

A Context listening

1 You will hear a woman giving a talk on the famous composer, Mozart. Before you listen match the words (1-10) with the correct meanings (a-j).

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 extraordinary          | a brother or sister                    |
| 2 sibling                | b reach a high level in something      |
| 3 achievement            | c part of a piano or computer          |
| 4 keyboard               | d amazing                              |
| 5 demand                 | e status                               |
| 6 master ( <i>verb</i> ) | f success                              |
| 7 gifted                 | g very talented                        |
| 8 in rapid succession    | h ask in a forceful way                |
| 9 reputation             | i fast development at a very early age |
| 10 precocious            | j quickly one after another            |

2  4 Now listen and complete the notes below.

Name:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Date of birth:

1 .....

Number of surviving brothers and sisters:

2 .....

Profession of father:

3 .....

Wrote first composition before the age of:

4 .....

Taught self to play:

5 .....



**3** **4** Listen to the text again and fill in the gaps.

- 1 However, when Mozart ..... five of his siblings ..... in infancy or early childhood.
- 2 Mozart's father, Leopold, ..... a composer, and his grandfather ..... a musician.
- 3 In just 30 minutes Mozart ..... the piece of music, which his father ..... into Nannerl's notebook.
- 4 By the time he ..... six, the little boy ..... a composition of his own.
- 5 They ..... to Vienna and ..... sensational reports of Mozart's talent.
- 6 His family ..... richer than they ..... before.

For each sentence underline which event happened first.

**4** Look at your answers to Exercise 3 and answer these questions.

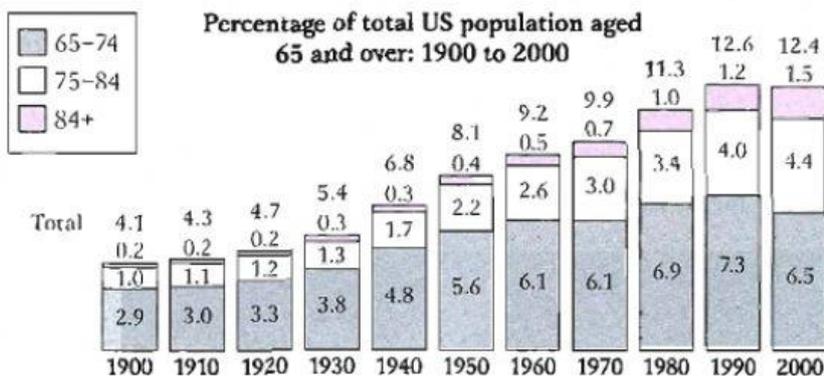
- 1 Which tense is used in sentence 5 to show that the events took place in chronological order? .....
- 2 Which tense is used in the other sentences to show that the second event the speaker mentioned actually happened first? .....

**C Grammar exercises**

**1** Fill in the gaps with the past perfect simple of the verbs in brackets in the positive or negative.

According to Dr Ken Winkle, Australia's Red-back spider is colonising the world. Dr Winkle, a venom expert from the University of Melbourne, said that authorities 1 *had found* (find) Red-back spiders in Japan and Belgium. They suspected that spiders or their eggs 2 ..... (enter) these countries along with Australian trading goods. Furthermore, it was extremely likely that the spiders 3 ..... (make) their way into other nations around the world but that people 4 ..... (discover) them yet. Dr Winkle said the spiders 5 ..... (also/turn up) in the port city of Osaka (which receives a variety of Australian trade goods) in the late 1990s and 6 ..... (multiply) quickly. He said Australian spider experts were collaborating with Japanese officials to find a way to stop the venomous invader.

**2** Complete the report with the past simple or past perfect simple of the verbs in brackets.



The chart shows the percentage of people aged 65 and over in the United States between 1900 and 2000. In the year 1900 just over 4% of the population 1 *was* (be) aged over 65. However, by 1960 this figure 2 *doubled* (double).

The number of people aged between 75 and 84 3 *remained* (remain) fairly steady between 1900 and 1930, making up only 1-1.3% of the population. The figure 4 *began* (begin) to rise more significantly in 1940 and by 1970 it 5 *tripled* (triple) to reach 3% of the population.

