



EXAM PRACTICE – LANGUAGE II

1. For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Ballet dancer by chance

After five years of karate lessons, Hans Jensen, 13, **(0)**.....his black belt for ballet shoes. Hans **(1)**..... his first public performance only a year ago when he danced in 'The Nutcracker' with the local dance school. Hans's mother said 'He was actually helping **(2)**.....his little sister. She was very shy on stage until her brother was given a small part as a soldier. Hans enjoyed it so much that he **(3)**.....himself in ballet classes.'

Hans has already **(4)**..... attention in the ballet world and recently won a scholarship to join the Royal Ballet School. He loves it there and is working hard to increase his **(5)** of dance steps. 'I want to become stronger, **(6)** experience and learn as much as I can,' he said.

His teacher, Yevgen Gregorevic, who has danced professionally in a variety of lead **(7)**....., said, 'Hans has natural ability and always works hard.' Hans has **(8)** himself the goal of one day dancing for the Bolshoi Ballet.

- | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | A gave | B showed | C put | D passed |
| 2 | A with | B out | C off | D on |
| 3 | A enrolled | B admitted | C entered | D introduced |
| 4 | A paid | B achieved | C taken | D attracted |
| 5 | A range | B volume | C total | D scale |
| 6 | A collect | B raise | C add | D gain |
| 7 | A posts | B jobs | C roles | D places |
| 8 | A set | B thought | C decided | D put |

2. For questions 1-8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning.



Microflats

Many urban centres suffer from a chronic lack (0) OF affordable housing. One solution to this problem, particularly for young, first-time buyers, (1) _____ the microflat, an apartment which sometimes measures little more (2) _____ 15 square metres. With just enough room to enable the occupier (3) _____ sleep, eat and wash, microflats represent the ultimate in small-scale city living.

One of the best publicized designs of microflat was that of young architects Stuart Piercy and Richard Conner, (4) _____ came up with their idea when they realized they couldn't afford to buy a place to live in London, (5) _____ the fact that they were earning reasonable salaries. Their 30-square-metre prototype (6) _____ first exhibited in the shop window of Selfridges department store in January 2002.

Teacher Sally Wright has been living in her London microflat (7) _____ nearly two years now. 'Naturally, I would much (8) _____ live in a bigger flat, but I would have to rent. At least I have a place I can call my own.'

3. For questions 17-24, read the text below. 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.

The Baobab Tree

The Baobab tree is an (0) tree that grows in low-lying areas of Africa and Australia. When the Baobab drops its leaves, its branches have the (17) of roots sticking up into the air, as if it had been planted upside-down. Baobabs range in (18) from five to twenty metres, and there's evidence from carbon dating that they may live to be 3,000 years old.

USUAL

APPEAR

HIGH

Their trunks are smooth and shiny and are often hollow. One ancient Baobab in Zimbabwe is so (19) that up to forty people can shelter in the empty space inside it. This space has been used for a variety of purposes, including shops, bus shelters or simply (20) space.

MASS

STORE

Baobabs are almost (21) to kill, and when they do die, they decay from the inside and collapse (22) leaving only a heap of fibres behind. That's the reason for the traditional (23) that they don't actually die, but simply vanish. It's hardly (24) they're sometimes called magic trees.

POSSIBLE

EXPECTED

BELIEVE

SURPRISE

4. For questions 25-30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

25 My parents often allow me to go shopping by myself.

LET

My parents often my own.

26 Harry was only able to play the piece perfectly because he had practised it for hours.

HAVE

Harry able to play the piece perfectly if he hadn't practised it for hours.

27 Nola didn't expect the book to be so expensive.

MUCH

Nola didn't think the book would it did.

28 Please don't look at my painting yet because I haven't finished it.

RATHER

I'd look at my painting yet because I haven't finished it.

29 It's possible that George didn't get my text message.

MAY

George my text message.

30 Mary is the best guitarist I know.

THAN

Mary is a else I know.

