

I READING (40 min)

PART 1

Read the text and answer the questions that follow using the letters A-D (for questions 1-12) and a-c (for questions 13-16).

Travellers' Tales

The Internet may make it easier to chat to our global neighbours, but the world still holds surprises for travellers. In this month's edition of Working Overseas, we speak to four people about their experiences in a foreign country.

A Jeff Stevens

Originally from a small farming town in the midwest of the United States, Jeff surfed the net to find his first teaching job. He was lucky almost straight away, finding a full-time job in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, but he took a while to get used to the language. "I'd tried to study Portuguese before I arrived and I was doing pretty well, but when I got to Lisbon I found that the sounds bore no relation to the words on the page. After a month or two, I really got into it and stopped feeling like a complete alien. By the time I left, I could communicate well enough **to get by.**" Coming from a relatively new country, Jeff was impressed by the importance the Portuguese place on their past. "In the old parts of the city, the houses are covered with beautifully illustrated tiles depicting famous scenes from past centuries. The locals are very proud of them and lots of my students would take me on walking tours to show me their favourites. I can't see many Americans spending time showing visitors around their cities, at least, not for free."

Jane Hilton

Taking a break from her job in Australia, Jane packed her bags for the United States, initially for a holiday. She started off in California where she found it was 'a lot less liberal than I'd expected'. She explains, "I was on the beach and took off my top. A lifeguard immediately came zooming along on a scooter and told me it was a \$90 instant fine. Anyway, he **let me off** because I was a foreigner," she laughs. And what other cultural differences did Jane come up against? "When I was trying to get waitressing work, I didn't have a car and was quite intimidated at the thought of driving on the freeway - it's too fast and they

drive on the other side of the road!” So she looked around for a bus, but found there weren’t any. “Apparently, a petrochemical company had bought the whole transport system and then phased it out. In the end, I walked long distances, which was another strange thing to do, and got told off again - this time by a cop for loitering, when in actual fact I was just standing there.” And how did Jane get on at work? “American waiters and waitresses are very courteous, so I was probably more abrupt and straightforward and a bit of a novelty, and I got good tips. It was interesting because people I’d barely laid eyes on were prepared to tell me the most amazingly private things - about their divorces and breast augmentations, for example. Australians would find that really weird! Despite my problems, though, I had a great time in the States. The American ‘can-do’ attitude is very infectious and the people ooze positivity.”

C Martin McMorro

Despite his London roots, Martin found himself quite disoriented in the even bigger city of Sao Paulo, Brazil. “There are so many similar apartment buildings, you don’t get a sense of where you are,” he says, “and it’s very difficult to find the bus stops because most of them are just small, green, wooden poles with nothing written on them. For a long time, the routes were a complete mystery!” Martin still managed to find his way to the local *churrascaria* restaurant where the waiters come round with vast plates of meat. “You have this little disc on your table. If you turn up the green side, they come and serve you. When you’re full, you turn it over to red and it means, stop, I’m about to explode!” Martin also quickly adapted to the Brazilian habit of heading for the beach every weekend. However, there was one aspect of beach culture that he found rather unusual. “People will try to sell you anything, like normal umbrellas - which is the last thing you’d want at the beach - or clothes or electrical goods, and you don’t even have your wallet, so **it seems a bit optimistic!** But a really nice thing was the coconut milk - they chop off the top and give you a straw!”

D Guiliana Silveira

Guiliana went to England to take a two-week course for foreign teachers of English, but ended up staying for ten years. “I fell in love with London and decided to stay there!” she explains. I remember the first time I went to Camden Town, I was just **in awe of** all the different looks. You can dress down, be eccentric, be a punk, and no one bats an eyelid.” Another aspect of London life that Guiliana found different was its multi-cultural population. “I’ve never seen so many different nationalities, and from places I’d never heard of! People seemed to co-

exist really well then, whereas now I feel that people are a bit more suspicious of each other. That's a pity." Guiliana was also astounded by the number of charity shops in the high streets. "It's not very common at all in Brazil to buy used stuff. You donate it to schools and they take it to the poor. For me, that was quite unique to London."

Which traveller ...

