

**READING COMPREHENSION
& GRAMMAR**

READING COMPREHENSION – TEXT 1

Read the text and choose the correct alternatives to answer the questions.

Becca Smith, a gym enthusiast and bikini contest champion from Chester, Cheshire, 29, was setting up her own yoga studio in Leeds at the end of 2019 when she started to fall ill. In January 2020, she started experiencing severe pain and migraines. She stopped yoga and strength training on the presumption she had injured her back.

Having been crowned Cumbrian Classic Bikini Champion in 2015 and later competing in the British finals, she didn't even think cancer could be possible. Becca said: "I remember two doctors came up to me. They closed the curtains, my stomach dropped. I just knew something wasn't right." Becca was asked if she wanted her parents present, but she said "no" because she never dreamed the diagnosis would be so shocking.

The doctors told Becca, a non-smoker, she had stage-four lung cancer. They said there was nothing they could do - it had spread from her lungs to her spine, brain and skull. Then she was given just two weeks to live. "I vividly remember ringing my mum and screaming 'Get to the hospital' and I was screaming 'It's cancer'.

"My dad dropped to the floor, my mum was screaming, I was screaming.

"I remember saying to my mum: 'Please don't let me die'."

Becca wrote on Instagram, where she is documenting her journey, that she was sent home with palliative (end of life) care.

Despite the two-week projection, Becca's family refused to accept it was the end.

Becca's sister Steph, 31, invested in herbal remedies in a bid to boost her health as much as possible, including cannabis oils and healing juices.

Becca takes a drug called Alectinib that keeps her "stable" - prolonging her life and attends hospital for monthly scans. It is not known exactly what her prognosis now is. However, she has returned to work, the gym, and says she "feels the healthiest mentally and physically".

"I can't live my life in fear," Becca said. "I just feel like this new path, rather than helping people in fitness, I'm hoping to use my diagnosis to help people. "I look at everything differently now. I don't worry or stress about the things that I used to." "My world was set on building businesses and making money, but now it's just to live a long and healthy, happy life.

Text retrieved from: Chalmers V. (2021. November 16th). *Terminal Case*. The Sun <https://www.thesun.co.uk/health/16703450/thought-cough-back-problem-then-terminal-cancer/>

Question 1

From the context of the passage, the word JOURNEY most nearly means:

- a) frustration
- b) expedition
- c) illness
- d) regrets

Question 2

According to the paragraphs most of the following sentences are true, except:

- a) Becca Smith used to be a healthy woman.
- b) Beccas' relatives will help her to fight cancer as much as possible.
- c) The doctors are sure that they cannot save Becca from cancer.
- d) Now, Becca feels blue most of the time.

Question 3

Which of the following sentences summarizes the main idea of the passage?

- a) Life is short. We should enjoy it.
- b) Improve the relationship with your family members.
- c) Your point of view about life changes according to your circumstances.
- d) Science cannot fight cancer.

Question 4

From the whole passage, it can be inferred that...

- a) cancer can affect even people who look healthy.
- b) Becca has recovered from cancer.
- c) the doctors will take care of Becca.
- d) Becca's parents didn't know what to do.

Question 5

The text is about...

- a) science and fitness.
- b) family bonds.
- c) dealing with difficulties.
- d) working for a GYM.

READING COMPREHENSION – TEXT 2

Read the text and choose the correct alternatives to answer the questions.

The U.S. recorded its first confirmed case of the omicron variant Wednesday — in a vaccinated traveler who returned to California after a trip to South Africa — as scientists around the world race to establish whether the new, mutant version of the coronavirus is more dangerous than previous ones. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious-disease expert, announced the finding at the White House.

"We knew it was just a matter of time before the first case of omicron would be detected in the United States," he said.

The infected person was identified as a traveler who had returned from South Africa on Nov. 22, developed mild symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19 Monday. Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco obtained a sample from the patient Tuesday evening and worked feverishly overnight to assemble the genetic sequence.

The person, who had had the full two doses of the Moderna vaccine and wasn't yet due for a booster shot, is improving, California officials said.

Fauci and other medical experts strongly emphasized that Americans should continue to get vaccinated and get their booster shots. The vaccine has been proven to reduce the risk of severe illness and death, and Fauci said it is reasonable to believe it will offer protection against the omicron variant.

All the individual's close contacts have been reached and have tested negative, officials said. The patient, who agreed to remain in quarantine, was identified only as being between 18 and 49.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom expressed confidence in the state's efforts to control the virus and said he does not anticipate imposing another stay-at-home order or other shutdown measures.

At least 23 other countries have reported omicron infections since South African authorities first identified the variant a week ago — an

announcement that led the U.S. and many other nations to almost immediately bar airline travelers arriving from southern Africa.

