Vocabulary

Learning new skills

1 Choose the correct alternatives.

I always enjoy trying [1]*on*/*out* new instruments because I'm really keen [2]*at*/*on* music. I play the piano and the flute, and at the moment I'm having a go [3]*out*/*at* learning the violin. It's a bit [4]*of*/*off* a challenge and I'm useless [5]*on*/*at* it, but it doesn't matter! I go [6]*over*/*out* what I learn during the lessons and I practise every day. I think that I've got a long way [7]*for*/*to* go, but my teacher says I'm making a lot [8]*of*/*on* progress.

2 Match the sentence halves.

1 I'm downloading *d*
2 We're doing ____
3 He's developing ____
4 They're making ____
5 I have ____
6 She's trying ____
7 He's keen ____
8 I'm useless ____

a his technique in football.
b a lot of progress in learning to play the cello.
c out her cycling skills.
d an app, which will help me to learn Chinese.
e on learning French.
f a long way to go before I can ride a motorbike.
g at learning new languages.
h a language exchange with some Italian students.

3 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

challenge ~~develop~~ expert improve interested keen skilled training

1 I practise skateboarding every day so that I can *develop* my technique.
2 I'm _____ a lot because I want to run a ten-kilometre race next month.
3 John has been working hard to _____ his computer skills.
4 Nala is highly _____ at painting. She had her own art exhibition last month.
5 My mum has taught my sister to cook over the years and now she's a bit of an _____.
6 Diving is something that has always _____ me.
7 I'm making some progress with Mandarin, but it's a bit of a _____.
8 Jane's _____ on music, so I think she'll enjoy learning to play the piano.

Grammar

Present simple and present continuous

4 Find and correct five mistakes in sentences 1–8.

train

1 I ~~am training~~ at the sports centre every Tuesday and Thursday.
2 Some young people are starting to write letters instead of sending emails.
3 Ashanti downloads an app at the moment.
4 Are you understanding what I mean?
5 The word 'expert' is meaning someone who is good at something.
6 She's having a go at the guitar this term.
7 Yin and Michael are belonging to a golf club.
8 I don't believe that's true.

5 Complete the conversation. Use the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

A: Hi Dan, what [1] *are* you *doing* (do) in the kitchen? You [2] _____ (hate) cooking!
B: I [3] _____ (have) a go at making an omelette!
A: Really?
B: Yes, I [4] _____ (do) a cookery course this month and I [5] _____ (go) over what we learnt in the last class.
A: Good for you! I've heard that lots of people [6] _____ (do) cookery courses at the moment.
B: Yes, my course is very popular. Anyway, I [7] _____ (feel) that I'm useless at cooking, so it's a bit of a challenge.
A: I [8] _____ (not think) you're useless. The food smells really good! Fish [9] _____ (not be) easy to cook.
B: OK, it's ready now. [10] _____ you _____ (want) to join me?
A: Yes, please!

