

Reading

Task 1

- Read this article about how a bank was built.
- Some parts of sentences have been left out from the text.
- Your task is to reconstruct the text by filling in the gaps (9- 16) from the list (A-L) below.
- Write the letters in the white boxes next to the numbers as in the example (0).
- Remember that there are two extra letters that you do not need.



THE BANK THAT WAS SENT THROUGH THE POST OFFICE

The U.S. Post Office allows its customers to mail many things besides letters. A customer can send plants, insects, some types of live animals (0) _____. A direct marketing research company once mailed a football, a hammer, and even a water ski, with just a stamp (9) _____, just to see what would happen. But the strangest thing sent through the mail was a bank. And not a child's piggy bank, (10) _____.

Of course, the whole bank couldn't be sent through the mail system, (11) _____. But the next best thing was mailed – all of the bricks used to construct the bank, all 80,000 of them.

Mr. W. H. Coltharp, a young businessman in the town of Vernal, Utah, wanted to build a bank (12) _____. The bricks which he selected for the building were made by a company located about 120 miles away from the town by straight line, (13) _____. Coltharp's problem was that the cost to transport 80,000 bricks from Salt Lake City to Vernal was too high, so he decided to mail the bricks to the small town through the cheap parcel post service.

He had the bricks carefully packaged in boxes, each of them weighing less than 50 pounds, the upper limit of what the post office permitted. News reports show (14) _____, equivalent to one ton.

Finally, all the bricks were delivered, but the postmasters got so angry (15) _____. From then on people could only send or receive a total of 200 pounds of goods in a single day. The Bank of Vernal was built (16) _____ "The Parcel Post Bank" by some people in the town. The building still exists and is still used as a bank.

(<http://www.stampsofdistinction.com>)

- A) as it is problematic to move a building
- B) and dedicate it to the memory of his father
- ~~C) and some dead ones, too.~~
- D) and a delivery label attached to it
- E) and even further by railway
- F) as a delivery method to get packages sent through the mail
- G) but a real one
- H) that the post office changed their regulations
- I) but they had to do it
- K) and it was immediately nicknamed
- L) that 40 boxes were transported each time

Task 2

- Read the following article about a difficult test question and then read the half sentences that follow the text.
- Your task is to match the half sentences based on the information in the text.
- Write the letters (A-I) in the white boxes next to the numbers (17-21) as in the example (0).
- Remember that there are three extra letters that you will not need.



'IMPOSSIBLE' EXAM QUESTION LEAVES CHINESE STUDENTS PUZZLED

Primary school students at a school in China had this question on a test: "If a ship has 26 sheep and 10 goats on board, how old is the ship's captain?"

The question caused a heated debate on Chinese social media. "This question makes no logical sense at all. Does the teacher even know the answer?" Some, however, defended the school, saying, "This question forces children to explain their thinking and gives them space to be creative. We should have more questions like this."

The local Education Department says the test was intended to "examine the ability to think independently." The traditional Chinese method of education heavily emphasises note-taking and repetition, which critics say doesn't encourage creative thinking.

And, of course, there's always that one person who has the right answer. "The total weight of 26 sheep and 10 goats is 7,700kg, based on the average weight of each animal. In China, if you're driving a ship that has more than 5,000kg of cargo, you need to have had a boat license for five years. The minimum age for getting a boat license is 23, so he's at least 28."

(www.bbc.co.uk)

0) *Some primary school students in China had a difficult question ...*

17) This test question got a lot of people ...

18) In their comments, some people said it would be useful ...

19) The aim of the question was ...

20) Most tests in China ask learners ...

21) If you want to drive a boat in China, you have ...

A) to test how well learners can think on their own.

B) to react on social media.

~~C) to answer on a test paper.~~

D) to be over 28.

E) to test note-taking abilities.

F) to have questions of this type in tests.

G) to simply give back what the teacher has taught them.

H) to ask such an impossible question.

I) to be at least 23 years old.

Use of English

Task 1

- You are going to read an article about what people promise to do in the New Year. Some words are missing from the text.
- Use the words in brackets to form the words that fit in the gaps (1-8).
- Then write the appropriate form of these words on the lines after the text.
- There might be cases when you do not have to change the word in brackets.
- Use only one word for each gap.
- There is an example (0) at the beginning.



THE HISTORY OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

New Year's resolutions have a long history. The Babylonians promised to return (0) _____ (*borrow*) objects and repay their debts at the (1) _____ (*begin*) of each year, while the Romans started January by making a vow to the god Janus (from whom the month takes its name). That means we've had centuries of (2) _____ (*break*) promises.

"I think the main reason why new year's resolutions fail is that people are rather (3) _____ (*realistic*)," says Benjamin Gardner, an expert in behaviour change at King's College London. "If you're not doing any exercise and set (4) _____ (*you*) the goal of going to the gym five times a week for half an hour, you're probably not going to achieve it. The other reason is that people are not (5) _____ (*necessary*) ready to change."

Psychologists at the College recently proposed that, for something positive to happen, people must have the capability, opportunity and (6) _____ (*motivate*) to make it happen. "Often people aren't making resolutions for the right reasons," says Gardner: "They think that because it's New Year, they're (7) _____ (*expect*) to say they'll change their behaviour. But once they (8) _____ (*real*) the difficulty of what they're doing, they give up because they aren't motivated enough in the first place."

(<http://www.theguardian.com>)

Example: 0: borrowed

Task 2 (Example: 0: C)

- You are going to read an article about British table manners: what you should and should not do when you eat in Great Britain. Some words are missing from the text.
- Choose the most appropriate answer from the options (A-D) for each gap (17-25) in the text.
- Write the letter of the appropriate answer in the white box.
- There is an example (0) at the beginning.



EATING ETIQUETTE

If you cannot eat a certain type of food or have some special needs, tell your host several days (0) _____ the dinner party. If you are a guest, it is impolite to start eating before everyone has been served unless your host (17) _____ you don't need to wait.

It is impolite to have your elbows on the table (18) _____ you are eating. Don't reach over someone's plate for something, ask for the item (19) _____ passed. Never take food from your neighbour's plate.

You may eat chicken and pizza with your fingers if you are at a barbecue, or in a very informal setting. Soup (20) _____ be taken from the side of the spoon and not from the 'end' as in (21) _____ European countries. Always swallow all the food in your mouth before taking more or taking a drink. Never chew with your mouth (22) _____.

Place your knife and fork together on your plate, with the prongs of the fork facing upwards, (23) _____ others know that you have finished eating. If you've taken (24) _____ food and you cannot eat (25) _____ all, say: "I'm sorry, but it seems that 'my eyes are bigger than my stomach'."

(www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk)

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|-----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 0) | A <i>after</i> | B <i>later</i> | C <i>before</i> | D <i>earlier</i> |
| 17) | A doesn't tell | B tells | C says | D doesn't say |
| 18) | A while | B during | C because | D since |
| 19) | A be | B to be | C been | D to |
| 20) | A could | B need | C ought | D should |
| 21) | A the most of | B most | C most of | D the most |
| 22) | A open | B opening | C opened | D to open |
| 23) | A to let | B let's | C letting | D you let |
| 24) | A plenty | B too much | C lot of | D too many |
| 25) | A them | B the | C it | D of |