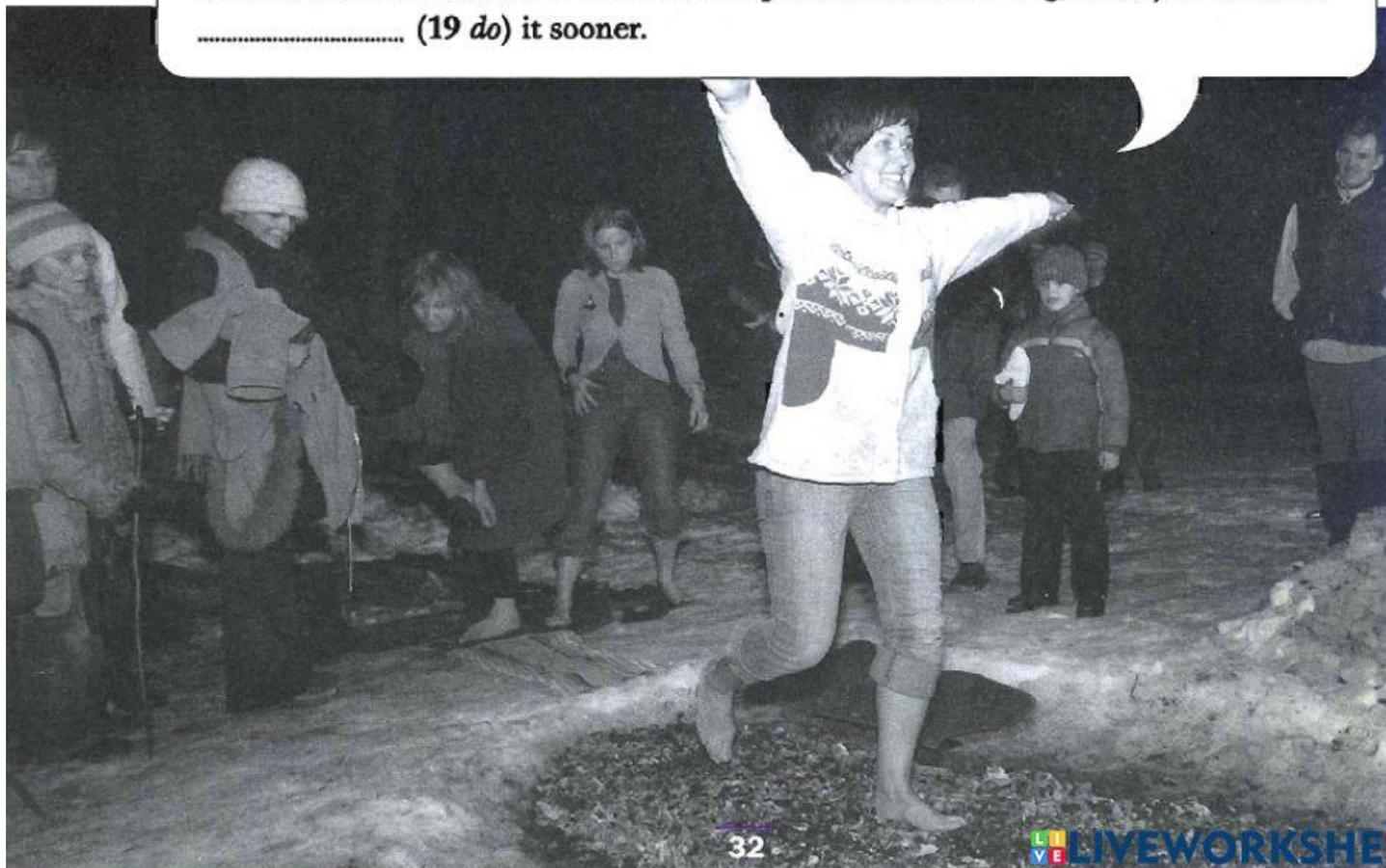
Although there 6 *was* (be) no change in the number of people aged 65-74 between 1960 and 1970, the number of people aged 75 and over 7 *increased* (increase) during this time. By the year 2000, 12.4% of the US population 8 *reached* (reach) the age of 65 or more, although this was slightly lower than in 1990 when it 9 *peaked* (peak) at 12.6%.

The chart shows that today people in the United States can expect to live longer than in 1900. By the year 2000 more than 12% of the population 10 *managed* (manage) to live to the age of 65 and over compared to only 4.1% in 1900.

- 3 Fill in the gaps with the past simple, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous of the verbs in brackets.

Last year my friends ..... *arranged* ..... (1 *arrange*) for us to try fire-walking, which is when you walk on hot coals. I ..... (2 *always/be*) fascinated by it and I ..... (3 *hear*) people say it was an unforgettable experience. I was very excited when I ..... (4 *arrive*) on the day, although beforehand I ..... (5 *feel*) a little frightened! My friends and I ..... (6 *come*) in the hope that by the end of the day we would be able to say we ..... (7 *walk*) across hot, burning coals.

