

**Bad weather**

**Liza**

I live in the north of Finland. We're used to snow there, but one year we had a very bad snowstorm. When we woke up one morning the snow was nearly as high as the house. It covered our car and our garden, and we couldn't open our front door. We didn't have any electricity, and it was dark and cold. Luckily, we were prepared, and we had a radio with batteries, a torch and warm clothes. For me it was like an adventure, but my mum and dad were very worried.

**Hannah**

My family and I often go sailing, but last summer we had a bad experience. The day began well. It was a hot and sunny so we decided to take the boat out. An hour later the weather changed very suddenly. The wind became stronger, clouds covered the sun, it started to rain and the sea became very rough. I thought we were going to die. Luckily, after a few hours the storm passed, but it was the scariest day of my life.

**Paula**

My village is near the sea, and a few winters ago something very strange happened. The wind became very strong and big waves started crashing over the harbour edge onto the road. Overnight, the temperature dropped so low that the seawater turned into ice. The next day the sea looked like a giant ice rink. There was also ice on the roads and the cars. Luckily nobody was hurt, but it was the strangest weather I've ever experienced.

1. Who says that her feelings were different from her parents?
2. Who says that her feelings were different from her parents?
3. Who thought that the weather would become bad?
4. Who had everything she needed when the weather became bad?
5. Who describes an activity her family does a lot?
6. Who says that she couldn't leave her home because of the bad weather?
7. Who was in danger because of the bad weather?



**You will hear a guide talking about a tour in an old house.**

**Amersham House**

The tour takes \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.  
 The history talk is in the \_\_\_\_\_  
 The café sells drinks, sandwiches and \_\_\_\_\_  
 The gift shop closes at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.  
 August offer: Tickets for \_\_\_\_\_ are £3.50.

## Too much plastic

Plastic is everywhere: in our streets, in the countryside, in rivers, in seas and in oceans. In the UK, over 13 billion plastic bottles are used every year. The good news is that more and more people are recycling plastic and there are also some clever ways to use it.

Roads are usually made of asphalt, but in some countries like the USA and the UK, engineers have started to use plastic to make new roads. First, they collect the plastic, wash it and dry it. Then they cut it into small pieces and heat it to about 170°C. After that, they mix it with hot asphalt and use it to make the road surface. This way of making roads is more difficult than the usual way, but the plastic and asphalt mixture is harder and better than asphalt only.

How about wearing a pair of trainers made from recycled plastic bottles? Some well-known sports companies use six to eleven plastic bottles to make one pair of trainers. This means that fewer plastic bottles are thrown away, and they end up on people's feet, not in the ocean!

Plastic can be recycled in other clever ways too. It is used to make rubbish bins, toys, tables and chairs, sleeping bags, backpacks and hundreds of other things. One clothes company cuts it into very small pieces to make clothes. Believe it or not, the England women's national football team wears a kit made from recycled bottles!

### 1 What is happening in the UK that is good news?

- A Plastic can be used in clever ways.
- B Over 13 billion plastic bottles are used every year.
- C There are a lot of clever people there.

### 2 Which of these sentences is true?

- A Roads are made of plastic all over the world.
- B Engineers usually make plastic roads in the UK and the USA.
- C In the past, roads weren't made of plastic.

### 3 Asphalt and plastic roads

- A are not easy to make.
- B are better when they are heated to 170°C.
- C are not as hard as roads that have only asphalt.

### 4 Some famous companies

- A make sports shoes using rubbish.
- B throw away fewer plastic bottles than others.
- C use six to eleven plastic bottles to make one shoe.

### 5 The writer says that you can use plastic to make

- A footballs.
- B camping equipment.
- C rubbish bins and jewellery.



## The festival of light



Diwali is an \_\_\_\_\_ Indian festival. It takes place every year in October or November during the autumn, and it lasts for five days. The word 'Diwali' \_\_\_\_\_ from Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language, and it \_\_\_\_\_ 'row of lights'. During the festival, people clean their homes, decorate them with lights and oil lamps, and enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ time with friends and family. They give each other gifts and sweets, eat delicious food, \_\_\_\_\_ fireworks and wear new clothes. Many people in the UK also celebrate Diwali. In the city of Leicester, thousands of people go out into the \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy light shows, music and dancing.

For each question, write the correct answer. Write ONE word for each gap.

From: Sofia

To: Lucia



I've had \_\_\_\_\_ great week! I've been on holiday in the United Arab Emirates. We went to an amazing place today. Have you \_\_\_\_\_ heard of the Mall of the Emirates in Dubai? You don't get bored here \_\_\_\_\_ there's so much to see and do. There are over 700 shops \_\_\_\_\_ more than 100 places to eat. There's also a theme park in the building. It's got a 40 cinema and a rollercoaster. I've \_\_\_\_\_ on it twice - it's really fast! But \_\_\_\_\_ best thing in the mall is the ski slope! I'm going there tomorrow. I'll send \_\_\_\_\_ photos later.



You will hear Peter talking to his teenage daughter about what he needs to do next week. What must he do on each day?

Days	Things to do
21 Monday	A visit dentist
22 Tuesday	B collect flight tickets
23 Wednesday	C repair bike
24 Friday	D get theatre tickets
25 Sunday	E play hockey
	F phone friend
	G do food shopping
	H buy desk

