Pencil Me
Prepare to be different

READING COMPREHENSION

LEVEL B1+

Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

PRACTICE 1

Part 1:

Read the followingpassage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks.

One of the largest and most luxurious palaces in the world is the Palace of Versailles. (23)_____near Paris, France, the palace has more than 2,000 rooms, (24)_____are extravagantly decorated. Versailles was constructed during the seventeenth century. Its original use was as a hunting lodge for King Louis XIV. However, he and his successors constantly expanded it until it became a massive palace. Versailles became one of (25)_____prominent symbols of the French monarchy, and it served as the royal court from 1682 to 1789. Following the events of the French Revolution, the palace was (26)_____into a museum. Today, Versailles contains thousands of works of art, including paintings, drawings, engravings, and sculptures. Due to its art and the beauty of the palace itself, it is a prime tourist attraction at the present. As a result, millions of people visit the palace (27)_____.

23. A. is located	B. Locating	C. Having located	D. Located
24. A. every which	B. all of which	C. that are all	D. what all
25. A. the most	B. more	C. much more	D. most of the
26. A. designed	B. constructed	C. rehabilitated	D. transformed
27. A. permanently	B. consistently	C. continually	D. annually

Part 2:

Read the followingpassage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

It is said that most people have no more than 30 friends at any given time, and 400 over the whole of their lives. However, on social networking sites, most users have about 150 friends. If these numbers are correct, then friendship means different things in different situations.

One of the reasons for having more online friends than real friends at a certain point in time is that online friendships do not require much time and energy: it is easy to accept friendships and keep them forever. Another possibility is that it is difficult to say 'no' when somebody asks us to be their friend online, even if we feel we don't really know them. The fact that they ask us suggests that they do consider us a friend, which is a nice feeling. Alternatively, they may be 'collectors' of online friends and just want to use us to get a higher number of friends and appear to be popular.

Online friendships are quite easy, but in the real world decisions about friendships are harder to make. There are no rules about friendship. There are no guidelines about how to make friends, how to keep friendships going, and how to finish friendships if we want to move on. People have very different opinions about this: some people would die for their friends and they value them more than family. Others say that friends are temporary, only there to help each other until they are no longer needed. If people with such different views become friends, this can lead to problems.

Because of these different definitions of friendship, it is easy to be unhappy about our friendships. We may want them to be deeper or closer, or we may want to have more friends in our lives. Sometimes we simply do not have the time to develop our friendships, or we fear we have left it too late in life to start. If we move to another country or city, we have to find ways to make new friends again.

This dissatisfaction shows us how important friendships are for most of us. We should not think that it could be too late to build friendships. We also need to understand that the need to be around other people is one that is shared by many. Therefore, we should not be too frightened about starting to talk to people who in the future may become our friends: it is likely that they too would like to get closer to us. Remember what people say: strangers are friends we have not met yet.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

28. How many friends do the majority of people probably have?
A. 30 real friends or fewer
B. a minimum of 30 real friends
C. 150 internet friends
D. 400 internet friends over the course of their lives
29. It is difficult_____.
A. to believe the numbers about friendship.
B. to keep your friends happy.
C. to trust what you read on social networking sites.
D. to give a definition of 'friendship'.
30. Friendship means _____.
A. different things to different people.
B. dying for your friends if you need to.
C. helping each other until it is no longer necessary.
D. accepting people with different views
31. Sometimes people worry because _____.
A. they think that they have too many friends.
B. they spend too much time with friends
C. they think they are too old to make friends.
D. there are no guidelines about friendship
32. Most of us _____.
A. are dissatisfied with our friends.
B. build friendships late in life.
C. are frightened to talk to strangers.
D. need to be with others.

LIVEWORKSHEETS