2 Get the message

READING

1 **Put the letters in brackets in order to form a word which completes each sentence. The first letter of each new word is in bold.**

1 Stop playing on your phone and pay ..... (tenoniatt) to what I'm saying!
2 People around the world speak English – it's an ..... (tiatnelnraino) language.
3 Jeans with holes in them are very ..... (abasholefin) these days.
4 Unfortunately, languages ..... (adispapre) all the time – people simply stop speaking them.
5 The national language here is Spanish, but many ..... (lcaol) people also speak German.
6 At first I didn't ..... (srecail) that she was Italian, but then I read an article about her.
7 An ..... (ariscening) number of people are learning languages online each year.
8 Learning a foreign language will ..... (lalwo) you to communicate with more people.

2 **Match the responses (A–H) with the sentences (1–8) above.**

A It's true, but we can try to change that by teaching young people about them. .....
B Definitely – English is unique in that sense. .....
C Oh really? What was it about? .....
D Those people are lucky to grow up speaking two useful languages. .....
E That's right – speaking another language makes both travelling and business much easier. .....
F Sorry, I'm listening now. .....
G Maybe, but it doesn't mean that they look good! .....
H Using technology is a great way to learn. .....

3 **Read the notices and the emails (1–3). For each question, choose the correct answer.**

1

Wanted: second-hand violin for learner aged 8–12. Willing to pay up to £80, more for an instrument in excellent condition.

A The buyer is looking for a violin that costs £80.
B The buyer might be happy to spend more than £80.
C The buyer will only spend £80 or less.

2

From: Ana
To: Mum

Hi Mum,

I've arranged to go to Sally's house after school to revise for our French test tomorrow. I left my books at home. Please could you bring them to school on your way to work? I'll pick them up from reception.

Ana

A Ana wants her mum to take something to Sally's house.
B Ana would like her mum to collect her from Sally's house.
C Ana asks her mum to deliver something to her.

3

If you'd like to go on next month's Spanish language exchange trip, write your name here. You must get permission from your parents before registering, even if you have been on previous trips.

A It's the parents' job to register their children for the trip.
B All students must ask their parents before they sign up.
C Only students who have been on a trip before can attend.

4 **Read the article about language quickly. Does the writer think emoji language is generally positive or negative?**

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5 e **Read the article again. For each question, choose the correct answer.**

1 In the first paragraph, the writer says that emojis
- **A** make conversation between people better.
- **B** encourage understanding between cultures.
- **C** persuade more people to text.
- **D** are a new language.

2 How does the writer think emojis affect written language?
- **A** Not everyone knows what the emojis mean.
- **B** They make messages unclear.
- **C** People are unable to explain things clearly.
- **D** There is too much focus on images, not words.

3 According to the writer, spelling tools on our mobile phones
- **A** make bad predictions about what we'd like to write.
- **B** are a benefit to teachers.
- **C** help people to use punctuation correctly.
- **D** stop young people from using their brains.

4 What does the writer say about emojis in school work?
- **A** They make students appear bad at writing.
- **B** They can cause confusion.
- **C** They bring in unnecessary feelings.
- **D** They make young people lazy.

5 Which sentence best describes how the writer feels about emojis?
- **A** Emojis are a good way for us to avoid learning to spell.
- **B** Young people need to learn to write without emojis.
- **C** Social networks should stop using emojis.
- **D** Emojis can help create international friendships.

6 **Find these words in the article. Then choose the correct meaning for each word as it appears in the article.**

1 achieved (para 1)
- **A** succeeded in doing
- **B** failed

2 communicate (para 2)
- **A** chat
- **B** make people understand

3 bother (para 3)
- **A** annoy someone
- **B** make the effort to do something

4 effect (para 3)
- **A** result
- **B** advantage

5 mood (para 4)
- **A** the way we act
- **B** the way we feel

6 weak (para 4)
- **A** not good
- **B** not having much energy

A new world language

Shigetaka Kurita first created emojis while working for a mobile phone company. He wanted to design pictures that improved short text messages by making them sound friendlier, an aim he certainly achieved. Emojis weren't very popular when I was growing up but today they're like a world language. In fact, some people say emojis are the fastest-growing language.



A written language that uses pictures isn't new. The Egyptians had one, for example. However, it's worrying that emojis are so popular.



I developed a large vocabulary while I was learning English at school. That vocabulary helps me to communicate a lot of different, difficult ideas in a way that people understand. If we use emojis all the time, we lose the ability to write. We can only communicate ideas in simple ways in texts.

Of course, it's normal for language to change over time and it's great that the written form continues today online. However, we spend a lot of time writing only short messages and using technology that guesses the word we want to type. It also changes spelling mistakes, so no one needs to learn how to spell any more. As well as that, no one seems to bother with punctuation. Teachers can see the effect of this in written work in the classroom.



The ability to write well is important for our school lives. Using emojis is a good way to show our mood quickly, and they are fine to use with friends but using them in school work is a bad idea. It just makes the writer seem like a weak communicator. Writing is a key skill in education. Teachers need to make sure that young people can all write well so that they can communicate well. This means learning to write without emojis and understanding when they are and aren't OK.





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