M.I.E.L
Meaningful Interactive English Learning

# End-of-year Test

## 1) Reading:

**Read the text below and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

**1 In paragraph 1 we learn that Joe Swanberg's films are**

**A** usually low-budget costume dramas.

**B** rarely seen in cinemas.

**C** often bought on DVD.

**D** made for young people in the city.

**2 What impact has technology had on the movie business, according to paragraph 2?**

**A** Small independent film-makers are struggling to find an audience.

**B** Audiences are still enjoying blockbuster films.

**C** Fewer young people are attracted to the industry.

**D** There is more choice available in the middle market area.

**3 According to paragraph 3, blockbuster success is because people**

**A** prefer to see famous actors in films.

**B** like watching and talking about reality shows.

**C** only watch films recommended to them by friends.

**D** are reluctant to see films they've never heard of.

**4 Paragraph 5 indicates that people may**

**A** be confused by the choice presented to them.

**B** choose niche films because of their availability.

**C** not understand all the different formats available.

**D** prefer to listen to music than watch films these days.

**5 What does 'they' refer to in paragraph 6?**

**A** consumers

**B** media companies

**C** television programmes

**D** movie industry decision-makers

**6 What does paragraph 7 say about the situation nowadays?**

**A** Consumers are benefiting from it.

**B** There is hardly anything good on television.

**C** Making programmes is easier than before.

**D** Better films and TV programmes are being made.

# The future of entertainment

*More than ever, media is separating into mass market blockbusters on the one hand and 'niche' products – attracting small groups of people with similar interests – on the other. Everything else is struggling to compete.*

Joe Swanberg makes films about the romantic lives of young people in the city. He shoots quickly with a digital camera and asks actors to wear their own clothes. His low-budget films are hardly ever shown in cinemas. By keeping his costs down and distributing digitally, Mr Swanberg is making a living.

Technology was expected to help young people like him. A few years ago it was predicted that the internet would vastly increase the supply of small independent films and other niche media products and increase their audiences. That has certainly happened. However, so has the opposite. Blockbusters are also tightening their grip on audiences, whether it's in the area of film, music, television or books. The growth of both niche products and huge sell-out successes has been at the expense of the things in the middle, which are just quite popular – the near-misses.

There are several reasons why big hits still do so well. As in the past, people still want to have something to talk about with their friends. Which is why talent shows such as *American Idol* do pretty much as well as they did ten years ago, and why the latest blockbuster still breaks new records at the box office. Research shows that people still choose blockbusters more often than less well-known books and films. This is probably because people tend to try only things they have heard of – which for many people means media-hyped blockbusters.

Furthermore, all the technology that has made niche content so much more accessible has also proved handy for pushing blockbusters. Missed the last popular film? Don't worry, because there will be other chances to see it, in a wide variety of formats.

Blockbusters are doing well not in spite of the fact that people have more choice in entertainment, but because of it. Imagine walking into a music shop which has more than 10 million songs, as iTunes does, all of them arranged alphabetically. Making up your mind would be impossible! So, rather than having to decide, it's much easier to just grab what everybody is talking about.

Is this increasingly more common separation into blockbusters and niches good or bad? It certainly makes life harder for media companies. In a world where entertainment choices are growing, it is more important than ever to make a big impact with your product. If it isn't a hit, it will have to fight for attention together with thousands – perhaps millions – of other offerings. The possibility of failing can make people anxious and more conservative. Television programmes must be successful quickly or they will be cancelled. It is becoming even harder to talk the decision-makers in the movie industry into approving films if ***they*** are not confident there is a demand for them.

These days, with so many options, there is rarely nothing good on television. So the media industry must raise its game. Intelligent people naturally wish that more money were available to produce the kind of music, films and television programmes they like. The problem is that everybody has different ideas about exactly what they want to watch. Some may love watching a programme about the history of dance; others may want to spend an hour being told how to look after pet snakes. But not many want to do either of these things, which explains why such programmes are niche products. There are only a few things that can be guaranteed to delight large numbers of people. They are known as blockbusters.

