

B1

Reading part 3

Read the text again and answer the questions below. For each question choose the correct answer A-D.

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Adapted from an article by Tomasz P Szynalski

When you hear how I learned a foreign language, you have to remember a few things. In 1993, when I was starting to learn English, no one had heard of the internet. I wasn't able to read websites on topics that I found interesting or follow blogs. And I have no idea how I decided which movies to see without my favourite movie review website.

My reading practice was limited to literature. All I had were the few books **on sale** locally, plus whatever I could get from my cousin in America. For listening practice, I only had the news and cartoons on cable TV. DVDs didn't exist **at all**. People bought and rented VHS videos but in Poland there was no spoken English on them. The only way to hear that was to visit the movies.

My dictionaries were all in book form until I received my first PC dictionary. It came on **at least** six disks and had unhelpful explanations and few example sentences. It doesn't sound very useful but **in fact** I loved it, **because of** its ability to work with other programs and find English words more quickly. Today, computerised dictionaries have simple explanations and lots of examples.

If I were a complete beginner learning English today, I'd spend hours on the web, reading about my favourite topics, downloading **up to date** movies, emailing English-speaking friends and posting comments on forums. Yes, I admit, **at first** it would probably be hard to understand real-life English, but I'd spend time looking things up and **in the end** I'm sure I'd pick up the language much faster than I did back in 1993.

1 What is Tomasz trying to do in the text?

- A Encourage people to start learning a foreign language.
- B Complain about the use of technology in language learning.
- C Explain how language learning materials have changed
- D Compare two different ways of teaching a language.

2 Tomasz says he doesn't know

- A how he used to choose films to watch
- B when he first heard about the internet
- C where he bought English books online from
- D which topics he found interesting

3 To watch films in English. Polish people in the 1990s had to

- A rent films on videotape
- B watch TV for children
- C have cable television
- D go to the cinema

4 Tomasz liked his first computer dictionary because it

- A found information at a faster speed
- B gave you useful example sentences.
- C was better than today's dictionaries.
- D came with other computer programs.

5 Which of these might Tomasz say about learning English through the internet?

A It was more interesting to learn a language when you had to work hard to find materials to study with.

B You'll need someone to help you to begin with but eventually you'll learn English more quickly.

C It's a great way to improve your English because you can find things online that interest you.

D If you study English through books, you learn more useful vocabulary than when you study online.