

**Задания заключительного этапа Олимпиады школьников  
Санкт-Петербургского государственного университета  
2023/2024 учебного года по иностранному языку**

**Английский язык  
7-8 класс**

*Variant 1*

***I. You have received a letter from your English-speaking pen friend Zoe. This is what she wrote:***

... I'm so fascinated that smartphones are now actively making their way into classrooms. I strongly believe that there are ways to use them responsibly to teach and educate the young minds. There are many educators, however, who view smartphones with suspicion and caution. Do you face similar problems in your school? How do you solve it and what can I as a student do to demonstrate the nearly unlimited value smartphones hold as teaching tools? On second thoughts, maybe I should just take things easy?

***Using 60–80 words, write a letter to Zoe, answer Zoe's questions, and ask her 3 questions of your own. Follow the rules of letter writing.***

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***II. Explain the meaning of the following proverb using 60–80 words:***

Do not cry over spilled milk.

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***III. Read the Russian article below. Summarise the article in English and express your opinion about the story using 40–60 words. DO NOT translate the original article!***

**Изменения в языке**

Интересно и не всегда объяснимо, с точки зрения лингвистов, то, что язык постоянно изменяется. Самый частый тип изменений связан с тем, что слова в языке перестают иметь свое прежнее значение, после чего они либо употребляются в новом значении, либо исчезают из языка вовсе.

Бывает так, что новое слово берется из другого языка. Такие слова называют заимствованиями. Заимствований много во всех языках: языки, живущие по соседству друг с другом, легко обмениваются своими словами. Так, в английском языке много заимствований из старофранцузского (из-за завоевания Англии норманнами в XI веке).

Некоторые слова, однако, живут дольше, чем другие. В каждом языке есть своя группа «слов-долгожителей» (такие слова, как *отец, мать, вода, сердце, два* и т.д.). Такие слова очень важны для лингвистов, поскольку они позволяют установить, являются ли языки родственными.

Еще один тип изменений связан с изменением звучания слов. Активные изменения в произношении слов часто совпадают с бурными периодами в истории народа, говорящего на этом языке (завоевания, переселения и т.п.).

Последний тип изменений связан с изменениями в грамматике. Так, например, в древнерусском языке у существительных было двойственное число, которое употреблялось, когда речь шла только о двух предметах. В современном русском языке двойственного числа нет.

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**IV. Comment on the story in pictures using 60–80 words:**



**V. Choose the correct response by marking letter (a) or (b):**

1. A: I'm having a busy time at work, and on top of everything, I've got my cousin staying with me.  
B: (a) I see. Well, don't overdo things.  
(b) Don't mention it.
2. A: Please give my regards to Professor van Dijk.  
B: (a) Ok. Where are they?  
(b) Thank you. I will.
3. A: I don't suppose you could lend me \$20 until next week, could you?  
B: (a) I'm sorry, but I'm rather short of money at the moment.  
(b) I'm sorry, I didn't know.
4. A: I'm sorry I'm late. I spent ages in a traffic jam.  
B: (a) Oh, did you? What time?  
(b) That's all right. We haven't started yet.
5. A: I think the film recreates the atmosphere of the novel very successfully.  
B: (a) Yes, I must say they have done a brilliant job.  
(b) Yes, I'll go along with whatever you decide.

**VI. Choose the correct option:**

1. Until the middle of the 18th century, coal \_\_\_\_\_ to power tools and machines.  
a) uses  
b) was used  
c) used  
d) has been used
2. If we \_\_\_\_\_ paying attention to race inequality, will it just go away?  
a) stop  
b) will stop  
c) stopped  
d) were stopped
3. I need some ideas to motivate myself to work \_\_\_\_\_ during the day.  
a) more hard  
b) harder  
c) more hardly  
d) hardly
4. \_\_\_\_\_ of residents had to leave their houses due to the flood.  
a) A great deal  
b) Several  
c) A large number  
d) Thousand

