

Language Elements

Read the following letter and decide which word or phrase a, b or c is missing in items 21–30.
Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

Dear Ms Smith,

As my student advisor, you know that I am currently on a one year exchange program in the United States. Everyone here **21** about something called "Prom", which I've heard is a dance where everyone dresses very formally and spends a lot of money. I hope that you **22** be able to answer my questions.

It seems that many people rent a limousine for the event and go out to eat at a fancy restaurant, **23** means that the clothes people wear are really important, too. I am not sure how dressed-up everyone needs to be. Should I plan **24** renting an evening gown?

I suppose people usually bring a date to this event as well. But who pays for what? Apart **25** my outfit, do I need to pay for other things, too? **26** florist shops are advertising special prices for corsages and boutonnieres, for example. Is everybody expected to wear a flower of **27** sort?

Since all of my friends are foreign exchange students too, **28** of us really know what it will be like, **29** for what we have seen on television.

I really hope that you can help me, because everyone here is **30** focused on fundraising, booking restaurants and limousines, deciding who to invite, etc. that I feel a little silly asking so many questions.

Kind regards,

Olga Havel

- 21 a** has talked
b is talking
c talks

- 22 a** should
b will
c would

- 23 a** that
b what
c which

- 24 a** for
b on
c to

- 25 a** for
b from
c to

- 26 a** Few
b Many
c Several of

- 27 a** one
b some
c the

- 28 a** nobody
b none
c no one

- 29 a** accept
b apart
c except

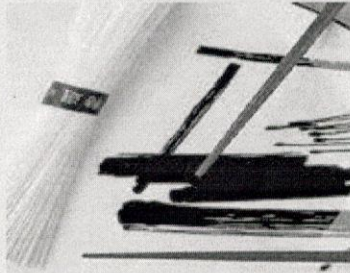
- 30 a** as
b so
c such

Reading Comprehension, Part 1

Read the following text, then choose the answers to questions 6–10.

Learning Chinese in America

Alan McCormick, 16, lives near Sacramento, California, and has been learning Chinese for two years. "The lessons are interesting because our teacher explains to us what the characters mean and how they become what they are. Sometimes we also watch Chinese movies. The hardest thing is to write characters and listen to other people speak Mandarin".



The problems are compounded by the lack of staff and of appropriate teaching material. Many schools employ a native Chinese national who may or may not be qualified, and they are not paid very well.

The Association of Chinese Teachers in America has organised workshops and seminars to exchange ideas and resources. But the training and

California has had close ties to China for many years. Since many immigrants came from China originally, the Chinese language has often been passed on by family members. What is interesting is that in the last few years, kids like Alan, who have no direct ties to China, are learning Mandarin a lot earlier and in greater numbers. Currently, more than 100 schools in California are offering Mandarin classes.

Spanish has always been the second most important language in many parts of the USA, although German and French are also old favorites. That Mandarin, a much more exotic language, is able to penetrate this standing is due largely to China's increased global presence. Officially, there are more than 80,000 nationals from the People's Republic of China in America, including 27,000 students. But many more ethnic Chinese from all over the world live here too. Not surprisingly, interest in all things Chinese has grown - food, art, fengshui, acupuncture, gongfu, sports. Bruce Lee and Jacky Chan have always held an audience, but now, so do Ang Lee and Zhang Yimou. Chinese film festivals, concerts, and even Chinese disco nights draw American audiences too.

But it is not easy teaching American kids Mandarin. Many lower secondary schools offer the language as an after school activity much as football or music club is offered. So students come from different classes and ages and tend not to meet one another daily. There is also little support at home, unlike Chinese or Chinese-American children who usually attend Chinese schools run by Chinese organisations, and which follow a mainland or Taiwanese curriculum. "We all found that after a little while, Chinese classes [for American kids] slowed down and language learners became demotivated by the increasing number of complicated characters. They needed for a very long time to learn simple questions and answers. Students could not express what they really wanted to express. And, after learning so much, they still could not read interesting stuff," says Lu Wing, a teacher, interpreter and textbook author.

certification of teachers will continue to be difficult as there is no central authority. Student numbers need to increase significantly before the various state ministries of education will get involved seriously, and students can only be attracted if good teachers exist in the first place.

