri

Hi! My name is Luis Pierri. I (1) ---- fourteen years old. I'm in year 8 at St.Patrick's (2) ---- . I'm from Sydney, Australia. My father (3) ---- from Spain. (4) ---- name is Andrew Pierri and he's forty-five years old. He's a (5) ---- and he teaches Math. My mother is from Armenia. (6) ---- name is Katy Pierri. She's thirty-eight years old and she's a nurse. I don't (7) ---- any sisters or brothers. I am a single child but I have many friends. I usually (8) ---- computer games in my free time. I like (9) ---- a book. My favorite food is (10) ----.

- |               |           |          |          |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1. isn't,     | are,      | is,      | am       |
| 2. school,    | library,  | bank,    | hospital |
| 3. has,       | have,     | is,      | am       |
| 4. His,       | Her,      | My,      | He       |
| 5. driver,    | engineer, | doctor,  | teacher  |
| 6. His,       | Her,      | She,     | I        |
| 7. has,       | have,     | had,     | having   |
| 8. play,      | read,     | drive,   | eat      |
| 9. listening, | climbing, | reading, | riding   |
| 10. pizza,    | school,   | home,    | computer |

## Text 6

Choose the correct answers to complete the following short passage.

### Neo's Family

Hi, my name is Neo. My father's name is Homer. He (1) ---- a doctor. He works at a (2) ----. He treats sick people. He uses a stethoscope. My brother's name is Morpheus. (3) ---- is an engineer. He designs bridges, hospitals, banks and many

other structures. He has got (4) ---- red helmet and he always wears (5) ----. My mother's name is Talin. She is a (6) ----. She cooks delicious meals. She (7) ---- the house, she does the ironing and shopping. I (8) ---- got a sister. (9) ---- name is Alicia. She plays tennis. She uses her own racket. She likes (10) ---- pictures of animals and people. She uses a pencil and a piece of paper.

1. isn't, are, is, am
2. school, library, bank, hospital
3. He, She, I, We
4. an, a, two, four
5. she, he, they, it
6. waiter, architect, housewife, engineer
7. cleans, have, drives, climbs
8. play, read, has, have
9. He, His, She, Her
10. to take, drawing, sleeping, singing

### **Text 7**

**Choose the correct answers to complete the following short passage.**

#### **Lucas**

Hi, my name is Lucas and I (1) ---- from the United States. I am 24 years old and I (2) ---- in a small town near Vancouver called Branton. I don't have a job now, but normally I (3) ---- as a salesman. I am not married. I live with my family (4) ---- a nice house in Branton. My sister is an actress, (5) ---- she isn't very famous. She acts in a local theater in (6) ---- town. On the weekends, we like to go camping in the small (7) ---- near our house. I normally (8) ---- up at eight o'clock, but (9) ---- Thursdays I get up at six o'clock because that is the day I (10) ---- running at the park.

1. come, go, is, live

- |             |        |         |        |
|-------------|--------|---------|--------|
| 2. bring,   | take,  | read,   | live   |
| 3. write,   | work,  | buy,    | sing,  |
| 4. in,      | out,   | from,   | over   |
| 5. because, | but,   | so,     | then   |
| 6. she,     | they,  | our,    | we     |
| 7. forest,  | sea,   | bridge, | palace |
| 8. get,     | read,  | eat,    | study  |
| 9. at,      | under, | in,     | on     |
| 10 swim,    | climb, | buy,    | go     |

### Text 8

**Choose the correct answers to complete the short passage.**

#### Snow Break

Today I am having such a good time. I feel very (1) ---- that there (2) ---- no school and I can do (3) ---- I want. I don't have any extra homework either as the schools (4) ---- closed because of snow. That's why this is one of my favorite (5) ----. I like going to school but I like the snow even more. I get to play outside in the snow. We can (6) ---- a snowman with (7) ---- friends, we can have a snowball fight, we can slide and enjoy the snow. I know it is funny but sometimes we still (8) ---- to school just (9) ---- in the school yard even though it's closed. Snow holidays are the (10) ----.

- |                  |         |           |           |
|------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. scared        | happy   | fun       | tired     |
| 2. is            | isn't   | is not    | be        |
| 3. all the thing | nothing | something | anything  |
| 4. is            | was     | are       | be        |
| 5. holiday       | times   | time      | happiness |
| 6. carry         | play    | build     | fill      |
| 7. me            | mine    | mi        | my        |

- |            |             |             |             |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 8. go      | goes        | going       | are going   |
| 9. playing | for playing | to play     | for to play |
| 10. great  | better      | more better | best        |

### Text 9

**Choose the correct answers to complete the short passage.**

#### **NEW ZOO**

A new zoo just opened in our town. We went there last Saturday with my My father. They have (1) ---- interesting animals. There (2) ---- lions, tigers, eagles, bears, elephants, giraffes and many more. The zoo has very large (3) ---- for the animals. They can run around (4) ---- play freely. Some animals are a little (5) ---- at first but you get used to them quickly. (6) ---- some cool off zones where you can get sprayed water by misting fans. These are great (7) ---- hot days. It is usually very crowded here (8) ---- lots of people come with their families and spend all day. They also have several restaurants and snack shops inside the zoo. I like to buy ice cream (9) ---- the snack bar after eating (10) ---- popcorn.

- |             |           |             |              |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. any      | much      | a little    | many         |
| 2. are      | isn't     | is          | has got      |
| 3. areas    | schools   | libraries   | banks        |
| 4. because  | and       | so          | but          |
| 5. happy    | rich      | tired       | scary        |
| 6. There is | There are | there isn't | There aren't |
| 7. at       | in        | on          | under        |
| 8. so       | and       | but         | because      |
| 9. between  | for       | to          | at           |
| 10. any     | some      | much        | a            |



## Text 10

Choose the correct answers to complete the following short passage.

### My Hometown

Hello friends, my name is Emma. I (1) ---- in Yerevan. It is the capital of Armenia. It has three thousand years of history. It (2) ---- beautiful water fountains. It is located in Ararat Valley. It has (3) ---- beautiful churches and cathedrals. (4) ---- biggest cathedral is the Cathedral of St. Gregory. People live in single story homes. You can (5) ---- works of world famous sculptors. Yerevan is a (6) ---- of museums and theaters. Museum of the History of Armenia and the National Art Gallery (7) - --- unique collections of treasures of the Armenian culture. You (8) ---- come and visit my hometown. I am (9) ---- you will love it. I love Yerevan, my (10) ----!

- |             |          |          |           |
|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. love     | go       | live     | do        |
| 2. has      | have     | is       | does      |
| 3. much     | a little | any      | many      |
| 4. It's     | It       | Its      | There is  |
| 5. find     | sea      | speak    | eat       |
| 6. mountain | bridge   | ocean    | city      |
| 7. am       | is       | are      | has       |
| 8. has to   | need't   | should   | mustn't   |
| 9. sad      | kind     | worried  | sure      |
| 10. family  | tourists | hometown | relatives |

## Text 11

Choose the correct answers to complete the following short passage.

### Leaning Tower of Pisa

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is one of (1) ---- architectural structures from medieval Europe. It is in the Italian town of Pisa. Pisa is (2) ---- of the most visited European cities. It is close to other big cities of Italy, such as Florence and Lucca. Tower of

Pisa is 60 meters high and it is a major tourist (3) ---- . It is located next to the Cathedral of Pisa. Visitors (4) ---- the tilted staircase to upper levels of the tower and enjoy the spectacular view. Construction on the Leaning Tower of Pisa (5) ---- in 1173 and stopped in 1185 because Pisa had gone to war (6) ---- Florence. The tower was (7) ---- completed in 1319. The landmark (8) ---- to the public in 2001 and can be entered and climbed for an entrance fee. In 2008, after engineers removed (9) ---- hundred tons of earth from underneath it and stabilized (10) ---- foundation, the tower was estimated to remain stable for the next 200 years.

1. more remarkable      remarkabler      the most remarkable      the remarkablest

2. one      most      each      any

3. attraction      invitation      foundation      declaration

4. have to climb      mustn't climb      can climb      needn't climb

5. has begun      will begin      began      begins

6. with      under      between      for

7. quickly      abundantly      considerately      eventually

8. is opened      was opened      opens      has opened

9. several      much      a little      few

10. it's      it has      its      it

## Text 12

**Read the passages and choose the correct options according to the readings.**

One of my favorite vacation places is Mexico. I really like the weather there because it never gets cold. The people are very nice too. They never laugh at my bad Spanish. The food is really good. Mexico City is a very interesting place to visit. It has some great museums and lots of fascinating old buildings. The hotels are too expensive to stay but there are more affordable options. For example, you can stay at one of the beach resorts like Acapulco. If you are planning to visit Mexico, you should definitely see the Mayan temples near Merida.

1. Sam likes warm weather

Sam doesn't like warm weather at all

Sam hates warm water

Sam likes cold weather

2. His Spanish is very good

He speaks Spanish very well

He is Spanish

He doesn't speak Spanish very well

3. There's a lot to see and do in Mexico

There aren't a lot of beautiful places in Mexico

Mexico is a dirty place

Tourists never come to Mexico

4. Hotels are very cheap in Mexico

The hotels aren't comfortable there

Hotels are all poor in Mexico

The hotels in Mexico are pretty expensive

Last summer, we decided to spend our vacation at the beach because the weather was very hot in the mountains. The travel agent said that traveling by bus was the cheapest way, but we went by plane because it was faster. We wanted to have more time to spend at the beach. The weather was beautiful and we had a great time.

5. We decided to go to the beach because ----.

-it was cheaper than going to the mountains

-the travel agent said that it was the cheapest

- of the hot weather in the mountains
- we wanted to spend time at the beach

6. The bus was the ---- way to travel.

- best      -easiest      -cheapest      -slowest

7. Traveling by plane was ---- than by bus.

- more fun      -cheaper      -expensive      -faster

8. We ---- our vacation.

- hated      -didn't like      -enjoyed      -regretted

9. We had very ---- weather during our vacation.

- good      -freezing      -terrible      -cold

## **PART II**

### **Text 13**

**Read the passages and answer the follow up questions according to the readings.**

#### Part 1

Dear Melissa,

I hope you are well. Guess what! I am having a big party next week at my house and I am inviting all my close friends. The theme of the party is going to be Harry Potter, so all must dress accordingly. You would make a great witch! I need to let everyone know by Wednesday since I am throwing the party next Saturday. Sam is

going to decorate the house and my mother is going to bake a cake and make lots of food. There is going to be music and dancing as well. John is going to be the DJ. You can stay over at my house. It's going to be great! I hope to see you then.

Love,

Sarah

1. What kind of an organisation is it?

- A) It is a slumber party
- B) It is a costume party
- C) It is about making cake
- D) It is a dance party

2. When is the party?

- A) It is a fancy dress party
- B) On Wednesday
- C) It is next Saturday
- D) There is going to be music and dancing

3. Whose party is it?

- A) It is Sarah's party
- B) It is Judy's party
- C) It is Sarah's mother's party
- D) It is Harry Potter's party

Part 2

Ryu : Hi Ken. Are you free tonight?

Ken: I think so. Why?

Ryu: Because there's a new science-fiction movie at the theater. Would you like to see it?

Ken: No, thanks. I don't like science-fictions.

Ryu: Oh... What about a comedy then? There's one starring Adam Sandler.

Ken: I don't know. I don't really like his movies.

Ryu: What about a pop concert then?

Ken: Well, I am not into pop music.

Ryu: Oh, I understand now, it's Thursday today and your favorite sitcom is on TV!

Ken: You know me very well RYU... You are welcome to watch it with me.

Ryu: That's a great idea! Let's meet at your place at 7:30 then!

4. Ken doesn't want to go the movie theater with Ryu, because

- A) he wants to be alone
- B) he wants go to a soccer match
- C) he doesn't like thrillers
- D) he doesn't want to miss his favorite TV show

5. Ken's initial excuse not to go to the pop concert is that ----.

- A) his favorite sitcom is on tonight
- B) he is very busy tonight
- C) he is fond of classical music
- D) he is not interested in pop music

6. They are going to watch

- A) a thriller
- B) Ken's favorite sitcom
- C) Adam Sandler's comedy movie
- D) a pop music show on TV

#### **Text 14**

**Read the passages and answer the follow up questions according to the readings.**

## Part 1

Dear Marcos,

Hi, my name is Rebecca and I am your new pen pal. I'm ten years old, and I live in Barcelona, Spain. I go to the 4th grade in Saint Michael Elementary School. On weekdays, I get up at 6 o'clock. The school starts at 7:30 in the morning. I have my lunch at the school cafeteria and I usually leave around 3:30 in the afternoon. I am good at math, I also like history and geography but my favorite subject is science. I like playing basketball and soccer. I also play tennis, and I like swimming. On the weekends, I go to the movie theater with my friends. We like action movies. I usually go to church with my parents on Sundays.

Please write and tell me about you and your life. What's your family like?

What do you like doing in your spare time?

I hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

Rebecca

1. Which statement is correct?

- A) Rebecca usually practices the drums on weekdays.
- B) Rebecca is interested in Science.
- C) Rebecca has got a music group at school.
- D) Rebecca and his friends like watching thrillers.

2. Which one of the following questions you cannot answer?

- A) What time does Rebecca get up on weekdays?
- B) Which school subjects does Rebecca like?
- C) What music types does Rebecca like?

D) Where does Rebecca eat her lunch?

3. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

A) Rebecca likes playing badminton.

B) Rebecca usually goes to the movie theater on the weekends

C) Rebecca is interested in History and Geography.

D) Rebecca wants to be in contact with Marcos.

## Part 2

Hi, my name's Andriy. I love football, I am a great fan of AC Milan. I have also been interested in cars since I was a child. I'm crazy about driving and I also enjoy fixing cars. When I was ten, I had many toy cars. I would play with them, repair the ones my friends broke. I also used to help my dad fix his car. So, eventually I decided to become a mechanic and open up my own shop. My parents are happy with my choice, too. Because they think it's important that I pursue a career that I like. I have a bright career now and I really enjoy it. I'm planning to get married soon. My girlfriend is also interested in cars. Who knows, maybe we can run the car shop together with our kids in the future.

4. Andriy has been interested in cars since ----.

A) 2007

B) he was born

C) he started driving

D) very young age

5. What would be the best "title" for this paragraph?

A) Andriy's career choice

B) Cars in our life

C) Andriy and AC Milan



D) Andriy and his friends

6. Which of the following statements is wrong?

A) Andriy likes AC Milan football club

B) Andriy's friends would brake his toys

C) Andriy's girlfriend likes cars

D) Andriy is a football player

### **Text 15**

**Read the passages and answer the follow up questions according to the readings.**

#### Part 1

My best friend Selena

Hi, my name is Tina. I am thirteen years old and today I want to talk about my best friend Selena. She is my classmate and she is thirteen years old too. We attend a very big school near Scotland. We share the same desk and love the same school subjects. Our favorite lessons are Arts and Physical Education. I am very good at tennis and she is very good at volleyball. She plays volleyball at our school team. We both have a busy life. We always get up at a half past six and at seven o'clock her father takes us to school by car. They live next door to us, so after school we always do our homework, walk our dogs and play together. Our classes start at half past seven and finish at 4 p.m. Her mother is a nurse. My mother is a nurse too and they work at the same hospital. Our fathers are both engineers but they work at different companies. On Mondays, Selena has violin class and I have piano class. On Tuesdays and Thursdays she practices volleyball at the school's gym and I play tennis in our school court. Friday is my favorite day because Selena stays overnight with us. On the weekends, we usually go to the movie theater or have a

picnic if the weather is good. I am the only child, I don't have a sister but she is like a sister to me.

1. What is Selena's favorite day of the week?

- A) Sunday
- B) Monday
- C) Tuesday
- D) Friday

2. Which one of the following questions you cannot answer?

- A) What time does Tina get up on weekdays?
- B) Which school subjects does Tina like?
- C) What music types does Tina like?
- D) How does Selena go to school?

3. What is incorrect about Tina

- A) Her mother is a nurse.
- B) She has a busy life.
- C) She walks her dog on Saturdays
- D) She spends time with her best friend.

## Part 2

### Nichole's Summer Vacation

Every summer Nichole goes to the countryside for a month. She stays at her uncle's farm and helps him. She works very hard but she likes it because she loves to spend time with her cousin Macy. Every morning she wakes up at six o'clock, first she collects the eggs and feeds the chickens, then she has breakfast at 6:30 and after breakfast, she helps her aunt with the house chores for an hour. She can't wait to spend time with her cousin Macy. They always have a great time together. They

climb trees, pick fruits and flowers. They love being outdoors. They come back home before dark and get ready for dinner. After dinner, they go out and feed the animals. Before they go to bed they watch TV for a little bit or read books. They are always very tired at the end of the day and usually fall asleep watching TV or reading.

4. Where does Nichole go in summer?

- A) She goes to a big city.
- B) She goes to her uncle's farm.
- C) She goes to her cousin's hotel.
- D) She goes camping.

5. Which one of the following questions you cannot answer?

- A) How long does Nichole stay at her uncle's farm?
- B) How does Nichole help her uncle and aunt?
- C) What does Nichole do before she goes to bed?
- D) What's her favorite food?

6. Which of the followings isn't true about Macy and Nichole?

- A) Macy and Nichole can climb trees.
- B) They have a good time together.
- C) They live together.
- D) They feed the animals.

