



NAME: _____

Reading: Task 1

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

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 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!'

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 Why is Esperanto becoming more popular?

- A It doesn't have a large vocabulary.
- B It's has always been an easy language to learn.
- C It's not taught in schools.
- D People can learn online.

5 Where are Esperanto speakers from?

- A two or three countries
- B one country
- C all the countries of the world
- D most countries

6 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 thinks it will bring new chances.

7 How many languages can Vito's mother speak?

A two

B three

C four

D five

8 Where does Zito meet other Esperanto speakers?

A on the internet

B in his own country

C through his family

D at meetings

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Reading: Task 2

My unusual hobby

16-year-old Oliver Patricks collects books in different languages

My unusual hobby 16-year-old Oliver Patricks collects books in different languages. I have a slightly unusual hobby! I'm sure most of you have heard of the The Hunger Games books and films. Well, I collect the novels in different languages. You might think it all started when I was on holiday abroad and saw the books there or watched one of the films in a foreign language. Actually, it was when I saw some special displays in a museum with my mum and dad. There were these really old books in Arabic and other languages. They were beautiful so I thought why not collect something similar, but with my favourite character in them! I've since had them sent by cousins in Spain and uncles in Brazil and I love them all.

My favourites are the Japanese ones. It's nice seeing the stories written in a language that's so different to my own. The outsides of the books are actually reasonably similar to the English versions but the pictures inside are definitely different. They're so attractive they should be in a gallery, not just in books! I have no idea if they're worth anything but I don't want to sell them anyway.

My mum and dad have helped me to add to my collection. They buy things for me on the internet as I don't have a bank card, but I pay using pocket money or with money I get for doing jobs around the house. It's not like some hobbies where you have to practise a lot, so I always have time for homework. My parents were worried about where I'd put them all, but I think they agree with me now that my room looks nicer with shelves full of books than the posters of rock stars you find in most teenagers' rooms.

To start with, I tried ordering foreign-language copies through the bookshop in town. They could only get things from ten countries, though, so I turned to online shops instead. They have problems of their own, as payments between countries are sometimes difficult, but there are groups of other collectors on Facebook which was a great way to search for what I wanted. Emailing publishers is also possible, but there are too many around the world to make it worth it. I love my unusual hobby!

1) Oliver first became interested in collecting The Hunger Games books after

- A) he visited another country.
- B) his parents took him to an exhibition.
- C) his cousins gave him one of the novels.
- D) he watched a film in another language.

2) Why does Oliver especially like the Japanese versions of the books?

- A) Their covers are very unusual.
- B) They are very rare and valuable.
- C) He finds the writing very attractive.
- D) The artwork in them is so beautiful.

3) What do Oliver's parents think about his collection?

- A) It has become too large.
- B) It takes up a lot of his time.
- C) It makes his bedroom look nice.
- D) It's more expensive than they'd like

4) Oliver says the easiest way to find new books is

- A) by using social media.
- B) through a local book shop.
- C) through an online book store.
- D) by contacting different publishers

5) What would Oliver's best friend say about him?

- A) He's always online looking for new books. I can see why, because they look great, especially the Arabic ones, which he likes most too.
- B) I don't know why his parents buy so many books for him. Maybe he can sell them one day to pay the money back.
- C) I prefer the books he collects to the films. He has so many The Hunger Games posters too so his bedroom looks great.
- D) I can't believe how many books he has in his bedroom. I've never known anyone to be so passionate about collecting things.