

You are going to listen to people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear.

- 1 You hear a girl talking to a friend about an activity camp she went to. How did the girl feel about going there?
 - A afraid of the activities she'd have to do
 - B nervous about being on her own
 - C unsure about meeting new people
- 2 You hear part of an interview with a travel agent. What does she recommend doing on holiday?
 - A researching good restaurants
 - B identifying peak travel times
 - C trying to communicate in the local language
- 3 You hear a boy talking about his part-time job. What has he learned from doing it?
 - A to get on well with customers
 - B the value of being part of a team
 - C how important communication skills are
- 4 You hear a girl talking about the place she lives in now. What does she like the most about it?
 - A It is quiet and peaceful.
 - B She can live more healthily.
 - C There are outdoor activities to do.
- 5 You hear two friends talking about the sports they do. What do they agree about?
 - A Music makes exercise easier to do.
 - B Using apps can help you get fit.
 - C It's difficult if you don't do the right thing in class.
- 6 You hear two friends talking about social media. What does the girl think about it?
 - A It's useful to see what is going on in friends' lives.
 - B It's not a good way to find out about social events.
 - C It gives a false picture of people's lives.
- 7 You overhear two school friends talking about a restaurant project at school. How does the girl feel about it?
 - A worried that she won't finish the all preparation in time
 - B concerned the restaurant won't get the assistance it needs
 - C doubtful about her ability to cook well enough
- 8 You hear a boy leaving a message on a friend's phone. Why is he calling?
 - A to give his friend information about the school concert
 - B to persuade his friend to babysit his sister
 - C to ask his friend for help

You are going to listen to a student called Hannah talking about a class project about plastic. Complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

Hannah says she has always been curious about how (9) affects the natural world.

Hannah uses the expression (10) to describe the discovery of the amount of plastic she used herself.

Hannah decided to keep a small reusable bag in her (11) all the time.

Hannah was upset that she couldn't rely on the (12) to provide details of things she wanted to buy.

Hannah uses the word (13) to explain how she felt about buying something that was totally recycled.

Hannah was amazed to find that containers for (14) had been found on distant beaches.

Hannah gives the example of (15) as something that should be made from recycled plastic.

Use the word given in capitals at the end of some lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

Buying and selling online

Whether you're getting rid of old stuff or buying something new, here are some tips you may find useful: Have in mind a price that is **(16)** – buyers won't pay more **REAL** than they think is fair. Do some research on similar **(17)** so you have a good **PRODUCE** idea of what something should be worth. When you're selling, ensure you have an easy-to-use payment method set up and be sure to include postage and **(18)** **DELIVER** costs. Be careful when writing a **(19)** of an object you want to sell. **DESCRIBE** Accuracy is of great **(20)**, because you don't want **(21)** **IMPORTANT, SATISFY** customers who might write bad reviews and affect your potential sales. If you are a buyer, you need to have confidence in the seller, so check them out carefully before you purchase anything. Finally, don't be **(22)** It may take a while for your items to sell. **PATIENCE**

Complete the second sentence so that that is has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between two and five words.

23 A lot of new houses have been built in this area recently.

PLENTY

There have been in this area recently.

24 'I think you should work harder', my teacher said to me.

ADVISED

My teacher harder.

25 I couldn't see her because it was too dark.

ENOUGH

It wasn't see her.

26 I don't think it was George I saw last week, because he's in the USA.

BEEN

It I saw last week, because he's in the USA.

Read the article and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

27 What point does the writer make about bees in the first paragraph?

- A** Everyone is frightened of them.
- B** It's important to take care of them.
- C** They're often misunderstood.
- D** They're difficult to study.

28 Why does the writer say that explorers 'don't write reports or give presentations'?

- A** to provide an amusing image for the reader
- B** to make a joke about what bees are unable to do
- C** to explain how people usually pass on information
- D** to compare the bees' method of sharing information with what people do

29 According to the writer, why isn't it easy for people 'to put self-interest to one side'?

- A** They are usually rather selfish.
- B** They often have their own ambitions.
- C** They are unable to consider the opinion of others.
- D** They don't want to make decisions with other people.

- 30 What does 'this' refer to in line 55?
- A The most popular restaurant.
 - B The reason the restaurant is full.
 - C The location of the restaurant.
 - D The result of choosing a particular restaurant.
- 31 What does 'take a leaf out of their book' mean in line 72?
- A You should copy the way bees make decisions.
 - B You should read about the way bees behave.
 - C You should learn from the mistakes bees make.
 - D You should avoid making the same choices bees do.

Let's all think about bees ...

Like many people, I've always had a fear of bees. I don't know whether it's how they look, the way they fly, the noise they make – whatever it is, I've usually chosen the easy way and tried to ignore them. Yet I've discovered that this is a short-sighted attitude for any of us to take. It's common knowledge that bees are vital for the environment – they play a crucial role in the circle of life, though total awareness of what they actually do is frequently incomplete or even wrong. Sci-fi stories base whole plot-lines on what might happen were the bees to leave the planet, and surprisingly I really enjoy those!

