

Part 1. Reading Comprehension

Task 1. Read the following newspaper article. Ten sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A-K) the one which fits each gap (1-10). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

I didn't want to go to the school reunion. Well, why would I? **1.** _____ I was glad to see the back of Manor Road High School, and my life started to improve from that day onwards.

2. _____ It was just me. I didn't really fit in; I was too quiet. All that enforced social hot-housing: there's no other time in your life when you have to spend every day in a room with about thirty people of exactly the same age! No wonder it breaks down into various types of tribal warfare.

My friends at school were always the other quiet, uncommunicative girls like myself. In fact, we were so quiet and uncommunicative that after we left school we lost touch with each other.

3. _____ We've settled down here together, and I never look back to my days at Manor Road – or at least, I didn't, until I got a message from Angel Dowling.

Angel Darling, the boys liked to call her – but they weren't teasing her, they were mostly just desperate to go out with her. She was the most popular girl in our class – tall, slim, beautiful – she even managed to look good in school uniform. **4.** _____

The message on Facebook was completely out of the blue.

Hi, Nicola! it began, as if we were the best of friends and had been meeting up for a chat every week during the twenty years since we left school. *Are you coming to the Manor Road Reunion on Friday twentieth? Really hope to see you there. Love, Angel.*

Love, Angel? She hardly even spoke to me at school! **5.** _____

"Perhaps she's got a list of everyone in your class," Steve suggested, "and sent them all the same message."

"Why would anyone want to do that?"

He laughed. "Some people liked their schooldays, Nic. Some people actually want to go to these reunions and meet up with everyone."

Fair enough. Angel certainly did enjoy her schooldays. **6.** _____

"Have you replied?" Steve said.

"Not yet. I'm definitely not interested in going to the reunion, but I can't help wondering who else might go."

7. _____ After all, social networking sites are for sociable people who like networking, not for people like me who preferred to keep themselves to themselves. **8.** _____ We tended to communicate by talking to each other in the flesh rather than sending internet messages. I hadn't bothered to keep in touch with anyone from the past. **9.** _____ I started wondering about them, for the first time in ages. Cheryl, for instance – she used to be my best friend and sat next to me for most lessons. It'd be nice to know what she was up to now. And then there was Lyn, who lived in my road and used to walk to school with me. **10.** _____ It was surprisingly easy to track them down. They both had fairly unusual surnames and neither of them seemed to have got married. I sent them both the same message ...

- A I'd have enjoyed them myself if I'd been her.
- B It wasn't the fault of the school, or the teachers, or even the other pupils.
- C I wondered what had happened to her, too.
- D In my defence, I'd had years of being in the shadow of people like Angel Dowling; I just wanted her to be impressed with my apparent popularity now.

- E** I was never one of those people who raved about their schooldays being the happiest days of their lives.
- F** I couldn't imagine why on earth she'd gone to the trouble of tracking me down on Facebook.
- G** I didn't normally spend a lot of time on Facebook.
- H** I had no idea what she'd done after leaving school, but it was bound to have been something glamorous.
- I** But Angel's message had stirred my curiosity about my old friends from school.
- J** I got a job in another town, where I eventually met Steve.
- K** Don't get me wrong: I did have my own little circle of friends now, from work.

Part 2. Use of English

Task 2.

a) Complete the text with the grammatically correct form of the verbs given in the box.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| catch take feel be return allow look for move talk live shake not know |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

One evening when Ellen Goodrich **1)** just from the office to her room in Chelsea, she heard a light knock on her door. She opened the door and found two small boys standing in the hallway. She supposed they **2)** ten or eleven. Their clothing was thin and they **3)** with cold.

“**4)** Florence Valle here?” one of them asked.

“I don't know anyone by that name,” Ellen said.

“We **5)** Florence Valle. She's his cousin,” the second boy said, pointing to his friend. “She used to live here.”

“I'm very sorry,” Ellen said, “but I **6)** her.”

“Maybe she **7)**,” he said. “We walked all the way over here.”

Ellen very seldom **8)** that she could afford pity and sympathy for other people, but the boys looked frightened and cold, and her desire to help them was stronger than her reserve. She suggested that they each **9)** a piece of candy home.

The boys told her their names and ages when she asked for them. While she **10)** with them, she realized that it was the first time in more than a year that she **11)** anyone other than the landlady to come into her room. Having the boys there pleased her and she kept asking them questions until she **12)** the tone of her own excited voice. Altogether the encounter left her feeling generous and happy.

b) Use the words given in the box to form a word that lexically and grammatically fits the blanks.

