

1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 When was the last time you received some surprising news? What happened?
- 2 Has anything unexpected ever happened to you? What was it?

2 **1.5** Listen to a conversation. What unexpected thing happened? Has it ever happened to you?

EXAM FOCUS

Listening for agreement

We often recognise if people agree/disagree with each other, or feel the same, when we hear phrases like 'Yes, you're right' and 'Me too'. However, they may agree or disagree by simply stating a similar or different view. In this case, we have to listen carefully to the speakers e.g. A: 'I'm pretty sure that's not going to work.' B: 'No doubt something will go wrong.' = agreement

3 **1.6** Read the Exam focus. Then listen to six short conversations. Do the speakers agree (A) or disagree (D)?

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 4 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 5 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 6 _____ |

4 **1.7** Listen to the conversation from Ex 2 again. Answer question 1 below. How do you know?

- 1 You hear two people talking about a visitor. What do they agree on?
A It's good to see old friends.
B They like unexpected events.
C The visitor was impolite.



EXAM TASK

5 **1.8** You will hear people talking in seven different situations. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

- 1 You hear a manager talking to an employee. Why is she talking to him?
A to tell him about a promotion
B to persuade him to do some overtime
C to suggest that he does some training
- 2 You hear two people talking about surprise parties. They both think that surprise parties are
A rarely successful.
B hard to keep secret.
C time-consuming to organise.
- 3 You hear a voicemail message. Why is the speaker calling?
A to give an invitation
B to recommend a restaurant
C to ask for a favour
- 4 You hear two people talking about a film. What did they both think about it?
A The ending made no sense.
B One character acted strangely.
C The dialogue was too quiet.
- 5 You hear a man talking about someone. Who is he talking about?
A a close friend
B a colleague
C a neighbour
- 6 You hear two people talking about a news article. What do they both think about it?
A It's embarrassing to read.
B The time of publication was unfair.
C It could easily mislead readers.
- 7 You hear two people talking about some news they've heard about a friend. How does the woman feel about it?
A jealous of the plan
B worried about the timing
C shocked by the decision

Speaking or writing

- 6 Work in pairs. Think of a short story about an unexpected or surprising event.

- 1 Rank these things in order of importance to you when going on holiday (1 = most important).

food shops and markets sightseeing
sports views nightlife beach

- 3 Read the essay tasks A and B and the student's essay. Which task is it answering? What idea has the student added?

In your English class, you have been talking about travel. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.



- A** Is it better to travel in your own country than abroad?

Write about:

- 1 adventure
- 2 culture
- 3 _____ (your own idea)

- B** Is a trip to the ocean better than a trip to the mountains?

Write about:

- 1 climate
- 2 activities
- 3 _____ (your own idea)

Student essay

In the summer months, it is common for people to visit the beach or the mountains. While both can be enjoyable, this essay will argue that a holiday at the beach is preferable.

The first reason is the weather. You are much more likely to see a beautiful, cloudless blue sky at the seaside. Mountain areas might be cooler, but clouds often affect the view.

Another reason in support of beach holidays is the activities available there. Water sports tend to be more varied and interesting than quieter mountain activities like hiking.

Finally, there are far more facilities at the seaside than there are in the mountains. Along the coast, you will find a large variety of cafés and restaurants to enjoy, as well as engaging nightlife. All in all, the beach provides a beautiful environment in which you can take in the sea, try local food and do sports. All of these things make it more enjoyable than a trip to the mountains.

- 4 Read the essay again. Complete the student's essay plan with the words below.

VOCABULARY FILE pp94-95

WRITING FILE p113

beach trip enjoyable facilities nightlife
sports summer varied views

Introduction Both popular in 1 _____.

My view = 2 _____ is better.

Reason 1 better weather - cloudless blue sky, better 3 _____.

Reason 2 more 4 _____ and interesting activities.

Reason 3 more 5 _____ - cafés, restaurants, 6 _____.

Conclusion Sea, food, 7 _____ = more 8 _____ trip.

EXAM FOCUS

Audience, structure and tone

When writing any text, it is important to consider who will read it, as this determines its structure and tone. An essay is read by teachers, therefore it has a formal tone. As it needs to convey information clearly, it is organised into an introduction, main body and conclusion.

- 5 Read the Exam focus. Then look at the language features below. Which can you usually find in an essay?

abbreviations contractions simple sentences
complex sentences informal vocabulary formal vocabulary
use of 'I' and 'we' use of 'you' and 'people'

EXAM TASK

- 7 Write your essay in 140-190 words.
- Structure your essay according to your plan in Ex 6.
 - Use formal language.