## **Text 16**

**Read the passages and answer the follow up questions according to the readings.**

Part 1

## Our Toy Shop

Hi, my name is Amy. I am twelve years old. We have a small toy shop in our neighborhood. My father says Fridays are the busiest day in our toy shop. So after school, my mom takes me there to help my dad. That's another reason why I like Fridays. We allow kids to play with the toys when they are in the store. My father says I am responsible for the toys and that I need to watch and make sure nothing breaks. Many kids from my school and neighborhood also come to the shop to look at our new toys. It is always noisy here. Because it's full of babies and small children. Little girls tend to go for dolls, boys go for cars. Some just want to play with the toys, some actually want to buy them. It's a bit tiring for me but I like going to the shop and helping my father.

1. Which of the following questions you cannot answer?

- A) Where is the toy shop located?
- B) When is the busiest day at the toy shop?
- C) Why is the toy shop so noisy?
- D) What's the name of the toy shop?

2. Which of the followings is incorrect?

- A) Amy goes to school.
- B) Amy enjoys helping his father in the toy shop.
- C) Kids can play with the toys at the store without buying them.
- D) Amy's mother works at the toy shop too.

3. Why does Amy help his father on Fridays?

- A) Because it's the busiest day.
- B) Because she doesn't have school on Fridays.
- C) Because she wants to play with the toys.
- D) Because she doesn't like Fridays.

## Part 2

### Summer Job

Hi, I am Evan. In summer, after schools are closed, I work at a theme park in a nearby coastal town. I love summer time and working at the park so I can't wait till the schools close for the summer. The amusement park where I work is really big with lots of fun rides and restaurants. But what's best about it is that it is actually built on the beach. This is a beach town and there is a really long boardwalk by the beach with many shops, food stores and stairs to the beach at several points. The main entrance to the park is also from the boardwalk. The park also has access to the beach so you can get to the beach by going through the park. I work there as a ride operator at one of the roller coasters which is the most fun. There are three other employees who work at the same ride with me. We welcome the riders, remind them the safety procedures and operate the ride. I work here for about two months every summer and enjoy it very much. They organize several fun events over the summer with free food, ice-cream and games for the workers. The park access is free for the employees so I can ride the rides as much as I want. My family and friends love visiting me here because I can get them free admission to the park too. The only bad part about working here is that it gets too hot sometimes. But even then, I can just jump in the cool waters of the Atlantic ocean and refresh.

4. What does Evan like the most about the park?

- A) It has many fun rides.
- B) The roller coaster.
- C) The park is on the beach.
- D) Free food and ice-cream.

5. Which of the followings is incorrect?

- A) Evan doesn't go to school in summer

- B) Evan operates a roller coaster by himself
- C) Evan loves working at the park
- D) Evan likes to cool off in the ocean when it gets too hot

6. Which of the followings you cannot infer about the amusement park?

- A) It has access to the beach.
- B) It has access to the boardwalk.
- C) The park has many food stores.
- D) Park admission is free for employees.

### **Text 17**

**Read the passages and answer the follow up questions according to the readings.**

#### Part 1

#### My Day

Hi, my name is Joshua. I am a financial adviser. Yesterday I had a very busy day. I woke up at half past six. Waking up was so hard that I needed to wash my face with cold water to open my eyes. Then I went to the kitchen and had a cup of coffee and toast for breakfast. I brushed my teeth, took the trash out, ironed my clothes and finally I got dressed and left home around seven o'clock. I got on the bus at half past seven to downtown. I arrived at work at ten to eight. I needed to finish up six reports before noon. At twelve o'clock I had half an hour lunch with my colleagues. After lunch we had a meeting until two o'clock. Then I visited one of my clients at three o'clock to talk about his financial plans. I came back to work at around four o'clock and prepared three more reports. Finally at six I was able to leave my office and I was exhausted by the time I got home.

1. Which of the following questions you cannot answer?

- A) Why was Joshua so sleepy?
- B) How many reports did he finish?
- C) What time did he have his lunch?
- D) Why did he visit his client?

2. Which of the followings is incorrect?

- A) He had a tiring day.
- B) He works alone in his office.
- C) He used public transportation.
- D) He works in the city center.

3. What do you think his job is?

- A) An engineer
- B) A doctor
- C) An accountant
- D) A teacher

## Part 2

### The Moon

The Moon is the satellite of the Earth. It is about the quarter size of the Earth. It goes around the Earth approximately in one month. It is about 384,000 kilometers away from the Earth. There is no air or atmosphere around it, so there is no life on the Moon. It has about 13 and a half days daylight and 13 and a half nights of darkness. Temperatures on the Moon is 120 °C during the lunar day and -150 °C during the lunar night. Because there is no air or atmosphere, there is also no sound as the sound waves travel through the air. So, The Moon is very silent.

4. Why there is no life on the Moon?

- A) Because it is so far away.

- B) Because it has only 13 days of daylight.
- C) Because there is no atmosphere or air.
- D) Because there is no sound.

5. Which of the followings is incorrect?

- A) The Moon turns around the Earth.
- B) The Moon is hotter than the Earth in daytime.
- C) The Moon is bigger than the Earth.
- D) It takes one month for the Moon to go around the Earth.

6. Which of the following options cannot complete the sentence "Because there is no air or atmosphere on the Moon, ----."?

- A) there is no sound.
- B) there is no life.
- C) we cannot cook there.
- D) it is the satellite of the Earth.

### **Text 18**

**Read the passages and answer the follow up questions according to the readings.**

Part 1

Dear Daniel,

If you'd like to improve your English, one thing you can do is to build up your vocabulary. In order to do this, you have to practice a lot. I'm afraid there is not a short cut for this. But there are many effective ways. First of all, you should read a lot. You can read short stories, comics, newspapers, magazines etc. depending on your English level. As you read, you can try to guess the meanings of unknown



words from the context of the sentence. If you cannot, then look up the definition in a dictionary. English to English dictionary should be your first choice and keep the translator as last. Another way of building vocabulary is to watch movies in English which will also help with pronunciation. Try to be involved with the language as much as you can. Keep a vocabulary notebook and write down a few words each day. Keep in mind that you have to revise them regularly. In my opinion, to communicate with people all you need is words. Even if you just say the words one after another, people most likely will understand what you mean regardless of the order of the words and grammar.

1. What is the main point of this e-mail?

- A) What can we do to improve our English
- B) Difficulties of learning English
- C) Problems of learning a second language alone
- D) What's the best way of learning English

2. Which of the followings is incorrect?

- A) We should use a translator for all the unknown words
- B) We should read a lot.
- C) We should take notes when we learn new words.
- D) We should practice as much as we can.

3. What is the most important thing to communicate with people according to the writer?

- A) Grammar
- B) Vocabulary
- C) Order of the words used
- D) Advanced English course

Part 2

Dear Matilda,

It's been a month I haven't heard from you. I hope you are well. I had a terrible day at school yesterday. My friends and I were playing volleyball in the school yard when I suddenly fell and twisted my ankle. At first I didn't feel much pain, but later on it started hurting badly. I had difficulty walking so my friends helped me around. They took me to a hospital and stayed with me until my mom and dad arrived. The doctor said it was broken and I needed to rest for a month. We came home last night and I feel better now. This incident also made me realize how valuable friendships are. I don't know what I would do without them. So I want to say I feel very happy to have such good friends like you.

4. Why does the girl feel happy?

- A) Because she was at school.
- B) Because she fell and injured herself.
- C) Because her friends helped her.
- D) Because the ambulance arrived on time.

5. Which of the followings is incorrect?

- A) She hurt her arm.
- B) She injured her ankle.
- C) Her friends helped her get to a hospital.
- D) She won't be able to go to school for a month.

6. What does the girl want to emphasize in her e-mail?

- A) The importance of friendship.
- B) She should stop playing volleyball.
- C) The terrible day she had.
- D) The importance of school.

## **PART III**

### **Text 19**

#### **At the bank**

Mr. Peter Williamson is at the bank. Here is his interview with Mr. Robson, the bank manager.

**Bank Manager (BM):** Good morning Mr. Williamson.

**Client (C):** Good morning.

**BM:** Please sit down.

**C:** Thank you.

**BM:** Now, one or two questions.

**C:** Yes, of course.

**BM:** How old are you, Mr. Williamson?

**C:** Thirty-eight.

**BM:** And you are Australian, aren't you?

**C:** Yes, that's right.

**BM:** Are you married?

**C:** Yes, I am.

**BM:** What's your wife's name?

**C:** Clara.

**BM:** And your wife's age, Mr Williamson?

**C:** Pardon?

**BM:** How old is Mrs. Williamson?

**C:** Oh, she's thirty-five.

**BM:** Thirty-five. I see. And is she Australian, too?

**C:** No, she is British?

**BM:** And what's her job?

**C:** She is a nurse.

**BM:** A nurse, yes. Have you got any

children?

**C:** Yes, three. Two boys and a girl.

**BM:** Two girls and a boy.

**C:** No, two boys and a girl.

**BM:** Oh, yes. I'm sorry. And what are their names?

**C:** Nick, Sandra and Richard.

**BM:** And their ages?

**C:** Ten, eight and four.

**BM:** I see. Now one more question, Mr. Williamson. What's your job?

**C:** I'm a university teacher.

**BM:** A university teacher. Right. Thank you. You want £80,000 to ...

**A. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE?**

1. Mr Williamson has got two boys and a girl. (.....)
2. Clara is a teacher. (.....)
3. Mr Williamson is Australian. (.....)

**B. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. Where is Mr Williamson now?

.....  
.....

2. Is Mrs Williamson at the bank?

.....  
.....

3. What does Mr Williamson do?

.....  
.....

**Text 20**

**Lupita's Day**

Hello. My name is Lupita Gonzalez. I work in a large company in Monterrey, Mexico. We make bottles and cans for soft drinks. I am a secretary. I answer the

telephone and take messages. I also use a fax machine and a computer. My first language is Spanish but sometimes I speak English. Many of our clients are from the United States. My supervisor is Mr. Torres. He is an engineer. I start work at 8:00. I usually drive to work. I have lunch from 1:00 to 2:00. I finish work at 5:30. I go home and help my mother prepare dinner. We have dinner at 9:00. After dinner I usually watch television a while. I usually go to bed at 11:00.

**A. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE?**

1. Lupita works in a small company. (.....)
2. Lupita is an engineer. (.....)
3. Mr Torres is Lupita's supervisor. (.....)
4. Lupita doesn't watch television. (.....)

**B. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. How does Lupita go to work?
2. Who lives with Lupita?
3. What time does she leave her office?
4. What does Mr Torres do?

**C. Complete the sentences from the text?**

1. Before she goes to bed, Lupita .... .
2. Lupita speaks Spanish, but she .... .

**Text 21**

Dear mom and dad,

Well I want to tell you about my first week of classes at the University. I get up at 6:00 every morning. That is really early for me. I don't like to get up early you know. I usually eat breakfast in the school cafeteria. The food here is pretty good. I have German class every morning at 7:30. After German class I have Business and Economics on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00. I have a lot of homework in that class but I really like it. I also have English Composition on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesdays and Thursdays I have United States History.

The campus here is really big. After some problems during the first days, I now know where all the buildings and classrooms are. My dormitory is close so I walk to all my classes.

My roommate's name is Eric. He is from Los Angeles. We are good friends now. He is quiet and doesn't make a lot of noise. Sometimes Eric and I have dinner together. We don't see each other much because our school programmes are really different.

During the evening I study. Sometimes I study in the library and sometimes in the dormitory. I usually go to bed around eleven.

Mom, I sure miss your cooking. Could you send me some of your homemade chocolate cookies? Well, I have to go. Take care.

Love,

Jerry

**A. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE?**

1. Jerry lives with his parents. (.....)
2. Eric is American. (.....)

**B. Complete the sentences from the text?**

1. Jerry wants his mother to .... .
2. Jerry goes to..... ..... to prepare for his lessons.

**C. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. Where does Jerry have breakfast?
2. Do Jerry and his roommate see each other much?
3. Is Jerry's room far from the classrooms? Explain

**Text 22**

**Pedro's house**

Pedro is from Portugal. He lives with his parents in Lisbon in an old house by the sea. The house is not big but he likes it very much. There are three bedrooms upstairs; one for his parents, one for his sister and one for him. The bathroom and

the living room are downstairs. In the living room there is a lovely fireplace. Next to the living room is the kitchen. The kitchen is not modern but they have a new washing machine.

In the evening, all the family sit in the living room to watch TV and have dinner. At the back of the house there is a small but very beautiful garden with different plants and flowers. His father likes to spend his free time there.

Pedro likes to spend most of his time at home in his bedroom. It's also his study room where he has a desk and a stereo. He loves his room because he can see the sea from the window. It's a fantastic view.

**A. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify.**

1. Pedro's house is old and small.
2. Pedro usually goes to the beach in his free time.
3. Pedro likes his bedroom because it's big.

**B. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. What nationality is Pedro?
2. What do Pedro and his family do in the evening?
3. What does his father do in his free time?

**C. Complete the sentences from the text.**

1. Pedro's kitchen is .....
2. There is a ..... in the living room.

**Text 23**

John and Barbara are at home in their new apartment. They are watching the shops from their apartment's window. A clothes shop is close to their apartment. They can see the clothes and the prices.



**Barbara:**John, John! Look. There's a great clothes shop just down there.

**John:**Oh, yes.

**Barbara:**And there is a beautiful dress in the window. It's so perfect for me. It's pink and just right for summer. It's on sale. Really John, I need it.

**John:**But Barbara, your wardrobe is full of clothes.

**Barbara:**How can you say that? I haven't got a thing to wear.

**John:**Seriously, Barbara. Come here. Now look at all these clothes.

**Barbara:**Well, what about *them*?

**John:** Now look, what's wrong with this dress?

**Barbara:** I can't wear it.

**John:**Why not?

**Barbara:** It's too small.

**John:**Then give it away.

**Barbara:** No, I can't.

**John:**Why not?

**Barbara:** It's one of my favourite dresses.

**John:**All right, all right. What about this dress, and this, and this, and this?

**Barbara:** Well, that one's too small, and that one's too short, and that one's very old. Really, John, I'm telling you ! I don't have a thing to wear, and the dress in the clothes shop is just perfect.

**John:**How much is *it*?



**Barbara:**Not very much, really.

**John:**How much?Come on, tell me.

**Barbara:**Only \$89. It's on sale.

**John:** No. No, absolutely not. That's almost 2 days' pay. No. We can't afford it.

**Barbara:** John. Sit down. I have something to tell you.

**John:**What? What's that? What's that package? No. It isn't from the clothes shop. Tell me it isn't from the clothes shop. No, I can't believe it. Barbara. What's in the package? It's the same dress in the shop's window. All right. Just take it back in the morning.

**Barbara:** I can't.

**John:**Why not?

**Barbara:** You can't return things on sale.

**John:**All right. All right.

**Barbara:**John?John?Where are you going?

**John:**Out.

**Barbara:**Where?

**John:**Out!

**Barbara:**When are you coming home?

**John:**I don't know!

**A. Circle the correct completion.**

1. There is a *coat/ dress/ skirt* in the window of the clothes shop.
2. At the end of the story, John is *watching TV/ going out/ coming home*.
3. John's pay is about *\$80/ \$74/ \$45* a day.
4. John is *happy/ sorry/ nervous* at the end of the story.

**B. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. What colour is the dress in the clothes shop?
2. What's wrong with Barbara's clothes?
3. Why doesn't John want her to buy the dress?

4. What does Barbara have in the package?

**C. What do the underlined words in the text refer to?**

1. them: .....

2. it: .....

**Text 24**

**Reply   Reply All   Forward   Delete   Send   hasna\_safi@dotmail.com**

Hi Andrew,

Nice to hear from you. Replying to your email, here is some information about my family and me. I am from Tangier, north of Morocco. I have a sister and a brother: Leila 14 and Jamal 11. I am 16 years old. My father is a fireman and my mother is a nurse. We live in a small but nice house by the sea.

I am taller than my mother and I weigh 54 kilos. That's less than my sister who weighs 58. I have long black hair, brown eyes and a short nose. I can swim and I usually ride my bicycle to school. I am quite fit and strong. In fact, I am stronger than a lot of girls. My sister can't swim but she can play tennis better than me. My brother is crazy about football and basketball and he has pictures of football players all over his bedroom walls.

I prefer quiet places and slow music. I am a little shy, but I am doing my best to be open and have more friends. My brother is quite different. He is the noisiest and most active. He likes loud music like techno and rap. He is cheerful and amusing. We all love him for that.

My best subjects at school are languages, history and geography but I am not good at maths and science. I'd like to be a lawyer in the future. My sister is totally the opposite. She is good at scientific subjects and she wishes to be an engineer or a doctor.

My brother, my sister and I are a little different from each other, but we are happy together. I think we are a happy family. What about you? Tell me more about you and your family.

Cheers,

Hasna

- A. Is the text:** 1. a letter; 2. a postcard;  
3. an email; or 4. an article?

**B. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify.**

1. Jamal is the youngest.
2. Hasna's mother does not work.
3. Leila is good at maths.

**C. Answer the following questions from the text: (4 points)**

1. Who is heavier: Hasna or Leila? Explain.
2. How does Hasna go to school?
3. Why do the family members like Jamal?
4. What does Hasna want Andrew to do?

**D. Complete the following table. Tick (✓) where appropriate. (2 pts, ½ pt each)**

	Jamal	Hasna	Leila
can swim		✓	
can't swim			
plays tennis better			
good at languages			
the noisiest			

### Text 25

Dear Julia,

I'm writing this postcard from Morocco. I'm having a nice holiday with John. The weather is fantastic. This is our second week here. After Fez and Rabat, here we are in Marrakech.