Our teacher was very good, and by teatime we ..... (8 *learnt*) a great deal and ..... (9 *prepare*) the fires. I ..... (10 *expect*) to be terrified when the time came to walk, but as I ..... (11 *take off*) my shoes and socks I ..... (12 *not/feel*) afraid. I ..... (13 *approach*) the coals as all my friends before me ..... (14 *do*), and started walking! I could feel the heat, but as I ..... (15 *step*) back onto the grass at the other end I knew the coals ..... (16 *not/burn*) my feet at all. As I ..... (17 *hope*), all my friends ..... (18 *manage*) the walk and none of us were burnt. The whole experience was amazing, and I just wished I ..... (19 *do*) it sooner.



- 4 Fill in the gaps with a verb from the box in the past simple, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous tense. Use each verb once.

be buy decide develop discuss feel like make  
phone run start stay take visit wait -work-

- 1 She *'d been working* ..... as a waitress for five years when he met her.
- 2 The lecture ..... by the time they got there.
- 3 In the supermarket he ..... all the ingredients he needed and then went home to make her birthday cake.
- 4 Holly did very well in her exam, which was a shock because she .....  
(*never*) an exam before.
- 5 They went on a big tour of Britain. First they ..... in London for a few days. Then they ..... Cambridge, York, and Edinburgh, and then Bath. They ..... to Bath before, but they ..... it so much that they ..... to go back again.
- 6 Scientists announced the launch of the new drug last week. They ..... it for five years.
- 7 By the time I got to the meeting they ..... (*already*) the important issues and they ..... the big decisions without me. I ..... from my mobile to tell them the train was late and I ..... annoyed that they ..... (*not*) for me.
- 8 I looked terrible when I saw Joe last night because I ..... for over an hour and I was exhausted.

## D Test practice

### Academic Reading

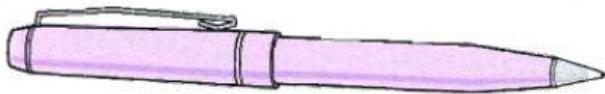
#### Questions 1–12

Read the passage below and answer Questions 1–12.

## The history of the biro

A

One chilly autumn morning in 1945, five thousand shoppers crowded the pavements outside Gimbels Department Store in New York City. The day before, Gimbels had taken out a full-page newspaper advertisement in the *New York Times*, announcing the sale of the first ballpoint pens in the United States. The new writing instrument was heralded as "fantastic... miraculous... guaranteed to write for two years without refilling!" Within six hours, Gimbels had sold its entire stock of ten thousand ballpoints at \$12.50 each – approximately \$130 at today's prices.



B

In fact this 'new' pen was not new after all, and was just the latest development in a long search for the best way to deliver ink to paper. In 1884 Lewis Waterman had patented the fountain pen, giving him the sole rights to manufacture it. This marked a significant leap forward in writing technology, but fountain pens soon became notorious for leaking. In 1888, a leather tanner named John Loud devised and patented the first "rolling-pointed marker pen" for marking leather. Loud's design contained a reservoir of ink in a cartridge and a rotating ball point that was constantly bathed on one side with ink.

Loud's pen was never manufactured, however, and over the next five decades, 350 additional patents were issued for similar ball-type pens, though none advanced beyond the design stage. Each had their own faults, but the major difficulty was the ink: if the ink was thin, the pens leaked, and if it was too thick, they clogged. Depending on the climate or air temperature, sometimes the pens would do both.

C

Almost fifty years later, Ladislav and Georg Biro, two Hungarian brothers, came up with a solution to this problem. In 1935 Ladislav Biro was working as a journalist, editing a small newspaper. He found himself becoming more and more frustrated by the amount of time he wasted filling fountain pens with ink and cleaning up ink smudges. What's more, the sharp tip of his fountain pen often scratched or tore through the thin newsprint paper. Ladislav and Georg (a chemist) set about making models of new pen designs and creating better inks to use in them. Ladislav had observed that the type of ink used in newspaper printing dried rapidly, leaving the paper dry and smudge-free. He was determined to construct a pen using the same type of ink. However, the thicker ink would not flow from a regular pen nib so he had to develop a new type of point. Biro came up with the idea of fitting his pen with a tiny ball bearing in its tip. As the pen moved along the

paper, the ball bearing rotated and picked up ink from the ink cartridge which it delivered to the paper.