5. I wonder if we \_\_\_\_\_ in touch after we move.
- stay
  - would stay
  - will stay
  - stayed
6. I regret \_\_\_\_\_ about my experience at my job interview yesterday.
- lying
  - lieing
  - to lie
  - to lye
7. He sounds \_\_\_\_\_ he is really shocked by what you said.
- as thought
  - as though
  - as through
  - as tough
8. It \_\_\_\_\_ all day, there is snow everywhere and no way to get about.
- has been snow
  - had snowed
  - has been snowing
  - had been snowing
9. When we stayed at my friends' country house, we \_\_\_\_\_ wake up very early every day.
- used
  - would
  - should
  - had
10. She \_\_\_\_\_ him, but she had too much work to do, so she chose not to.
- was unable to help
  - could help
  - could have helped
  - had been able to help

**VII. Form plurals of the nouns.**

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Photo _____         | 1.  |
| 2. City _____          | 2.  |
| 3. Thief _____         | 3.  |
| 4. Salmon _____        | 4.  |
| 5. Father-in-law _____ | 5.  |
| 6. Analysis _____      | 6.  |
| 7. Standby _____       | 7.  |
| 8. Judge _____         | 8.  |
| 9. Criterion _____     | 9.  |
| 10. Chief _____        | 10. |
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**VIII. Fill in the gaps with the correct homophone.**

1. The Chairwoman delivered her opening speech in a high-pitched nasal \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) whine  
 b) wine
2. Trim the celery and \_\_\_\_\_ and wash well before chopping.  
 a) leaks  
 b) leeks
3. Legend has it that the vampire was killed with a \_\_\_\_\_ through the heart.  
 a) steak  
 b) stake
4. The webcam captured a small black \_\_\_\_\_ object on the horizon.  
 a) stationary  
 b) stationery
5. Sunlight slants through the \_\_\_\_\_ and the hillside is fresh and green with wild heather.  
 a) beeches  
 b) beaches
6. He was told he could sing but he would be a clanging \_\_\_\_\_. Not much of a compliment, I'm afraid.  
 a) symbol  
 b) cymbal
7. I think Brown is the real deal: he is a zealous Republican, a \_\_\_\_\_ *politician, a man* with a plan.  
 a) chased  
 b) chaste
8. Rebecca arrived right on \_\_\_\_\_ as we were discussing her recent paper.  
 a) queue  
 b) cue
9. Every muscle of my body is aching; I think I've come down with the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) flu  
 b) flue
10. The two went over to the mountain hut by the short cut across the crook and up the \_\_\_\_\_ hill grove.  
 a) firry  
 b) furry.

IX. Below you will find a list of major tourist attractions in the UK and the US. Match them with their locations.

	Tourist attraction	Location
1.	The Shard	_____
2.	Bryce Canyon National Park	_____
3.	Central Park	_____
4.	Caernarfon Castle	_____
5.	The Betsy Ross House	_____

6.	Beacon Hill	_____
7.	Leeds Castle	_____
8.	Arthur's Seat	_____
9.	Blenheim Palace	_____
10.	The Golden Gate Park	_____

**Locations:** *Edinburgh; Kent; London; Oxfordshire; Wales; Boston, MA; New York City, NY; Philadelphia, PA; San Francisco, CA; Utah.*

X. Below is the list of some English idioms. Match them with the situations given both lexically and grammatically.

- The expression “\_\_\_\_\_” indicates something impossible that can never happen.
- The partnership between the two firms is more of “\_\_\_\_\_” than actual financial dealings.
- After hours of struggling with the complex math problem, Lucy decided to \_\_\_\_\_.
- The show is excellent, but the tickets \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sophie, please don't tell me fairy tales, I just want to know the real matter \_\_\_\_\_.
- He has never worked hard for anything because he was \_\_\_\_\_. His parents brought everything to him instead.
- “\_\_\_\_\_!” shouted the stage director to the actors before the beginning of the play.
- She may want to argue, but \_\_\_\_\_ and I won't stoop to her level.
- We'd better start doing this early rather than wait now and then race \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the deadline.
- While my grandmother loved all of us very much, my younger brother was the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Idioms:** against the clock; born with a silver spoon in one's mouth; cost an arm and a leg; it takes two to tango; if you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours; in a nutshell; break a leg; apple of one's eye; throw in the towel; when pigs fly.

