

Part 4

Questions 16–20

Five sentences have been removed from the text below.
For each question, choose the correct answer.
There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

Adventures in the air

The first ever balloon flight carrying passengers was made by the Montgolfier brothers in 1783. They used hot air to float the balloon over 1,000 metres up into the sky. Nowadays, people still fly in hot-air balloons but there is also a less well-known sport called 'cluster ballooning'; instead of one big balloon, hundreds of small balloons are used.

Cluster ballooning was invented by a lorry driver called Larry Walters. Larry had wanted to fly using balloons for a long time. **16** It took almost 20 years, however, for his dream to finally come true. One day, Larry decided to do an experiment: he wanted to try flying a few metres above his garden. So he bought 45 balloons, filled them with a gas called helium, and tied them to a chair. He then cut the rope that was holding the chair to the ground. **17** The chair, with Larry sitting in it, floated several kilometres into the sky rather than just a few metres!

The wind was blowing strongly and Larry began to float out towards the sea. Things were getting dangerous. Then, to make matters even worse, the wind changed, and the balloons started to blow towards the local airport. Larry felt very worried. **18** The story of Larry's flight was all over the news and this is how the adventure sport of cluster ballooning was born.

One experienced cluster balloonist, Leo Burns, flew his cluster balloons over the largest range of mountains in Europe – the Alps. This wasn't his first flight, though. Leo had got his pilot's licence several years before, so was already used to flying. **19** According to Leo, there is no better way to fly. 'Cluster ballooning's amazing,' he says. 'The balloons are usually completely silent. **20** They weren't as safe as modern cluster balloons either.'

- A He knew this would still make him feel very afraid.
- B The old-fashioned hot-air balloons made a horrible noise.
- C In fact, he was just a boy when he first started thinking about it.
- D Luckily, he landed safely after a couple of hours.
- E They are also much less dangerous.
- F However, there was an unexpected problem.
- G But these days, he prefers to use balloons.
- H Immediately after that, he tried to learn how this would be possible.