D

The first Biro pen, like the designs that had gone before it, relied on gravity for the ink to flow to the ball bearing at the tip. This meant that the pens only worked when they were held straight up, and even then the ink flow was sometimes too heavy, leaving big smudges of ink on the paper. The Biro brothers had a rethink and eventually devised a new design, which relied on capillary action rather than gravity to feed the ink. This meant that the ink could flow more smoothly to the tip and the pen could be held at an angle rather than straight up. In 1938, as World War II broke out, the Biro brothers fled to Argentina, where they applied for a patent for their pen and established their first factory.

E

The Biros' pen soon came to the attention of American fighter pilots, who needed a new kind of pen to use at high altitudes. Apparently, it was ideal for pilots as it did not leak like the fountain pen and did not have to be refilled frequently. The United States Department of War contacted several American companies, asking them to manufacture a similar writing instrument in the U.S. Thus fortune smiled on the Biro brothers in

May 1945, when the American company 'Eversharp' paid them \$500,000 for the exclusive manufacturing and marketing rights of the Biro ballpoint for the North American market. Eversharp were slow to put their pen into production, however, and this delay ultimately cost them their competitive advantage.

F

Meanwhile, in June 1945 an American named Milton Reynolds stumbled upon the Biro pen while on vacation in Buenos Aires. Immediately seeing its commercial potential, he bought several pens and returned to Chicago, where he discovered that Loud's original 1888 patent had long since expired. This meant that the ballpoint was now in the public domain, and he therefore wasted no time making a copy based on the Biro design. Establishing his pen company with just \$26,000, Reynolds quickly set up a factory with 300 workers who began production on 6th October 1945, stamping out pens from precious scraps of aluminum that hadn't been used during the war for military equipment or weapons. Just 23 days later, it was Reynolds' ballpoint pen that caused the stampede at Gimbels Department Store. Following the ballpoint's debut in New York City, Eversharp challenged Reynolds in the law courts, but lost the case because the Biro brothers had failed to secure a U.S. patent on their invention.

**Questions 1–6**

The reading passage has six paragraphs **A–F**.

Choose the most suitable heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number **i–ix** in the space provided.

**List of Headings**

- i** Fountain pens are history
- ii** Fame at last for the Biro brothers
- iii** A holiday helps bring the biro to America
- iv** A second design and a new country
- v** War halts progress
- vi** Dissatisfaction leads to a new invention
- vii** Big claims bring big crowds
- viii** A government request brings a change of ownership
- ix** Many patents and many problems

- 1** Paragraph A .....
- 2** Paragraph B .....
- 3** Paragraph C .....
- 4** Paragraph D .....
- 5** Paragraph E .....
- 6** Paragraph F .....

**Questions 7–9**

Choose the correct answer, **A, B, C** or **D**.

- 7** The problem with the ballpoint pens invented between 1888 and 1935 was that
- A** they cost a great deal of money to manufacture.
  - B** the technology to manufacture them did not exist.
  - C** they could not write on ordinary paper.
  - D** they were affected by weather conditions.
- 8** The design of the Biro brothers' first pen
- A** was similar to previous pens.
  - B** was based on capillary action.
  - C** worked with heavy or light inks.
  - D** worked when slanted slightly.
- 9** Milton Reynolds was able to copy the Biro brothers' design because
- A** the Biro brothers' original patent was out of date.
  - B** it was legal to copy other designs at the time.
  - C** they did not have a patent for North America.
  - D** the Biro brothers gave him permission.

**Questions 10–12**

Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

- 10 What material was the first ballpoint pen designed to write on? .....
- 11 Where did the Biro brothers open their first factory? .....
- 12 In what year did the first American biro factory begin production? .....

**Grammar focus task**

Look at the extracts from the text. Without looking back at the text, fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- The day before, Gimbels ..... (*take out*) a full-page newspaper advertisement in the *New York Times*, announcing the sale of the first ballpoint pens in the United States... Within six hours, Gimbels ..... (*sell*) its entire stock of ten thousand ballpoints at \$12.50 each – approximately \$130 at today's prices.
- In 1884 Lewis Waterman ..... (*patent*) the fountain pen, giving him the sole rights to manufacture it. This marked a significant leap forward in writing technology, but fountain pens ..... (*soon/become*) notorious for leaking.
- Ladislas ..... (*observe*) that the type of ink used in newspaper printing dried rapidly, leaving the paper dry and smudge-free.
- Immediately seeing its commercial potential, he ..... (*buy*) several pens and ..... (*return*) to Chicago, where he ..... (*discover*) that Loud's original 1888 patent ..... (*long since/expire*).
- Following the ballpoint's debut in New York City, Eversharp ..... (*challenge*) Reynolds in the law courts, but ..... (*lose*) the case because the Biro brothers ..... (*fail*) to secure a U.S. patent on their invention.