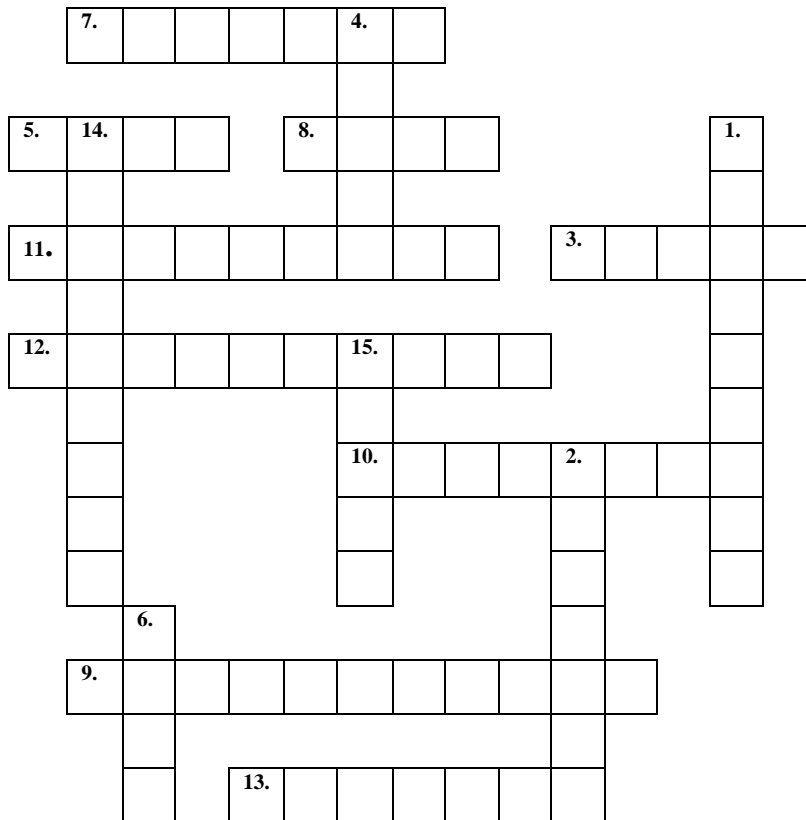
| |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| lonely sad event generosity mercy rest pride significant |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Ellen was not a **13)** person. It had always been difficult for her to find friends. During the ten years she had lived in New York she had suffered a great deal from **14)**, but this suffering was forgotten now because of the care with which she arranged her solitude. She could be **15)** with herself and others. Ellen was **16)** of the fact that she was no longer **17)** and lonely. Her mind kept returning to the boys. She saw their thin, solemn faces, and when she thought of them walking in the cold, she was filled with **18)** and pity. Her **19)** life led her to attach **20)** to the few irregular things that happened to her.

Task 3. Read the text. Some words are missing, guess them and write them down in the crossword puzzle.

If you are suspected of having **1.** a crime, you can be arrested and detained in police **2.** for up to 36 hours before a decision is made about whether or not to charge you. If you are charged with a **3.**, you are then asked whether you are going to plead guilty or not guilty. If you plead guilty, you're not normally needed in **4.** – unless you've committed a serious crime. If you plead not guilty, you'll usually be released on a **5.** – allowed to go **6.**, provided you leave a sum of money to guarantee you will appear in court. Most minor cases are heard in a Magistrates' Court, where the magistrate decides the **7.** However, serious cases are usually referred to a Crown Court, where trial is by **8.** which consists of twelve people and they hear the case for the **9.** and the case for the defence before reaching their verdict. If you are found **10.**, you're then released. However, if you're **11.** of the crime you were charged with, the judge then passes sentence. The judge may decide that there are **12.** circumstances and thus give a more lenient sentence. The maximum sentence is life – which usually means between 15 and 20 years. There's no death **13.** in the UK. It was **14.** in 1965.

Recently, there has been much debate about sweeping changes planned for the English legal system. The government wanted to introduce **15.** without jury for complicated fraud cases and three-month detention without charges being brought in certain cases related to terrorism. These plans were highly controversial.



Task 4. In each of the following extracts from a newspaper there is a misprint. Find this word, underline it and write it correctly.

e.g. Red settee puppies ready now. Good pedigree. (....setter....)

1. The 40-year-old man has dark hair with a prominent fridge.
(.....)
2. There are three free weekends to be won. You'll get free fights, hotel rooms and spending money. (.....)
3. Mr Davies walks with a limp and has a speed impediment. (.....)

4. George Keeping, 26, of Preston, has claimed all of Britain's 295 mountains.
(.....)
5. The elderly couple in the top flat found the stars too much for them, so they sold it.
(.....)
6. They have a full range of beers, wines and spirits and to complete the fayre, try one of their nasty bar snacks. (.....)
7. Watford police would like to trade two women who helped a driver after an accident.
(.....)
8. The police arrived on the scene after a reported break-in and found a man writing in pain.
(.....)
9. They say the land in conversation area and cannot be touched. (.....)
10. He was stopped by the police who gave him a breast test. (.....)

Task 5. Replace the words in bold type in the following sentences with a simple word. The first letter of the word is given.

*e.g. The shop was offering a £5 **reduction from the full price** to any customer who paid in cash.
(...discount...)*

1. After months of negotiations, the treaty has now been **formally accepted**.
(r.....)
2. After all the nuclear tests, the island was **not fit to live on**. (u.....)
3. We were all told of the decision **in advance**. (b.....)
4. The two roads **cross each other** here. (i.....)
5. All rooms must be **left empty** before 12 noon. (v.....)
6. Do you think the human race will be **completely destroyed** one day?
(a.....)
7. He has a great **natural ability** for mathematics. (a.....)
8. I think you should change this sentence. As it stands now, it is **capable of more than one interpretation**. (a.....)
9. Many people believe that a Third World War **is bound to happen**.
(i.....)
10. The three men were arrested for **being on private land without permission**.
(t.....)

Task 6. Write your own version of the story based on the picture. Describe events in an entertaining way. Begin your story in the following way:

'I'll never forget one September day when I was babysitting three children for the evening.'

You should writ

