

ENGLISH READING LEVEL TEST

About The Reading Test

- Read the text, then try to answer the questions.
- There are 20 questions, and you see one at a time in a random order. The answers are not in the same order as the text.
- Some questions are easier; some are more difficult. Don't worry if you don't know the answer!
- Try not to use a dictionary – the idea is to find your natural level.

Sarah's Life in Canada

Sarah is 36 years old, and she lives in Canada. She has two young daughters. She works two days a week as a teacher. Her husband's name is Nathan, and he's a sales manager. Nathan's job is very busy, so he often comes home late. At weekends, they often go driving or walking in the countryside.

Nathan was born in Canada, but Sarah wasn't. She was born in Argentina, and she moved to Canada when she was 26. When she was growing up, she was really interested in English. At first, she thought it was difficult, but when she finished school, she could already speak quite fluently and understand almost everything she heard or read. She spent a lot of time listening to songs and watching TV shows and films in English.

After she graduated from university, she decided to train as an English teacher. The certificate she needed was quite expensive, and competition for places was intense, but she was determined to do it—she simply couldn't imagine doing anything else. She finished the course with a distinction, which was the highest grade possible. Soon, she found work as a teaching assistant in a local primary school. She enjoyed the work, although it was often challenging—the children were not always well-disciplined, and she didn't think that the classroom teacher had enough understanding of teaching methods.

When she first went to Canada, she never would have imagined that she would end up staying there. It was supposed to be a short-term placement in a high school. She thought that she would be able to see a different part of the world and gain some useful experience, which could help her to find a better teaching position when she came back to Argentina. At first, she found living overseas much more difficult than she had expected. She felt homesick, and she had problems getting used to everything which was different in Canada—the interpersonal culture, the climate, the food... For the first three months she was there, she spent most of her free time in her room, dreaming of going back to Argentina and seeing her family again.

Over time, she adjusted to life in Canada, and even started to enjoy herself a bit more. One day, she met Nathan at a party. She liked his sense of humour, and how kind he was, but she was reluctant to get involved, knowing that she was planning to leave in the near future. When her placement finished, he convinced her to apply for a permanent job in another school. She told herself that she would give it one more year and see how things went.

Now, Sarah is settled, although she still misses Argentina. She tries to make it back at least yearly, and she is bringing up her daughters to be bilingual, so that they can talk to their Argentinian relatives in Spanish. When she thinks back to her first few months in Canada, she can scarcely recognise herself. In some ways, she wishes she weren't so far away from her family, but at the same time, she feels that she's learned many things which she never would have experienced had she stayed in Argentina. She wants to give her daughters the chance to travel and experience life in other countries as soon as she can, although of course she hopes they don't move too far away!

1. When Sarah was at school, she _____ learning English.

- ☐ didn't like
- ☐ liked
- ☐ didn't mind
- ☐ hated

2. Sarah has lived in Canada _____.

- ☐ for one year
- ☐ for ten years
- ☐ since she was born
- ☐ since she was 36

3. It took Sarah _____ to get used to living in Canada.

- ☐ about one month
- ☐ several years
- ☐ a few weeks
- ☐ several months

4. The children in Sarah's first job _____.

- ☐ didn't always behave well in class
- ☐ didn't learn anything
- ☐ didn't understand what she was saying

- ☐ were often rude to her

5. Nathan is _____.

- ☐ Sarah's husband
- ☐ Sarah's manager
- ☐ Sarah's boyfriend
- ☐ Sarah's father

6. When she left school, her English was _____.

- ☐ perfect
- ☐ very bad
- ☐ very good
- ☐ not very good

7. Sarah thinks that she has _____ since coming to Canada.

- ☐ lost touch with her own country
- ☐ not changed very much
- ☐ changed a lot
- ☐ learned to speak English better

8. When Sarah met Nathan for the first time, _____.

- ☐ she told him that she was planning to leave
- ☐ she decided to stay another year
- ☐ she didn't like him very much
- ☐ she liked him, but she didn't want to have a relationship with him

9. Because of Nathan, Sarah initially decided to stay in Canada _____.

- ☐ until Nathan asked her to marry him
- ☐ for a few more months
- ☐ forever
- ☐ for another year

10. Which sentence best describes Sarah's attitude now towards her decision to stay in Canada?

- ☐ She wouldn't change her decision, although she still finds it hard to be so far from her family.
- ☐ She wishes she had come to Canada earlier, because she doesn't feel that there was anything for her in Argentina.
- ☐ She regrets her decision, because she feels homesick and misses her family all the time.
- ☐ She isn't sure. She thinks that it's impossible to say whether it was the right choice for her or not.

11. Sarah's feelings about her first job were _____.

- ☐ unclear
- ☐ negative
- ☐ mixed
- ☐ positive

12. At weekends, Sarah and Nathan often _____.

- ☐ stay in the city
- ☐ get out of the city
- ☐ work long hours
- ☐ go to a village

13. Sarah and Nathan have _____.

- ☐ two boys
- ☐ two girls
- ☐ one boy and one girl
- ☐ no children

14. Sarah decided to train as an English teacher because _____.

- ☐ she wanted to travel
- ☐ she thought she could get a good job
- ☐ it was the only thing she was really interested in
- ☐ she didn't know what else to do

15. In her first job, she _____.

- ☐ worked with another teacher to teach older children
- ☐ worked with another teacher to teach young children
- ☐ taught young children by herself
- ☐ taught older children by herself

16. Nathan and Sarah _____.

- ☐ were born in the same year
- ☐ were born in the same country
- ☐ were born in different years
- ☐ were born in different countries

17. Nathan works _____.

- ☐ in a factory
- ☐ long hours
- ☐ at home
- ☐ in a school

18. When Sarah went to Canada, she thought _____.

- ☐ she would come back to Argentina again after a short stay
- ☐ she would stay in Canada for a long time
- ☐ she would enjoy living in Canada
- ☐ she would find a job as a high school teacher

19. Sarah thought that living in Canada _____.

- ☐ would make her feel homesick
- ☐ would be very different to living in Argentina
- ☐ would be easier than it was
- ☐ would be more difficult than it was

20. During her first few months in Canada, Sarah _____.

- ☐ made lots of new friends
- ☐ didn't socialise much
- ☐ met Nathan

- had to work very hard