

Reading Test

Task 1 Read the text. Are the sentences true or false?

Can Mozart make you clever?

Some people believe that young children should listen to classical music. They think it can change a child's brain and make the child clever. They call this 'the Mozart effect'.

This idea became very popular in the 1990s. Governments and universities spent a lot of money over the next twenty years to test if it is true. The research shows that it is not. Listening to Mozart does not have a permanent effect on your brain.

However, research shows that listening to music can help children learn. Mike Edwards teaches eight-year-olds. He works in a special school for children with behaviour problems. He is not a music teacher, but in his classroom there is always music.

'I play the music at the beginning of the lesson,' Mike says, 'and it really works!'

Mike's students are sometimes difficult to control. 'They're not stupid or lazy,' he says, 'but they're sometimes noisy and rude and you have to be very patient.' The music is calm and quiet. It helps the children to feel calm and quiet too. Then they can learn better.

'I don't think music changes a child's brain or personality, but it helps them to concentrate so they can be more creative. They enjoy coming to class and it makes my job easier because they're more polite and hard-working.'

So does Mozart make you a better student? Maybe. But Mike's students are listening to the blues!

- 1 In the last ten years of the twentieth century, many people believed in the Mozart effect.
- 2 Research proved that listening to classical music doesn't make students more clever.
- 3 Mike teaches children about music.
- 4 Mike's students are always badly behaved.
- 5 Mike's students aren't listening to classical music in class.

Task 2 Read the text. Are the sentences true or false?

Sporting heroes

What makes someone a sporting hero? Millions of spectators watched Usain Bolt running in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. He broke the world record in three athletics events. At the same Olympic Games, the American swimmer Michael Phelps won eight gold medals and broke seven world records. The world media went crazy! Everyone loves a champion.

But at the Olympics there is also another kind of hero. Have you ever seen the film *Cool Runnings*? It's a funny film about a bobsleigh team from Jamaica. It's based on the true story of a Jamaican team who competed in the Winter Olympics in 1988. They lived in a country with no snow, they had nowhere to train and no money from the government or big businesses to help them, but they made it to the Olympics and they raced for their country. The Olympic Games have many stories like this.

When Eric Moussambani, from Equatorial Guinea in central Africa, swam in the 100 m freestyle in Sydney in the 2000 Olympic Games, the international media reported it around the world. He didn't win a gold medal. He didn't break any records. In fact, his time at one minute and fifty-two seconds was more than twice the time of Pieter van den Hoogenband, who broke the world record with a time of 47.84 seconds. Before the Olympics, Moussambani trained in a twenty-metre hotel pool. He only started swimming eight months before the Olympic Games. The race was his first time in an Olympic-sized fifty-metre swimming pool. And the crowd clapped and cheered for Moussambani until he reached the finish line.

These people are not champions and they do not go back to their countries with a handful of medals, but they are heroes because they try.

- 1 The Jamaican government gave the bobsleigh team money to compete. _____
- 2 The team from Jamaica tried to compete in the Olympics, but they failed. _____
- 3 The newspapers and TV journalists were interested in Moussambani. _____
- 4 Moussambani swam in a fifty-metre pool for the first time at the Olympics. _____
- 5 Moussambani didn't finish the race. _____

Task 3 Read the text. Match the sentences A–F with the gaps 1–5 in the text. There is one extra sentence you do not need.

A buzz about town

I'm in an expensive hotel in the centre of Paris. ¹ _____ The hotel owner, Jean Leforestier, tells me that the honey is from the hotel's own bees. I imagine that the hotel has a farm somewhere in the countryside, but Jean is smiling. 'Would you like to see the bees?' he asks. 'They're upstairs.'

I'm surprised, but I follow Jean up the stairs. On the roof of the hotel, far above the busy streets of Paris, there is a roof garden. ² _____ I can see them flying around. They live in six small hives made of wood, and they make honey for the hotel's guests.

³ _____ Some people have gardens, but you don't need much room for a small hive. Like Jean at the hotel, people are building them on rooftops or on balconies. In the city of Paris there are over 400 hives. It's surprising, but research shows that bees in the city are healthier and produce more honey than their country cousins.

Research suggests that the use of chemicals on farms, and the size of modern farms are not good for bees. The farmers plant huge fields with just one type of crop. ⁴ _____ When the farmers cut their crops to sell them, the bees have almost no food left.

In the city, bees visit our parks, gardens, balconies and flower beds. ⁵ _____ They can produce honey for longer each year. Next time you're in the park, look out for bees buzzing among the flowers. There might be an urban bee keeper in your town too!

- A In fact, more and more people in big cities are keeping bees. _____
- B Alice Jennings keeps bees at her farm in Devon. _____
- C It's breakfast time and I'm putting some honey on my bread. _____
- D This means that bees have only one type of food. _____
- E Urban bees can have up to 250 different types of food. _____
- F This is where the hotel keeps its bees. _____