## Variant 2

**I. You have received a letter from your English-speaking pen friend Zoe. This is what she wrote:**

*...Yesterday at school I witnessed my classmate being bullied by two senior boys. I was horrified and appalled at the scene. I strongly believe bullying should be eradicated, with bullies charged under criminal law. What can I do as a teenager to raise awareness about this problem? Have you ever come across a similar issue at your school? On second thoughts, maybe I should just take things easy and stop worrying about all this?*

**Using 60–80 words, write a letter to Zoe, answer Zoe’s questions, and ask her 3 questions of your own. Follow the rules of letter writing.**

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**II. Explain the meaning of the following proverb using 60–80 words:**

A picture is worth a thousand words.

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**III. Read the Russian article below. Summarise the article in English and express your opinion about the story using 40–60 words. DO NOT translate the original article!**

### Прошлое и будущее лингвистики

По сравнению с астрономией или физикой, лингвистика – очень молодая наука. Современная теоретическая лингвистика начинается с Фердинанда де Соссюра, то есть с XX века. Как считают ученые, из наук XXI века лингвистика, безусловно, должна быть не последней, потому что язык – это очень важное звено в понимании человека, ключ к человеческой психике, к культуре и ко многому другому. Проникновение в природу языка может дать человечеству очень много.

Лингвистика как наука очень перспективна, но может оказаться так, что у этой науки исчезнет объект изучения. Это связано с глобализацией, с теми изменениями, которые идут последние 300–400 лет: мир становится меньше, контакты между людьми интенсивнее, и это ведет к сокращению числа языков.

Основной проблемой является проблема выживания языков малых народов. Крупные языки непрерывно «проглатывают» мелкие – люди перестают говорить на своем родном языке ради безопасности, благополучия, успеха, продвижения по социальной лестнице. Для лингвистики это катастрофа, ведь каждый язык уникален и неповторим, и если мы любой из них потеряем, пусть самый маленький и незначительный, то наша теория языка станет непоправимо беднее.

**IV. Comment on the story in pictures using 60–80 words:**



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**V. Choose the correct response by marking letter (a) or (b):**

1. A: Is that the time? I must be off now.  
B: (a) Stay and have a cup of coffee first.  
(b) You should be ashamed of yourself!
2. A: I hear you won the first prize in the table tennis competition – congratulations!

- B: (a) Same to you!  
(b) Thanks! I never expected to win.
3. A: I am terribly sorry, but I'm afraid I've broken one of your coffee cups.  
B: (a) Never mind. I never did like those cups anyway.  
(b) No problem. Better luck next time!
4. A: In my opinion we have spent long enough discussing this matter. I propose that a vote be taken.  
B: (a) Well, what do you suggest then?  
(b) I object. We need more information to make a decision.}
5. A: This novel is very difficult to understand. I have spent hours trying to get through the first chapter!  
B: (a) I think that would be a mistake.  
(b) You should try something easier first.}

**VI. Choose the correct option:**

1. The grey whale is an animal we \_\_\_\_\_ on television shows recorded off the Pacific coast of Mexico.  
a) are used to see  
b) use to seeing  
c) use to see  
d) are used to seeing
2. If you go the market tomorrow, remember \_\_\_\_\_ your purse-belt with you to keep your money safe from pickpockets.  
a) to take  
b) taking  
c) your taking  
d) to be taking
3. This castle was mostly rebuilt in the 15th century and was restored after being in the Second World War.  
a) damaged hardly  
b) damaged bad  
c) enough damaged  
d) badly damaged
4. Napoleon's plans to invade Britain failed \_\_\_\_\_ the inferiority of his navy.  
a) so as  
b) due to  
c) so that  
d) unless
5. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ to my grandmother yesterday.  
a) had not lied  
b) had not lyed  
c) wouldn't have lyed  
d) did not lie