1 was impressed with the way people were indifferent to each other's appearance?

2 likes the nation's attitude towards its history?

3 explains a custom associated with a type of service?

4 was reluctant to travel in the way other people did?

5 took some time to be able to understand what people were saying?

6 compares two approaches to the recycling of second-hand goods?

7 was surprised at the way strangers confided personal information?

8 expresses surprise at the kind of goods sold at the beach?

9 mentions a change they observed in the attitude to people from other countries?

10 appreciates the decorations on the buildings?

11 gives reasons for getting lost in the city he or she went to?

12 unknowingly behaved in a way that was prohibited?

13 In Paragraph A, what is the best meaning for **to get by**?

a To communicate in very basic language

b To be able to understand enough to live fairly easily

c To speak and understand very well

14 In Paragraph B, what is the meaning of **let me off**?

The police officer ...

a didn't punish me

b didn't let me leave

c didn't like me because I was a foreigner

15 In Paragraph C, what is meant by **it seems a bit optimistic**?

a There is a good chance of finding whatever you want to buy.

b The sellers are charging an unreasonable amount for the goods.

It is unlikely that anyone could sell these types of goods.

16 In Paragraph D, what is the best replacement for **in awe of**?

I thought the looks were ...

a confusing

b amusing

c amazing

PART 2

You are going to read an article about the health risks posed by pet dogs. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (17-22). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

IS IT SAFE TO HAVE A DOG?

They give you plenty of affection, and they force you to do at least some daily exercise - but it seems owning a dog could be bad for your health, as Phil Frampton reports.

Although dogs are known to have positive effects on people's blood pressure and weight, they also pose a significant risk of injury to their owners. In fact, the hazards of owning a dog may be far greater than the benefits, according to some doctors.

The warning comes after staff at a hospital in England recorded that they had dealt with 37 patients who had suffered dog-related injuries in two months. These injuries, which included broken bones and head wounds, were not caused by dog attacks, but by falls people had while walking their four-legged friends. **17**_____ Some had been knocked over when their excited animals ran towards them. Sixteen of the injuries were so serious that they required surgery. **18**_____ It suggests that each hospital in England deals with around 200 such cases annually.

So can anything be done to reduce dog owners' risk of sustaining an injury? In response to the findings of the study, Dr Henry Willmott of the Conquest Hospital in Hastings, East Sussex, said that training a dog well was the best safety precaution. People who are already at risk of getting hurt in a fall, such as the elderly, should take this into consideration when thinking about getting a dog, and ask themselves what breeds they can handle. **19**_____

There have been cases of people suffering severe cuts and even losing their fingers after dogs suddenly ran away from them while on a flexible lead.

Even if your dog is the best-behaved pet in the world, walking it could bring a very unwelcome guest into your life. Dogs that enjoy running through bushes and long grass are ideal targets for ticks - spider-like insects that suck their hosts' blood. **20**_____ People who walk their dogs in the countryside, or anywhere where there's long vegetation, are therefore advised to take precautions

against taking ticks home at the end of a walk. You should check your dog's skin for any ticks, which swell up into a round shape, before heading home. Even if you can't see one - and they can be as small as a poppy seed before they feed - you may want to brush your pet's coat just in case. It's also a good idea to carry a pair of tweezers with you for easy tick removal. If your walk takes you away from footpaths and through bushes or overgrown areas, you might want to protect your own skin from ticks by wearing long trousers and tucking them into your socks.

21 _____

Unfortunately, ticks are not the only things that dogs sometimes carry that can cause harm to their owners. With no clothing to shield their bodies, our dogs inevitably pick up all kinds of germs, bacteria and parasites as they investigate the world around them. There may be no sign of them, and they may cause your dog no problems at all, but they can be very dangerous for humans. That doesn't mean you can't enjoy touching and playing with your dog, but be sensible about it. You should wash your hands after you've had close contact with your dog and its toys, especially before you eat. **22** _____ It's best to do this outside, of course, to keep your home as hygienic as possible.

A You may think that bathing your dog with medicated shampoo is enough to keep you and it free from disease.

Another good tip is to brush your dog regularly to remove dead hairs that may be harbouring bacteria.

