

Saving the Great Wall

Is there anything that humans have built on Earth which is visible from the moon without a telescope? Many people think the answer to this question is 'The Great Wall of China'. ¹ _____ The Wall is almost 7000 km long but it cannot be seen from so far away.

It is, nevertheless, China's most important tourist attraction. ² _____. Many of these visitors choose to travel from nearby Beijing and the parts of the Wall closest to the capital are beginning to show the impact of mass tourism. There are hundreds of souvenir sellers, noodle stalls, fast food restaurants, several car parks and a cable car. Although there are signs saying that it is against the law to do so, thousands of people carve their names in the Wall and leave litter nearby.

Tourism is not the only modern development that is having an impact on the Wall, however. ³ _____. A 123-metre area was cut away so that a vegetable market could expand and not long after, another 35 metres were knocked down to make way for a road.

The destruction of part of the wall is nothing new, however. In its two thousand year history it has suffered damage from floods, earthquakes, and military attack. ⁴ _____. Many sections of the Wall have already collapsed.

Repairing the damage that has already been done costs money and not everyone in China agrees that it is worth it. Although for some the Wall is an important part of their national heritage, for others it is just a reminder of the tragic part of China's history when it had to defend itself from invaders. Some people even think that because so

many died building the Wall, it is actually wrong to preserve it.

There are, of course, those who do want to save it. One of them is William Lindesay, an Englishman living in China, who hiked along the Wall in 1987 and wrote a book about his experience. Lindesay has started a group called 'Friends of the Great Wall'. ⁵ _____. But Lindesay says that time is running out. 'In another twenty years there will be so many buildings around the Wall that it will be almost impossible to see it,' he says.



Five sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- a) Millions of foreign and Chinese people visit it every year.
- b) Recently, two sections were destroyed with the permission of the government.
- c) They are wrong.
- d) Despite this, they have not been successful.
- e) They try to prevent more development along the sections of the Wall closest to Beijing.
- f) Over the centuries, farmers have used bricks from the Wall to build houses and shelters for animals.

GRAMMAR

1. Read the story. Then fill in the blanks with the infinitive (with or without to) or the gerund form of the verbs in brackets.

Last year I decided a. _____ (**spend**) my holiday in Bournemouth. I really wanted b. _____ (**go**) to Thailand but I couldn't afford c. _____ (**spend**) so much money. I didn't mind d. _____ (**stay**) in England as Bournemouth has a great beach and some great clubs. However, by the end of the second day I was starting e. _____ (**feel**) doubtful about my decision. It hadn't stopped f. _____ (**rain**) since I arrived and I was beginning to regret g. _____ (**come**) to Bournemouth. Anyway, that evening I made up my mind h. _____ (**enjoy**) myself so I went to a new club. There I met a really nice Australian girl. First, I tried unsuccessfully i. _____ (**impress**) her by speaking German. Then I suggested j. _____ (**dance**) so that I could show her some of my fancy dance steps, which she thought was really funny. We arranged k. _____ (**go out**) together the next day. From then on everything started l. _____ (**improve**) and I ended up m. _____ (**have**) a great time. And I am planning n. _____ (**go**) to Australia on holiday next year.

2. Complete the sentences with the correct form of MAKE and LET.

- a. My mother always _____ me eat everything on my plate, even if I don't like it.

- b. Come on dad! Please _____ me go to the concert!
- c. Don't _____ me tell you again!
- d. My brother _____ to wash our dad's car every Saturday when he was a teenager.
- e. **3. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words.**
- a. Tanya and Sylvia are the same height. **TALL**
Sylvia _____ Tanya.
- b. You can't travel on your own because you are too young. **OLD**
You _____ to travel on your own.
- c. Nobody in the school runs better than Marco. **THE**
Marco _____ in the school.
- d. The wind was so strong that our windows were broken. **SUCH**
It was _____ that our windows were broken.
- e. I thought the test would more difficult. **EASIER**
The test _____ I expected.
- f. We were all sweating because of the heat. **SO**
It _____ that we were all sweating.
- g. As our dog grows older, it gets less active. **THE**
The older our dog grows, _____ gets.
- h. We aren't old enough to rent a flat ourselves. **YOUNG**
We are _____ to rent a flat ourselves.