

LISTENING – 10 баллов (1 балл за правильный ответ), 10 минут

Task 1. Listen to three people talking about their memories and choose the correct answer for each question. You will hear the recording twice.

1. What herd did David and his brothers see running towards them?
A. of cows
B. of horses
C. of collies
2. How did David and his brothers feel when they reached their house?
A. safe
B. shocked
C. surprised
3. What or who reminds David of that day?
A. his brother
B. a smell
C. his house
4. When did Holly move to China?
A. 1978
B. 1988
C. 1998
5. Did Holly miss her friends and family a lot in the beginning?
A. Yes
B. No
6. What reminds Holly of her time in China?
A. the smell of rice soup
B. the colour of rice soup
C. the colour of cream
7. Where was Claudia when she saw Rick Stevens?
A. a library
B. café
C. a book shop
8. What is Claudia currently writing?
A. her first book
B. her third book
C. her fourth book
9. What reminds Claudia of that day?
A. a book
B. a song
C. a newspaper
10. Did Claudia have a life-changing experience?
A. Yes
B. No

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET

Task 1. Read the text and choose the correct answer for each question.

Does practice really make perfect?

Have you ever heard of the old phrase, “Practice makes perfect“? Whether we’re learning how to dance, play a new instrument or developing our technique at a new sport, we usually just repeat the same action again and again until we can do it. My teachers always used to tell me that the more I practiced, the more highly skilled I would become at any activity. In 2008, author Malcolm Gladwell wrote about “the 10,000-hour rule“. This said that if you want to become an expert at a skill, you must practice it for 10,000 hours. However, a recent report by scientists at John Hopkins University has shown that the key to learning a new skill isn’t how much time you spend practicing, but the way in which you practice.

The scientist found that we learn more quickly if we slightly change the way we practice an activity each time we do it. To prove this, they carried out an experiment by teaching 86 people a new skill – how to control a computer with a new type of mouse. The researchers divided the people into three groups and each group had a session of 45 minutes to practise the new skill.

Six hours later, the first group repeated the same exercise again in exactly the same way, the second group practised it in a slightly different way and the third group didn’t practise again. At the end, the scientists tested everyone’s ability to do the skill. It was no surprise that the third group got the worst results in the tests. What was surprising was that the second group did twice as well as the first group.

These results are useful because they help us to understand how our brains remember information and learn new things. By changing our practice slightly, our brains have to work harder. Pablo Celnik, the scientist who led this research, said that the differences between practices must be small, for example changing the size or weight of a tennis ball or racket. If the differences are too big, then there will be no improvement in learning speed.

These results are not only important for those of us who are learning new leisure skills; they might also help people who have been in an accident. For example, sometimes people have to learn to walk or talk again, and this technique can help them to do these things faster. Celnick says that more research still needs to be done, but that this could help patients recover more quickly.

So, the old phrase “Practice makes perfect“ isn’t exactly wrong. You must practice to become perfect at a new skill. But just remember that changing the way you practise each time will give you better results!

Республиканская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку.
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7-8 класс

1. Malcolm Gladwell says that...
 - A. some people can never become an expert, no matter how much they practise.
 - B. you can become an expert in any skill if you practise it for 10,000 hours.**
 - C. the way you practice is more important than how long you practise.
2. Scientists have discovered that you learn more quickly if you practice ...
 - A. in the same way each time.
 - B. in a slightly different way each time.**
 - C. in a completely different way each time.
3. They proved this by carrying out an experiment with a group over ...
 - A. 86 people, who they divided into three groups.**
 - B. 86 people, who they divided into two groups.
 - C. 45 people, who they divided into six groups.
4. The group that did worst in the test ...
 - A. practised in the same way twice.
 - B. practised slightly differently the second time.
 - C. only practised once.**
5. The people who practiced in the same way twice did... as well in the test as those people who practiced again in a slightly different way.
 - A. half**
 - B. just
 - C. twice
6. Pablo Celnik explained that the difference between practice sessions...
 - A. must only be small.**
 - B. must be large.
 - C. doesn't matter.
7. This discovery could mean that people who are learning to walk and talk again...
 - A. won't need these skills anymore.
 - B. can learn faster.**
 - C. will end up being able to walk and talk better.
8. The writer now thinks that the phrase , "Practice makes perfect"...
 - A. isn't right at all.
 - B. is completely right.
 - C. is partly right.**

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Task 1. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between TWO and FIVE words, including the word given.

1. In the past people had fires in each home.

USED

In the past _____ fires in each home.

2. I have a few more pages to read, so I think I will finish the book next week.

FINISHED

By the end of next week _____ reading the book.

3. The town won't flood again unless we get enormous amounts of rain in the short time.

AS

The town won't flood again as _____ get enormous amounts of rain in a short time.

4. You should go to the doctor about your earache.

WERE

If _____ go to the doctor about your earache.

5. It's a shame that I am not with my friend right now.

WISH

I _____ my friend right now.

6. My brother is allergic to chocolate, so he doesn't eat it.

AVOIDS

He _____ because he's allergic to it.

7. I'm sure the old lady is lonely because no one ever visits her.

BE

The old lady _____ because no one ever visit her.

8. My granddad retired 10 years ago.

FOR

My granddad _____ 10 years now.

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Task 2. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only ONE word in each gap.

Time to make changes

We all know that environmental problems are getting worse and we need to solve them or (9) ... planet will be in big trouble in the future. But what can we do? Can individual people really make a difference? Or (10) ... we leave it to governments and politicians?

There are (11) ... lot of ways we can help. (12) ... instance, we can recycle things and save water and electricity. However, one of (13) ... most important things to do is to find different ways of getting power. Scientists have developed clever ways to do this. We can get power (14) ... the sun and the sea as well as the wind. The trouble is that local people, (15) ... don't want to look at ugly wind farms or solar panels, often object to the plans. Because of this, we don't have enough alternative sources of power.

Perhaps some people (16) ... learn that our way of life will need to change. After all, (17) ... we do something now, we won't have any lights or power in a few decades time, will we?

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WRITING - 20 баллов, 60 минут

Student's ID _____

You see the announcement in an international magazine.

The 'Best Friend Ever' award!

We are running a competition to find the best friend ever. Write to us nominating a friend who you feel has done something very special. You should explain what this person has done, what makes him or her so special and why you think they should win the award.

Write your competition entry. You must use the following words in your entry:

consequently

befriend

common

support

You can change the form of the words given. Write 200-250 words.