John and I are happy to be in the Red City as people call it here. All the buildings are in red and it's always sunny and warm. We don't stay much in the hotel.

This is our third day in Marrakech. Today John and I are going to visit Jamaa Lafna Square for the second time. It's a very fascinating place, full of activity and people. There are acrobats, singers, dancers, snake charmers, storytellers...

We are also going to have lunch in the Souk (the market in the local language). We are going to eat a Tagine and Couscous; two special Moroccan dishes. I am going to buy the ingredients for Couscous and cook some for you. I've got the recipe. I'm sure you're going to like it.

We're going to spend two more days in Marrakech then go down south to Agadir; a seaside city famous for its warm weather and long beaches.

We are going to come back to Liverpool next weekend. I'm going to phone you when I get *there*.

Are you having a nice time with Peter? John and I miss you a lot!

Take care,

Ann

**A. The following statements are**

**FALSE. Correct them.**

1. The text is an email from Ann to Julia.
2. Today is the first time John and Ann visit Jamaa Lafna Square.
3. The weather is terrible in Marrakech.

**B. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. What are they going to do in the Souk?
2. How many more days are they going to stay in Marrakech?
3. When are they going to visit Agadir?

**C. Complete the sentences from the text?**

1. When Ann comes to Liverpool, she is going to \_\_\_\_\_

2. After Fez and Rabat, Ann and John are \_\_\_\_\_

**D. What do the following words in the text refer to?**

1. here · (paragraph 1)·

2. there · (paragraph 5)·

**Text 26**

**Come to Agadir for an unforgettable holiday!**

Stay in one of the fine hotels in Agadir. Don't worry about the language. A lot of people *here* speak English. You can sunbathe on the beautiful beaches of Taghazout (20 kms far from Agadir), lie on the golden sand or swim in the warm blue water of the Atlantic Ocean.

The weather is usually very nice all year long. Yes, it's sometimes windy and cold in March and April, but there are sports you can practice then. Agadir is also a good place for surfers.



But don't spend all your time on the beach and in sports. This is Agadir and Agadir is also a good place for shopping. There are hundreds of souvenir shops. You can also visit "SOUK LHAD" (a traditional market in the center of the city). All you need is *there* and it's a cheap place.



**A. Is the text above:**

1. a newspaper article?
2. an advertisement?
3. a letter?

**B. Are the following statements**

**TRUE or FALSE? Justify.**

1. The weather in Agadir is nice all year long.
2. Nobody speaks English in Agadir.

**C. Find in the text words which are the opposite of the following.**

1. terrible (paragraph 2)
2. expensive (paragraph 3)

**D. What do the following words in the text refer to.**

1. here (paragraph 1)
2. there (parag. 3)

**E. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. How far is Taghazout from Agadir?
2. List four activities you can do in Agadir.
3. How can you get more information about Agadir?

**Text 27**

**Halloween Fun**



Halloween is one of the most famous holidays in the U.S., and it is on October 31. People carve pumpkins and make funny faces on them. These are called "Jack-O-Lanterns." On October 31, children wear a special costume such as a witch, ghost, or clown. They go to many houses and they knock on the door saying, "Trick or Treat!" It means that if people don't give them

a treat, they will play some kind of trick on the household. So, usually people give candy to *them*.

I carved my first Halloween pumpkin at my Friendship Family's house. First, I cut open the top of the pumpkin and pulled the seeds out. It was not good for me because it was sticky and smelled awful. I had never carved a pumpkin, so it was interesting for me. Next, I carved the eyes and the mouth. I wanted to make a face like a pirate. When I finished making the face, I put a candle inside. It was very beautiful, so I was happy.

I had a good experience because I learned one new idea about American culture by taking part in it. I think Halloween is an interesting American holiday which involves all family members and neighbours too!



**A. Circle the numbers of two activities that people DON'T do during Halloween:**

1- making funny faces -2- eating pumpkins -3- wearing special clothes -4- playing tricks on people -5- lighting candles -6- writing letters to each other.

**B. Complete the following sentences from the text:**

1. The writer was happy to carve a pumpkin because .....
2. He carved the pumpkin to .....

**C. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. Is the writer American? Explain.
2. Who participates in Halloween celebrations?

3. Why do people give candy to children on Halloween?

4. What does *them* (paragraph 1) refer to?

**D. Find words in the text meaning the same as:**

1. took out (paragraph 2)

2. bad (paragraph 2)

## Text 28

james\_wade@dotmail.com

Dear Editor,

I read your article about the difference between life in the city and that in the countryside; and I am writing to tell you and the readers why I disagree with **you**.

I was born in London and grew up there. I know this city very well. I also know some countryside in England very well thanks to my job. These days I am working in the countryside, south of England. My company sent me **here** a few months ago. That's why I believe I have an interesting opinion to give you about this topic.

Many people believe that life in the countryside is much better than in the city. Well, they are wrong. Living in the countryside is really difficult. Last week, for example, I wanted to go out at night but I couldn't. There's nowhere to go to enjoy oneself. Another thing is that one of my colleagues fell sick and it was difficult to find an ambulance at night. It took us more than three hours to get to the nearest hospital.

You also said that people in the city are not as nice as those in the countryside. This is another wrong idea. People are the same everywhere. They are nice to you if you are nice to **them**.

Another misconception is about pollution. The countryside is not wholly clean. The air we breathe is not as fresh as you said. Did you know that many factories exist in many villages? The authorities believe that it's a solution to the problem of joblessness.



I hope you will publish this email in your next issue. Concerning the topic to discuss next time, I suggest the following: “How can we make life in the city much better?”

Sincerely yours,  
James Wade.

**A. The purpose of the writer is:**

1. to agree with the editor.
2. to disagree with the editor.
3. to discuss a new problem.

**B. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify. (3 points)**

1. The writer is in the countryside on holiday.
2. The writer and his colleague could not find an ambulance easily.
3. According to the writer, there is no pollution in the countryside.

**C. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. Why does the writer know the countryside very well?
2. Find out two reasons why life in the countryside is difficult.
3. What does the editor think about people in the countryside?

**D. What do the following words refer to in the text?**

1. you (paragraph 1)
2. here (paragraph. 2)
3. them (paragraph 4)

**Text 29**

**People are Travelling More**

1. ....?

All around the world, people are travelling more. They are also spending more money on travel. In 1990 people spent \$3.2 trillion dollars on travel. In 1995 they spent \$3.4 trillion. In 2000 they spent about \$4.2 trillion.

2. ....?

France is the most popular: 62.4 million people went to France in 1996. The United States is the second most popular country to visit: 46.3 million people went there in 1996. Spain was third, with 41.3 million visitors. Italy and Britain came next, and China was sixth.

**3. ....?**

Europeans and some Asians travel to other countries the most. But Americans spend the most money in other countries. In 1996, Americans spent \$52.6 billion in other countries. Germans were next: they spent \$49.8 billion in other countries.

Japanese were third: they spent \$37 billion.

**4. ....?**

In 1996, Americans went mostly to Mexico (20%) and Canada (13%), but they also went to Europe and the Caribbean. Germans went mostly to other countries in Europe, but about 2% of *them* came to the United States. Japanese travellers went all over the world: the United States, Europe, and Asia.

**5. d. *Why do people travel so much?***

Some people want to learn about other cultures. Some people travel for business. In the United States, many people are immigrants. They travel to their home countries to visit *their* families.

**A. Copy the appropriate question for the appropriate paragraph. Paragraph 5 is done for you.**

- a. What are the most popular destinations for travellers?
- b. How much did people spend on travelling?
- c. Where do big spenders go?
- d. Why do people travel so much? (5)
- e. Who are the big spenders?

**B. What do the following words refer to in the text?**

- 1. *them* (paragraph 4)
- 2. *their* (paragraph 5)

**D. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. Which country receives the greatest number of travellers?
2. Why do many Americans travel?



### Text 30

It's a warm summer's day in the school holidays but the Smiths' children are not out playing, they are in a darkened room, glued to the TV set, zapping aliens on their Nintendos or surfing the Internet.

As their friends ride their bikes, go swimming, play football and walk the dog, the only games the Smiths' children play are *those* on the computer, and their only pet is the mouse.

For thousands of children the computer and the TV now dominate their lives, turning *them* into electronic junkies with virtual childhoods where real relationships are replaced by artificial ones.

Many children, too, begin their TV viewing early and finish late. Programmes designed to entertain young viewers begin in the early morning. So parents may still be in bed when their children are already up and channel hopping.

According to an American study for the U.S. National Institute of Education, ten hours TV watching a week is a healthy level and any more than that results in under performance at school and an unhealthy lifestyle.

#### A. Choose the best title for the text:

1. The TV and the computer can be dangerous.
2. The Smiths' children ways of entertainment.
3. The benefits of the computer and the TV.

B. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify.





1. The Smiths' children spend most of their free time out.
  2. Children spend more and more time in front of the TV.
- C. Answer the following questions from the text:**
1. Where do the Smiths' children spend

their free time?

2. How much time should students normally spend in front of the TV?
3. What are the disadvantages of watching TV a lot?

**D. What do the following words refer to in the text?**

1. *those* (paragraph 2)
2. *them* (paragraph 3)

**E. Find words in the text meaning the same as:**

1. not real (paragraph 3)
2. watching (paragraph 4)

### **Text 31**

#### **More homework or not more homework!**

Today, kids find that the amount of homework they get keeps them from playing sports, taking music lessons or just having fun after school. A recent study by the University of Michigan reports that over the past 16 years, the amount of time the average 3 to 11-yearold kid spends on homework has increased by 50 percent. More and more parents are protesting against so much homework.

“The question is whether schools are holding our children captives with homework,” said Ken Kiewra, professor of educational psychology. He realized one day last year that his sixth-grade son had given up music lessons, the football team and his favourite hobby because he was loaded down with homework. "I'm home reading the paper and relaxing and *this kid* who left in the morning before I

did is doing two to three hours of work," remembered Kiewra.

In response, Kiewra wrote an article for the Lincoln newspaper. Although parents responded favourably to his article, the school refused to change their homework policies. Kiewra explained that, from the school's point of view, "Research confirms that doing homework is better than not doing homework." He added that pressure for students to perform well on standardized tests has led schools to pile on at-home assignments. All work and no play can make boring kids. "Kids need to play outside and exercise or take art or music classes if they want to," said Ken Kiewra. "At the very least, they need fresh air"

**A. The purpose of the writer is:**

1. to show the advantage of doing more homework.
2. to explain why kids need to do more homework .
3. to show why kids shouldn't do more homework.

**B. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify.**

1. Kids nowadays have less and less free time.
2. Ken Kiewra did not react to the kids' problem.
3. The parents of other kids don't agree with Kiewra's opinion.

**C. Answer the following questions from the text:**

1. Is Kiewra for or against giving more homework to kids? Explain.
2. What does "this kid" in paragraph 2 refer to?
3. Why did the school refuse to give less homework to children?

**D. Find words or phrases in the text meaning the same as:**

1. quantity (paragraph 1)
2. quit (paragraph 2)
3. positively (paragraph 3)



## **PART IV**

### **TEXT 1**

#### **A day in the life of Peter Maxwell**

Peter Maxwell is unemployed. He is 24.

"I usually get up at about eight o'clock. Then I have breakfast -coffee or tea, and some toast. After this I go down to the library and read the paper. There are a lot of us at the library. We never say we're unemployed but we know. I look at all the possible jobs in the papers (this takes about a minute!), I read the sports and the arts pages, and soon it's time for lunch so I go off down to the shops for bread, milk, fresh vegetables and 25 pence worth of cheese. I like shopping, and I like cooking now, too. On the way back from the shops I buy a local paper and look at the job advertisements over lunch (soup and bread and butter).

After "lunch" on Mondays and Wednesdays I go to a carpentry class. These classes are free for unemployed people. It's important to do a lot of things when you're unemployed. You need a routine for the day. On the other days of the week I go for walks if the weather's all right, or I read. At about six o'clock I start preparing the Big Meal of the day. I take a lot of time over this. It's usually vegetables and cheese, or sometimes spaghetti bolognese. After supper my wife and I read, or play chess. Every Friday we go to a pub, or to the cinema. I don't watch TV much. Usually at 10.30 we turn off the heater and go to bed".

**Read the text carefully and then do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. The unemployed like to talk about their job problems in the library.
2. It takes Peter a lot of time to look through the job advertisements in the papers.
3. At lunch time Peter goes to the shops for some food but he never cooks himself.
4. Unemployed people have to pay a small sum of money for their carpentry classes.
5. Peter has nothing to do during the day.

6. It doesn't take Peter long to prepare the Big Meal of the day.
7. Usually, Peter goes to a pub or to a cinema on Friday but sometimes he watches TV.

***Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.***

1. At eight o'clock. (*What time ... ?*)
2. Coffee or tea, and toast. (*What... ?*)
3. Because he wants to read the papers. (*Why...?*)
4. The job advertisements, the sports and arts pages. (*What parts ...?*)
5. Peter does. (*Who...?*)
6. No, he doesn't watch TV much. (*Disjunctive*)
7. He works at the job advertisements in the local paper. (*Alternative*)

**TEXT 2**

**Tom Harrison is a young engineer. Here is his story.**

Six years ago, when I was a student, I was short of money. So once a week I used to go home to see my parents and get a decent meal. Although I had a good relation with my mother, I never got on well with my father. I could never live up to his high expectations of me.

One day I did a terrible thing. I stole some money from him. I first started off by asking him if he could lend me ten pounds. He refused saying he had already given me enough and it was time I became more responsible with money. You know what it is like to be a student. I'd run out of money and wanted to take a girl out. When he refused, I accused him of being mean and we had a terrible row. He left the house and I was so angry that I stole a few pounds from his wallet.

When he found out that the money was gone, he understood who had taken it and banned me from the house. Since then I have returned but he has never really forgiven me and still looks down on me for what I did.

My mother is very upset and I really have to work towards creating a happy relationship with my father for her and our sakes. Half of me wants to say "Sorry,

Dad" while the other half still thinks he is ridiculous for having kept his attitude up for so long. How can I bridge our endless mis understanding?

**Read the text carefully and then do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. Once a week Tom used to go home to see his parents and get a decent meal.
2. One day Tom asked his father if he could lend him twenty pounds.
3. His father refused to give him any money as he was short of money himself.
4. Tom stole some money from his father's desk because he wanted to take his girl out.
5. Tom's father never understood who had taken the money.
6. Tom hasn't been at home since he quarreled with his father.
7. Tom has to work towards creating a happy relationship with his father for his own and for his mother's sake.

***Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.***

1. No, Tom never got on well with his father. (*General*)
2. He asked his father to lend him some money. (*Alternative*)
3. Because he had already given him enough. (*Why...?*)
4. Tom ran out of money. (*Who ...?*)
5. From his father's wallet. (*Where ...?*)
6. No, he has never really forgiven Tom. (*Disjunctive*)
1. Yes, she is very upset. (*General*)

### **TEXT 3**

**David is a student. Here is his story.**

A funny thing happened to me last Friday. I went to London to do some shopping. I wanted to get some Christmas presents, and I needed to find some books for my course at college (you see, I'm a student). I caught an early train to London, so by early afternoon I'd bought everything that I wanted. When I got to the station I found out that my train had just gone. I had to wait an



hour before the next one. I bought an evening newspaper and wandered over to the station buffet. At that time of the day it's nearly empty, so I bought a coffee and a packet of biscuits. There were plenty of empty tables and I found one near the window. I sat down and began doing the crossword. I always enjoy doing crossword puzzles.

After a few minutes a man sat down opposite me. There was nothing special about him, except that he was very tall. In fact he looked like a typical city businessman. I didn't say anything and carried on with my crossword. Suddenly he reached across the table, opened my packet of biscuits, took one and popped it into his mouth. I couldn't believe my eyes! I was too shocked to say anything. Anyway, I didn't want to make a fuss, so I decided to ignore it. I just took a biscuit myself and went back to my crossword. After a couple of minutes, I casually put out my hand, took the last biscuit and glanced at the man. He was staring at me furiously. Then he stood up and hurried out of the buffet. I felt very relieved and decided to wait two or three minutes before going myself. I finished my coffee, folded the newspaper and stood up. And there, on the table, where my newspaper had been, was my packet of biscuits.

**Read the text carefully and then do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. David bought everything he wanted in the afternoon.
2. He had to wait for an early train to London.
3. That time of the day was not busy for the station buffet.
4. David found a table in the centre of the buffet.
5. David put his newspaper on the packet of biscuits.
6. The man took a biscuit out of David's packet and popped it into his mouth.
7. When David saw the man take a biscuit, he was too shocked to say anything.
8. The man hurried out of the buffet without saying a word.

***Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.***

1. Last Friday. (*When...?*)

2. Some Christmas presents. (*What...?*)
3. Because he had to wait before the next train. (*Why...?*)
4. He bought an evening newspaper. (*Alternative*)
5. A man sat down opposite David. (*Who ...?*)
6. Yes, he looked like a typical city businessman. (*Disjunctive*)
7. Yes, he felt relieved after the man had left. (*General*)

#### **TEXT 4**

##### **Lucy is a housewife. Here is her story.**

It was a very quiet, sunny and very sleepy Sunday afternoon and I was sitting out in the garden reading the Sunday newspapers, not expecting anyone at all. The children were out playing and I thought I'd have a couple of hours of peace and quiet. Suddenly I heard a large vehicle arriving at the end of the garden and then I heard a loud knocking at the door in front of the house. I went out and saw about twelve elderly ladies wearing their Sunday best clothes, hats and white cardigans and carrying their handbags, looking very happy and very friendly. They said, "Well, we are sorry, we hope we are not late, but we couldn't find the house very easily." And then one of them said very helpfully, "Well, your husband was very kind in inviting us to tea." So I thought, "Good gracious, my husband must have gone mad or forgotten to tell me". So I asked them into the house, and they started to take off their coats. They sat down and started chatting quite happily. They asked me about my children, and I did have children, and they talked about how beautiful the village was, and it was indeed beautiful. Then my husband appeared, but they didn't speak to him. I thought this was surprising because they said they'd been invited by him. And he looked a bit shocked to see them all sitting there. And then we quickly discovered that it was the wrong husband and the wrong house and they were in fact expected at a house on the other side of the village.

**Read the text carefully and then do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. Lucy's children were out playing and she hoped she'd have an hour or two of rest in the quiet of the house.
2. Lucy counted the ladies to know exactly how many there were.
3. The ladies were all dressed in cardigans of the same colour.
4. Lucy didn't ask the ladies into the house before one of the lady's helpful remark.
5. The ladies asked Lucy about her children and said how beautiful the village was.
6. Lucy's husband didn't speak to the ladies because he didn't know any of them.
7. Lucy's husband looked pleased when he saw the ladies sitting in his house.

***Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.***

1. She was reading the Sunday newspapers. (*What...?*)
2. No, she wasn't expecting anyone at all. (*Disjunctive*)
3. They came in a large vehicle. (*How ...?*)
4. About twelve. (*How many ... ?*)
5. They were wearing their Sunday best clothes. (*What...?*)
6. No, they didn't speak to him. (*General*)
7. He looked shocked to see the ladies. (*Alternative*)

**TEXT 5**

A lot of people are familiar with the story of a brave dog that faithfully defended his master's baby son, but which was then killed through misunderstanding. However, only a few people know that the story is really a pack of lies. Let me explain.

About a hundred or so years ago there was a hotel owner in Wales who was fed up with business being so bad. His hotel was stuck in the middle of nowhere and hardly anyone came to stay. Then, one day, he had a bright idea. A famous prince called Llewellyn had lived in the area during the Middle Ages and he had been fond of dogs. This is highly probable as hunting was extremely popular at that time. So what he did was to invent the story of a brave and faithful dog and how he had been killed by his ungrateful master. Of course, people would be far more likely to believe the story if there was something they could see. Accordingly, one

day, the hotel keeper went to the top of a high hill and built a sort of monument from the stones he found lying around. The "legend" soon caught up and developed a life of its own. People came from afar and wide to see the spot where the hound was buried. So, business became very good for the hotel owner.

**Read the text carefully and then do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. Only a few people know that the story of a brave dog is true.
2. Hardly anyone came to stay at the hotel, because it was at the top of a very high hill.
3. Hunting was very popular in the Middle Ages.
4. People would be far more likely to believe the story if there was something they could see.
5. The hotel owner built a sort of monument at the bottom of a high hill.
6. People came from afar and wide to have a look at Prince Llewellyn's hotel.
7. The legend became well-known all over the country.

***Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.***

1. The brave dog defended his master's baby son. (*Who(m) ...?*)
2. About a hundred or so years ago. (*When ...?*)
3. No, hardly anyone came to stay. (*General*)
4. Yes, business was very bad for the hotel owner. (*Disjunctive*)
5. A famous Prince called Llewellyn lived in the area during the Middle Ages. (*Who...?*)
6. At the top of a high hill. (*Where ...?*)
1. He built a monument from stones. (*Alternative*)

## **TEXT 6**

### **Here on Skye...**

Here on Skye I do more than deliver letters and parcels. There aren't any buses or trains in this part of the island, so the post office also runs a passenger service. The

bus which I drive has eleven seats so people from the farms and villages can get into Broadford for shopping or for work.

I live in Elgol, a small village on the south-west coast of the island. I leave Elgol post office every morning at 8 a.m. and drive my bus 24 km. to Broadford. I stop for passengers and empty the five post boxes along the road.

I also pickup the school children that live along my route and take them to the school in Broadford. There's a school for young children in Elgol, but the older children have to travel into the town.

Sometimes it takes me about three hours to finish my round. I take shopping to some of the elderly people who can't always get to Broadford; I deliver the milk and newspapers six days a week. I shouldn't deliver animals, but I sometimes take a puppy or a rabbit as a passenger. The Post Office charges people, of course, for all these extra services. It's 70p to travel from Elgol to Broadford and it costs 10p to deliver a pint of milk.

People often ask me how I like living here on Skye, especially since I come from the city. Well, it's difficult to explain, but here I feel part of the community; it's good to know that you are helping people. I'd hate to live in the city again.

**Read the text carefully and then do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. The narrator picks up the young children that live along his route.
2. It takes the driver 3 hours to get from Elgol to Broadford.
3. The narrator likes living on Skye because he comes from the city.
4. Skye is an island.
5. The narrator takes people to Broadford for shopping or for work.
6. There is no passenger service on Skye.
7. He leaves Broadford post office every morning at 8 a. m.

***Exercise II Write questions for these answers.***

1. There aren't any buses or trains on this part of the island. (*General*)
2. The post office also runs a passenger service. (*What else ...?*)
3. The bus which I drive has 11 seats. (*How many... ?*)

4. I stop for passengers and empty the five post boxes along the road. (*What...?*)
5. There is a school for young children in Elgol. (*Alternative*)
6. Sometimes it takes me about three hours to finish my round. (*How long...?*)

### **TEXT 7**

Mr. Alex Fraser lived his entire life in a small town in the North of England.

He never left the house where he had been born, never married, never went on holiday and had no friends. He worked in a local factory for over forty years but even the people who had worked with him for years knew very little about him. He wore the same old clothes for years, and though he stopped regularly at the local store he bought only the most basic foodstuffs, never changing his purchases from one week to the next.

So when he died last month neighbours and local people were astonished to learn that Mr. Fraser was not just a rich man, he was in fact a millionaire.

He had no bank account, no money invested anywhere, but in the various drawers, cupboards and boxes in the house there were hundreds and thousands of banknotes and coins. It took police over two weeks to clear the house and the bank clerks took just as long to count all the money.

"We had absolutely no idea that he had been hiding his money over the years", one of his neighbours said. "In fact we used to feel sorry for him, we thought he was a poor old man unable to afford anything better for himself."

**Read the text carefully and then do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. Mr. Alex Fraser was a sociable man.
2. Mr. Alex Fraser rarely changed his clothes.
3. Mr. Fraser couldn't afford buying clothes.
4. He was a rich man.
5. His drawers and boxes were packed with banknotes.
6. Nobody knew he was a millionaire.

7. The neighbours felt sorry for him.

***Exercise II Write questions for these answers.***

1. In a small town in the North of England. (*Where ...?*)

2. No, he never left the house. (*General*)

3. He worked in a local factory for over 40 years. (*For how long...?*)

4. No, he didn't wear the same old clothes for years. (*Disfunctive*)

5. At the local store he bought only the most basic foodstuffs.

6. He had no bank account. (*Alternative*)

7. It took police over two weeks to clear the house. (*How long...?*)

**TEXT 8**

The classrooms were dull. They smelt of sand, disinfectant, and chalky blackboard dusters. There was a sour chill in the cloakrooms. The walls of some of the classrooms were made of varnished partitions through which you could hear the class next door slodging through the alphabet or the Lord's Prayer or "Thirty Days hath September". On the walls hung religious pictures, maps of the Empire, photographs from Child Education, a large calendar, and the alphabet. On the window-sills were bulb vases of dark green glass, and a saucer or two with carrot tops growing in them. There was nothing of the gaiety and freedom and liveliness of an infant's class today, but I think the class as a whole was a happy one for we liked our jolly teacher, though I don't believe she taught us very much. I learned to write, painfully gripping the thin ribbed shank of a new school pen, by copying out dozens of times set phrases like "Virtue is its Own Reward". Those capital Rs were a trial. I remember the funny little exercise books we had to do our writing in, with two very widely-spaced lines to every small page: it was the devil of a job to hold it down when your steel nib was pressing and pricking the paper. The teacher would walk round, her fat arms comfortably folded over her bust, and tell us to make all our letters slope the same way. This was something I could never do, and it always amazed me when she extended my down and up strokes with her blue pencil, to see how far from parallel they were. I thought she went out of her way to

make my handwriting look worse than it really was.

**Read the text carefully and do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. The classrooms looked inviting.
2. There were a few landscape paintings on the walls.
3. There were some flower-pots on the window-sills.
4. The class didn't look at all like an infant's class today.
5. The children of the class were quite happy.
6. The teacher was thin and shy with a very soft voice.
7. The teacher corrected the boy's handwriting by extending his strokes with her red pencil.
8. The boy didn't believe his handwriting was as bad as his teacher made it look.

***Exercise II Write questions for these answers.***

1. The classrooms were dull. (*Alternative*)
2. The walls of some of the classrooms were made of varnished partitions.  
(*What...?*) .
3. The boy learned to write by copying out dozens of times set phrases like "Virtue is its own Reward". (*How... ?*)
4. The boy remembers the funny little exercise books they had to do their writing in. (*What... ?*)
5. The class as a whole was a happy one. (*Disjunctive*)
6. No, this was something the boy could never do. (*General*) 1. Those capital Rs were a trial. (*What... ?*)

## **TEXT 9**

My father always encouraged us to read. We had a lot of books at home and I was very lucky to grow up in such a house of books. Of course, as a teenager I always felt that when my father advised you to do something you should resist as much as possible, so, when my father used to tell me to read the English classics I resisted.



It was only when I reached my late teens that I started to read them and I began to think that they were good. I went to my first dance when I was 17. I thought that I looked so gorgeous that I could hardly keep my eyes off myself. I wore a blue dress that my cousin had lent me, with a big blue velvet band set down the middle of the dress to let it out. I wore earrings which had made sores in my ears when I was "rehearsing" for the dance, so I had put sticking plaster on my ears and painted it blue to match the dress. I must have looked absolutely horrific.

Nobody - not one single person - danced with me that night. That was a black time. There weren't many dark passages in my childhood but that most definitely was one.

**Read the text carefully and do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. My father made me read all the books we had at home.
2. I took an interest in serious literature when I was about 17 or so.
3. I had never been to a dance before I was 17.
4. I didn't care about my looks when I was 17.
5. The dress I wore at the dance was not mine.
6. I had put sticking plaster on my ears to match my dress.
7. The dance took place on a very dark night and nobody saw the colour of my dress.
8. The dance was the only bad memory of my childhood.

***Exercise II Write questions for these answers.***

1. He always encouraged us to read. (*What... ?*)
2. Only when the girl reached her late teens. (*When ... ?*)
3. The girl began to think that they were good. (*Alternative*)
4. When she was 17. (*When ... ?*)
5. The girl wore a blue dress that her cousin had lent her. (*What... ?*)
6. Nobody danced with her that night. (*General*)
1. That was a black time. (*What kind... ?*)

## **TEXT 10**

In class I was very slow, untidy and silent. I trembled with apprehension nearly all the time. Sums were a mystery to me: I just couldn't add or multiply. The squared paper on which we did sums still makes me unhappy whenever I use it. Reading lessons were a little better, because I didn't mind books. When I first started school, I was able to read fairly well, but there were occasional words that baffled me and held me up. After a few weeks of patient struggling, a dam seemed to burst inside my head: I heard myself reading big words aloud, without much hesitation, and soon I found I could read fluently. The last word to puzzle me was "laugh". I remember poring over this odd word in my reader. The sentence ran: "And so the princess began to laugh and laugh and laugh. "What could it be that the princess had begun to do? I was reading aloud, the class listening hard to catch my words, for I had a very soft voice. I came to the first "laugh", got my tongue round the "l", voiced the "a" and - it was like a miracle! - the "f" sound followed as if instinctively. "Laugh!" I said, very slowly. As the other two "laughs" came with increasing confidence I really felt like laughing myself, for the first time since I had started school.

**Read the text carefully and do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. In class the boy was lively and confident.
2. Sums were very difficult to him.
3. They did sums on special paper.
4. Reading lessons were less difficult
5. He learned to read after a few months at school.
6. It was not easy for the class to understand what the boy was reading about.
7. The boy laughed when he had read the word finally.

***Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.***

1. The boy trembled with apprehension nearly all the time. (*What... ?*)
2. The boy just couldn't add or multiply. (*Why ... ?*)

3. Reading lessons were a little better. (*Alternative*)
4. Soon the boy found he could read fluently. (*What... ?*)
5. The last word to puzzle him was "laugh". (*Which ... ?*)
6. The boy was reading aloud. (*What... ?*)
7. "And so the princess began to laugh and laugh and laugh" (*What sentence ... ?*)
8. Yes, the boy really felt like laughing himself. (*General or Disjunctive*)

## **TEXT 11**

My room is on the top of a four-storey building. The building isn't particularly beautiful, nor is the room, but it has a very beautiful view. It's on the top, and because it's quite high up I can see almost all of Athens.

Immediately opposite the room I can see a church, which is very nice - which can also be very annoying, because every Sunday morning they put loudspeakers in the yard of the church and you can hear the whole service whether you want to or not.

Beyond the church I can see the sea and the harbour. On the other side I can see the Acropolis and Lekavitos, which is a mountain in Athens with a church on the top as well.

It's very nice at night, because the whole city's lit up, and it looks beautiful. You can see the different colours of the lights and you can see the cars forming colours in the streets as they drive by, forming colours with their lights I mean.

Sometimes it's not so nice, though, especially early in the morning when there's a lot of smog over the city, and you wake up to a smog cloud that covers everything. The change is awful, because on a clear day the view is so marvellous and so beautiful, and the colours are so bright. But on a day that's polluted with the smog you can't even breathe.

**Read the text carefully and do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. Neither the room, nor the building are very beautiful.
2. The view from the room is very beautiful because the building is high.

3. The building is in a city in Italy.
4. There is a church right opposite the room.
5. You can't avoid hearing the service because they put loudspeakers in the yard of the church.
6. You can see two churches from the window of the room.
7. At night the city is lit by lights of different colours.
8. Sometimes there's a lot of smog over the city.

***Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.***

1. It's on the top floor of a four-storey building. (*Alternative*)
2. Immediately opposite the room I can see a church. (*What... ?*)
3. Every Sunday morning they put loudspeakers in the yard. (*When... ?*)
4. Beyond the church. (*Where... ?*)
5. Yes, you can see the different colours of the lights at night. (*General*)
6. Sometimes early in the morning. (*When ... ?*)
7. On a day that's polluted with the smog you can't even breathe *When... ?*)

**TEXT 12**

One afternoon just before Christmas an old gentleman was wandering through the town centre. The gaily-illuminated shops were packed with good things and crowded with cheerful shoppers. The children were gazing in wonder at all the toys on display in the windows. Suddenly the old gentleman spotted a dirty little boy sitting on the pavement, weeping bitterly. When the kind old gentleman asked him why he was crying, the little boy told him that he had lost a ten penny piece that his uncle had given him. Thrusting his hand into his pocket the old gentleman pulled out a handful of coins. He picked out a shiny, new ten penny piece coin and handed it to the child. "Thank you very much", said the little boy, and, drying his eyes, he cheered up at once.

An hour, or so later the old man was making his way back home by the same route. To his astonishment he saw the same dirty little boy in precisely the same spot, crying just as bitterly as before. He went up to the boy and asked him if he had lost

the ten penny he had given him as well.

The little boy told him that actually he had not lost the second coin, but he still could not find his first ten pence. "If I could find my own ten pence", he said tearfully, "I'd have twenty pence now".

**Read the text carefully and do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise 1. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. The old gentleman enjoyed walking through the town centre.
2. There were few people in the street.
3. The old gentleman treated the boy unkindly.
4. The old gentleman handed a handful of coins to the boy.
5. The boy showed the gentleman a shiny new ten penny piece.
6. The boy couldn't find his second coin.
7. The boy's eyes were full of tears when he was talking to the old gentleman.

***Exercise 11. Write questions for these answers.***

1. One afternoon just before Christmas. (*When... ?*)
2. The children were gazing at all the toys on display. (*Who ... ?*)
3. Suddenly the old gentleman spotted a dirty little boy sitting on the pavement. (*Who(m)... ?*)
4. Yes, he picked out a shiny ten penny piece and handed it to the child. (*General or Disjunctive*)
5. He saw the same dirty little boy in precisely the same spot. (*Alternative*)
6. The boy was crying just as bitterly as before. (*What... ?*)
1. He went up to the boy and asked him if he had lost the ten penny piece. (*What... ?*)
8. He had lost the first ten penny piece. (*Which... ?*)

### **TEXT 13**

I have a very clear earliest memory. I, the first born, was three and a half and my mother was expecting another child. I was constantly asking God to send me a new

brother or sister. The "me" was important because I loved receiving presents. I was furious when the baby arrived, because all the attention moved from me to this small red-faced thing in a cot. It was a great disappointment to me. I had been praying for this moment and now here was a "thing" which kept on crying with everybody saying how beautiful it was. "Honestly", I said, "I would have preferred a rabbit!"

I got very used to walking as a child. I was the eldest of four so there was always somebody in a pram to be wheeled out for a walk.

