B1 Preliminary for Schools

Name: _____

Class: _____

Reading

Task 1

What about Esperanto?

When you think about an international language, what language do you think of? Maybe English? Certainly, lots of popular films and music are in English, and English is the most popular second language to learn, but there was a language invented to be even more international. That language is Esperanto.

In 1887, a man called LL Zamenhof wanted to design a language that didn't come from any country and that was completely international. He came up with Esperanto. When he designed the language, he made it easy to learn but it wasn't always easy to find books or teachers in the past. You couldn't learn it at school either. But now, with the internet, it is much easier to find ways to learn Esperanto, like apps or programs.

In fact, there are over a million speakers of Esperanto around the world. The most interesting thing is that you don't know where they might be – they aren't from a specific country! You have to join Esperanto groups to find other speakers.

There are also a small number of people who have Esperanto as their first language. You might think this is impossible, but it can happen when parents don't have the same language. They learn a completely different one to communicate with at home.

This is what happened to Vito. Vito is 17 years old. His father is from New Zealand and his mother is from Spain. 'When my parents met, they couldn't communicate very well. My mother speaks spoke the language of her home area and also Spanish, and my father only spoke English. He then learnt a little Spanish to help them talk to each other. When I was born, they didn't want me to have a favourite; English or Spanish. So, we all learnt Esperanto! It was the first language I knew. I then went to school in New Zealand and learned more English there.'

Vito also says, 'It's really great having Esperanto as a first language. It's like having a secret code that only some people know. And there are great Esperanto groups online. They are full of people all around the world. We sometimes meet up. There is a group where you can find, and go and stay with, another Esperanto speaker in a different country. So, I can speak Esperanto and learn about a whole new place!'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Read the article and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

1 In the first paragraph, what does the writer say about English?
A It isn't really an international language.
B Its aim is to be international.
C More people learn it than any other language.
D People can't learn it just through films.

2 Why did LL Zamenhof design Esperanto?
A Because he didn't like his first language.
B Because he thought most languages were too hard to learn.
C Because he didn't like the language of his country.
D Because he wanted an international language.

3 Why was Esperanto difficult to learn?
A There were no speakers.
B There were no places to learn.
C Nobody was interested.
D The books were bad.

4 What reason does the writer give for having Esperanto as a first language?
A The parents cannot speak another language.
B The parents enjoy learning new languages.
C It becomes the only shared family language.
D The family think it will bring new chances.

5 How many languages can Vito's mother speak?
A two
B three
C four
D five

6 Where does Zito meet other Esperanto speakers?
A on the internet
B in his own country
C through his family
D at meetings

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Reading

Task 2

Five young people all want to do something fun in their free time. Read the article and decide which activity would be the most suitable for each person. Match the descriptions of activities (A–H) with the people (9–13). There are three descriptions of activities which you do not need to use.

7 Aaron wants to learn something new and go to a class once a week. He enjoys activities where he can get fit and wants to learn how to protect himself.

8 Petra has never been to exercise classes. Only the ones in school! She doesn't really like sports, and hates being outdoors, but she wants to spend time with her friends.

9 Gary likes activities which are sometimes dangerous. He wants to have an instructor and doesn't want to be outside.

10 Sarah likes the water, but doesn't like water sports much. She prefers just spending time relaxing.

11 Carmen has spent lots of holidays with her parents by the sea and enjoys being on the water. She would like to do an activity early in the day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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New sports camp for all!

A new sports camp is open in the summer holidays for all children and teenagers in the area.

A
Have you ever wanted to try climbing? This is your chance! There is a wall over twenty metres tall that you can try in our sports hall. You need to be over twelve years old, but there are teachers to keep you safe!

B
Do you want to be by the sea? Well, come to our huge swimming pool. It has waves, so you can feel like you're at the beach. Yes, there is sand too! You can play or join the swimming classes.

C
Do you like dancing? There are classes every day with different styles of music. Some of our most popular classes are hip hop, pop and heavy metal. You can dance with your friends and get fit in a different way!

D
We have three horses and you can have lessons to ride them. The lessons are for beginners and they are every day from 3 p.m.

E
Are you interested in learning how to defend yourself and get fit? The ancient sport of karate may be for you! Have classes every Friday evening!

F
We don't only do sports! Why not come to the reading club? This is every evening from 7 p.m. Just bring a book and you can choose to sit on your own or tell others about it.

G
If you like spending time alone outdoors, come to the cycling club. We meet on Saturdays and go to a different area in the town and explore it! Come with your friends or make friends at the club.

H
We have boats that you can take out to the lake. Be careful! You need to be strong! Rowing is hard work. There are also sail boats, and there are classes every Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

LIVEWORKSHEETS