However, there's even more to bees than one might suspect. Apparently they're great at decision-making – who knew? When bees need to find a new hive, they don't simply fly around looking for any old place. No, they're more sophisticated than that. What they do is send out groups of bees – let's call them 'explorers' – to assess potential places, and report back. Clearly they don't write reports or give presentations – they use particular body movements to explain what they've found. All the bees then make a group decision by going back to each of the most popular sites identified by the explorers and repeating their body movements. When all the bees (the swarm) perform the same movements at the same time in the same place – bingo, that's the site for them. It must be great fun to watch!

Ok – so what do we learn from these bees? One study shows that if they had simply chosen a single site by chance, the swarm might have been left without a hive and would therefore have been exposed to danger. On the other hand, if they had simply followed the initial suggestions of the explorers without doing any follow-up research for themselves, then they might not have achieved the best outcome. The conclusion is that it seems to be a very efficient way of making decisions.

Apparently, we could all learn a thing or two from this process. People in general tend to be poor at making group decisions because things get in the way – time, ego, promotion prospects can all influence the thinking process of individuals within a group. It's not easy to put self-interest to one side and make a decision that's in the best interests of everyone. Mr Spock in *Star Trek* said, 'the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few' – but how often is that actually the case in real life?

Let's look at some examples of how people make bad decisions. Think about something as simple as the restaurant we choose to go to. If we visit a new town and need to choose a restaurant, knowing nothing about any of them in advance, it's likely that we will choose the one with the most people eating in it. This is based on the theory that everyone has chosen to eat there because it's good. But this could be misleading. Everyone there could have followed the same line of thought, but the first people in the restaurant could simply have chosen it by chance. The result – we all make a bad decision and eat bad food. Likewise, if people make their choice simply by wandering around and eating in restaurants they happen to come across, superb restaurants in out-of-the-way locations may not get many customers because people just don't find them.

The bees' approach avoids both these problems. Nature has given them the right mix of independence (they make their own initial choice) and interdependence (they accept the final decision together). So, when drawing conclusions about human behaviour, you should take a leaf out of their book. Understanding the way they make decisions can improve the way people make their own group decisions. Obviously it's a mistake to ignore bees!

Read the article. Choose from the sentences (A–F) the one which fits each gap (32–36). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A In spite of this, Jamie continues with his own successful career as a high-profile chef.
- B These twin objectives led to him opening a restaurant called 'Fifteen' specially to train young chefs.
- C Basically, it requires a great deal of hard work and commitment.
- D Without this, Fifteen would just be another restaurant and without the top-class food, the charity would be just another youth training centre unconnected to the real world of business.
- E To qualify, candidates have to be between sixteen and twenty-four and not in employment, education or training.
- F Michael, himself one of the first graduates, won't put up with any nonsense and hates to see young people wasting their opportunities, so he expects high standards.

More than a restaurant

Famous TV chef Jamie Oliver left school aged sixteen to work in his family's restaurant and later was given his own cookery show. The programme was an instant success and was followed by a best-selling cookbook and more TV series. However, Oliver wasn't only interested in being a celebrity. His aim was to give disadvantaged young people with few job or social opportunities professional training, plus the chance of a successful career. (32) Since 2002, over 100 apprentice chefs have graduated and gone on to work in first-rate restaurants.

There is a lot of competition to gain a place as a trainee chef. Each year, up to 100 would-be apprentices are interviewed. (33) Many lack confidence, and in extreme cases, their parents or grandparents have applied on their behalf. But instead of looking for the most employable people, interviewers at Fifteen are looking for the least employable ones. They identify the candidates most in need by finding out why things haven't worked out for them and assessing their potential. Sixty candidates are selected initially, and they attend what's called a 'bootcamp' where they do character assessment exercises. Half are then selected for a four-month college course in catering where they learn basic food theory and practical skills. Then a final selection is made and approximately eighteen to twenty new apprentices enter Fifteen's kitchens each spring.

So, what does training in Fifteen's kitchens involve? (34) Apprentices get up every day at 7 a.m. and work in the restaurant from 8 a.m. till 11 p.m. Two days a week are spent at college so that they can obtain a qualification in catering. Three days are spent in the restaurant working and then there is a 'sourcing' day once a week, when they go to food suppliers and learn about how food is grown or raised. For many of them, this is their first time outside their usual environment so the experience of using high-quality ingredients is a real eye-opener.

There is no doubt that being a Fifteen apprentice is challenging, but it works for most of them. The act of taking a simple, uncooked ingredient and turning it into something special has a magical appeal and the apprentices get a real sense of achievement every day. Even so, between three and six fail to complete the training most years and this is partly down to the man in charge of the restaurant. (35) Not all the trainers have such a strict approach. They point out that, despite some apprentices being immature and not always having a positive attitude, the main purpose of the scheme is to help people and give them a start in life.

Not many people realise Fifteen is a charity. It's a socially responsible business which raises its own money and puts all profit back into the training programme. (36) With so many graduates now working as chefs, Jamie Oliver can be proud of what he has achieved with Fifteen.