C If you have a dog that is difficult to control, it may be safer for you to walk it on an old-fashioned fixed-length lead rather than an extendable one.

D These are pretty harmless in themselves, but can transmit a bacteria that causes Lyme disease in humans.

E The research is the first study into how many injuries, other than bites, are caused by dogs in the UK.

F Most had been pulled over by pets on leads.

G This is probably most necessary in spring and summer, when they're particularly active.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET.

II USE OF ENGLISH (30 min)

PART 1

Choose the correct answers to complete the text: A), B), C) or D).

AS OLD AS YOU FEEL

It might be true that you are only as old as you feel. A British clinic is carrying (23) A tests to calculate the 'real' biological age of patients based on their rate of physical deterioration. Information on every (24) _____ of a patient's health is fed into a computer to establish (25) _____ they are older or younger than their calendar age suggests.

The availability and increasing accuracy of the tests have prompted one British gerontologist to call for biological age to be used to determine retirement age. He (26) _____ that if an employee's biological or 'real' age is shown to be 55 when he reaches his 65th birthday, he should be (27) _____ to work for another decade. Apparently most employers only take into (28) _____ a person's calendar years.

A doctor offering these tests claims their (29) _____ will be to motivate people to improve their health. Although the concept of 'real age' seems set to become big (30) _____ many believe that looks will always be the best (31) _____ of age.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 23 A) <u>out</u> | B) forward | C) over | D) on |
| 24 A) position | B) prospect | C) attitude | D) aspect |
| 25 A) unless | B) in case | C) so that | D) whether |
| 26 A) debates | B) argues | C) discusses | D) enquires |
| 27 A) encouraged | B) supported | C) incited | D) promoted |
| 28 A) interest | B) detail | C) account | D) importance |
| 29 A) desire | B) reason | C) purpose | D) project |
| 30 A) business | B) pursuit | C) trade | D) concern |
| 31 A) notice | B) indicator | C) example | D) token |

PART 2

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was not only a prolific writer, he is said to have introduced thousands of words and phrases into the English language. However, it is commonly suggested that Shakespeare might not have invented certain words and phrases, but rather his works are the first time the words were actually written down. The argument by many scholars is that words and phrases

attributed to Shakespeare were probably spoken first. This does not discount the fact, however, that Shakespeare was a master of the English language, demonstrating great wit.

Match the phrases on the left (32-42) that Shakespeare is said to have invented with their meaning on the right (A-K). There is an example at the beginning:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 32)"It's Greek to me" (Julius Caesar) | A) Saying it you mean that you do not know or understand something. |
| 33)"Fair play" (The Tempest) | B) In one's visual memory or imagination. |
| 34)"Wear one's heart on one's sleeve" (Othello) | C) To be considered a joke by many people. |
| 35)"Break the ice" (The Taming of the Shrew) | D) Follow the rules, especially in competitions or sports. |
| 36)"The lady doth protest too much" (Hamlet) | E) Something which is not necessarily good for you. |
| 37)"Clothes make the man" (Hamlet) | F) To be a hopeless romantic (or be open and honest about how you feel). |
| 38)"A laughing stock" (The Merry Wives of Windsor) | G) To be in trouble or a situation that you cannot easily get out of. |
| 39)"Too much of a good thing" (As You Like It) | H) Being kind and giving. |
| 40)"In a pickle" (The Tempest) | I) Although not always true, this phrase implies that how a person dresses tells you something about who they are as a person. |
| 41)"Heart of gold" (Henry V) | J) If someone denies something more than once, you can say it, meaning you think that they feel the opposite to what they are saying. |
| 42)"In my mind's eye" (Hamlet) | K) Often when you meet someone for the first time, you do it by asking them polite questions about themselves. |

32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
A										

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET.

III WRITING (40 min)

Comment on the following quotation: “Dictionary is the only place where success comes before work” (Unknown).

Write 120 -150 words.

Remember to

- make an introduction,*
- express your personal opinion on how people become successful; say what you are ready to sacrifice and what ordeals you are ready to come through to succeed in life (education, business, etc); give reasons for your opinion,*
- make a conclusion.*

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET.