

LISTENING

Time: 10 minutes

You will hear a guide giving a tour of Shakespeare's birthplace. You will hear the text twice.

For questions 1-5, complete the sentences below. Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR NUMBER** for each answer.

Shakespeare's birthplace

1. The house walls are made of wood and _____, and the house has two floors.
2. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway in _____.
3. Many famous people have visited Shakespeare's Birthplace and left their _____.
4. In the _____ century, a hall meant a room.
5. Shakespeare's father, John, was a _____.

For questions 6-8, choose **THREE** letters, A-G.

Which **THREE** items inside and outside the house does the guide pay special attention to?

6. _____ A Shakespeare's plays
7. _____ B the windows
8. _____ C the staircase
- D Henley Street
- E the Great Hall
- F wood
- G the garden

For questions 9 and 10 Choose **TWO** letters, A-E.

Which **TWO** facts prove that the house played an extremely important role in Shakespeare's life?

9. _____ A he made gloves at the back of the house
10. _____ B he was born and lived there till his death
- C much of Shakespeare's life took place there
- D his three children were born there
- E many famous people visited the house

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET!

READING

Time: 30 minutes

Task 1

You are going to read an article about an unusual berry which can even have a medical effect. Eight sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-I the one which fits each gap (11-17). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Tongue Trickster

Never mind the tongue twister - here's the tongue trickster. Frank Parsons reports on the craze for a strange type of fruit. (0) H It's enough to turn your stomach.(11) _____

I watch as one-by-one they down the drink, tentative at first, and then smiling broadly as they declare, "It tastes just like grandma's lemonade."

Fifty or so people crowd around a table on the rooftop terrace of Larry's small but swish apartment. I edge my way forward and arrive at the table that positively groans with the array of food piled high. (12)_____ My host appears at my shoulder, and says, "Here, have this." This turns out to be a small red berry about the size of a blueberry, but slightly elongated, the shape of a coffee bean.

He looks at the expression on my face. "It's known as the miracle fruit. Just put it in your mouth," he instructs, "and chew it slightly to separate the pulp from its seed." (13)_____ I obey his command and then discreetly spit the remains into my handkerchief while his glance is averted.

"Done?" he asks, turning back to me. I nod. He grabs a glass of the lemon juice from a passing waiter and offers it to me. "Now drink." I take a small sip, and close my eyes. The guests are right. (14)_____

My host states knowingly I have experienced first-hand the phenomenon of the *Synsepalum Dulcificum*, or the Miracle Fruit. This small berry has the amazing effect of causing bitter or sour foods to taste as sweet as sugar candy. (15)_____

When it comes into contact with acidic foods, like vinegar, it starts to behave like a sweetener.

A native fruit of West Africa, the fruit was discovered by western explorers around 1725. (16)_____

Left uncultivated, the miracle fruit grows in bushes reaching six metres in height. (17)_____

Despite being around for centuries it is only in recent years that the miracle fruit has been cultivated as a potential sweetener. There has been some albeit limited interest from the diet food industry. Not only that - the fruit can aid patients receiving medical treatment that may leave an unpleasant taste in the mouth.

Sentences

- A. These range from wedges of fruit, strong cheeses and pickles to plates of Brussel sprouts.
- B. It's like I've been transported back to childhood, sitting on the porch with Grandma and her delicious homemade pop.
- C. According to scientists the result happens because of a protein called miraculin.
- D. Then push it around your mouth like you'd do with a piece of gum for about sixty seconds.
- E. Yet that is what the guests of host, Larry Walters, are given on their arrival at one of his tasting parties in an upmarket district of New York.
- F. Not everyone is a fan of the berry's strange effect, however.
- G. They first noticed its distinctive property when they saw local people chewing the berry before a meal.
- H. Imagine drinking a glass of pure, freshly-squeezed lemon juice with nothing added.
- I. It produces crops twice yearly, usually after the rainy season, and has attractive white flowers.

Task 2

You are going to read a magazine article about an international exchange experience. For questions 18-25, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

A lot Can Happen in a Year Abroad

Like many students before her, studying abroad had a profound effect on Sarah Morrison.

As I sat staring out at California's spectacular Big Sur coastline, I felt fortunate to have a sister who had persuaded me to spend a year of my degree abroad. It seems that there are not enough older siblings explaining just how easy it is to take part in an international exchange.

While most universities offer worldwide exchanges, where students swap places with others from all over the world for a semester or a year during their degree, the number and quality on offer, together with the cost and time spent abroad, vary dramatically.

A deciding factor for me in choosing to study at the University of Edinburgh was the fact it offered more than 230 exchange places at overseas universities in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and South America.

Despite all this choice, I still found that deciding to spend a year abroad was something of a novelty, with most of my friends giving more thought to embracing Edinburgh than packing their bags to leave a city that had only just become their home. Yet, fortified by my sister's advice and a Californian friend who told me I would love the coast, I applied to spend my third year at the University of California, Berkeley – never guessing that this would affect almost every future decision I would make.

From the start of your exchange, you are aware that the time you have in your new country is limited and not to be wasted. Your experience is shaped by a predetermined start and end, which immediately increases the significance of the time in between.

From the first week I arrived, I started to work at The Daily Californian, Berkeley's student newspaper. I moved from an international house with more than 600 students from all over the world into a co-operative house where 60 of us shared responsibility for management of the building. I met people from Calcutta, Cairo and Chile, and learnt that holding on to any stereotypes I might have about Americans would be about as useful as assuming that all European people lived on farms.

The grades I earned at Berkeley didn't actually count towards my degree classification at Edinburgh. However, I studied under a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, signed up for student-led seminars and took an African American literature class that shaped my dissertation in Edinburgh. Whether I was learning about contemporary poets on a tour of San Francisco or reporting on the President's speech in San Francisco for the next day's newspaper, my stay there enabled me to return to Edinburgh with an increased sense of awareness about what I wanted to gain from my English literature degree.

While the expense might seem like an initial barrier to international exchanges, in reality they can actually save a student money. Visas, health insurance and flights to the chosen country will have to be bought, but a student will usually only be charged 25 to 50 per cent of their home university's annual fees. A student travelling abroad is entitled to a larger student loan, and grants are available at many institutions for students going on an exchange.

Taking part in an exchange may not appeal to all students. You have to research the options independently, apply almost a year before you go away and be aware of the grades required in the first year to qualify for a place on one. Even so, Edinburgh's international exchange officer, Helen Leitch, says: 'If I had a pound for every time that students told me it was the best experience of their life, I would be a very wealthy woman indeed.'

18 One reason Sarah became a student at Edinburgh University was that

- A** she could first study abroad and then move to Edinburgh.
- B** her sister had previously studied at Edinburgh.
- C** she could do part of her studies at a suitable university abroad.
- D** most of the students at Edinburgh spend a year at an overseas university.

19 What did Sarah's friends think about spending a year abroad?

- A** Some of them wanted to study abroad.
- B** All of them stayed in Edinburgh.
- C** Most of them went abroad.
- D** Few of them applied for a foreign university.

20 How did Sarah feel when she went to Berkeley?

- A** She was pleased to find the people were exactly as she had expected.
- B** She knew she wanted to make the most of her stay there.
- C** She wanted to get a job rather than begin studying immediately.
- D** She began to wish her stay there could be a little shorter.

21 What experience did Sarah get from communicating to foreign students?

- A** She agreed with common stereotypes.
- B** She learnt that Europeans lived on farms.
- C** It was not right to hold on to stereotypes.
- D** Many people from Calcutta, Cairo and Chile lived in America.

22 What does Sarah feel she achieved at Berkeley?

- A** She formed a clearer idea of what her long-term aims were.
- B** She took the first steps towards becoming a teacher.
- C** She developed her poetry-writing skills significantly.
- D** She ensured that she would graduate with a first-class degree.

23 What does Sarah say about the cost of an international university exchange?

- A** As a student you can get reduced rates for health insurance.
- B** Your fees may be cut by half for every year of your course.
- C** It can be cheaper overall than studying in your own country.
- D** Taking cheap flights abroad can save you a lot of money.

24 What does 'one' refer to in the last paragraph (underlined)?

- A** an international exchange as part of a university course

- B a research degree at a university in another country
- C a university course that is paid for by the government
- D the first year of a university course in your own country

25 What does Helen Leitch suggest in the final paragraph?

- A Students who do international exchanges often go on to become extremely rich.
- B Most students who've done an international exchange believe it was highly worthwhile.
- C Only students from rich families can afford to do an international exchange.
- D She should be paid a far higher salary for organising international exchanges.

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET

USE OF ENGLISH

Time: 20 minutes

For questions 26 – 35 fill the gaps with *one* word. There is an example (0).

The Breath of Life

Anyone who has (0) *ever* been to a yoga or meditation class will know the enormous benefits of something as simple and natural as breathing. Inhale slowly and steadily, and you can relax your entire body. Stop and focus (26) ___ the flow of (27) ___ breath you (28) ___ in and out, and you can quieten and focus your mind. In (29) ___, positive breathing will help you feel calmer, bring down your blood pressure and increase your mental alertness and energy levels.

(30) ___, breathing is so instinctive that most of the time we're hardly even (31) ___ of it. Of course, that's (32) ___ why it's easy to develop bad habits and why many of us don't do it as well as we (33) _____. But with a little practice, (34) ___ it right can bring instant health benefits. These (35) ___ feeling more relaxed and being more mentally alert. You may also find that there's an improvement in some physical symptoms.

For questions 36-45, match the items from columns A and B to make idioms and then use them, in their correct form, to complete the sentences below. There is an example (0).

A	B
to blacken	red-handed
to be in someone's	with envy
blue	of the family
to give the green	fingers
the black sheep	one's name
a white	elephant
to see	blood
to be green	black book
red	light
to have green	herrings
to catch someone	red

0. They seem to be trying *to blacken his name*. I wonder what they've got against him?
36. The car we bought last year is _____. It uses a lot of petrol and breaks down again and again.
37. I think there's _____ in her family. Her great-grandmother was a Russian princess.
38. He was _____ stealing money from the cash register.
39. We are _____ because we didn't invite him to our party.
40. He's no friend of mine — it makes me _____ every time I hear his name.
41. She'll _____ when I tell her that I've bought myself a new car.
42. He has always _____, so it is not surprising that they have a beautiful garden.
43. My brother is a lawyer and my sister is a doctor. They say I'm _____ because I decided to be an actor.
44. If the city authorities _____ to the new conservation project, it will begin next year.
45. He is always introducing _____ into the discussion which distract everybody from the main argument.

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