

LISTENING COMPREHENSION (30 minutes)

Task 1. You will hear people talking in 8 different situations. For questions 1-8 choose the best answer A,B or C. You will hear each text twice.

1. You hear a young singer talking about his childhood. What is he grateful for?
 - A. being encouraged to sing by his father
 - B. being exposed to music at an early age
 - C. inheriting his mother's talent as a singer
2. You overhear a girl talking on the phone about a clothes shop. She thinks her friend would appreciate
 - A. the helpful attitude of the staff
 - B. the lively atmosphere created by the music
 - C. the low prices compared to other shops
3. You hear part of an interview with a farmer. What is he doing?
 - A. describing his lifestyle
 - B. justifying his choice of career
 - C. promoting an event he's involved in
4. You hear two friends speaking about a school concert. How does the girl feel?
 - A. worried that she hasn't done enough practice
 - B. nervous about performing in front of her family
 - C. concerned that her clarinet doesn't sound right
5. You hear a news report about a football club. Who has suggested a change in club policy?
 - A. the club's doctor
 - B. the club's supporters

- C. the club's new manager
6. You hear two friends talking about a newspaper for teenagers. What do they agree about?
 - A. how boring it is to read one regularly
 - B. how interesting it would be to write for it
 - C. how important it is to keep up with the news
 7. You hear a boy telling a friend about climbing a mountain with his father. What does he remember most clearly about reaching the top?
 - A. being glad that he'd followed his father's advice
 - B. feeling quite a bit of physical discomfort
 - C. enjoying the beauty of the scenery around him
 8. You hear a teacher talking about an environmental project. Why is she talking to her class?
 - A. to encourage them to remain involved in the project
 - B. to inform them about changes to the project
 - C. to remind them about a future project

Task 2. Listen to a boy talking about his hair. Mark the statements 9-20 as T (true) , F (false) or NS (not stated). You will hear the text twice.

9. The boy says his friends have dyed their hair orange, purple and blue.
10. He explained to his mother that he would only use food coloring.

11. His mother said that dyeing his hair was a good fad.
12. The boy's father liked his idea.
13. The boy said that if he couldn't dye his hair green, maybe he could get a nose ring.
14. His mother said that he may have a tattoo on his arm.
15. His mother never anything with her hair.
16. His friend's hair is dyed bright orange.
17. The boy's father liked Joan very much.
18. The boy's mother would like him to leave his hair its natural color.
19. The boys thinks that when he's old enough he will dye his hair green
20. His mother says that fads don't change all the time.

READING COMPREHENSION (30 minutes)

Task 1. Read the text. Match the missing sentences A–F with the gaps 1–5. There is one sentence that you do not need.

The story of bread

If you had bread for breakfast today, a slice of toast, or perhaps a croissant, you are certainly not alone. (1)_____ No matter where you travel, you will probably find a culture that has its own type of bread.

The story of bread goes back a long way – in fact, about 10,000 years. (2)_____ However, they discovered that they could use rocks to crush the hard grains from some plants, which we know today as wheat, to make a rough powder, or flour. They mixed the flour with water, put the mixture on flat stones and waited for the bread to bake.

These first breads were hard and flat and they probably didn't taste very nice, but gradually, the recipe for bread improved. The ancient Egyptians, for example, discovered how to make fermented dough: they added ingredients to make the mixture rise, so that it became lighter and tasted better. (3)_____ In the same way, different cultures developed their own recipes, using local ingredients and suiting it to their traditions.

The technology for baking bread also improved. The first ovens were made of clay and a wood fire burned inside them. (4)_____ By the time the oven had cooled, the bread was baked. At first, bread was made in people's homes. Then, in the Middle Ages, people started to take their bread mixtures to local bakeries to be baked. These bakeries had large brick ovens which were heated by wood or coal. Today, of course, most of the world's bread is baked in large factories and is then transported to where it is sold.

Most people can easily go to a supermarket or a baker's shop to buy bread when they need it. (5)_____ In France in the 18th century, for example, there was very little bread in the shops and its price was high. Angry people rioted in the streets and Marie

Antoinette famously said, 'Let them eat cake.' Bread is an emotional issue. It's mentioned in ancient books, prayers, and proverbs of many different cultures. In many places it's seen as one of the most important foods, and is central to many cultures in ways that other foods are not.

A. However, when things go wrong, it's often bread that disappears first.

B. People didn't grow food then, but went out in the grasslands to look for plants and grains that they could eat.

C. Bread is one of the most widely eaten foods in the world and it comes in an incredible range of shapes and sizes.

D. In some countries, bread was considered a greater luxury than the most expensive meat.

E. The ancient Greeks, and later the Romans, baked flat bread and often flavoured it with herbs and spices.

F. The bread mixture was placed inside these and then the opening was closed.

Task 2. You are going to read a selection of letters from a problem page in an International English Language magazine. For questions 6-15, choose from the people (A-H). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person:

6) would appear not to have an English teacher?