My mother had this view that if she made our home a centre for lots of our friends to come to then she would know where we all were and she would not have to worry about us. So our house became a meeting point for children of all ages. My mother didn't have much of a home life when she was young: her parents had died when she was a child and she had been brought up by relations. I think that she tried to make up for this by ensuring that her own family would be a very definite and important entity. I know that there is always the danger that you look back too sympathetically -rose coloured spectacles and all that - but my childhood was a great joy.

**Read the text carefully and do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. When the baby arrived the girl (Maueve) was excited at getting a new present.
2. The girl often took one of her younger brothers or sisters out for a walk in a pram.
3. Friends were always welcome at Maueve's house.
4. Maueve's mother tried to make children of all ages their friends.
5. Maueve's mother always knew where all her children were.
6. Maueve's mother used to live in a small house when she was young.
7. Mother liked her home life when she was young.
8. The narrator (Maueve) had very good memories of her childhood.

**Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.**

1. To send me a new brother or sister. (*What... ?*)
2. Because Maueve loved receiving presents. (*Why... ?*)
3. Maueve was the eldest of four. (*Alternative*)
4. Maueve got very used to walking as a child. (*When ... ?*)
5. Mother's parents had died when she was a child. (*When ... ?*)
6. Mother had been brought up by relations. (*Who ... ?*)
7. Maueve's childhood was a great joy. (*General, Disjunctive*)

**TEXT 14**

Once upon a time there was a king, Sunjar, who had a daughter, Princess Banu. The princess became very ill and her father the king was very sad because he could find no doctors who could cure her. Then one day a stranger arrived in the capital, a man called Shadrack the physician, who offered to cure the princess. The king allowed him to see the princess, but told him that if he did not cure her, he would lose his head. Shadrack approached the couch where the princess was lying, but instead of examining her like a normal doctor he began to tell the princess stories, of wars and heroes, of peace and glory, and as he spoke his fingers never left her pulse. Finally, his diagnosis was finished. The princess went away, and Shadrack said to the king. "Your majesty, I have seen by the reactions of her pulse that she is in love, in love with someone who lives here in this city. That person lives in the street of the jewellers. The man she loves is a young, handsome man called Abul-Fazl, for when I mentioned his name she fainted."

Now the king admired the skill of this physician, and was very happy to know the cause of his daughter's illness, but he was at the same time very angry that she was in love with Abul-Fazl, because everyone knew that Abul-Fazl was an unpleasant fool. However, the king sent for the jeweller, and as soon as he arrived the princess began to recover. In a few days she was well again, the jeweller was behaving as if he was the king, nor Sunjar, and the king was so pleased with Shadrack the physician that he made him an important minister. Both the king and the doctor

knew that Abul-Fazl was the wrong man for the princess, but they also knew that they could not send him away, because that would bring back the princess's illness. Shadrack provided the answer.

By a trick, he gave Abul-Fazl a medicine which made him get older very quickly. It was as if each day he got about twenty years older. And very quickly, the princess began to find his bent back and his grey hair very unattractive. At the same time, Shadrack gave himself another medicine, and by its effect, while Abul-Fazl was getting older, Shadrack was getting younger and younger.

Before very long the princess fell in love with the young physician, so deeply in love that when the king drove Abul-Fazl away from his court, the princess hardly noticed. She and the physician and the king, her father, lived happily ever after. In this way we can see that nothing is inevitable.

**Read the text carefully and do the exercises that follow.**

***Exercise I. Mark the statements below as "true" or "false".***

1. Shadrack was invited to the capital and asked to cure the princess.
2. Shadrack got to know the cause of the princess's illness as soon as he looked at her.
3. Shadrack found out about Abul-Fazl from the reactions of the princess's pulse.
4. The king admired Abul-Fazl although he was an unpleasant fool.
5. Shadrack found a way to get rid of Abul-Fazl without sending him away.
6. The princess began to find Abul-Fazl unattractive because he was getting old very quickly.
7. Abul-Fazl left the king's court because he was upset.

***Exercise II. Write questions for these answers.***

1. The princess became very ill. (*Who ... ?*)
2. Because he could find no doctors who could cure her. (*Why... ?*)
3. The king allowed Shadrack to see the princess. (*General*)
4. The king admired the skill of the physician. (*Disjunctive*)
5. The jeweller was behaving as if he was the king. (*How... ?*)



6. Because that would bring back the princess's illness. (*Why... ?*)
7. Abul-Fazl was the wrong man for the princess. (*What... ?*)

## **ANSWER KEYS for PART IV**

### **Text 1**

- I. 1) false; 2) false; 3) false; 4) false; 5) false; 6) false; 7) false.
- II. 1) What time does Peter get up?
- 2) What does Peter have for breakfast?
- 3) Why does Peter go to the library?
- 4) What part of the paper does Peter read?
- 5) Who likes shopping and cooking?
- 6) Peter doesn't watch TV much, does he?
- 7) Does Peter work at the job advertisements or sale advertisements in the local paper?

### **Text 2**

- I. 1) true; 2) false; 3) false; 4) false; 5) false; 6) false; 7) true.
- II. 1) Did Tom get on well with his father?
- 2) Did Tom ask his father or his mother to lend him some money?
- 3) Why did Tom's father refuse to give him any money?
- 4) Who ran out of money?
- 5) Where did Tom steal the money from?
- 6) Tom's father has forgiven Tom; hasn't he?
- 7) Is Tom's mother upset?

### **Text 3**

- I. 1) true; 2) false; 3) true; 4) false; 5) true; 6) false; 7) true; 8) true.
- II. 1) When did a funny thing happen?
- 2) What did David want to buy?

- 3) Why did David go to the station buffet?
- 4) Did David buy an evening or a morning newspaper?
- 5) Who sat down opposite David?
- 6) The man looked like a typical city businessman, didn't he?
- 7) Did David feel relieved after the man had left?

#### **Text 4**

- I. 1) false; 2) false; 3) true; 4) true; 5) true; 6) true; 7) false.
- II. 1) What was Lucy reading?
- 2) Was Lucy expecting anyone that Sunday?
- 3) How did the ladies arrive at Lucy's house?
- 4) How many ladies came to Lucy's house?
- 5) What were the ladies wearing?
- 6) Did the ladies speak to Lucy's husband?
- 7) Did Lucy's husband look shocked or pleased to see the ladies?
- III. 1)c;2)a;3)a;4)a;5)b;6)c.

#### **Text 5**

- I. 1) false; 2) false; 3) true; 4) true; 5) false; 6) false; 7) true.
- II. 1) Who did the dog defend?
- 2) When did the hotel owner live?
- 3) Did many people come to stay at the hotel?
- 4) Business was very bad for the hotel owner, wasn't it?
- 5) Who lived in the area during the Middle Ages?
- 6) Where did the hotel owner build the monument?
- 7) Did the hotel owner build the monument from stones or from bricks?

#### **Text 6**

- I. 1) false; 2) false; 3) false; 4) true; 5) true; 6) true; 7) false.
- II. 1) Are there any buses or trains on this part of the island?
- 2) What else does the post office do besides delivering letters and parcels?

- 3) How many seats does the bus have?
- 4) What does the man do on his way to Broadford?
- 5) Is there a school for younger or older children in Elgol?
- 6) How long does it take the man to finish his round?

### **Text 7**

- I. 1) false; 2) true; 3) false; 4) true; 5) true; 6) true; 7) true.
- II. 1) Where did Alex Fraser live his entire life?
- 2) Did he ever leave his house?
- 3) For how long did he work in a local factory?
- 4) Alex Fraser often changed his clothes, didn't he?
- 5) What did he buy at the local store?
- 6) Did he have a bank account or did he keep his money at home?
- 7) How long did it take the police to clear the house?

### **Text 8**

- I. 1) false; 2) false; 3) false; 4) true; 5) true; 6) false; 7) false; 8) true.
- II. 1) Were the classrooms dull or gay?
- 2) What were the walls of some of the classrooms made of?
- 3) How did the boy learn to write?
- 4) What does the boy remember?
- 5) The class as a whole was not a happy one, was it?
- 6) Could the boy make all his letters slope the same way?
- 7) What was a trial for the boy?

### **Text 9**

- I. 1) false; 2) true; 3) true; 4) false; 5) true; 6) true; 7) false; 8) false.
- II. 1) What did the girl's father encourage his children to do?
- 2) When did the girl start to read the English classics?
- 3) Did the girl begin to think that the English classics were good or bad?

- 4) When did the girl go to her first dance?
- 5) What dress did the girl wear at her first dance?
- 6) Did anybody dance with the girl that night?
- 7) What kind of time was the first dance for the girl?

### **Text 10**

- I. 1) false; 2) true; 3) true; 4) true; 5) false; 6) true; 7) true;
- II. 1) What did the boy feel when he was in class?
- 2) Why were sums a mystery to the boy?
- 3) Were reading lessons more or less difficult for the boy?
- 4) What did the boy find after a few weeks of patient struggling?
- 5) Which was the last word that puzzled the boy?
- 6) What was the boy doing?
- 7) What sentence was the boy reading in his reader?
- 8) Did the boy feel like laughing himself?

### **Text 11**

- I. 1) true; 2) true; 3) false; 4) true; 5) true; 6) true; 7) true; 8) true.
- II. 1) Is the room on the ground floor or on the top floor?
- 2) What can I see immediately opposite the room?
- 3) When do they put loudspeakers in the yard?
- 4) Where can I see the sea and the harbour?
- 5) Can you see the different colours of the lights at night?
- 6) When is there a lot of smog over the city?
- 7) When can't you breathe?

### **Text 12**

- I. 1) true; 2) false; 3) false; 4) false; 5) false; 6) false; 7) true.
- II. 1) When was an old gentleman wandering through the town centre?
- 2) Who was gazing at the toys on display?

- 3) Whoxlid the old gentleman see on the pavement?
- 4) The old gentleman picked out a shiny ten penny piece and handed it to the child, didn't he?
- 5) Did the gentleman see the same boy in the same or in a different spot?
- 6) What was the boy doing when the gentleman saw him again?
- 7) What did the gentleman ask the boy about?
- 8) Which ten penny piece had the boy lost?

### **Text 13**

I. 1) false; 2) true; 3) true; 4) true; 5) true; 6) false; 7) false; 8) true.

II. 1) What was Maueve asking God for?

2) Why did Maueve want to have a new brother or sister?

3) Was Maueve the eldest or the youngest of four?

4) When did Maueve get used to walking?

5) When had mother's parents died?

6) Who had been brought up by relations?

7) Was Maueve's childhood a great joy?

8) Maueve's childhood wasn't a great joy, was it?

### **Text 14**

I. 1) false; 2) false; 3) true; 4) false; 5) true; 6) true; 7) false.

II. 1) Who became very sad?

2) Why was the king very sad?

3) Did the king allow Shadrack to see the princess?

4) The king didn't admire the skill of the physician, did he?

5) How was the jeweller behaving?

6) Why couldn't they send the jeweller away?

7) What did both the king and the doctor know?

## PART III

### Supplement Texts for Reading and Speaking on Everyday Topics

#### About My Family

I enjoy the honest and open **relationship** in my family - but I think discipline must be used when necessary. There's never been a division between us, the children, and them, our parents. Freedom has made us close. I knew a girl whose parents were very **strict** and it made her a liar. I wouldn't like to do anything to **upset** my parents.

#### About My Parents

My mother and my father are very different people. Mum is always very **calm**; not exactly **easy-going**, because she does take things very seriously sometimes, but she doesn't get excited. When we were small (my brother and me) she almost never shouted at us. When we did something wrong she talked to us about it very firmly, but in a calm tone of voice. If we shouted and cried she made us go and sit by ourselves in her sewing room until we calmed down. So when the news came, she reacted in her usual way, quietly seeing what she could do to prepare for changes that were coming.

Dad, on the other hand, shouted, kicked a chair, and went for a long walk to try to cool off. During the next few days he was **cross** with us a lot of the time, which upset us, as nothing was our fault.

Both of us kids were **worried about** what was going to happen, and a bit afraid, but we didn't talk to our parents much. Most of all we were worried about having to leave all of our school friends.

#### About My Friend

Julia is an extremely **intelligent** girl. I admire her delightful **sense of humour**. But at times she tends to act a little impulsively. Although she is generally a **tolerant** person, occasionally she reacts negatively if some small habit, such as nail-biting,

**annoys** her.

I'm **fond** of my friend, but I do get annoyed with her sometimes. She's always arguing with me and, even, when she's wrong, she never apologizes.

### **About My Relatives and Myself**

My brother is 22 years old. He is **of a medium height and build**, a bit stocky, but strong with it. He has long, curly fair hair. It is **fashionable** at the moment for men to grow their hair. His hair nearly reaches his shoulders. My mother is always telling him to get it cut. He doesn't take much care over his appearance so he often looks quite scruffy. He hates having to wear a tie for work. When he's at home he wears comfortable clothes such as T-shirts and jeans. He doesn't **care** very much what he looks like.

My other brother is much taller-he towers above me, even though he is only 15. He does quite a lot of sport so he's quite strong and has well developed muscles. He has straight brown hair which refuses **to lie flat** and is always stroking up. He has bluish grey eyes and a little nose.

He is clever and quiet and spends a lot of time at his computer. People sometimes think that he is morose and sullen but I don't think that's the case - he just prefers to think rather than to talk. When he does talk he has a deep voice. He doesn't pronounce his words very clearly, but just mutters them - he can't be bothered to speak clearly. This is typical of boys of his age I think.

My mother **turned 50** this year, although she doesn't look it. She has **aged** quite **well** I think. Only now is she beginning to show signs of old age - her hair has started to go **grey** and her skin is drier. She is also thinner

- she used to have a tendency to **put on weight**. She is quite tall - it's a characteristic of her side of the family. She is usually well dressed. She is the sort of person who always looks quite smart- I'm **the exact opposite**

- it doesn't matter how much time, money and energy I devote to my appearance, I usually look scruffy. Even if I leave home looking good, by the time I reach my destination I **look a mess** - my tights are splashed, my hem has come down and I

generally **look untidy** as if I'd never bothered.

My father is quite short and a bit plump. I take after my father's side of the family. My father is nearly bald and the hair that remains is grey. He wears **sensible, practical** clothes most of the time, but for work he has to look smarter so he wears a suit and a tie. He has a grey and a blue suits which I think look good on him. When he puts his glasses on and he wears these suits, he looks every inch a teacher. My father is not a pleasant man. He gets angry and **loses his temper** quite often.

### **The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The constitution of the republic of Uzbekistan was adopted on December 8, 1992.

Article 1 of the constitution says that Uzbekistan is a sovereign democratic republic. The constitution sets the task of creating a democratic rule of law. All citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regardless of their nationality, constitute the people of Uzbekistan.

All citizens living in the Republic, men and women of all nations and nationalities, have equal rights in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

The rights to work together and the right to choose one's trade or profession is guaranteed to all citizens by article 37

All citizens have the right to rest. Article 39 guarantees pensions for people who are ill or unable to work.

The alternations have also been made to articles 76-88 which concern to the role of the Oliy Majlis, its importance, the status and the power of Houses of Parliament. Articles 89,90,95,96 and 97, which are related to the authority and functions of the President of Uzbekistan, have been altered as well.

### **The emblem of Uzbekistan**



National Emblem of Uzbekistan developed with account of centuries-old national and state



experience and traditions. The law about “National Emblem of Republic of Uzbekistan” was accepted in 2-d of July of 1992 year at the 10-th session of the Supreme Soviet of the republic of Uzbekistan. There is Khumo-bird with extended wings in the centre, which in Uzbek mythology means happiness and love of freedom. Uzbek poet Alisher Navoi called Khumo as the kindest from all live creatures! There is octahedron at the top of the national emblem, which symbolize asseveration of the republic and half-moon with the star. Image of sun symbolize light, illuminating the way of the Uzbek state.

Two rivers, painted below the bird- are Amy Darya and Syr Darya, run at the Uzbekistan territory. Ears of wheat are the symbols of bread and stalks with the opened cotton bolls symbolize the main riches of Uzbekistan. Ears of wheat and cotton bolls together tangled with band of the national flag be characterized by consolidation of the nations, living in Uzbekistan. The national emblem of the Republic of Uzbekistan reflects the history, high spirituality, eternal values and way of life of Uzbek people. Each element, colour and sign of the emblem has its own symbolic meaning. The emblem is set off by a garland of cotton branches with open cotton bolls and ears of wheat.

### **The flag of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The symbol of the state flag of the Republic of Uzbekistan goes back to the national and cultural traditions of the states, which existed in the territory of present day Uzbekistan. The state flag was approved by the 7th session of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Blue symbolizes everlasting sky and water as main life sources. The color means kindness, chastity, glory and faithfulness. It was blue that the great Amir Temur chose for his state flag. White is the traditional symbol of peace. It represents harmony with daylight and heavenly bodies. This color symbolizes purity and high moral aspirations. Green is the color of natural revival. It is the symbol for youth, hope, and energy. The red lines of the

flag symbolize life. The crescent moon is associated with the historical traditions of the people and can be considered the symbol of newly gained independence. There are 12 stars on the state flag of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The stars, associated with the traditions of the Uzbek people, are connected with the signs of the Zodiac, which served as basis for old solar calendar. The 12 stars depicted on the state flag symbolize the centuries old culture of the Uzbek people, striving for harmony and happiness.

