TEACHER NAT`S ENGLISH CLASS

PRACTICE TEST TO GET READY FOR "SABER 11"

TEST #8 READING COMPREHESNION



Read a text about learning English, and for questions 1 to 6, choose the correct option:

LEARNING ENGLISH FORUMS

Banjo_Boy asks:

I was in the USA on a language course last summer. It was a fantastic learning experience! People were so friendly and welcoming. I'm going on a British summer course this year. I heard that English people are more unfriendly and polite. Is that true? I'm worried about the language as well. I learned American English at school, and I've heard that British English is different. I'm worried that I'll misunderstand everyone, make errors and appear impolite. Can anyone help?

Sara_May replies:

Don't worry about the language! It's mostly the same. In terms of grammar, there are no differences at all. There are a few vocabulary differences though, like in the USA they say 'subway', 'gas' and 'apartment', while in Britain they say 'underground', 'petrol' and 'flat'. But it won't be a problem. You'll understand those unfamiliar words from the context. What's more, British people will understand you if you use American words. After all, they watch lots of American shows on television. The British accent is very different from the American one, but personally, I find it easier to understand.

Paulo_Riviera_166 replies:

You won't find the language confusing, but people's behaviour is very different, in my opinion. Americans are more informal and open. They talk about anything – their money, their weight, their health. They are enthusiastic and friendly, and it's easy to get to know them. British people aren't like that. They don't like to talk about their personal lives until they know you well, and they think it is respectful to give you privacy. As a result, it isn't easy to make friends with British people. They are friendly and polite, but they often remain rather distant.

Nellie_111 replies:

Don't worry about making social errors in Britain. People are so polite that if you do something wrong, they won't comment! I agree with Paulo_Riviera_166 in some ways. British people are more distant, but they aren't more formal, in my opinion. For example, in the States, kids sometimes call their dads 'Sir', but British people never do that! In America, success is important, so people will often tell you how great they are. In Britain, it's considered rude to boast about your achievements. If you do, people may tease you or gossip about you. Also, British people hate being complimented. If you say something nice about them, they often look embarrassed and don't know what to say!

Bubbles replies:

I don't know where Sara_May was staying in the UK, but I was in the north of the country on a school trip a couple of years ago. We all stayed with host families, and the only person I could understand was the mother of the family. I couldn't understand anyone else, even after three weeks! The people didn't sound anything like the people I had heard in my course books at school, and I learned British English! I guess people sound different in different areas of the country. All I can say is, good luck, and if you don't understand someone, ask them to write down what they are trying to say!

1. **Which sentence best summarises Banjo_Boy's situation?**
a. He is worried about making mistakes in his language and behaviour when he goes to Britain.
b. His is worried that his trip to America won't be as fun as last year's trip to Britain.
c. He wants to know whether it is more useful to learn American English or British English.
d. He wants to learn how to speak well and be polite to his American and British guests.

2. **What is Sara_May's advice?**
a. Neither the vocabulary nor the accent differences are hard to understand.
b. The vocabulary differences are hard to understand, but the British accent is easy to understand.
c. The vocabulary differences are easy to understand, but the British accent is hard to understand.
d. Both the vocabulary and the accent differences are hard to understand.

3. **According to Paulo_Riviera_166, British people are...**
a. formal and unfriendly.
b. b.enthusiastic and personal.
c. c.friendly and open.
d. d.respectful and distant

4. **According to Nellie_111, Americans are ... than British people**

a. less likely to comment if you make a social error

b.less likely to talk about their achievements

c.more likely to call their parents by a formal title

d.more likely to feel embarrassed by a compliment

5. Why does Bubbles disagree with Sara_May?

a. She thinks it's hard to understand British vocabulary.

b.She thinks the British accent is difficult to understand.

c.She thinks British grammar is different from American grammar.

d.She thinks British people won't understand American English

6. Which of the four people responded to the question: "I heard that English people are more unfriendly and polite. Is that true?

a. Paulo_Riviera_166 only.

b. Paulo_Riviera_166 and Nellie_111.

c. Paulo_Riviera_166, Nellie_111 and Bubbles.

d. All of them

LIVEWORKSHEETS