

In the middle of nowhere

I can understand a text about a remote village.

Revision: Student's Book page 102

- 1 Match the words from box A with words from box B to make collocations. Use the collocations to complete the text below.

A	B
basic daily free	beaches island life
next-door sandy	neighbour supplies
tropical	time

My ¹ _____ went on holiday last summer to a ² _____ in the middle of the ocean. She sent me a photo of the beautiful, long, ³ _____. According to her, ⁴ _____ is not difficult for the people who live on the island. They don't have much to do and have lots of ⁵ _____. They can buy all their ⁶ _____ in a little shop on the island.

- 2 Read the text. What caused the situation in Staylitttle to become worse recently? Circle the correct answer.

- a a satellite dish
b a newspaper article
c a storm

Reading Strategy

To check if a sentence fits a gap, think about any words in the sentence which refer back to people, things, places or situations / events / ideas mentioned in the sentences before the gap. Check that the reference makes sense.

- 3 Read the Reading Strategy. Then match the gaps in the text (1–4) with the sentences below (A–F). Use the underlined words to help you. There are two extra sentences.

- A Their owners can get online and send emails.
B Now they can get online easily using their mobile phones.
C He also complained that the telephone lines in the village did not work well.
D But in fact they have become worse recently.
E That was bad news for the villagers.
F Unfortunately, the company refused to bring it here.

- 4 Look at the sentences you matched with gaps 1–4 in exercise 2. What do the underlined words in those sentences refer to?

- 1 _____ refers to _____
2 _____ refers to _____
3 _____ refers to _____
4 _____ refers to _____

A village without phones



The UK is not a big country, and it certainly is not a poor country. So you probably think communications are very good and everybody can use the internet and mobile phones. But this is not true. In some remote parts of the country, communications are very bad.

Staylitttle is a village in the centre of Wales. In 1965, a journalist wrote about the village in a newspaper. He said, 'it is miles from anywhere'. ¹ _____ That was a long time ago, but communications in the village have not changed very much. You cannot use a mobile phone in Staylitttle because there is no signal. There are also problems with the telephone lines. When the villagers make phone calls, they often hear other people's conversations at the same time!

The people who live there are tired of these problems. 'You need good telephone lines these days,' said one woman. 'Last month I tried to buy something online. ² _____ That was because I couldn't give them a phone number.' Other people have stopped using their phones completely. They've started writing letters to friends and relatives instead, just like in the past.



The British government is spending money to improve internet connections in remote parts of the country. For this reason, most of the people in Staylitttle hope that communications will get better soon. ³ _____ A few days ago, there was a bad storm in the area. Because of this, most of the telephone lines to Staylitttle have stopped working completely. Now the village has only got one telephone, in the post office.

A few houses in the village have internet access. ⁴ _____ However, it isn't a good idea to use email in an emergency. 'Imagine there's a fire,' said one man. 'You can't email the fire station and hope that they read it. You need to phone them!'