7) doesn't like studying with people from their own country?

8) has a job in the UK?

9) enjoys keeping up with current affairs?

10) feels that the teacher isn't doing their job properly?

11) uses English speaking radio stations to practise English?

12) had a shock when they visited Britain?

13) wants to avoid speaking their own language?

14) wants to speak English like a native speaker?

15) feels they are the only person with their difficulty?

This Month's Letters

See this month's problems and questions submitted to us by learners of English:

A

I study English for 6 hours per week in secondary school. For 1 hour each week we have conversation classes with a native speaker of English where we talk about topics such as drugs, politics and culture. I know it's a really good opportunity to practise my spoken English, but I never make a contribution to the discussion. It's not that I don't have an opinion, or that I'm shy, but more that I don't have the vocabulary to express my views. I feel really frustrated at the end of the lesson. Nobody else in the group seems to have the same problem.

Katalin

B

I'm a 24-year-old business student from Malaysia and I've been

attending English classes at night school for the past 5 years. Up to now I've considered myself to be a good student. Last month I went to Britain to visit my relatives over there and it was awful. People found my pronunciation difficult to follow and I couldn't understand them either. What went wrong? My English teacher is very good and I always score the highest in grammar tests.

Fazlinda

C

I'm writing to ask your opinion on a matter which is really annoying me. My English teacher never corrects my mistakes when I am speaking. Isn't that her job? How am I going to improve otherwise? Also she's always telling me that now I'm an advanced student, I should forget all the rules of grammar that I learnt when I was younger.

Gunther

D

Can you help me? I really want to speak English the right way, with the correct accent. Do you have any good ideas? I have a particular problem with sounds like 's'. I plan to work in the UK in the future and nobody will take me seriously if my English pronunciation is anything short of excellent.

Jose

E

I am working as an au pair in London looking after 2 small children. I love my job but the way that English people speak is a little puzzling. For example, I often hear them say things like 'more friendlier', whereas I thought it should be 'more friendly'. It also seems to be common for them to say 'we was' instead of 'we were'. Can you explain this? Would it be impolite of me to correct them?

Lana

F

I am an intermediate student of English (I have been studying it for 3 years). I'm quite good at reading and writing but listening is very difficult for me. My teacher suggested that I listen to the BBC World Service every day in order to improve my listening. The problem is that it's hard for me to understand every word. Do you have any ideas about how to make listening to the radio less difficult? I like listening to the news and knowing what's going on in the world.

Yuki

G

I have studied English for 5 years at school but for the past 6 months I have been doing self-study using the Internet and books to improve. There are lots of materials to choose but I'm not sure what is best for me and how I should use them. I really would like to take the FCE examination but don't know how to study on my own. Should I take a course in my local school - which is a little expensive for me now - or is it possible to prepare for the exam doing self-study?

Paula

H

Could you please give me some advice on a problem I have at the moment with my English studies. I decided to go to the UK to improve my English but the college I am studying in at present is full of people from my own country. Although the teachers tell us we should only try to speak in English with each other, it is very difficult to do this, especially in our free time when we go out together. I am worried that my speaking will not improve.

Maria

Task 3. Read the following text and choose A, B or C

It had been a long, hard, wonderful day. The two of us had walked from the sea's edge through the length of a beautiful valley, climbed a superb mountain, traversed its narrow, rocky ridge, and now stood on its final peak, tired, happy and looking for the perfect camp site.

The experienced backpacker has a natural feeling for such things, and our eyes were drawn to a small blue circle on the map, like an eye winking at us. We could not see it from where we were, but we followed our judgement and descended steeply until it came into view. We were right. It was a calm pool, with flat grass beside it. Gently taking our packs off, we made the first of many cups of tea before pulling up our tent. Later that evening, over another cup of tea and after a good meal, we sat outside the tent watching the sun set over a glittering sea dotted with islands, towards one of which a ferry was slowly moving. It is not always so perfect, of course. On another trip, with a different companion, a thoroughly wet day had ended at a lonely farm. Depressed at the thought of camping, we had knocked and asked if we could use a barn as a shelter.

The speed at which the backpacker travels makes this the perfect way to see any country. You experience the landscape as a slow unfolding scene, almost in the way it was made; and you find time to stop and talk to people you meet. I've learned much local history from simply chatting to people met while walking through an area. At the end of a trip, whether three days or three weeks, there's a good feeling of achievement, of having got somewhere under your own power.