Wing has written a textbook which has become the official learning material for Chinese at upper secondary levels in some states. "I separated the learning of characters from the training of dialogues. This strategy allowed the students to start character learning a bit more systematically, which in itself enhances the possibilities of character training: more characters are remembered in shorter time. On the other hand, without the burden of needing to read and write every single character in a dialogue text, the students were able to get on to more interesting subjects of discussion much earlier than before."

Wing stresses that young learners need to learn in a fun, interactive way and encourages the use of theatre, songs, games, films, competitions, picture shows and presentations for parents and other students. "And, of course having the possibility to travel to China is one of the most attractive aims for learning the language." When asked about his opinion, Alan responded that he would like to go to China one day, but only for vacations. He may have heard that Chinese children have a much longer school day than kids in America and that they have a lot more tests! The future of Mandarin in Californian schools seems bright. Some schools in various states have incorporated Mandarin into the school curriculum and are offering it as a pre-university subject. Wing's earliest group of students who started as children many years ago still has regular class reunions. Many are now studying the Chinese language at an advanced level or subjects like Asian Business Management at universities. "It is always a pleasure to be invited to their meetings; seeing their progress and success is the most wonderful gift for me as their teacher," says Wing.

Now decide which is the correct answer (a, b or c) to the items 6–10 and mark your answers on the answer sheet.

6 American students like Alan McCormick

- a** are becoming more interested in attending Mandarin classes.
- b** think it's easy to learn to write Chinese characters.
- c** will work as translators when they leave school.

7 The large number of Chinese people in America

- a** are causing Mandarin to become the most taught foreign language in school.
- b** are creating more interest in the Chinese culture as a whole.
- c** are more interested in learning German or French.

8 American kids learning Mandarin

- a** are often not able to get beyond the beginner level.
- b** get a lot encouragement from their parents.
- c** need to learn according to the curriculum of schools in China or Taiwan.

9 Mandarin teachers in America are

- a** certified by the Ministry of Education in the state where they live.
- b** challenged by the lack of suitable textbooks and resources.
- c** generally trained teachers who came from China.

10 Lu Wing says that

- a** her former students did not enjoy using games to learn.
- b** it is best to learn to speak Chinese independently of reading and writing the characters.
- c** it is important to teach Chinese like it is taught in China.

Reading Comprehension, Part 2

First read the ten situations 11–20 and then read the twelve texts a–l. Decide which text goes best with each which situation. Each text can be used only once. Mark your answers for 11–20 on the answer sheet.

In some cases there may be no suitable text. Then mark **x**.

- 11 A 17-year-old friend of yours likes the theatre but cannot afford normally priced tickets.
- 12 You need catering for your birthday tea next week.
- 13 You would like to organise a night out for your best friend, who is a keen drummer.
- 14 You are moving to London and need to keep an eye on your budget.
- 15 You have too many clothes, most of which you have outgrown.
- 16 You would like a nostalgic present for your parents, who have always lived in the same house.
- 17 You and your friends would like some expert advice about starting a band.
- 18 You have just moved into a new apartment and need a power drill to make holes in the wall for a bookshelf.
- 19 You would like to spend a year abroad after high school graduation and are not sure what to do.
- 20 You are tired of conventional classes and want to work on your language skills in a creative way.

a

Drum Weekend Workshops

Would you like a chance to practice with experts? Are you interested in tips for new bands? Do you have special legal concerns that you would like to learn more about? Then we have something for you! Makes a great gift for any musician interested in learning more about rock, blues, country or other bands and what is needed to be successful.

