

FIRST READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

Hobbies and leisure

Complete the sentences with the correct word from the box.

about	at	by	in	into	on	to	with
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- I'm not very keen science fiction films, but the rest of my family loves them.
- I'm interested taking up scuba diving, but it's an expensive hobby.
- My father has always been fascinated architecture and loves visiting old castles.
- I used to prefer rock and folk music, but I've really got jazz recently.
- John is very excited starting tennis lessons next week.
- Maria is quite pleased her daughter's progress in her ballet class.
- Some people can become addicted playing computer games.
- Antonia is brilliant cooking; I wish I could do it as well as her!

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

0 A taste B appeal C interest D attraction

Example answer: B



The joy of photography

Photography is a hobby with wide (0) : And I don't mean taking photos on your mobile phone, though it cannot be (1) that such pictures can be surprisingly good these days. Serious photography means taking the (2) to do some research, exploring the technical (3) of the subject and investing in what might be quite expensive equipment. So why take up photography? Firstly, it allows you to (4) special moments that you want to remember forever. In addition, it (5) your imagination because you are always in search of ideas for original and out of the ordinary photos. However, a lot of practice is required before you (6) to take really good pictures on a regular basis. When you finally do it, it will be a (7) of great satisfaction for you. Photography can also transform the way you look at the world. You start to see details that in the past you used to miss (8) All in all, it's a highly absorbing hobby.

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|---------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 A rejected | B contradicted | C denied | D refused |
| 2 A trouble | B care | C effort | D concern |
| 3 A characteristics | B forms | C qualities | D aspects |
| 4 A seize | B capture | C grab | D catch |
| 5 A motivates | B renews | C stimulates | D reacts |
| 6 A manage | B succeed | C achieve | D reach |
| 7 A reason | B cause | C source | D means |
| 8 A utterly | B completely | C fully | D absolutely |

Sport

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets, **-ing** or **to + infinitive**.

1. Elena can't stand (play) football; she prefers athletics.
2. I regretted (do) the extra training session because I felt so tired afterwards.
3. Lucas is planning (take up) skiing next year.
4. Nicole really enjoys (go) for long runs in the hills near her home.
5. The squash player managed (win) the final game despite being exhausted.
6. Leo refused (join) his local gym even though his friends were all members.
7. My mother is considering (enter) a golf tournament next month.
8. We knew we were unlikely (lose) against a very weak and inexperienced team.

Education and study

Complete the sentences with a linking word or phrase from the box.

as long as	although	as well as	despite	in order to
	owing to	therefore	whereas	

1. you concentrate, you should pass the exam.
2. she always handed in her homework late, the quality of her work was high.
3. Simona took notes during the lecture recording what the teacher said.
4. Mike decided to get a summer job in France improve his French.
5. being one of the most intelligent students in the class, Michael's exam result was disappointing.
6. The students found that they had a free morning the cancellation of the lecture.
7. 'You just don't practise enough,' said the teacher, 'and you're not likely to improve'.
8. Tom wrote his essay in an hour, John needed a whole day to do his.

- For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: (0) **WHETHER**

Keep on learning!

It doesn't matter (0) you are still at school or in full-time employment, making the effort to learn new things is very important. Most of us have a few subjects on (1) we focus. These may be associated (2) our study or job, or sometimes a hobby. (3) it is obviously important to develop a deep understanding of (4) matters to us most, it is equally worthwhile to extend our range of knowledge beyond what we are familiar with, and that is true at (5) age.



So the best advice is to find the time to (6) on new challenges and learn new skills outside the areas where we feel most comfortable. People often choose subjects (7) as new languages, computer skills, or painting. If you can't get to a class, then you can go online. Online courses can easily (8) found, and learning online means you put in as much time as you want each day.

- For questions 1–6, 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, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 On holiday I prefer going sightseeing to relaxing on the beach.

RATHER

On holiday I would rather go sightseeing than relax on the beach.

1. Nobody explained why the flight had been delayed.

REASON

Nobody gave to the flight.

2. Last year's skiing holiday was more exciting than this year's holiday by the sea.

AS

This year's holiday by the sea last year's skiing holiday.

3. Maria doesn't think we should visit the museum because it's not very interesting.

POINT

Maria says the museum because it's not very interesting.

