

Listening Section

Listen to five people talking about keeping in touch with their friends. Which opinion does each person express?

- A Writing emails takes up far too much time.
- B Using social networking sites keeps everyone up-to-date.
- C Texting is really practical at times.
- D Nothing is better than chatting face-to-face.
- E Spending a weekend away together is better than meeting for a coffee.
- F Texting is not as good as chatting on the phone.

Speaker 1

Speaker 2

Speaker 3

Speaker 4

Speaker 5

Reading Section

Read the article about a writer's life. Five sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

A Writer's Life

My biggest dream has always been to become an author. As an enthusiastic reader since I was a toddler, books have been a steady influence, a friend, and an escape. (— 1 —) To me, reading is second only to breathing. From cereal boxes to fiction, I devour anything and everything I can get hold of. I read from morning, while eating breakfast, to night, before going to sleep. Some of my favourite genres include contemporary women's novels and thrillers.

I guess this love of books is what drove me to become a writer. The fact that I am always talking, thinking, and plotting helped me with my ambition. I have a need to create and to put into words feelings, thoughts, and desires. To me, books should present a welcome break from the stresses of every day, a way to relax and unwind. There are horrors all around us. (— 2 —) Novels can carry people away to another place, and allow them to forget, for a short time at least, all the awful things in life. Any type of reading inspires the brain, and gives a change of pace. Children require fantasy and play, and adults also need a break from reality.

Southland

Exciting as it is to be able to inspire others, an author's career is lonely and often dull. Writing requires self-control and determination, and writers, as well as having knowledge of the difficulty of getting published, need to be able to deal with criticism. For every potential writer that there is out there, many give up or fail. I kept trying with the burning desire to do well. (— 3 —) I needed to try to see if I could do it.

My first writing experience was as a reporter for a small newspaper, almost twenty years ago. I submitted two articles for each of the three months the paper was published. The first month, I was given a bridal show to cover and I had to write an article on how to prepare an elegant, yet inexpensive, wedding. Two local newspapers gave me assignments for various topics, and I realized this is an excellent way to learn the basics as a writer. (— 4 —)

My goal was to write fiction. Whether creating short stories or 'the great American novel', I enjoy fantasy and making up fictitious people and tales about their lives. Although I prefer genres suited to adults, I decided to try writing a children's book. I first started working on this in 1995, and after reading the extremely rough draft, I recognized the text was a mix of information just thrown together and which was too much for children to understand. I broke up the ideas, planning to turn them into four books.

Unfortunately, life took over and I had to put the book on hold for a while. After my husband and I moved, I returned to reporting, receiving several assignments for a local magazine and two national and international food-trade magazines.

(— 5 —) The desire to complete and submit the book for publication was as strong as ever. Fortunately, I became a member of a wonderful group that offered support, as well as excellent suggestions. My book, a children's book intended for ages 8 – 12, was accepted by a publisher and released three years ago. The sequel is almost completed for submission, and to this, I hope to add two or three more to the series, though all of the books work equally well on their own.

Between writing, reading, reviewing, and being with family I enjoy a busy and happy life. I may never become well-known, but my dream has been satisfied. I encourage anyone who wants to write to 'just do it.'

- A I could not go through life wondering if I would be successful or not.
- B Nevertheless, I kept returning to the children's novel I had in my head.
- C After all, we just have to pick up a newspaper or turn on the news to realize how much crime there is in society.
- D Meanwhile, four unfinished adult contemporary novels are calling to me, and I plan to get to them one day.
- E Although I found reporting enjoyable, I recognized this was not the type of writing I wanted to do.
- F I cannot imagine living without the written word.

Use of English

1 Underline the correct verb forms.

Example: The students **will have finished** / **have finished** the test in a couple of minutes.

- 1 This time tomorrow, you're **taking** / **'ll be taking** your driving test.
- 2 Good luck with the interview! I'll **be thinking** / **'ll have thought** of you.
- 3 I'll **have gone** / **'ll be going** into town more next week – that's when my course starts.
- 4 The meeting should be a quick one so we'll **have finished** / **be finishing** by 3.00.
- 5 I'm sure we'll **have solved** / **'ll be solving** all our energy problems by 2050.
- 6 We usually start our lunch at 1.30, but tomorrow we'll **have started** / **'ll be starting** it at 2.15 as there's a lot of work to do in the morning.

2 Complete the sentences with the gerund or the infinitive form of the verbs in brackets.

Example: I can't stand listening (listen) to people talking on their mobile phones.

- 1 Do you fancy _____ (go) for a walk in the park?
- 2 You should practise _____ (speak) English whenever you get the opportunity.
- 3 The shop assistant refused _____ (give) me a refund.
- 4 I can't remember _____ (have) a doll when I was a little girl.
- 5 Have you tried _____ (sleep) on the other side of the bed?
- 6 We can't wait _____ (see) your new house.
- 7 My boss makes me _____ (work) at the weekend sometimes.
- 8 No-one forgets _____ (see) Venice for the first time.
- 9 Could you let me _____ (speak), please!

3 Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verb in brackets.

Example: Nobody has been told (tell) the time of the exam yet.

- 1 It's difficult to avoid _____ (photograph) by paparazzi when you're famous.
- 2 The gym is closed this week – it _____ (redecorate).
- 3 I saw Miranda in the art exhibition. She _____ (show) around by one of the artists.

- 4 Drivers shouldn't _____ (fine) for parking ten minutes longer than they've paid for.
- 5 Chelsea refused _____ (beat) and ended up winning the match.
- 6 Fish and chips used to _____ (wrap) in old newspapers.

4 Order the words to make sentences.

Example: my / the / taken / of / I / photo / outside / Parliament / had / Houses

I had my photo taken outside the Houses of Parliament

- 1 to / valued / the / an / we / get / painting / expert / decided / by
- 2 my / going / out / tooth / have / I'm / bad / to / tomorrow / taken
- 3 it / my / checked / I / fully / sold / had / car / I / before
- 4 house / you / same / exactly / your / will / painted / have / colour / the
- 5 bigger / anyone / get / why / lips / to / made / would / want / their / ?
- 6 our / installed / heating / two / we're / new / system / weeks / having / in