Phone 046319 9472
or check
www.music4all.uk

b

Tromp

The Highlights Theatre, West Street, London WC2B

A wonderful theatrical experience celebrating the universal language of rhythm, theatre, comedy and dance. Eight performers use everything from cigarette lighters, plastic bags, bin lids and even the kitchen sink to hammer out an explosive, feel-good feast of rhythm, sights and sounds.

More details at www.highlights.uk

c

Party made easy

Whether it's an anniversary party or a private party, organising food for your guests can be stressful. So why not take advantage of the Party Platters service to order freshly prepared food for your event? There are 14 varieties to choose from; ranging from antipasti to cream cakes – all delicious and priced from just £10. Simply place your order five days in advance and it will be ready to collect at your convenience. Pick up a leaflet at the deli counter in-store or visit our website for more details.

d

Intern Tracy Franzen says, "as a student, my friends and I are always trying to save money, and www.saveandkeep.uk is invaluable for finding cheap places to live, basic necessities, used appliances, as well as offers, discounts and restaurant vouchers valid all over the UK. It means I can spend less but enjoy life more!"

e

Everybody needs good neighbours

If you think the days of stopping in and asking a next door neighbour to borrow a cup of sugar are over, think again. Free website www.sharewithall.uk is all about good old-fashioned sharing – anything from an hour's babysitting to books and tools – with members of your local community. Register online to advertise what you want to lend or borrow. No money is exchanged, just a lovely, warm fuzzy feeling!

f

Be a Virtual Time Traveller

Ever wondered what your street looked like 100 years ago? Take a step back in time with www.historicalstreet.com. It's an online archive where you can view and upload photos and stories from the past. Find your location on the map and drag a marker along a timeline to see photos from the past. They can be shown on top of the present-day view, so you'll see how things have changed. There's also a link to a firm offering suitable frames to give your picture the finishing touch.

g A Night Less Ordinary

For the past year the Arts Council has been backing a scheme to give free or cheap entertainment and theatre tickets to those under the age of 26. More than two hundred venues have been taking part in 'A Night Less Ordinary', including the Donmar Warehouse and the National Theatre, and all you have to do is ring up the individual theatre and mention the scheme. There are only a certain number of seats for each production, so it's best to get in there early and not be too fussy about what you see.

h Switching

This is the modern method of swapping clothes with just the click of the mouse. Through the Switching website you can upload pictures of the unwanted garments at the back of your wardrobe, and then send them to the company in order to earn Virtual Money Credits. You then use these to buy things that other people have posted. Alternatively, you can attend one of the Switching Parties, where clothes can be traded in person. If you can't find one near you, you can organise your own. Try out: www.clotheswitching.co.uk

i Learning English as a Second Language

The TESL centre at the Holly Institute is one of the leading English language centres in Canada, offering a variety of ESL and teacher training programs. The Institute offers language, culture and group and corporate programs for non-native speakers of English. Our courses include high-quality Intensive English Programs (IEP) for both academic and personal and professional purposes.

For more information on the Institute and the TESL Centre, email: jricks@holly.institute.ca.

j Travel Abroad

We offer customized and high quality insurance solutions for language travel, high school, work & travel, work & study, au-pair, bilateral exchange, camp counselling, career training, gap year, internships, teaching abroad, volunteers, work and work exchanges.

Please contact our Director of International Sales Mr William Fink, www.travelandstudy-ins.de.

k Be Expressive – "It's not only in English that students can learn to express themselves!"

Special interdisciplinary art courses

English with Art and Design
(Enrolling every Monday)

Art History in English
(Enrolling now for September)

A-level Art and Design
(Enrolling now for September)

Communicate To Speakers of other Languages through Art
(Enrolling in May)

www.artforthecommonman.com

l Welcome to Second Skin Tattoo Parlour

Second Skin Tattoo Parlour is a custom-built tattoo and piercing studio located in Plymouth. Clients include many local musicians and artists. Tattoos and piercings are carried out by professionals in an ultra-clean environment. There are thousands of designs to choose from, including tattoos seen on the members of famous bands. Customers' own designs are also welcome. All needles, ink and ink caps are single use, ensuring 100% hygiene. Gift vouchers are available for both tattoos and piercings.