4. All of us are excited about our trip to China next month.

LOOKING

Everyone our trip to China next month.

5. When I was in Sweden, I managed to learn some Swedish.

PICK

When I was in Sweden, I was some Swedish.

▶ You are going to read an article about new technology and students. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

You are going to read an article about new technology and students. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Student life and technology

By Debra Mallin, a business student at Greyfort University

Last Saturday, as my grandfather drove me and my sister home from a dinner to celebrate his birthday, he got frustrated at not being able to remember the name of the singer of a song he'd just heard on the radio. Without a second thought, I grabbed my smartphone, searched for the song and found the name, Bob Dylan. For me and my friends, this is a completely natural course of action, but it totally astonished my grandfather, who didn't understand how I had checked the information so quickly. My sister and I laughed and explained, but afterwards, it made me think about how much I depend on technology.

The list of the ways I use technology is endless: writing, planning, socialising, communicating and shopping, to name a few. When I reflected on its impact on my education, I saw that, for my fellow students and I, technology has been significant in many ways. Returning to the story of my grandfather and the smartphone, he had asked me more about how I used it and about university life. He said he thought we had an easy life compared to previous generations. My sister caught my

eye and we exchanged a smile. But whereas she was thinking our grandfather was just being a typical 65-year-old, I could see his point.

Not only are we lucky enough to have the same educational benefits as those of previous generations, we have so many more as well. We still have walk-in libraries available to us, and I can see why some students choose to find and use resources in these distraction-free locations. However, the only option for studying used to be sitting in these libraries with as many books from your reading list as you could find, yet now a single search for your chosen study topic online can immediately provide access to a huge range of resources. At universities, interaction between students and university staff is another area that has changed considerably with developments in technology. We can have face-to-face time with our



tutors when we need it, and also communicate using our electronic gadgets from the comfort of our homes, or on the bus. The most popular means of doing this is via instant messaging or social media – email is often considered too slow, and it has become unacceptable for messages to be unanswered for any length of time. While this puts an extra strain on the university's academic support team, who usually have to answer the queries as they come in, we students are greatly benefitted.

It's important that we remember to appreciate how much the advances in technology have given us.

Electronic devices such as tablets, smartphones, and laptops are now standard equipment in most classrooms and lecture halls, and why shouldn't they be? The replacement of textbooks with tablets allows students the luxury of having up-to-date, interactive and even personalised learning materials, with the added benefit of them not costing the earth.

When we compare the student life of the past and that of the present day, it is tempting to focus on the obvious differences when it comes to technology. In actual fact, students are doing what they've always done: embracing the resources available and adapting them in ways which allow them to work more efficiently and to live more enjoyably. The pace of change in technology continuously gathers speed, so we have to value each innovation as it happens.

1. What does the writer illustrate by describing the incident in the car?
 - A the older generation's frustration at people's dependence on technology
 - B how unaware young people are of some effects of technology
 - C the difference in attitudes to technology between two generations
 - D how technology helps different generations communicate
 2. What did the writer think of her grandfather's comment, mentioned in the second paragraph?
 - A It showed how out-of-date he was.
 - B It had an element of truth in it.
 - C It was an annoying thing to say.
 - D It made her feel sorry for him.
 3. What does the writer say about getting study resources from libraries?
 - A She considers libraries more preferable places for study than home.
 - B She cannot understand why anyone chooses to go to a library now.
 - C She appreciates the fact that people can still study in libraries if they want to.
 - D She thinks libraries are limited by the quantity of resources they can store.
 4. What disadvantage of new technology does the writer mention in the third paragraph?
 - A Those who can afford the best gadgets gain an unfair advantage.
 - B Sometimes slow internet connections make communication difficult.
 - C A heavier workload is created for teaching staff at the university.
 - D Students cannot escape from dealing with university issues.
 5. What is the purpose of the question 'Why shouldn't they be?' in the fourth paragraph?
 - A to express an opinion
 - B to introduce some problems
 - C to make a criticism
 - D to indicate uncertainty
 6. What is the writer's conclusion about students today in the final paragraph?
 - A They have such different lives to previous generations that it's unwise to compare them.
 - B They deal better with change than previous generations did.
 - C They take advantage of new resources more quickly than previous generations did.
 - D They are behaving in a similar way to previous generations of students.
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