Project Boomerang by Skills 4 Life

BELT

BELT Practice

Reading Comprehension

Reading 1:

When most people are ill with a non-life-threatening condition, they will most often see a General Practitioner, a GP, also called a Family Doctor. These doctors generally work in the local community in surgeries rather than in hospitals, so they are convenient for people to see for a consultation. However, other GPs can work in a very wide range of areas, such as in hospitals, in education and for insurance companies.

As the name suggests, GPs are doctors that do not have a specialty, such as a brain surgeon or cancer specialist: they are able to diagnose and treat all the possible diseases and problem that one of their patients might have. They can treat and manage most illnesses and perform some minor surgeries in their practice. Then for more serious cases they will refer the patient to a specialist that will work in a hospital.

If you are ill and need to see a GP you will normally need to make an appointment. Sometimes you can just walk into the surgery and see a doctor, but that is not very likely as GPs are normally very busy and all their appointment times will be fully booked. Often you have to wait several hours if not at least one of two days before you can get an appointment with a GP. If you are too ill to wait you have to go to a hospital and visit the accident and emergency department.

GPs also make house-calls. These are when the GP comes to your house to treat you or see a patient. Most often a GP has to make house-calls to see elderly people who cannot get to the surgery easily. They might be ill and need to doctor to give them medicine or it could be that the GP just want to check on them and make sure that they are ok.

If you are ill, the doctor will normally prescribe you some medicine and tell you to go away for a few days before you go back and visit them again if you have not started to get better. The GP will also explain how you can have a better lifestyle that could prevent you from becoming ill in the first place. They will normally recommend that you stop smoking cigarettes (if you do), not to drink too much alcohol and to get exercise. Once you have your prescription you will need to visit a pharmacy to get the medicine the doctor prescribed you.

1) What is the difference between a specialist and a GP?

A) ◉ There is no difference, they are both doctors.

B) ○ The GP normally works in a hospital and the specialist works in a surgery.

C) ○ A GP can treat patients with many different illnesses, while the specialist focuses on one area only.

D) ○ You need to be referred to a GP but not to a specialist.

2) Where do GP normally work?

A) In a hospital

B) In a school

C) In a surgery

D) In a mobile vehicle

3) Why will you often have to wait to see a GP?

A) They are very busy, so all their appointment times get full.

B) To make sure you are really ill.

C) So the GP will have enough work to do each day.

D) You will need to travel a long way to see them and the journey will take a few days.

4) What sort of person will most likely be visited by a GP in their own home?

A) A new born baby.

B) An old person.

C) Someone with a serious illness.

D) GPs do not visit patients in their houses.

5) What do GPs do as well as making ill people better?

A) They give advice about how to not become ill in the first place.

B) They help the families of people who have died.

C) They are participate in local community activities.

D) They work with the people who make the medicine to sell more of it.

Reading 2:

Good morning, I would like to introduce myself. My name is David Johnson and it is nice to meet you. I come from near Cambridge. I live in a small village that is close to the city of Cambridge. I am 20 years old. I am studying history at university and work in a shop at the weekends. I have one brother and one sister. They are both older than me. My sister is 26 years old and my brother is 22 years old. They have both graduated from university and work in London.

Hi, my name is Lucy Spalding and it is great to meet you all. I am really excited to see so many people. I am 24 years old and am an only child. I come from Newcastle, which is in the North of England and a long way away from here. My mother is a teacher and my father works in an office. I finished a degree in Media Studies last year and am unemployed at the moment. I want to move to London to find work sometime.

Hello, it is nice to see you all. I'm Elaine. I come from Cardiff and it is great to be here to meet you all in Reading. I am 42 years old. I am married to my husband, Richard, and have two children. One son called Andrew who is 18 years old and one daughter who is 16 years old and called Tracy. I work in a supermarket and my husband is a police office. My son wants to study computing at university while my daughter wants to become a singer.

Good morning. It is pleasure to meet my. Please let me introduce myself to you. I am Hamid and I come from Pakistan. My home town is Islamabad, the capital city. I am 19 years old and have come to the UK to study English. I will stay here for one year. I want to learn a lot. My family is big. I have 3 brothers and 1 sister. I am the oldest and my sister, the youngest, is 11 years old. My father works as a government official and my mother is a housewife. I want to learn English so I can get a good job. I do not work as I spend all my time studying.

1) Where is David Johnson from?

A) London
B) Reading
C) Cardiff
D) Cambridge

2) What is the name of Tracy's mother?

A) Elaine
B) Lucy
C) Richard
D) Andrew

3) How many brothers does Lucy Spalding have?

A) 0
B) 1
C) 2
D) 3

4) How many siblings does Hamid have?

A) 2
B) 3
C) 4
D) 5

5) Elaine's children want to do what?

A) Sing and work as police officer
B) Study computing and sing
C) Work as a hairdresser and study media studies
D) The passage does not say.

Reading 3:

Halloween is a celebration that happens on the 31st of October. It originally came from a Christian religious day. The 1st of November is All Saints Day, so Halloween is the eve or night before this. Nowadays it is mainly just an excuse for people to have fun.

The holiday was mainly celebrated in America and from there has spread to many other countries. It is meant to be the day, and mainly the night, when monsters come out of hiding. This means that people associate scary and frightening things with Halloween.
There are three main traditions linked to Halloween. The first is carving pumpkins, the second is decorating your house and the third is trick-or-treating.

Pumpkins are big vegetables that go an orange color when they are ripe and ready to eat. When someone carves a pumpkin, they cut the top off it and scoop out all the seeds and flesh from the inside. Then they carve a pattern into the outside of the pumpkin. Often, they cut the pattern so that there are holes into the center of the pumpkin. It is traditional to carve your pumpkin into a scary face. Then when it is dark you put a candle or light inside the pumpkin so the light shines out of the frightening face that was carved.