## 2) Vocabulary

**a. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) that best completes each sentence.**

1. The singer didn't really come _____ as being sincere.

**A** up with **B** around **C** after **D** across

2. My friend and I have completely different _____ in music.

**A** thoughts **B** feelings **C** tastes **D** sounds

3. Jack never likes relying on other people. He´s very _____.

**A** confident **B** sociable **C** cautious **D** practical

4. I used to be frightened _____ spiders but I'm not anymore.

**A** in **B** of **C** about **D** into

5. I can't come out tonight because money's a bit _____.

**A** tigh **B** tough **C** difficult **D** worth

6. We had _____ rain last night so the roads are underwater.

**A** torrential **B** flooded **C** powerful **D** strong

7. The _____ fog made it very difficult to drive along the country lane.

**A** hard **B** rough **C** tough **D** dense

8. They don't want to put chemicals into their bodies so they buy _____ food.

**A** organic **B** vitamin **C** vegetarian **D** addictive

9. Doing the same thing can get you _____.

A away B down C into D through

10. He travels by train to London every day, so he's got a _____ ticket.

**A** season **B** seasonal **C** direct **D** long-distance

**b. Read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.**

While my friend was on holiday, I kept an **1** _____ on her flat, so to say thank you she wanted to take me to the theatre. It was a new play by a writer I don't like and, a few hours before the play, I got **2** _____ feet and phoned my friend to cancel. She told me the **3** _____ had given the play extremely good reviews so I decided to go after all. The audience had all dressed **4** _____ and looked very smart and serious. I couldn't understand the play at all – I just don't **5** _____ these modern plays – and the people around me were concentrating so hard to understand it that finally I couldn't keep a **6** _____ face and burst out laughing. I'm just **7** _____ of taking this kind of performance seriously. My neighbours stared at me furiously until I stopped laughing. I tried to sit quietly but this turned **8** _____ to be impossible. Their disapproving looks just made me want to laugh even more. Finally I gave up. I couldn't **9** _____ watching any more of the play so I walked out. I explained to my friend that these kinds of play just aren't **10** _____ as far as I'm concerned, but she still won't talk to me.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **A** eye | **B** finger | **C** ear | **D** hand |
| 2 | **A** freezing | **B** icy | **C** itchy | **D** cold |
| 3 | **A** artists | **B** actors | **C** director | **D** critics |
| 4 | **A** down | **B** up | **C** for | **D** out |
| 5 | **A** put | **B** get | **C** take | **D** make |
| 6 | **A** tight | **B** straight | **C** smart | **D** tough |
| 7 | **A** incapable | **B** capable | **C** capability | **D** capably |
| 8 | **A** up | **B** out | **C** away | **D** into |
| 9 | **A** catch my eye | **B** face to face | **C** face | **D** see eye to eye |
| 10 | **A** entertain | **B** entertained | **C** entertainment | **D** entertainingly |

## 3) Use of English:

**a. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given.**

1. A very friendly taxi driver drove us into town. **DRIVEN**

We ..... a very friendly taxi driver.

2. 'Why don't you come over for dinner at the weekend?' he asked her. **SUGGESTED**

He ..... for dinner at the weekend.

3. The school I studied at last year was better than this one. **GOOD**

This school ..... my last one.

4. The meal we had in the restaurant was so nice. **SUCH**

It ..... meal in the restaurant.

5. I was too tired to go to the party. **THAT**

I was ..... I couldn't go to the party.

6. I'm sure it was Ana I saw in town as I recognised her coat. **MUST**

It ..... Ana I saw in town as I recognised her coat.

7. Everyone says that the band is planning to go on a world tour next year. **SAID**

The band ..... planning to go on a world tour next year.

