

BELT Practice

Reading Comprehension

Reading #1:

Patricia Denning stars in a sad movie about ambition and heartbreak.

When Cecilia leaves college in Texas, she has everything: a wonderful boyfriend, Carl, an interesting job and an expensive house in a pretty town. Her life is perfect. Even her black Labrador dog, Perky, is a star: he wins the local dog competition and Hollywood wants to put him in a movie.

Cecilia goes to Hollywood with him and leaves her boyfriend alone back home. When the studio fires Perky, Cecilia decides to stay in Hollywood and tries to get other movie roles for her beautiful dog.

Carl gives Cecilia an ultimatum: come home and stop behaving crazily, or stay there forever. Cecilia decides to stay in Hollywood and wants to become an actress herself. She sends Perky back to Texas and starts an acting course. After six months, Cecilia realizes she can't act and she misses home, but it's too late. Carl has found another girlfriend. Cecilia tries to win him back, and also discovers a lot about herself on her long journey.

This is a very sad movie, which makes you think about what we want from life. Patricia Denning is very convincing as Cecilia, but the star of the movie is gorgeous Perky, the black Labrador who steals our hearts. Black Hollywood is in cinemas from next week.

1. What does Cecilia not have?

- ☐ A house she loves
- ☐ A wonderful husband
- ☐ A pet
- ☐ A great job

2. When does her wonderful adventure begin?

- ☐ When her dog wins a competition
- ☐ When she marries her boyfriend, Carl
- ☐ When she goes on vacation to Hollywood

- ☐ When she buys the house in a pretty town

3. What happens to Perky in Hollywood?

- ☐ He isn't very successful
- ☐ He becomes a star
- ☐ He's too nervous to work
- ☐ He makes two movies and retires

4. What is Carl's reaction to Cecilia living in Hollywood?

- ☐ He doesn't know she went
- ☐ He's angry
- ☐ He doesn't care
- ☐ He's supportive

5. Why does Cecilia stay in Hollywood?

- ☐ She wants to become an actress
- ☐ She is too busy making movies
- ☐ She hates Carl
- ☐ She has no money

Reading #2:

Today, millions of people want to learn or improve their English but it is difficult to find the best method. Is it better to study in Britain or America or to study in your own country?

The advantages of going to Britain seem obvious. Firstly, you will be able to listen to the language all the time you are in the country. You will be surrounded completely by the language wherever you go. Another advantage is that you have to speak the language if

you are with other people. In Italy, it is always possible, in the class, to speak Italian if you want to and the learning is slower.

On the other hand, there are also advantages to staying at home to study. You don't have to make big changes to your life. As well as this, it is also a lot cheaper than going to Britain but it is never possible to achieve the results of living in the UK. If you have a good teacher in Italy, I think you can learn in a more concentrated way than being in Britain without going to a school.

So, in conclusion, I think that if you have enough time and enough money, the best choice is to spend some time in the UK. This is simply not possible for most people, so being here in Italy is the only viable option. The most important thing to do in this situation is to maximize your opportunities: to speak only English in class and to try to use English whenever possible outside the class.

1. What is the article about?

- ☐ How many people learn English.
- ☐ The best way to learn English.
- ☐ English schools in England and America.

2. What is one of the advantages of going to the UK to learn English?

- ☐ There are no Italians in Britain.
- ☐ You will have to speak English and not your language.
- ☐ The language schools are better.

3. What is one of the advantages of staying in your country to learn English?

- ☐ The teachers aren't very good in Britain.
- ☐ You have to work too hard in Britain.
- ☐ Your life can continue more or less as it was before.

4. People who don't have a lot of time and money should...

- ☐ Learn English in Britain.
- ☐ Try and speak English in class more often.
- ☐ Go to Italy to learn English.