Then the pumpkins would be used to decorate your house. You would put them in a window or on the front porch so people in the street can see them. However, the decorations have become much better over the years. Now people try to make their houses look as if they are a haunted house by making skeletons to hang in the garden or putting tombstones outside the house. They might also make it look as if there are lots of spider webs. The people from the house try to make it look as scary as possible.

Finally, children will get dressed up in costumes and go out trick-or-treating. This is where they go to people's houses and ask for sweets or candy, their treat. If the house refused to

give them anything then they would play a trick on the house. Adults do not go trick-or-treating, unless that are looking after children, but do often have their own parties at night. At these parties people would also be dressed up as monsters or anything else that is scary.

1) Why is Halloween scary and frightening?

A) It is in the dark winter.

B) It is when monsters come out.

C) It is because it is Christian.

D) Halloween is not a scary holiday.

2) Which of the following is not part of Halloween?

A) Carving pumpkins

B) Trick-or-treat

C) Decorating your house

D) Singing special songs

3) Where are pumpkins normally displayed?

A) In cars

B) On the front porch

C) In the kitchen

D) At churches

4) What do people try to do when they decorate their houses?

A) Make them look scary.

B) Make them look cute.

C) Make them look old.

D) Make them look bright.

5) Why do adults go trick-or-treating?

A) To get candy and sweets.

B) To have a party.

C) To look after children.

D) To give other children sweets.

Reading 4:

Many people like to keep pets. Some just have one pet while other people keep many different pets. This often depends on if they live in a big or small house. If a person lives in a small house, or even a flat or apartment, they cannot keep a lot of pets as there is not enough room. If people live in a big house that has a garden then they will be able to keep more pets and bigger ones.

For a person who lives in a small house a small pet is often good. They could keep a bird or two as these are very interesting pets. They have brightly colored feathers and make nice chirping sounds. If you have a parrot it can even learn to talk, but it takes a long time to teach it to say some words. If a bird is too noisy then they could keep some cute animals like mice, gerbils or hamsters. These are all nice and fluffy so you can take them out of their cages and play with them. Fish are also a type of pet for people without much space or time. They just need some food and their bowl or tank cleaning sometimes.

People that have more space and time to look after a pet could keep something bigger that needs more care, such as a dog or cat. Cats do not need to be looked after as much as a dog, but they get lonely if there is no one there with them. They often like to have someone to sit with and who strokes them. This makes them happy and they start to purr. If someone has a dog they need to take it out for walks so that it can get exercise. It is good to take a dog out twice a day. Dogs need exercise so they cannot be kept in the house all the time.

There are then pets that need a very large amount of space. These would be animals such as horses or donkeys, it could even be a domestic pig. For these animals a person needs more than a big garden, they need a field so the animal has space to move and run around, as well as grass to eat. These are types of animals that would generally not come into the house and the owners would only spend part of the day with them.

1) Why can a person in a small house not have a lot of pets?

A) They can have a lot of pets.

B) They cannot grow enough food for them.

C) They do not have enough space.

D) Other people might not like too many pets.

2) Why are birds good pets?

A) They do not eat much.

B) They are brightly colored and make nice sounds.

C) They can be trained to play fetch.

D) They are not good pets.

3) According to the passage which of the following is a cute animal?

A) Mice

B) Fish

C) Horse

D) Cat

4) From the passage, why do cats start to purr?

A) Because they are stroked.

B) Because they are fed.

C) Because they are left alone all day.

D) Cats do not purr.

5) Which of the following is an animal that would not normally come into a house?

A) Cat

B) Dog

C) Gerbil

D) Donkey

Reading 5:

The weather affects everyone, and everyone has something to say about the weather. This is especially true in a country like the UK that has very changeable weather. In the UK the weather from one day to the next can be completely different, or even from the morning to the afternoon. The weather can change from being rainy one day to sunny the next, or from strong wind and gales in the morning to snow in the afternoon.

In the UK there are four seasons, spring, summer, autumn and winter, and the weather is different in each of them. However, there is not a sudden change between the seasons. The

end of the winter season is the same as the start of the spring season. It takes several weeks for the weather to change enough for people to notice the difference.

The summer is the season with the best weather. In general, it is hot and sunny with only a little rain sometimes. However, it can sometimes be cold and wet for one or two weeks at a time. British people like to spend a lot of time outside when it is nice in the summer. After the summer is the autumn. In this season the weather gets colder and there are stronger winds, also it will rain more. All the leaves will start to fall off the trees as it is cold. Frost might start to form on the ground towards the end of the autumn.

Winter is the coldest season in the UK. The temperature will often be at zero degrees Celsius. This means that ice will often form on the ground overnight where there were puddles. This makes it difficult to walk sometimes. There might also be snow, but the UK does not get much snow, mainly just cold rain in the winter. Then when winter ends the spring starts. The temperature will start to get warmer and the winds will not be as strong. Plants start to grow again and new leaves form. It is always nice when the spring starts as it means the nice weather in the summer is nearly back again.

Many people in the UK complain about the weather, but as the weather changes so much it is very interesting and gives the people something to talk about all year round.

1) How can the weather in the UK be described?

A) Boring
B) Wet
C) Changeable
D) Humid

2) How quickly can the weather change?

A) From one week to the next.
B) From one morning to afternoon.
C) From one day to the next day.
D) The weather does not change much.

3) How many seasons are there in the UK?

A) Two
B) Three

C) Four

D) Five

4) When will frost first start to form on the ground?

A) In the spring

B) In the summer

C) In the autumn

D) In the winter

5) Why do people like the spring?

A) It means the summer is nearly back.

B) It is not winter.

C) It is the shortest season.

D) It only happens every other year.