**State Symbol.** Background of the State Symbol is raising sun. In front is Khumo bird, which is called as Semurg, Davlat kushi (Bird-State) and Kultubulgan (Sunny bird) in ancient works drawn in front. Khumo - means bringing happiness, along with Nauryz holiday this bird gain honor as the symbol of Saving Power, Honor and selflessness and goes along with Uzbek people hope for peace, kindness and happiness. Khumo is drawn with raised wings, which embrace the Uzbekistan land with its mountains, green valleys, rivers and gardens. Below on the image of Uzbekistan Flag word UZBEKISTAN is written. From both sides of the bird wheat and cotton are drawn. It means that cotton, as well as bread, grown by people symbolizes bounty. Up on the Symbol is octahedron, that symbolizes bounty, unity and variety of the world, used from ancient times in Uzbekistan's handicrafts. A star and semi moon is inside the octahedron, as Holy symbols of Muslims.

## **Travelling**

Modern life is impossible without travelling.-Thousands of people travel every day either on business or for pleasure. They can travel by air, by rail, by sea or by car.

Travelling by air is the fastest and the most convenient way, but it is the most expensive too. Travelling by train is slower than by plane, but it has its advantages. You can see more interesting places of the country when you are travelling through it.

Modern trains have very comfortable seats, There are also sleeping cars and dining cars which make even the longest journey enjoyable.

Travelling by sea is popular mostly for pleasure trips. On board large ships and small river boats people can visit foreign countries and different places of interest

within their own country. On board large ships there are facilities to help you enjoy your trip. There are tennis and badminton courts, swimming pools, cinemas and dance halls. Its a pleasant way to spend a holiday.

### **My Flat**

14 Victoria Road

Winton

28 February 1993

Dear John,

My new flat is really **lovely!** It's got four big rooms – a **spacious** lounge with a dining area, two bedrooms and a large kitchen which looks out onto the garden. There's another large window in the lounge with a super view of the park opposite, which lets in lots of sunshine in the afternoon. It's fully equipped with central heating but so far I haven't thought of any furniture! There are no carpets down yet and all I've got is a bed and a table and some chairs. Still, it'll be **fun** to get some (second-hand!) furniture to go in it. Oh, and I forgot to say that it's on the ground floor and quite near the shops, which is **very convenient** for me because I've got a memory like a sieve and I'm always forgetting to buy something!

Do come and visit me! I'm sure you won't mind sleeping on the floor if I haven't got another bed by the time you come. I can show you the town and we can go into the country too while you're here. I know you'd enjoy it here!

Please write soon.

Love Pam

(from "*Progress Towards First Certificate* " by Leo Jones)

The houses were of a good size, **well-built** with 3 bedrooms and lofts. Their front doors were open and the streets were full of kids running in and out. Women constantly crossed the street and stood on each other's doorsteps talking. An old man with a stick walked along slowly. He stopped to pat a child who was crying so much that I thought she would explode. He carried on patting her head, and she carried on crying, until finally he decided to enter the house and fetched the child's

young sister.

The houses were overcrowded - if you looked inside you would usually see five or six adults sitting in the front room - and there wasn't much furniture: often the linoleum on the floor was torn and curling, and a bare light bulb hung from the ceiling. The wallpaper was peeling from the walls.

Each house had a concrete yard at the back where women and young female children were always hanging out the washing: the cleaning of clothes never appeared to stop. There was one man - his house was especially run-down - who had recently acquired a new car. He walked round and round it; he was **proud of** his car, and occasionally caressed it. (from *"The Listening File"* by J. Harmer and S. Elsworth)

### **My Native Town**

We've only recently returned to live here and the town is almost as I remembered it. But some things are different, of course. There is too much traffic. It used to be quite quiet.

It's not a large town, although about a hundred thousand people live here. The university is the main feature of the town, and it has lots of old, very **attractive** buildings. The shops are good and there's a market.

We live in an old house on a hill not far from the centre of the town. From our back window I can see our garden, which is full of fruit trees and flowers. On the other side of the garden fence there's a road and a park.

**I don't mind living** here now. London isn't far away and the train is very fast. And I love going for walks in town or by the river on warm summer evenings. There's lots of green space, and peace and quiet. Beyond the park there's a wonderful **view** of the town, surrounded by hills in the distance. I can't help thinking it's one of the most beautiful views in the world. At weekends we really enjoy visiting places nearby, or taking a boat on the river. The countryside is wonderful, and there's so much to see.

It's a lively place and there's lots to do here. There are several cinemas and a

couple of theatres.

(from "*Flying Colours*" by J. Garton-Sprender and S. Greenhall)

### **My Hobby**

I was eight before I could read. I learnt to read during the three weeks. And my thirst for reading was **fantastic!**

I joined the library and the local librarian used to interrogate me on the contents, convinced that I was **showing off**: during the junior school holidays I had been reading 3 books a day!

Most adults were suspicious about **my passion for** books. "Your brain will burst" was a common warning, one that I took seriously. When reading, I half expected my head to explode and hit the ceiling. Reading became the most important thing in my life. My favourite place to read was on my bed, lying on a pink cotton counterpane, and if I had a bag of sweets next to me, I was **in heaven**.

I've always **felt a great sadness** on finishing a book I've enjoyed, and a strong reluctance to actually close the book and put it on a shelf.

The first book I lost a night's sleep over was *Jane Eyre*.

(from "*Saturday Review*", August 1992.)

I like watching television, though my parents are not very happy about my spending hours in front of the telly. They'd rather see me reading a book or playing in the open air, which, they say, would be healthier and more useful.

I agree there are too many **mindless** programmes but I, of course, watch TV **selectively** and have my own preferences. Firstly I like some of the American detective series. They are very entertaining though, I must admit, they are rather **repetitive** and you can always tell when the series writers are running short of ideas, because the final episodes of these series tend to be the noisiest and the most **violent**.

Secondly, I like athletic programmes. I never **miss a chance** to see them.

And finally, I like documentaries, though some of them require rather more background knowledge than I have for me to enjoy them completely.

(Abridged from "*Synthesis*" by W. S. Fowler and J. Pidcock)

## Canada

Canada has an area of nearly ten million square kilometres, stretching from the Pacific Ocean in the west to the Atlantic Ocean in the east. There are many islands in the north of Canada in the Arctic Ocean.

Canada has mountains, high plains and low plains. The Rocky Mountains run parallel to the Pacific coast. East of these mountains are the high plains. The low plains lie in the region of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. There are also mountains which run parallel to Canada's east coast, through Labrador and Baffin Island.

Canada is a country of lakes. Besides the Great Lakes, Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario (the fifth Great Lake, Michigan, lies in the USA), there are many other very large lakes, for example, Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake and Lake Winnipeg.



Canada also has large rivers. The Mackenzie flows from the Rocky Mountains into the Arctic Ocean, the Yukon starts in Canada and flows into the Pacific and the St. Lawrence River flows into the Atlantic Ocean. .

The hydroelectric industry is highly developed. Its main centres are in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. There is a very large hydroelectric station at Niagara Falls. Niagara Falls is one of the most splendid sights in the world.

Since the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River form a great waterway from the Atlantic to the heart of the country.

Canada has several climatic regions. Winter in Canada lasts from four to five months with heavy snowfalls. There is much rain in the east and west, but less in the centre. The north of the country near the Arctic is tundra, with great forests to the south. The central plains form the prairies.

The population of Canada is over 32,5 million people. More than five hundred fifty thousand Indians and 36,000 Eskimos live in Canada, mostly in the North. Today more than 45 percent of the people of Canada are of British ancestry; about 30 percent of French ancestry and the rest are from other backgrounds. There is a large French-speaking population in the province of Quebec.

The capital of Canada is Ottawa. Other important cities are Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Quebec. Canada's largest ports are Vancouver, Montreal and Halifax.

Canada is rich in metal ores, oil and gas. The metal, machine-building, automobile and shipbuilding industries are highly developed.

Canada's main agricultural products are wheat, meat and dairy products. The provinces of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, with their great forests, produce wood for paper-making and building.

Canada is an independent federal democracy and a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Formally, the head of state is the king or queen of England, represented by a governor general.

Canada consists of ten provinces and two territories. Each province has its own government.

The federal parliament consists of the Senate, whose members are appointed by the governor general, and the House of Commons, elected by the people for a period of five years.

## **Great Britain**

“Great Britain” has several different names. Some people say “Britain”, or “the United Kingdom”, or just “UK”. There are four different countries in the United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Altogether more than 56 million people live in Britain, many of them in big industrial cities like London, Liverpool and Manchester, but people are often surprised by how much of Britain is open country, with lonely hills and woods, quiet rivers, lakes and farmlands.

Many people think that the weather is cold and wet in Britain all the year round. But it isn't! True, it sometimes rains and even snows for days and days, but every year there are weeks of beautiful sunny weather then the British take off their sweaters and go out to sunbathe.

Britain is only a small country, but every part is different. Scotland is a land of mountains, lakes and romantic castles. The winters are cold, with plenty of snow, but the summers are often warm and sunny. Most farmers keep sheep, and they're many small factories, which make fine sweaters from their wool. In some parts of Scotland, there are very few people. Deer live in the hills, and the rivers are full of salmon. But Glasgow and Edinburgh are both large and busy, with all that is good (and bad) in modern cities.

Northern Ireland has its problems, but it has beauty, too. In the warm, wet climate, the grass grows a brilliant green, and much of the land is farming country. Belfast is a large industrial city with many fine buildings and big port from which ships come and go to Scotland and England. But Belfast has had many difficulty years, and it is not the busy place it once was.

A hundred years ago the north of England was industrial heart of the country. From the factories came cloth, wool, machines, engines and china. The old factories have gone now and the workers have to look for jobs in the new “high-tech” industries. Outside the towns, much of this part of England is beautiful countryside, with green hills, lakes and sandy beaches. Fishing is still a big



industry in the North East, and every night (except Sunday) the fishing boats go out to sea.

The centre of England (the “Midlands”) is also an important industrial area, especially near the huge cities of Coventry and Birmingham, the centre of the car industry. But everyone, even in the heart of the modern city, there are buildings from older Britain – cathedrals, castles, and houses built hundred years ago.

Wales is a special place, a country of high mountains and pretty valleys. But Wales has plenty of industry, too, with many factories and coal mines.

The west of England is rich farming country. It produces milk, cream, butter, cheese and apples, which go to make cider, a popular drink. In the villages, country people often grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Some areas of Britain are very crowded. Around Manchester, in northwest England, and Glasgow, in Scotland, are large city areas of houses and factories. The south east of England, too, has many towns and cities, including London, the giant capital. But quiet near London there are still some quiet villages and peaceful farms.

Britain is an island, of course, and you are never far from the sea. Some of the coast, especially in the west, is wild and rocky, with small, sandy beaches, and romantic old harbours. Other parts are industrial. The East Coast of Scotland, for example, is busy with oil rigs and fishing boats. The most popular beaches are near the many holiday towns on the south coast, where the weather is usually warmer. It is here that Londoners come to relax.

## **Washington**

Washington is the capital city of the United States. It is located on the north bank of the Potomac River.

George Washington, the first President of the USA, after whom the city was named, selected an area for the capital. A hundred square miles were taken from states of Maryland and Virginia. It was called the District of Columbia. The city is divided into four sections: NW, NE, SW, and SE. Numbered streets run

north and south: First Street, Second Street... Lettered streets such as A-street, B-street run east and west. Bear in mind that every section has an independent street system. If you're looking for Third Street, you need to know what section of the city it is in.

Washington is one of the most beautiful and unusual cities in the United States. It has little industry, and only one million people. One reason Washington looks different from other cities is that no building in the city may be more than 40 metres tall. There are no skyscrapers, because they would hide the city's many monuments from view. One can easily find a park, a square or an open area there. The most impressive and the best-known ones are the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

The heart of Washington is the Capitol, which is connected with the White House by Pennsylvania Avenue. It dominates the city of Washington. All the tourists begin sightseeing from the Capitol and see the Senate Chamber, the Hall of Representatives, the Statuary Hall and some others.

Thousands of tourists visit Washington every day. People from all parts of the United States come to see their capital and the monuments to those who in past centuries struggled for the independence of their country. The Washington Monument, the tallest stone structure in the USA, is in the Potomac River. It was opened to the public in 1888. It is 555 feet tall, is called the "Pencil" because of its shape. It is three blocks south of the White House. There is an elevator, which will carry you to 500-foot level observation windows. The Lincoln Memorial is in the west of the Washington Monument. It is designed like a Greek temple. The dominant figure is the realistic figure of Abraham Lincoln seated in the centre of the open temple. The Jefferson Memorial is worth seen, too. It is situated south of the Washington monument near the Potomac River. The Library of Congress contains millions of books and manuscripts. People are also interested in churches and cathedrals. The Washington Cathedral is on Massachusetts Avenue, and the Arlington National Cemetery is outside the city limits just across the Potomac

River near the Pentagon in Virginia. The famous Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is visited by millions of people every year.

Washington is the place where mass demonstrations take place against unemployment and racism, for democracy and civil rights.

### **The Education System of Great Britain**

Education in England is usually comprised of two stages, primary and secondary education. In most countries primary schools are subdivided into infant schools (ages 5-7) and junior schools (ages 7-11/12). In infant schools, children are encouraged to read, write, count and develop their creative abilities. Subject teaching is rare. The junior stage extends over 4 years. Children are taught arithmetic, reading, composition, history, geography, nature study and other subjects.

There was a time when children attended schools for special purposes and were separated according to their ability. The necessity to organise a school that would accept all the children from a particular area without consideration of their inborn ability became apparent in England. The first school of this kind, the so-called comprehensive school, appeared after World War II. These schools provide all the courses that were formerly given in grammar, technical and modern schools. These courses include all the academic subjects as well as practical subjects like cooking, needlework, gardening, shorthand, typing, woodworking and metalworking.

The main educational advantages of the current comprehensive schools are:

- 1) they are open to all children of all types of ability from a particular area;
- 2) the future of a child is not decided by the results of tests at an early age;
- 3) a much wider range of subjects is available to every pupil;
- 4) if necessary, a pupil can change from one course of study to another without moving to a new school.

Nowadays pupils can choose their own curriculum and take either a natural science course (math, physics, chemistry, biology) or an arts and humanities course (history, geography, Latin, foreign languages, arts, music).

Before leaving secondary school between the ages of 16 and 18, schoolchildren take

one or two sets of exams. In England all examinations are written. Pupils can get five grades - A, B, C, D, E, or 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Grade 1 is the highest grade. After examinations pupils get a General Certificate of Secondary Education.

After finishing secondary school and passing advanced level (A level) at age 18 or 19, young people may continue their education at universities and colleges. There are a great number of universities and colleges in Great Britain. The oldest university towns are Cambridge and Oxford. Together they are called Oxbridge. They have been famous for 700 years. It is a great honour to study at these universities. Now there are more than 66 colleges in Cambridge and Oxford. Five of them are women's colleges. The rest are coeducational, which means they are for both men and women. The first women's college appeared in 1869. The ancient buildings, museums, libraries, chapels and colleges are in the centres of these towns. The population consists mostly of teachers and students. All students have to live in the colleges during their course of study.

In the past, students' life was very strict. They were not allowed to play games, to sing, to hunt, to fish or even to dance. They wore special dark clothes and special square academic caps called mortarboards. Students' life is no longer controlled by such strict rules, but on special occasions, they still wear the dark robes and mortarboards. After graduating, students receive bachelor's degrees.

## **ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

English is the language of the people of England. At the same time it is the language of the people of many other countries, called English-speaking countries. About three hundred million people speak English as their mother tongue and hundreds of millions more speak English as their second language.

Many centuries ago English was spoken in England only. Then English was brought to other lands in different parts of the world, lands which were British colonies. There were British colonies in America, Asia, Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand.

The English language was first brought to the North American continent by English people in 1607. Today the largest English-speaking country by land area is Canada, but by far the most English speakers in North America live in the United States. Many islands in the Caribbean, south of the United States, also speak English.

On the other side of the world, Australia and New Zealand speak English as a native language. English is also spoken in India and South Africa, as well as in many other African countries.

## **New Zealand**

New Zealand, an independent state and a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, is situated south-east of Australia. The country consists of two large islands. North Island and South Island, and many small islands.

New Zealand is a mountainous country. The mountains run from south-west to north-east throughout both the larger islands. The Southern Alps, the highest New Zealand mountains, lie near the west coast of South Island.

The mountains on North Island are not as high and are mostly forest-covered. The central part of North Island is a high volcanic plateau. There are many lakes in this part of the island. New Zealand's rivers are short.

The climate in New Zealand is warm and the greater part of the country is well watered. The north of North Island is subtropical but not too hot. The east and north of both islands have a lot of sunny days, but much rain falls on the west coast.

Most of North Island and the south-west of South Island have good forests of evergreen trees and large areas are rich grasslands.

New Zealand has very few native animals. The kiwi, a bird which lives in the forest and does not fly, is found nowhere else in the world. The kiwi is in the national emblem of New Zealand.

The population of New Zealand is over 4 million people, more than three quarters of whom live on North Island. About 50 percent live in the four cities of

Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin,

The Maori people make up 11 percent of the total New Zealand population. The Maori are the descendants of the people who lived in New Zealand before the Europeans came. The Maori are famous for their folk songs, music and dances. They are very skilled in woodworking.

Many Maori people occupy important positions in the government and public life of New Zealand. Nonetheless, the country is still trying to solve problems in Maori education, housing, employment and property rights.

New Zealand is a self-governing state and a member of the Commonwealth. The governor general represents the king or queen of England. The Parliament of the country consists of one house only, the House of Representatives. The Prime Minister heads the cabinet. The main political parties are the Labour Party and the National Party of New Zealand.