**b. Tick the correct option**

1. Paris has some great museums _____ you can see the impressionist painters.

a. which

b. where

c. that

2. I _____ enjoy going horse-riding when I was younger.

a. was used to

b. used to

c. got used to

3. My brother got lost in _____ Alps and had to be rescued.

a. the

b. -

c. a

4. I believe mobile phones _____ change the way we live.

a. certainly could

b. may definitely

c. will definitely

5. I _____ Julia to tell her as soon as we arrive at the hotel.

a. 'll call

b. going to call

c. 'm calling

6. We had such a great week _____ we went walking in the mountains.

a. that

b. when

c. where

7. Don't forget to post the letters _____ you go out.

a. if

b. as soon as

c. after

8. I heard the police _____ dozens of people before they made an arrest.

a. were interviewed

b. have been interviewing

c. had interviewed

9. She woke with a bad stomach ache. It _____ something she'd eaten.

a. must've been

b. should've been

c. can't have been

10. I bought a new iPod so I can listen to ___ music I like when I'm at the gym.

a. -

b. the

c. a

11. We've been colleagues for ages. I _____ him since I first moved to London.

am knowing

have known

know

12. I'm looking forward to my holiday! I _____ to spend the whole week on a boat!

'm going

'll go

will

**c. Complete the gaps with ONE word.**

When Tom and Elena were children, they **1**_____ go on holiday with their parents to the seaside every summer. Their parents **2**_____to own holiday homes next door to each other and Tom and Elena became good friends, almost **3**_____ brother and sister. Now they are grown up and **4**_____ their own families who they bring to the beach every year. However they no longer have the holiday homes and stay in the hotel which has been built. The beach is now **5**_____ of the best in the country, which makes it much **6**_____ popular than it once was and it is often very crowded.

**D. Complete the paragraph using the correct form of the word in capitals at the end of the line.**

| | |
|---|---|
| The two teenagers were **1**_____to get started on their camping trip. | **PATIENT** |
| They'd never been camping alone as their parents had always **2**_____ | **COURAGE** |
| them before, because they thought it would be **3**_____. However, | **DANGER** |
| the two boys had never really been **4**_____so finally, after a lot of | **RESPONSIBLE** |
| discussion, their parents agreed they were **5**_____ to do anything stupid. | **LIKE** |
| They put up their tent near the river. They were **6**_____ hot by the time | **BOIL** |
| they'd finished so they dived into the river, which was **7**_____cold, | **CREDIBLE** |
| much to their surprise. After eating their supper they went to bed but they | |
| found it **8**_____ to sleep because they were so excited. | **POSSIBLE** |

**E. Put the verbs in brackets in the most appropriate past form.**

My trip through Africa in 2008 has so far been the highlight of my life. I **1** _____ (plan) that trip ever since I **2** _____ (see) a TV programme when I was about four years old. The vast plains, deserts, jungles and mountains teeming with wildlife immediately **3** _____ (capture) my imagination. So one day, while I **4** _____ (listen) to the radio, I heard about the chance to do exactly that and, finally, in 2008, my dream **5** _____ (come) true. I **6** _____ (head) across the Sahara through the most inhospitable, yet extremely beautiful landscapes, meeting with the most hospitable people in the world. I **7** _____ (always want) to visit Timbuktu and, after several scary adventures I finally **8** _____ (make) it. Although today it is but a shadow of its former glorious self as the centre of medieval trading routes, the town with its mud-brick buildings is still a sight to behold.

## 4) Listening:

**Listen to four people talking about music. For questions 1-8 match the information in the list A-I with the speaker. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | thinks musicians work best in the early part of their careers | **Speaker 1** | 1_____ |
| B | has a very understanding family | | 2_____ |
| C | doesn't enjoy going to large concerts | **Speaker 2** | 3_____ |
| D | hates not having anything to listen to | | 4_____ |
| E | gets bored with bands when they become popular | **Speaker 3** | 5_____ |
| F | doesn't listen to many different types of music | | 6_____ |
| G | tells their friends about new musical discoveries | **Speaker 4** | 7_____ |
| H | tends not to pay for downloads these days | | 8_____ |
| I | discovers new music on social networking sites | | |

## 5) Writing: Write:

### a) Letter:

This is part of a letter you received from an English pen friend.

> In your last letter; you said you were going on a picnic in the country with some friends Where did you go? What was the food like? I'd love to know whether you enjoyed yourselves.

Write your **letter** in 120-180 words in appropriate style. Answer to your friend's questions and give relevant details. Do not write any addresses.

### b) Essay. Choose only one:

*"Money plays an important role in people's lives."* **or**

*"Family plays an important role in people's lives."*

Write your essay in no more than 120 – 180 words.

## Letter: Write here

Essay: Write here