

Fish for words**5 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.**

- 1 Check the facts on this website to **ensure** / **insure** that you have the correct information.
- 2 Someone's coming to do the gardening, but mum forgot to ask him what his **wages** / **rates** are.
- 3 I've **lost** / **missed** count of the number of times I've got bad marks in maths!
- 4 If teachers don't **encourage** / **enforce** discipline, standards will drop at our school.
- 5 Somehow, our English teacher always manages to make her classes **motivational** / **motivating** for us.

1 Are these statements facts or opinions?

- 1 Head teachers are convinced that school numbers will fall in the coming year.
- 2 Over 80% of the school budget was spent on teachers' salaries last year.
- 3 Eating breakfast in the morning has shown to improve students' concentration.
- 4 Stress is blamed for causing teachers to take time off work.
- 5 There is statistical evidence to prove that students work better in small classes.
- 6 Most students feel that they are being given too much homework these days.

EXTENDED

2a Read the text to do with school. For each question choose the answer (A, B or C) which you think fits best according to the text.

Text 1.

Back to school

Just another twenty seconds, thought James. He stared out of the taxi window as it rounded the final corner, his eyes searching for the familiar grey building that towered above the trees. And there it was, unchanged and as ugly as he remembered it.

He relaxed slightly and in doing so he realised that he'd been holding his breath in anticipation of something different. Perhaps it had been repainted or modernised, or even knocked down and rebuilt. But he was comforted and relieved to find the place still standing, still full of character and also full of his treasured memories of life there.

The taxi drew up in front of the steps to the school entrance. James almost laughed

out loud. How many times had the popular young James sat on those steps with his mates, although it was forbidden? And how many times had a teacher, usually Mr Wilson, who taught him maths, told them to move? It was Mr Wilson, too, who had caught him cheating in class and found him taking cakes from the school shop. He had ended up with more detentions from Mr Wilson than anyone else. James sighed. If he'd been more interested in what was being taught, he might not have got into so much trouble. He wondered whether the teacher would be there this evening.

Slowly James walked up the steps. It felt a little strange. In the past, this area would have been filled with noisy teenagers shouting, chatting, playing, flirting ...

But this evening it was deserted. He made his way down the well-trodden corridors and passed newly painted signs to the science laboratories. It was brighter inside the school than he remembered and there were examples of the students' artistic creations on the walls – not all of them very good, unfortunately! He came to a stop outside the main school hall. He could hear people murmuring inside.

As he pushed open the familiar doors, touched by countless students over the years, he smiled to himself. What a comeback! James Goodyear, the bad boy of Year 12, now a successful Olympic athlete, returning to give a motivational speech to the students. Who would have thought?

1 As he approached the school, James was concerned that

- A he wouldn't remember his life there.
- B he would be depressed by going back.
- C he wouldn't recognise the school.
- D he would see the same ugly building again.

2 When James was a student at the school he

- A stole things from Mr Wilson.
- B had Mr Wilson as a teacher.
- C didn't have a lot of friends.
- D usually escaped punishments.

3 How did James feel before he entered the school hall?

- A nervous about meeting Mr Wilson
- B proud of his record at the school
- C impressed by the interior decoration
- D amused by the situation