### **The University of Cambridge**

The University of Cambridge was founded in the twelfth century and before the beginning of the thirteenth it was almost recognized centre of education. The University was formed on the model of European continental Universities. At first there were neither colleges nor professors in the modern sense of word. Lectures and oral examinations were conducted in Latin. There were no written examinations. Until the fifteenth century the history of Cambridge was not as significant as that of Oxford. But by the end of the seventeenth century the University was the home of Sir Isaac Newton – professor of mathematics from 1669 till 1702 whose influence was deep and permanent. At that time serious tests were offered to the candidates for degrees. During the early parts of the nineteenth century examinations were greatly improved and written examinations were more often used than oral.

At the same time there built number of laboratories for the natural sciences, among them the Cavendish Laboratory. The Cavendish Laboratory organized by the well known Scottish mathematician and physicist Maxwell was

opened in 1871. It was named after the English scientist of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Sir Henry Cavendish. Now it is one of the greatest physical laboratories known throughout the world.

### **Working Day**

#### 1. Alison (biology student, 20)

I get up at about seven o'clock. That gives me time **to go jogging** in the park near home before breakfast. I don't normally have a big breakfast -just a cup of tea and some toast and honey. The thing is that I always have a sandwich and a coffee in the university cafeteria at about eleven, when we have a break after lectures.

I leave for the university about a quarter to nine - it only takes me about ten minutes to get there, so I'm there in time for the first lecture. I'm studying biology, so I have quite a varied timetable, but on a normal day I have two hours of lectures, then two or three hours in the laboratory, and I spend the rest of the time in the university in the library.

During the term I'm usually busy studying, but I do have time for some things other than work. I mean, in the afternoons, after lunch, I sometimes play tennis or squash or go swimming. In the evenings, I go **out** with friends, so I don't usually get home much before half past nine or ten. I usually read for a while, but I'm always in bed by midnight.

#### 2. Brenda (night nurse, 25)

At the moment I'm working as a night nurse in a big hospital, so my time-table is a bit strange. I have to be there to start work at eleven o'clock at night, and it's an eight-hour shift that goes through till seven in the morning. I leave home at about ten-thirty. That's when a friend of mine, another nurse, **picks me up** at home and **gives me a lift** in her car. It takes

us about twenty five minutes in normal traffic to get to the hospital. We don't usually have much to do at night. We just go round the wards and look after any patients who need care and attention, but we do sometimes get emergency cases, people who have been in car accidents, or bad heart attacks, things like that.

I get home at about seven-thirty in the morning and have a light breakfast-cereal, toast and fruit juice-and by a quarter to nine I'm in bed. If I'm lucky, I sleep till about three. Then I have lunch, clean the flat, read a bit and perhaps go out shopping. My boy-friend normally comes round about half past six, and we go out to the cinema or go for a drink. He works **on a night-shift** too. It's a hard life, but we're **saving up** to get married and we get paid extra for night work, of course.

(from "*Synthesis*" by W. S. Fowler and J. Pidcock)

### **About Seasons and Weather in Britain**

There are four seasons - spring, summer, autumn and winter. Spring officially starts in March, summer in June, autumn in September and winter in December. But sometimes they have weather from each season all in one day.

Because English weather changes so often, there is always something to talk about. A remark to a stranger about the weather such as: "Not a very nice day, is it?" can often lead to an interesting conversation.

Even poets talk about weather. For example, Lord Byron once said: "I like weather, when it's not raining. That is, I like two months of every year".

(from "*Blueprint*" by B. Abbs and I. Freebairn.)

### **Why we Learn English**

Most of us learn English because we want to get a good job and because it is useful when we travel, especially in Britain or the USA . Some of us want to read and enjoy English literature and a few of us learn English because they want to understand the words of pop songs.

(from "*Blueprint*" by B. Abbs and I. Freebairn.)

Approximately 350 million people speak English as their first language. About the same number use it as a second language. It is the language of aviation, international sport and pop music. 75 per cent of the world mail is in English, 60 per cent of the world's radio **stations broadcast** in English and more than half of



the world's periodicals are printed in English. It is an official language in 44 countries. In many others it is the language of business, commerce and technology. There are many varieties of English, but Scottish, Texan, Australian, Indian and Jamaican speakers of English, in spite of the differences in pronunciation, structure and vocabulary, would recognize that they are all speaking the same basic language.

(from "*Streamline*" by B. Hartley and P. Viney)

I didn't learn English at school but I studied it for 5 years in evening classes. I work as a tourist guide and so I have to speak English a lot. I feel **fairly confident** about communicating in English but I do have difficulties if the person I'm speaking to has a strong or unusual accent. I think it's helpful to listen to English as much as possible - on the radio in films or records on **television**. I've got a lot of English cassettes and videos at home and listen to them almost every day.

### **Sports**

I'm **interested in** sport, especially athletics, and I run seven or eight kilometres every day. I particularly enjoy cross-country running, where you have to run across fields, jump over streams and so on. While I am running I think about all sorts of things, and at the end of a run I'm sometimes surprised to find that I've managed to solve a problem that was on my mind.

Next year I'm going to try the London Marathon. It's a long, hard race - 26 miles, or 42 kilometres - and you have to **be tough** to finish, but I very much want to do it.

I'm interested in mountaineering as well as running. I'll never become an **expert** climber, but I know what I'm doing in the mountains. I've done a series of climbs in the Alps during the last few years.

(from "*The Cambridge English Course*" by M. Swan and C. Walter.)

Physical fitness can help you to live longer, feel healthier and **cope with** life's problems. Various activities can help you **keep fit**: from running marathons to climbing mountains. For the **average** non-sporting person without much time to spare, activities like these are not very practical and, to be frank, they are **a waste**

**of time.** It is much better in **my view** to devote no more than half an hour every other day to doing exercises. The important thing is to stick to a routine so that you don't say to yourself, "I won't bother today!" or "I'll do it later!" If you haven't got the willpower to establish a routine like this, a sport like tennis might suit you better. Your partner will help you to remember to play regularly and you'll be able to get your exercise outdoors, too.

Another good way of keeping fit is jogging: the important thing here is **to build up** slowly and not to over do it. It's best to keep away from roads so as not to breathe in traffic fumes instead of fresh air and in case you get run over!

Taking exercise can be time-consuming but the feeling of being fit and healthy makes up for the few minutes a day it takes.

### **How to Keep Fit (Vitamins Vital for You?)**

Do you know **how vitamins** work, what they actually do for you, if you are really getting enough?

Yes, you know you should eat lots of fruit and vegetables to **stay healthy** and you know they are crammed with vitamins. Some vitamins are **responsible** for chemical reactions such as releasing energy or breaking down fat molecules, others **protect** us against the damage that leads to diseases like cancer and heart problems. Others counteract the unhealthy effects of environmental toxins such as cigarette smoke and exhaust fumes.

Scientists reckon that one of the most important combinations is the A, C and E or 'ACE' vitamins. The ACE vitamins occur in clusters in fruit and vegetables and are needed for a healthy **immune system** to help us **resist diseases**.

Vitamins on their own are not enough to **maintain good health**. The minerals selenium, magnesium and zinc are more easily absorbed when a vitamin is present, and vice versa. For example, vitamin C helps iron to be more easily absorbed. B vitamins are not much good without magnesium or zinc. Zinc is needed to make the protein that carries vitamin A to the skin.

(from "*Working Woman*" July, 1991.

## **Day Out A Visit to an Exhibition**

Last week I went to an exhibition. I am not really a great art lover but I had read a lot of good **reviews** of the exhibition in the newspapers which made me very **keen** to see it. I arrived some time before it **was due to** open but there were already plenty of people waiting outside for the doors to open. Most of the people waiting were youngish, and in fact there didn't seem to be any middle-aged people there at all. All of them were waiting **patiently** and I joined them **in the queue**. In the end we were allowed in to see the paintings. Now, I must be honest and admit that most of them were **disappointing** to me. Although I'd bought **a catalogue** and spent a lot of time looking carefully at each picture I had difficulty in understanding what the artist was getting at. Finally, as I was looking rather stupidly at one of the paintings and trying to decide if it was the right way up or not, an old gentleman came up behind me and started to explain the whole thing to me. He kindly answered all of my questions and we talked for over an hour. Then he said he had an appointment and had to go, so we shook hands and said good-bye. I went round the gallery once more and I found that I now understood everything much better and some of the paintings seemed really beautiful. It was only as I was leaving the gallery that I found out who was the man I had been talking to: his self-portrait was on one of the **posters advertising** the exhibition!

(from *"Progress Towards First Certificate"* by Leo Jones)

When the sky is blue and the sun is shining, British people like to get out into the open air. In particular, they like to go to the seaside for their ideal day out. Walks and drives in the country are favourite alternatives for adults. Children, however, prefer going to sport events, seeing friends or going on a trip to London.

A third of the children like the idea of a country walk or going to a zoo, but only one in ten put it as their favourite activity.

What makes a day out **enjoyable** for many children and adults too is ice-cream. This is especially true of children, for over half of them prefer ice-cream to soft drinks, fish and chips, sweets and chocolates.

Nearly three out of ten family outings in summer **involve** journeys of more than 50 miles. On a day out most families set off before 11 a.m. but some get started before 9 a.m. The majority, return home after 6 p.m.

(from "*Building Strategies*" by B. Abbs and I. Freebairn)

## **Shopping**

Last Saturday at 9 o'clock in the morning I left home to go to the shops. There wasn't much on my shopping list: I just needed some new batteries to my radio, a birthday card for my mother and some groceries at the supermarket. I decided to drive to town myself because I find it's much quicker to do your shopping on your own and you don't have to spend any time doing what someone else wants to do. While I was in town this time I decided to have a look round the bookshop. The shop was open so I went inside and there must have been thousands and thousands of books on every subject under the sun. The shopkeeper was awfully nice and he started asking me about the kinds of books I liked and he showed me some really interesting titles so I bought a couple for myself. Then, just as I was about to leave, I **spotted** a shelf full of old guide books and travel books. I was looking through them absent-mindedly and I found one all about our town and what it was like a hundred years ago. I couldn't resist buying it. After that I tried a few shops to see if they had any batteries **in stock**, but they didn't have the size I wanted. I had more luck with the birthday card but I was so **fed up** with shopping by this time that I forgot to get several of the things I needed for dinner. By the time I got home. I was so **worn out** that I had to spend the afternoon in an armchair.

(from "*Progress Towards First Certificate*" by Leo Jones)

Last week my mum and I went shopping and bought a pair of winter boots for me. They looked very **smart** and fitted me perfectly.

I had been wearing them for a couple of days when I noticed that the heel of the left boot was **coming off** and the sole of the right one was coming unstuck.

My mother said it **was disgraceful**, because the boots were expensive, and the assistant had persuaded us they would wear very well. My mother was very upset

and disappointed and said she would have to take them back to the shop. She hoped they would **replace** them.

(from an interview with a native speaker)

### **Famous People Tolstoy**

Leo Tolstoy was a famous Russian writer of the nineteenth century. He lived between 1828 and 1910. He wrote many novels. Two of his most famous works are "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina". Tolstoy was born in a wealthy family. However, he was not happy that others were poor. He did not like living the rich life when others did not have food or money. In fact, Tolstoy often dressed like a peasant. He wanted the simple life.

In his novels, Tolstoy wrote about many things, but one of his most important themes was nonviolence. His ideas about nonviolence influenced two other famous leaders: Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King. In fact, Tolstoy and Gandhi wrote letters to each other when Gandhi was in South Africa. Tolstoy's ideas helped Gandhi to use nonviolence.

Martin Luther King, the American civil rights leader, also **believed in** nonviolence. In his demonstrations during the 1960s, he always **avoided** violence. He helped to win more rights for Blacks.

Thus, Tolstoy, the great Russian writer of the nineteenth century, greatly influenced two other Great leaders of the peace movement.

(from "*Academic Challenge in Russian* " by H. Taylor Abdulaziz and A. D. Stover)

### **About Walter Scott (1771-1832)**

Sir Walter Scott more than anyone else, is responsible for the average Englishman's ideas about the Scottish Highlands and their inhabitants. He **created** and popularized the myths of the **romantic** people who lived in the wild mountainous countryside.

**He was brought** up in Edinburgh and followed his father's profession by studying

Law. He always earned some money from his legal work. He also inherited some money, and later on became a partner in a printing and publishing firm.

Although he earned a lot of money from his writing it was not until the end of his life (when he was bankrupt) that this aspect of his life became important to him.

When he was only 18 months old, he was crippled by an attack of polio. This meant that he had to spend a lot of his boyhood resting. He **filled his time** by reading. He was always interested in the plot, the action of what he read. This love of action is **obvious** in his own novels. The characters of his people may be **flat** and stereotyped, but the adventures always **race on**.

From his early boyhood, Scott had known and loved the wild beauty of the Highlands. He took many events and stories from people's memories and wove them into his novels. He had a remarkably **vivid memory** for scenes, places, stories and people.

His first novel was published anonymously in 1814, and it was eleven years before Scott admitted that he had written it and his other nineteen novels.

(Abridged from "*Current*")

### **Golden Tenors**

This year Luciano Pavarotti will be 60. He is celebrating by working hard. In 1995 Pavarotti is making grand opera appearances at the Met, Covent Garden, La Scala and elsewhere, and a string of arena concerts all

over the world from the Far East to the Americas. Only Pavarotti from the classical music world can fill these huge venues, normally the preserve of pop artists. And he does so singing standard operatic repertory and songs.

Pavarotti is a superstar, and in his sixtieth year he is as popular as ever, maybe even more so.

Placido Domingo is no chicken either - he is 54 or 58 this year depending which version of his biography you believe - yet still singing **splendidly**. Caruso and Jussi Bjorling, two of the great tenor voices of the century, were both dead before they were 50. That both Domingo and Pavarotti are singing so well at their age is a minor miracle to gladden the hearts of all music lovers.

Uniquely in the world of the opera, they are both well liked; Pavarotti for his expansive bear-like warmth, Domingo for his **charm, modesty** and exceptional musical **intelligence**.

Besides they have learnt that the world is big enough for both of them, and they are even bigger together than **apart**. In truth, Pavarotti and Domingo are not really competitors. They are very different artists. They will be remembered as not just the finest voices of their own generation, but amongst the great tenors of history.

(from "*High Life*", January, 1995)

### **Ecology The Ruin of the Rainforests**

**Fast food** started in America just over 50 years ago. In those days, most of the meat for the burghers came from cattle farms in Central American countries like Costa Rica. The problem was, and is, that the land in those countries is not really much good for beef farming. First, large **areas** of rainforest have to be burnt to **provide** land for cattle. After the burning of the trees, the soil loses its nutrients, and after a few years, it becomes useless for feeding cattle. Farmers can't use the land again so they have to go somewhere else to begin the **destruction** once more. In addition, trees can't grow again. Since the 1950s most of the rainforest of Central America has disappeared in this way and a large area in the Amazon forest in Brasil too.

Why do governments sell their rainforests? Rainforests are found in poor, underdeveloped areas where the governments don't have money to look after them. For this reason, they have to sell the land - either to cattle farmers, or to businessmen who open mines to **extract valuable** minerals like iron, copper and aluminium, or to timber merchants who cut down the trees and sell the valuable tropical wood. This causes enormous **damage**

to the natural life of these areas. Many of the animals which live there, such as the woolly spider monkey, are in danger of becoming extinct. And it's the same sad story for the native people of the rainforests. They have to leave their homes and many have died from Western diseases like flu. The result is the destruction of the

rainforests.

Now conservation groups are **encouraging** governments to plant more trees in areas of forest that have been **destroyed**. They are also calling for richer, more developed countries to cancel the debts of poor countries so that they won't need to sell their rainforests.

(from "*Flying Colours*" by J. Garton-Sprender, S Greenhall)

### **Greenpeace**

Against the odds, Greenpeace has brought the plight of the natural world to the attention of caring people. Greenpeace began with a protest voyage into a nuclear test zone. The test was disrupted. Then Greenpeace sent its tiny inflatable boats to protect the whales. Today commercial whaling is **banned**.

In the North Sea, Greenpeace swimmers turned back dump ships carrying chemical wastes. New laws to protect the North Sea have been promised.

Peaceful direct action by Greenpeace has involved the power of public opinion which in turn has forced changes in the **law to protect wildlife and** to stop the **pollution** of the natural world.

(from "*Cambridge Advanced English*" by Leo Jones)

### **Protecting Nature Blots on the Landscape**

In theory, everyone hates **litter**- so who is leaving it around?

We eat food from polystyrene containers. We buy chocolates that are bound in **layers of foil and wrapping**. We devour millions of newspapers and magazines. We purchase products that are sealed with plastic packaging. In this disposable age there are so many things to throw away. But the fact that our modern society produces huge amounts of waste is no excuse for causing litter. It is a mountainous problem.

In Great Britain an estimated six million tons of rubbish has to **be dealt** each year. And litter does not only **affect** urban areas - there is also a serious problem in the countryside, particularly in the green belt. Some of the beaches of the coastal



resorts are rubbish infested and dirty. A survey conducted into the cleanliness of six European capital cities: Berne, Brussels, London, Madrid, Paris and Rome placed London second after the predictable winner, Switzerland's antiseptically clean Berne - the dirtiest, incidentally, was Madrid. But litter is still a major source of disfigurement to cities, towns, countryside and coastline. An increasing awareness of litter has **focused** more attention on to its point of origin -**packaging**. **Effective recycling reduced** litter because there is less waste going into the system.

(from "*Working Women*", July, 1991.)