After years of going out walking just for the day, many people start backpacking simply through wanting to stay out rather than cut short a trip. There is one important rule the good backpacker should follow: respect the land and its people - as the Americans say, 'take only

photographs (one might add memories), leave only footprints'. With good equipment, you can survive just about anything the weather can throw at you - and modern equipment is very good indeed. Of course, you need to know how to use it - go to a specialist outdoor shop for good advice. In particular, you need to be confident in map reading.

As with any other sport, start gently and locally, improve your skills and gradually widen your horizons. Britain is only crowded in patches and there is still plenty of space for the backpacker wanting to be alone.

16. The writer and his companion knew there was a pool because
- they had seen it earlier in the day.
 - they had been told about it.
 - they could see it on the map.
17. How did they feel at the end of the day?
- They wished they could have found a farm.
 - They were delighted with the spot they'd found.
 - They were anxious about the weather to come.
18. According to the writer, the main advantage of backpacking is that you can
- find out how the landscape was made.
 - gain an understanding of the area you walk through.
 - make new friends while walking.
19. What advice does the writer give about backpacking?
- You should take lots of photographs to remind you of your trip.
 - You should avoid spending too much on equipment.
 - You should first walk in an area you are familiar with.
20. What difference between backpacking and walking does the writer mention?

- a. Backpackers travel in pairs or groups.
- b. Backpackers never sleep indoors.
- c. Backpackers' walks last longer than a day.

USE of ENGLISH (30 minutes)

Task 1. Choose the odd word out

1. The Orkneys, the Grampians, the Hebrides, the Shetlands
2. The Trent, the Clyde, the Pennines, the Severn
3. Bath, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham

Task 2. The sentences below all contain a word or expression in italics which is related to the idea of two or more things joining together, sometimes with the result that they become part of something bigger. However, the words and expressions have all been put into the wrong sentence. Put them into their correct sentence. In some cases, more than one answer is possible.

4. His salary is *merged* to the cost of living, and increases on an annual basis.
5. The International Book Association *blended* with Universal Press in 1999 to form the International Press.

6. To get a better finish, he *swallowed up* the two paints together.
7. The firm *integrated* with its main competitor in the battle to win more customers.
8. The suggestions from all the committees *were took over* into the main proposal.
9. The immigrants faced hostility when they were first *incorporated* into the community.
10. A lot of students had problems before they *amalgamated* into college life.
11. When the large international college *got together* the smaller school, a lot of people lost their jobs.
12. The students *linked* one evening and decided to protest about their situation.
13. A large international company *assimilated* our firm last month and started making immediate changes.

Task 3. Read the three sentences in each question and think of one word which will fill the gap - you use the same word for each of the three sentences, but its meaning will be different in each case. In some cases the word will change its grammatical type as well, for example it might be a verb in one sentence, but a noun in another. When you think you've found the answer, read

each sentence through again and make sure that it makes sense! Check your spelling too.

14. Don't _____ calling, just send me a text to confirm the details.

That car alarm is really starting to _____ me. Why doesn't someone _____ turn _____ it _____ off?
Sorry to _____ you. Would you mind closing the window?

15. Simone has been rushed to hospital. She has gone into _____. I can't wait to see the baby!
Many international firms have set up factories in Bulgaria, attracted by cheaper _____ costs.

If you work for yourself, you really enjoy the fruits of your _____ when you are successful.

16. A lot of small investors got their _____ burnt when the stock _____ market _____ crashed.
Joe's girlfriend really wears the trousers. Each time she snaps her _____, he comes running.
I'll keep my _____ crossed. Hopefully everything will turn out okay.

17. New laws are needed in the education sector to really bring _____ change.

Watch out! That bull is _____ to charge!
The demonstrators estimated that _____ two thousand people came to the rally.

18. Shopping can be a good way to _____ time at the airport.
Come on outside! A drop of rain won't _____ you!

Sensing the antelope's weakness, the lions moved in for the _____.

19. Nelson Mandela is a popular figure on the international _____.

At this _____, there is very little the doctors can do to help _____ you.
When the actress forgot her lines, she broke down and ran off _____.

20. The British Government has bought a minority _____ in several _____ banks _____ recently.
If we don't get there soon it may be too late. People's lives are at _____.

In medieval times, several women, believed to be witches, were burnt at the _____.

WRITING Time: 30 minutes

Express your opinion on the following problem:

Learning about the past has no value for those of us living in the present.

Write 150 -200 words.

Remember to

- make an introduction,
- express your personal opinion on the problem and give reasons for your opinion,