6. Always remember \_\_\_\_\_ the oven when you go out of the kitchen.  
a) switch off  
b) to have switched  
c) to switch off  
d) switching off
7. It rained heavily all day, \_\_\_\_\_ we did not take the dog out for a walk.  
a) so that  
b) consequently  
c) hardly  
d) in particular
8. \_\_\_\_\_ did he know that there was a hidden camera in the room and their conversation was being recorded.  
a) Little  
b) As  
c) A little  
d) What
9. He was the first man \_\_\_\_\_ a river on this island.  
a) to discover  
b) to have discovered  
c) has discovered  
d) discovering
10. The defendant denied \_\_\_\_\_ the jewellery box from the bedside table.  
a) to have been taken  
b) to take  
c) having taken  
d) have taken

**VII. Form plurals of the nouns.**

1. Piano \_\_\_\_\_
2. Cloth \_\_\_\_\_
3. Wolf \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sheep \_\_\_\_\_
5. Runner-up \_\_\_\_\_
6. Alumnus \_\_\_\_\_
7. Goose \_\_\_\_\_
8. City \_\_\_\_\_
9. Ox \_\_\_\_\_
10. Grown-up \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. Fill in the gaps with the correct homophone.**

1. A yellow field of \_\_\_\_\_ stretched to the distance; it was so vast you could almost get lost in it.  
a) maize  
b) maze

2. \_\_\_\_\_ marketing is a type of advertising strategy that uses low-cost marketing techniques to generate maximum exposure for a certain product.
- a) gorilla  
b) guerrilla
3. It may sound strange, but stress can really make an animal or human more prone to \_\_\_\_\_ attacks.
- a) flea  
b) flee
4. The news has been filled with \_\_\_\_\_ of loss and horror resulting from yesterday's tsunami.
- a) tails  
b) tales
5. The newly decorated rooms are \_\_\_\_\_ and airy with whitewashed walls covered with a few stunning paintings.
- a) chic  
b) sheikh
6. The World Championship will certainly test the athlete's \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) mettle  
b) metal
7. Children, I believe, are human beings to whom respect is \_\_\_\_\_; they are superior to adults by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.
- a) dew  
b) due
8. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ reason for your change of mind? -- I can't explain it, I just feel that's the right thing to do.
- a) principal  
b) principle
9. The cathedral sits amid picturesque remains of outbuildings in a spacious \_\_\_\_\_ courtyard.
- a) stared  
b) staired
10. Her son was now almost delirious, his heartbeat grew ragged, for his blood \_\_\_\_\_ with the virus.
- a) teamed  
b) teemed.

IX. Below you will find a list of major tourist attractions in the UK and the US. Match them with their locations.

	Tourist attraction	Location
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1.	The Washington Monument	_____
2.	Brooklyn Bridge	_____
3.	Arches National Park	_____
4.	Sherwood Forest	_____
5.	Nelson's Column	_____
6.	The Palace of Holyroodhouse	_____
7.	Independence Hall	_____
8.	St Michael's Mount	_____
9.	Mount Denali	_____
10.	Tintern Abbey	_____

**Locations:** Cornwall; Edinburgh; London; Nottinghamshire; Wales; Alaska; Philadelphia, PA; New York City, NY; Utah; Washington, D.C.

**X. Below is the list of some English idioms. Match them with the situations given both lexically and grammatically.**

- When my kids play, it turns into a \_\_\_\_\_ in no time.
- My grandfather was a \_\_\_\_\_. He had never attended college, but he was a musician, gardener, piano player, and spoke several languages.
- High costs were the only \_\_\_\_\_ for the otherwise promising new technology.
- Singapore is a \_\_\_\_\_ of traditions and cultures, from its multicultural people to its high-spirited nightlife.
- The supermodel has stayed \_\_\_\_\_ for over two decades.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ in finances taught my kids good lessons in budgeting, saving, and spending wisely.
- My son has a \_\_\_\_\_; he always asks for candies after dinner.
- It's no use \_\_\_\_\_; it was a bad investment, the money has been lost, and there's nothing we can do.
- I'm afraid that this new physics equation will always be a \_\_\_\_\_ to me.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ lame excuses to hide the fact that the work is not done.

**Idioms:** closed book; in the limelight; barrel of monkeys; melting pot; come up with; sweet tooth; crash course; fly in the ointment; cry over spilt milk; jack of all trades.