The country's National Institute for Communicable Diseases said omicron has now overtaken the delta variant among samples now being analyzed at the genetic level. But the variant is still surrounded by many unknowns, among them: Is it more contagious than other versions, as some scientists are beginning to suspect? Does it make people more seriously ill? And can it evade the vaccine?

"Any declaration of what will or will not happen with this variant, I think it is too early to say," Fauci said. European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it will take two to three weeks before it becomes fully clear what omicron can do to the world.

Text retrieved from: Grisdale J. (2021. December 2nd). *US Reports 1st Case of omicron variant in returning traveler.* The Asahi Shimbun <https://www.thesun.co.uk/health/16703450/though-cough-back-problem-then-terminal-cancer/>

Question 1

Which sentence is false?

- a) Scientists don't know exactly how infected people react to omicron.
- b) You can get infected even if you are vaccinated with the two doses recommended.
- c) It is proven that anti-covid regular vaccines offer protection against the omicron variant.
- d) Omicron infections are taking place in many countries.

Question 2

In the passage, what does the word UNKNOWN mean?

- a) dangerous
- b) worse
- c) disappointing
- d) unfamiliar

Question 3

According to the text, which of the following sentences is false?

- a) Nobody knows the real impact of omicron on people's health.
- b) The omicron patient is now in quarantine.
- c) The people who traveled with the patient are infected too.
- d) It is recommended that Americans continue getting vaccinated.

Question 4

What can be implied from the passage?

- a) The name of the infected person is confidential information.
- b) The omicron is more contagious than other COVID variants.
- c) A new lock-down is highly recommended.
- d) It is impossible to know what omicron can do on people's health.

Question 5

From the passage we can say that...

- a) it was expected that Americans get infected.
- b) South Africa is safe from omicron infections.
- c) the new variant of coronavirus is more dangerous than the previous ones.
- d) the infected person is an adult woman.

GRAMMAR QUIZ

69.1

Some of these sentences need **a/an**. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1.- Joe goes everywhere by bike. He doesn't have car. He doesn't have a car.
- 2.- Helen was listening to music when I arrived. OK.
- 3.- We went to very nice restaurant last weekend. _____
- 4.- I brush my teeth with toothpaste. _____
- 5.- I use toothbrush to brush my teeth. _____
- 6.- Can you tell me if there's bank near here? _____
- 7.- My brother works for insurance company. _____
- 8.- I don't like violence. _____

69.3

Complete the sentences using the following words:

air day friend joke language meat
patience people picture queue space umbrella

Sometimes the word needs to be plural (-s), and sometimes you need to use **a/an**.

- 1.- I had a camera with me, but I didn't take any pictures.
- 2.- There are seven _____ in a week.
- 3.- A vegetarian is a person who doesn't eat _____
- 4.- Outside the cinema there was _____ of people waiting to see the film.
- 6.- Last night I went out with some _____ of mine.
- 7.- There were very few _____ in town today. The streets were almost empty.
- 8.- I'm going out for a walk. I need some fresh _____
- 9.- I think it's going to rain. Do you have _____ I could borrow?

70.2

Which is correct?

- 1.- Did you have nice weather / a nice weather when you were away?
- 2.- We were very unfortunate. We had bad luck / a bad luck.
- 3.- Our travel / journey from Paris to Moscow by train was very tiring.
- 4.- When the fire alarm rang, there was complete chaos / a complete chaos.
- 5.- Bad news don't / doesn't make people happy.
- 6.- There's some lovely scenery / a lovely scenery in this part of the country.
- 7.- I like my job, but it's very hard work / a very hard work.
- 8.- I want to print some documents, but the printer is out of paper / papers.

70.3

Complete the sentences using the following words. Use the plural (-s) where necessary.

advice	chair	damage	experience	experience
furniture	hair	luggage	permission	progress

- 1.- We didn't have much luggage – just two small bags.
- 2.- We have no _____, not even a bed or a table.
- 3.- There is room for everybody to sit down. There are plenty of _____.
- 4.- Who is that woman with short _____? Do you know her?
- 5.- Carla's English is better than it was. She's made good _____.
- 6.- If you want to take pictures here, you need to ask for _____.

70.4

What do you say in these situations? Use the word in brackets in your sentences.

- 1.- Your friends have just arrived at the station. You can't see any cases or bags. You ask:
(luggage) Do **you have any luggage**.....?
- 2.- You go to a tourist office. You want to know about places to visit in the town.
(information) I'd like.....
- 3.- You are a student. You want your teacher to advise you about which courses to do. You say:
(advice) Can you give.....?
- 4.- You applied for a job and you've just heard that you were successful. You call Tom and say:
(good news) Hi, Tom. I..... I got the job!