### **Customs and Traditions A Traditional American Feast**

The very first Thanksgiving was celebrated more than 370 years ago by the colonists at "Plymouth Plantation". About half of those arriving on the Mayflower survived to give thanks. And every year after 1621, a **harvest festival** was held in the colonies.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving an official national holiday, setting the day of observance on the fourth Thursday in November. Before then, governors of individual states simply declared any autumn date as Thanksgiving day.

Colonists relied on the British style of cooking they had learned back in England and used what they had at **hand**. The food was plain, but good.

Colonists also adopted cooking methods and techniques from Native Americans. For example, they learned how to use corn in a **variety** of ways.

What might have been served by the colonists on the original Thanksgiving? On that first table was roast goose and duck, cornbread and wheat bread, sweet potatoes and wild plums. With the abundance of wild fruit and berries, the colonists learned how to dry them for later use.

This community meal, called Thanksgiving was a celebration by very grateful people. Food, such as corn, is still an important menu item today. Cranberries and fowl, usually turkey, are among other long time traditional foods the American

cherish.

(from "*Working Women*", July, 1991 )

### **The Big Event: Manhattan Thanksgiving**

Rich New Yorkers pass up the Pilgrim's feast for a spot of serious shopping.

In America, Thanksgiving is the festival for families. Remember

Steve Martin, desperate to get home for his Thanksgiving turkey in Planes, Trains and Automobiles? The tradition began with the Pilgrim Fathers who gave thanks for having **survived** a year in the New World in the company of the then unsuspecting Indians who had shown them how to grow pumpkins, the better for making **pumpkin pie**.

Nowadays, Thanksgiving has an even deeper significance. It is the biggest spending weekend of the year, anxiously monitored as an indicator of the economic health of the nation. Americans have a patriotic duty to go out and shop. Every department store, every mall, every boutique has a **sale**.

Travel people like to put about the idea that New York prices are so much lower than ours that you can actually save money by going there on a shopping trip. This is a myth.

I found a real Thanksgiving treat - skating in Central Park.

### **About My Holidays**

If you don't know the Greek Islands, why don't you make this year the year when you discover a combination of sun, sand and sea that you'll never forget?

If you are young and active and you want to enjoy a holiday in the sun try Create. We promise you'll have a wonderful time. Swim in the clear water of the Mediterranean by day; and at night, there are hundreds of night-clubs and discotheques where - who knows? - you may find a boy or a girl of your dreams?

(from "*Incentive English* " by W. S. Fowler, J. Pidcock and R. Rycraft)

I don't like beaches much and I don't like sitting about doing nothing. But I do like swimming. And my father is a fantastic swimmer, you know, for style, and for

**ease and elegance**, although he hasn't swum for years. But when I was a child I remember so often going to the baths with him and he was **marvellous**.

(from *"Have you heard"* by Mary Underwood)

That's **his ideal** holiday to go **camping** somewhere wild, to the **remote** park or Lake District, and I enjoy that too if the weather is O.K., but we were very **unlucky** last June and it was really rotten... It was **freezing** cold and we were sitting in the tent absolutely frozen **to death** and the wind was so strong that we couldn't dare use the burner for cooking ...

(from *"Listen to this "* by Mary Underwood)

### **About Camping Holidays**

You can choose your favourite **activities** from things like mountain biking, canoeing, swimming, fishing.

At night you can enjoy great campfires, join in the singing and hear excellent stories. You'll have a great time. Enjoy carnivals, picnics and festivals. There are chances to climb and **explore**.

At Family Camp you'll find just the right mix of friendly **interaction, beautiful surroundings**, comfortable accommodation. Add to this excellent food and waterfront recreation, and you've got one very **refreshing** holiday. You'll enjoy a **relaxed** atmosphere and program. There's ample time for games and fun in groups or on your own, time for developing old and new skills. The camp has a **reputation for** being a place where great friendships begin.

## **SHORT STORIES FOR SUPPLEMENTARY READING**

### **The Prince and The Snake**

The kingdom of Vijaygarh had a wise and kind King. People were happy. But the King himself was sad and worried. A devilish snake had entered his son's body. Neither medicine nor magic worked to cure his son. When the Prince grew up, he thought, "It is because of me that my father worried." And one day, he left

the palace. Wandering, he came to another kingdom. He found a desolate temple and started living there. He begged for food.

The King of that kingdom was cruel. But he had a kind and beautiful daughter. The King was unhappy with his daughter. That girl was always ridiculing her father's hard work. The King thought, "She is always talking to me low of my hard work. I must marry her to a beggar. Then she will know what hard work is."

So, when the beggar Prince came to beg for food in the Palace, the cruel King forced him to marry his daughter. The Prince and his new bride started for the desolate temple. On their way, they stopped to take rest. The Princess went around in search of food, while her husband went to sleep.

When the Princess came back, she was shocked to see a snake sitting on her husband's mouth. On a mound nearby sat another snake. They were talking among themselves. "Why do not you leave the body of the Prince? He is so kind and gentle," said the snake sitting on the mound. "You too are evil! You attack passers-by. You should not be telling me what to do," replied the snake sitting on the mouth of the Prince.

The Princess killed both the snakes with all her courage. When her husband woke up, she told him about the two snakes. The Prince was happy. Then he told her who he really was. They set off to the Prince's palace. The King was delighted to see his son. When the King learned that the devilish snake was killed, his joy knew no bounds. The Prince and the Princess lived happily for a long time. After few years, the Kingdom celebrated the day on which the Royal couple gave birth to twins of one boy and one girl.

### **The Donkey and The Dog**

A washer man had a donkey and a dog. Both the donkey and the dog helped his master in many ways. One night, few thieves broke in the house of that washer man. The dog heard them and started barking. The washer man got up and so did

the neighbors. "What is that? A dog. Let us run," said the thieves. They feared some dangerous consequences. By that time many people gathered in the street. They tried to run away but they were caught by the people.

The washer man said, "I am glad I had this dog in my house. I am sure the thieves would have looted me if my dog had not barked." The washer man was highly proud of the dog. Every one too praised the dog.

From that day, the donkey started thinking, "The master thinks that the dog is a more useful animal than me." The donkey decided he will show his master, the washer man, that he too could be useful just like the dog. Few days passed. One night, it so happened, two thieves again entered the washer man's house. The thieves became aware of the animals, present in that house. "We should be careful, friend! I have heard that a dog guards this house," one thief said to the other. As the thieves peeped in, they saw the dog sitting just outside the main door. "It seems the dog is quite alert," said one thief.

"It is better to leave this house alone. We had better go at once," the other thief said and the two thieves fled. But unknown to the thieves, the donkey was watching all this. He thought, "It is a good opportunity for me to show my master that I too can be useful to him. The thieves have run away. If I start shouting, the master will think that I have driven the thieves away and out of this house." And the foolish donkey started braying loudly.

When the washer man heard the donkey bray at this odd hour, he got angry. He came out with a stick and thrashed the donkey. "This will teach him not to bray at night," he screamed. The donkey got all the thrashes in silence. It did not know what was taking place.

Just then the dog came to the donkey and said, "It is better to do your duties than try to be like me." The donkey knew that the dog was right. There after both the donkey and the dog remained peaceful.

### **A Wise Counting.**

Emperor Akbar was in the habit of putting riddles and puzzles to his

courtiers. He often asked questions which were strange and witty. It took much wisdom to answer these questions.

Once he asked a very strange question. The courtiers were dumb folded by his question.

Akbar glanced at his courtiers. As he looked, one by one the heads began to hang low in search of an answer. It was at this moment that Birbal entered the courtyard. Birbal who knew the nature of the emperor quickly grasped the situation and asked, "May I know the question so that I can try for an answer".

Akbar said, "How many crows are there in this city?"

Without even a moment's thought, Birbal replied "There are fifty thousand five hundred and eighty nine crows, my lord".

"How can you be so sure?" asked Akbar.

Birbal said, "Make you men count, My lord. If you find more crows it means some have come to visit their relatives here. If you find less number of crows it means some have gone to visit their relatives elsewhere".

Akbar was pleased very much by Birbal's wit.

**MORAL :** A witty answer will serve its purpose.

### **A Wise Old Owl**

There was an old owl that lived in an oak. Everyday he saw incidents happening around him. Yesterday he saw a boy helping an old man to carry a heavy basket. Today he saw a girl shouting at her mother. The more he saw the less he spoke.

As he spoke less, he heard more. He heard people talking and telling stories. He heard a woman saying that an elephant jumped over a fence. He also heard a man saying that he had never made a mistake.

The old owl had seen and heard about what happened to people. Some became better and some became worse. But the old owl had become wiser each and every day.

**Moral of the story :** You should be observant, talk less but listen more. This

will make you a wise person.

### **Beg Your Pardon Mrs Hardin**

One afternoon, a little boy had lost his kitten. He looked under his bed. He looked all over his house. But still there was no puppy. Finally, he looked for his puppy in the garden. After a few hours, he still could not find the puppy.

The little boy was tired and was about to give up. Then he saw his neighbour, Mrs Hardin.

"I beg your pardon, Mrs Hardin. Is my puppy in your garden?" asked the little boy.

"Oh yes, she is. She is chewing on a mutton bone," replied Mrs Hardin.

The little boy climbed the fence and saw his puppy chewing on a mutton bone. He was so happy that his puppy was not lost but had only gone to his good neighbor's house to eat.

#### **Moral of the story :**

Do not give up searching for something you have lost too soon.

### **The Golden Egg**

Haria, a poor barber lived alone in his small hut. He was dedicated to his work. And whatever he earns was enough to fulfill his needs.

One evening, after returning from work, Haria was hungry. "What shall I cook tonight?" he thought. Just then he heard a hen clucking outside his hut. "That hen would make a great feast for me," thought Haria and prepared to catch the hen.

With a little effort he was able to catch the hen. As he was about to kill the hen, it squeaked, "Please do not kill me, O kind man! I will help you." Haria stopped. Though he was surprised that the hen spoke, he asked, "How can you help me?"

"If you spare my life, I will lay a golden egg everyday for you," said the hen. Haria's eyes got widened in delight. Haria was surprised to hear this promise. "A

golden egg! That too everyday! But why should I believe you? You might be lying," said Haria. "If I do not lay a golden egg tomorrow, you can kill me," said the hen. After this promise, Haria spared the hen and waited for the next day.

The next morning, Haria found a golden egg lying outside his hut and the hen sitting beside it. "It is true! You really can lay a golden egg!" exclaimed Haria with great delight. He did not reveal this incident to any one, fearing that others would catch the hen.

From that day onwards, the hen would lay a golden egg everyday. In return, Haria took good care of the hen. Very soon, Haria became rich.

But he became greedy. He thought, "If I cut open the hen's stomach, I can get out all the golden eggs at once. I do not have to wait for the hen to lay the golden eggs one by one."

That night, he brought the hen to the interior portion of his house and killed the hen. But to his dismay, he found no golden eggs. Not even one.

"What have I done? My greed had made me kill the hen," he wailed. But it was too late.

### **The Golden Swan**

Long time ago, there lived a King. He was lazy and liked all the comforts of life. He never carried out his duties as a King. "Our King does not take care of our needs. He also ignores the affairs of his kingdom." The people complained.

One day, the King went into the forest to hunt. After having wandered for quite sometime, he became thirsty. To his relief, he spotted a lake. As he was drinking water, he suddenly saw a golden swan come out of the lake and perch on a stone. "Oh! A golden swan. I must capture it," thought the King.

But as soon as he held his bow up, the swan disappeared. And the King heard a voice, "I am the Golden Swan. If you want to capture me, you must come to heaven."

Surprised, the King said, "Please show me the way to heaven." "Do good deeds, serve your people and the messenger from heaven would come to fetch you



to heaven," replied the voice.

The selfish King, eager to capture the Swan, tried doing some good deeds in his Kingdom. "Now, I suppose a messenger will come to take me to heaven," he thought. But, no messenger came.

The King then disguised himself and went out into the street. There he tried helping an old man. But the old man became angry and said, "You need not try to help. I am in this miserable state because of out selfish King. He has done nothing for his people."

Suddenly, the King heard the golden swan's voice, "Do good deeds and you will come to heaven." It dawned on the King that by doing selfish acts, he will not go to heaven.

He realized that his people needed him and carrying out his duties was the only way to heaven. After that day he became a responsible King.

### **The Ignorant Man**

There was a village in a kingdom. There was living a milkman. His name was Deenu. He had built his hut far away from his village, in the woods. He loved the quietness of the woods rather than the noisy atmosphere of the village. He lived in his hut with his two cows. He fed them well and took proper care of them. Everyday he took the two cows to a nearby lake to bath them. The two cows gave more milk. With the milk that the two cows gave, he earned enough money to live happily.

Deenu was an honest man. Though he was content, at times he would be restless. "There is so much wrong and evil in this world. Is there nobody to guide the people?" this thought made his sad every now and then.

One evening, the ignorant man, Deenu was returning home after selling milk in the village. He saw a saint sitting under a tree and meditating. He slowly walked up to him and waited for the saint to open his eyes. He was happy to be with the saint for some time. He decided to wait there itself till the saint opened his eyes. After a while, the saint slowly opened his eyes. He was surprised to see a man

patiently sitting beside him.

“What do you want?” asked the saint humbly.

“I want to know what the path to Truth and Piety is? Where shall I find Honesty?” asked Deenu.

The saint smiled and said, “Go to the pond nearby and ask the fish the same question. She will give you the answer.”

Then as asked to do, the ignorant man, Deenu went to the nearby pond and asked the same question to the fish. The fish said, “O kind man! First, bring me some water to drink.” Deenu was surprised. He said, “You live in water. But you still want water to drink? How strange!”

At this moment, the fish replied, “You are right. And that gives you the answer to your question as well. Truth, Piety and honesty are inside the heart of a man. But being ignorant, he searches for them in the outer world. Instead of wandering here and there, look within yourself and you will find them.” This gave an immense satisfaction to Deenu. He thanked the fish and walked home a wiser man. He changed the way in which he saw this world as well as himself. From that day, Deenu never felt restless.

He took his best to carry this message to the rest of his fellow human beings. All his friends accepted him as their master and consulted him to overcome their mental problems. He led them properly.

### **The Clever Crow**

Once upon a time there lived a crow. She had built her nest on a tree. At the root of the same tree, a snake had built its home.

Whenever the crow laid eggs, the snake would eat them up. The crow felt helpless. “That evil snake. I must do something. Let me go and talk to him,” thought the crow.

The next morning, the crow went to the snake and said politely, “Please spare my eggs, dear friend. Let us live like good neighbors and not disturb each other.”

“Huh! You cannot expect me to go hungry. Eggs are what I eat,” replied the snake, in a nasty tone.

The crow felt angry and she thought, “I must teach that snake a lesson.”

The very next day, the crow was flying over the King’s palace. She saw the Princess wearing an expensive necklace. Suddenly a thought flashed in her mind and she swooped down, picked up the necklace in her beak and flew off to her nest.

When the Princess saw the crow flying off with her necklace, she screamed, “Somebody help, the crow has taken my necklace.”

Soon the palace guards were running around in search of the necklace. Within a short time the guards found the crow. She still sat with the necklace hanging from her beak.

The clever crow thought, “Now is the time to act.” And she dropped the necklace, which fell right into the snake’s pit of house.

When the snake heard the noise, it came out of its pit of house. The palace guards saw the snake. “A snake! Kill it!” they shouted. With big sticks, they beat the snake and killed it.

Then the guards took the necklace and went back to the princess. The crow was happy, “Now my eggs will be safe,” she thought and led a happy and peaceful life.

### **A Father learns A Lesson from His Son**

Velan was a carpenter. He was living in a village. His mother dies a long time back. His aged father, Kuppan, lived with Velan. Kuppan was very weak. He could not even walk well. He was so weak. It was because Velan did not give him enough food. He had given his father a small earthen plate. Even a small quantity of rice in the plate appeared to be much. Velan was a bad man. He was a drunkard also. After taking drinks, he abused his father badly.

Velan had a son. His name is Muthu. Muthu was just ten years old. He was a very good boy. He loved his grandfather. He had great respect for his grandfather. He did not like his father’s attitude and character, because his father was treating

his grandfather cruelly.

One day Kuppan was eating his food out of earthen plate that his son had given to him. The earthen plate fell down. The plate broke into pieces. The food also fell on the floor. Velan was working at the other end of the room. He saw the broken plate. He was very angry with his father and used very harsh words to abuse his father. The old man felt bad about what happened. He was sorry for his mistake. Velan's words wounded him very deeply.

Velan's son, Muthu, saw this. He did not like his father. His father was ill-treating his grandfather. He was afraid to speak against his father. He was sad about his grandfather. But he was not powerful to stand in support of his grandfather.

The next day Muthu took some of his father's carpentry tools and a piece of wood. He worked with the tools to make a wooden plate. His father saw him working.

"What are you making, Muthu?" he asked.

"I am making a wooden plate!" replied Muthu.

"A wooden plate! What for?" asked his father.

"I am making it for you, father. When you grow old, like my grandfather, you will need a plate for food. A plate made from earth may break very easily. Then I may scold you severely. So, I want to give you a wooden plate. It may not break so easily."

The carpenter was shocked to hear this. Only now he realized his mistake. His father was kind to Velan. He had looked after Velan very well. Now, he was old. Velan was treating his father severely. Velan was now very sad about his own behavior. He realized his mistakes. He then became a different person.

From that day, Velan treated his father with great respect. He gave up drinking too. Velan learnt a lesson from his own son.

You should honor your parents at all times. It is your duty. It brings you their blessings.

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