Listening Comprehension, Part 1

You will hear a news programme. First you will have half a minute to read the items. Then you will hear the news. You will hear the news **only once**.

Decide if the statement for each of the items is **true (+)** or **not true (-)** and mark your answers on the answer sheet.

Now you will have half a minute to read the items.

- 41 Young people have been given the opportunity to read to famous authors.
- 42 Skepticism about a new degree is putting an educational institute under pressure.
- 43 There has recently been a student campaign in India to save tigers.
- 44 A book soon to be released is attracting considerable public attention.
- 45 A top celebrity is planning to give more priority to family life.

Listening Comprehension, Part 2

You will hear a radio interview. First you will have one minute to read the introduction and the items. Then you will hear the interview. You will hear the interview **only once**.

Decide if the statement for each of the items is **true (+)** or **not true (-)** and mark your answers on the answer sheet.

Now you will have one minute to read the items.

- 46 The boys belong to a house and to a chalet.
- 47 To be a Chalet Mother you need to be a qualified nanny.
- 48 The Chalet Parents look after a group of boys for one year only.
- 49 Most boys are at boarding school because their parents are working abroad.
- 50 There are special regulations for the boys' first days as boarders.
- 51 First year pupils can go home more often than older boys in higher years.
- 52 Behaviour problems in the chalets are solved by restricting activities.
- 53 The boys eat breakfast in the Chalet before going to school.
- 54 The boys sometimes do their homework in the Chalet.
- 55 During term time, the Chalet Parents are responsible for the boys six nights a week.

9-11 Writing

: 20.

! 0 " " 0.

(10)	(10)	(10)			
		(2)	() 3	(3)	() 2
		2	3	3	2
9-1	.	1.	.	,	.
		2.	.	,	.
		3.	.	.	.

	<p>(.).</p> <p>2 ,</p> <p>1 ;</p> <p>1 ,</p> <p>1 , 2 ,</p> <p>2</p> <p>.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>,</p> <p>.</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>,</p> <p>/</p> <p>,</p> <p>(1-2),</p> <p>.</p> <p>:</p> <p>,</p> <p>.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>/</p> <p>,</p> <p>(1-2).</p>	<p>1</p> <p>/</p> <p>,</p> <p>(1-3).</p>
0		0	<p>1</p> <p>,</p> <p>(3-5),</p> <p>.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>/</p> <p>,</p> <p>(3-5).</p>	
			0	0	0

	<p>·</p> <p>()</p> <p>50% .</p>	<p>·</p> <p>·</p> <p>/</p> <p>’ · ·</p> <p>3</p> <p>·</p>	<p>,</p> <p>(5).</p>	<p>,</p> <p>(5).</p>	<p>/</p> <p>,</p> <p>(3).</p>
--	----------------------------------	---	-----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------------

Writing

Situation: You are interested in studying in California, USA. You see the following notice in a student magazine:

Cash for College



Whether you're planning to go to college or get career training, there's money available to help you pay for it. Find out more about different financial aid programs (scholarships, grants, loans, work-study, etc.), their requirements and how to apply for them. Higher education

is a smart investment and can open doors to a variety of career paths. We're here to help you build a brighter future.

To find out which financial aid program is right for you, please contact

**Robert Fulton, California Student Aid Commission,
1405 International Drive, Long Beach, CA 90802**

You want more information about financial aid programs for which you might be eligible. Write a letter to the commission.

Make sure that your letter covers either

a) at least three of the following points

or

b) at least two of the following points plus one other aspect related to the topic.

- Why you are interested in applying for financial aid
- Why you want to study in California
- Your academic qualifications and/or work experience so far
- Your long-term academic plans

Before starting the letter, decide on the order in which you think the points should be included as well as an appropriate introduction and close. Include your address and the address of the recipient, also the reference line, date, salutation and closing formula.

Please write at least 150 words.