Reading #3:

Hi, my name is Tina. I am thirteen years old and today I want to talk about my best friend Selena. She is my classmate and she is thirteen years old too. We attend a very big school near Scotland. We share the same desk and love the same school subjects. Our favorite lessons are Arts and Physical Education. I am very good at tennis and she is very good at volleyball. She plays volleyball at our school team. We both have a busy life. We always get up at a half past six and at seven o'clock her father takes us to school by car. They live next door to us, so after school we always do our homework, walk our dogs and play together. Our classes start at half past seven and finish at 4 p.m. Her mother is a nurse. My mother is a nurse too and they work at the same hospital. Our fathers are both engineers but they work at different companies. On Mondays, Selena has violin class and I have piano class. On Tuesdays and Thursdays she practices volleyball at the school's gym and I play tennis in our school court. Friday is my favorite day because Selena stays overnight with us. On the weekends, we usually go to the movie theater or have a picnic if the weather is good. I am the only child, I don't have a sister but she is like a sister to me.

1. What is Selena's favorite day of the week?

- ☐ A) Sunday
- ☐ B) Monday
- ☐ C) Tuesday
- ☐ D) Friday

2. Which one of the following questions you cannot answer?

- ☐ A) What time does Tina get up on weekdays?
- ☐ B) Which school subjects does Tina like?
- ☐ C) What music types does Tina like?
- ☐ D) How does Selena go to school?

3. What is incorrect about Tina?

- ☐ A) Her mother is a nurse.
- ☐ B) She has a busy life.

- ☐ C) She walks her dog on Saturdays.
- ☐ D) She spends time with her best friend.

Reading #4:

Every summer Nichole goes to the countryside for a month. She stays at her uncle's farm and helps him. She works very hard but she likes it because she loves to spend time with her cousin Macy. Every morning she wakes up at six o'clock, first she collects the eggs and feeds the chickens, then she has breakfast at 6:30 and after breakfast, she helps her aunt with the house chores for an hour. She can't wait to spend time with her cousin Macy. They always have a great time together. They climb trees, pick fruits and flowers. They love being outdoors. They come back home before dark and get ready for dinner. After dinner, they go out and feed the animals. Before they go to bed they watch TV for a little bit or read books. They are always very tired at the end of the day and usually fall asleep watching TV or reading.

1. Where does Nichole go in summer?

- ☐ A) She goes to a big city.
- ☐ B) She goes to her uncle's farm.
- ☐ C) She goes to her cousin's hotel.
- ☐ D) She goes camping.

2. Which one of the following questions you cannot answer?

- ☐ A) How long does Nichole stay at her uncle's farm?
- ☐ B) How does Nichole help her uncle and aunt?
- ☐ C) What does Nichole do before she goes to bed?
- ☐ D) What's her favorite food?

3. Which of the followings isn't true about Macy and Nichole?

- ☒ A) Macy and Nichole can climb trees.

- ☐ B) They have a good time together.
- ☐ C) They live together.
- ☐ D) They feed the animals.

Reading #5:

Dear Daniel,

If you'd like to improve your English, one thing you can do is to build up your vocabulary. In order to do this, you have to practice a lot. I'm afraid there is not a short cut for this. But there are many effective ways. First of all, you should read a lot. You can read short stories, comics, newspapers, magazines etc. depending on your English level. As you read, you can try to guess the meanings of unknown words from the context of the sentence. If you cannot, then look up the definition in a dictionary. English to English dictionary should be your first choice and keep the translator as last. Another way of building vocabulary is to watch movies in English which will also help with pronunciation. Try to be involved with the language as much as you can. Keep a vocabulary notebook and write down a few words each day. Keep in mind that you have to revise them regularly. In my opinion, to communicate with people all you need is words. Even if you just say the words one after another, people most likely will understand what you mean regardless of the order of the words and grammar.

1. What is the main point of this e-mail?

- ☐ A) What can we do to improve our English
- ☐ B) Difficulties of learning English
- ☐ C) Problems of learning a second language alone
- ☐ D) What's the best way of learning English

2. Which of the followings is incorrect?

- ☐ A) We should use a translator for all the unknown words.
- ☐ B) We should read a lot.

- ☐ C) We should take notes when we learn new words.
- ☐ D) We should practice as much as we can.

3. What is the most important thing to communicate with people according to the writer?

- ☐ A) Grammar
- ☐ B) Vocabulary
- ☐ C) Order of the words used
- ☐ D) Advanced English course