5. Complete each sentence with **ONE** suitable word.

1. This place is so _____. There is nothing to play with.
2. She is so _____. She always makes everybody laugh.
3. Maria is a _____ student. Every day she studies until 11 p.m.
4. Nam is a _____ boy. He even talks more than a girl.
5. They do sports every day. They are so _____.
6. Tomorrow is my birthday. I am so _____ that I open my gift before my birthday.
7. Sarah is very _____. Yesterday she spent three hours just to explain one task for me.
8. Nana is quite _____. You don't need to be worried to let her do that work.
9. Minh left her hometown to live on her own without taking any money from her parents. She was so _____.
10. Danny's teeth are really _____. They seem frostbitten when he drinks or eats something cold.

6. Finish the following sentences in a sensible way.

- a. You know, whenever I visit my grandpa I'm always worried about...
- b. The insurance won't cover any of the...
- c. Resilience is considered to be...
- d. There is no way I am going to...

7. Complete the sentences with the right word.

- 1 Why are you _____? Are you tired or just bored?
snoring napping yawning
- 2 I didn't hear you get back last night, I was _____ asleep.
fast deep fallen
- 3 I use a special _____ that gives my long neck enough support.
duvet blanket pillow
- 4 I used to suffer from _____. I would lie awake for hours every night.
insomnia jet-lag nightmares
- 5 When it's really hot in summer, I just sleep under a _____.
pillow sheet duvet
- 6 If you eat too much late at night, it will _____ you awake.
stay keep make
- 7 My uncle gets up very early but he sometimes has a _____ in the afternoons.
dream yawn nap
- 8 You don't need to worry about _____ – that alarm clock's incredibly loud.
oversleeping having a siesta keeping awake

8. You are going to read an article about learning foreign languages. For questions 43-52, choose from the sections (A-D). The sections may be chosen more than once.

In which section does the writer

explain why a particular achievement is beneficial?

43	
----	--

say language learners tend to be treated sympathetically?

44	
----	--

claim that something has failed to be proven?

45	
----	--

point out what people need in order not to give up?

46	
----	--

encourage people to use language creatively?

47	
----	--

say people will become accustomed to something?

48	
----	--

say learners need to be determined to reach their goal?

49	
----	--

mention characteristics that enhance learning ability?

50	
----	--

assure people that something is unnecessary?

51	
----	--

admit that a suggestion is unconventional?

52	
----	--

How to learn a language

A

This might sound obvious, but if you don't have a good reason to learn a language, you're less likely to stick with it over the long run. Wanting to impress people with your language skills is not a very good reason; wanting to get to know a person in his or her own language is another matter entirely. And once you've decided on a language, it's crucial to commit. I say to myself: 'OK, I want to learn this and I'm therefore going to do as much as I can in this language.' I try to think my everyday thoughts in it, even speak out loud to myself in that language. It might sound really weird, but doing that is a great way to practise if you're not able to use it all the time. It can keep new words and phrases fresh in your mind and build up your confidence for the next time you speak with someone.

B

Being able to have a simple conversation is a huge reward in itself. Reaching milestones like that early on is very motivating. You don't have to go abroad; you can meet people who speak the language in your own country and practise with them. Having a partner, such as a friend or relative, on your language adventure will push both of you to always try just a little bit harder. I've learned several languages together with my brother. If he realises that I'm doing more than he is, he'll try and outdo me – and the other way round. We sometimes practise by writing and recording songs – you could try that. Think of some fun ways to practise your new language: write a poem or even draw a comic strip.

C

The idea that children are inherently better learners than adults is turning out to be a myth, and new research cannot find a direct link between age and the ability to learn. However, it may still be worth trying to learn the way kids do because they certainly are fast learners. The key to learning as quickly as a child may be to simply take on certain childlike attitudes, for instance, lack of self-consciousness and willingness to make mistakes. This means being ready to put yourself in potentially embarrassing situations, which can be scary, but it's the only way to develop and improve. No matter how much you learn, you won't ever speak a language without putting yourself out there: talk to strangers in the language, ask for directions, order food, try to tell a joke. The more often you do this, the better your language skills will become.

D

Just as you must learn to look before you can draw, you must learn to listen before you can speak. Every language sounds strange the first time you hear it, but the more you expose yourself to it, the more familiar it will be. Believe me, we're able to pronounce anything, it's just we're not used to doing it. Pronunciation is as much physical as mental, and different languages make different demands on your tongue, lips and throat. One way to improve is to really look at someone while they're saying words that use that sound, and then to try to imitate them. You can try to imitate a native speaker, or watch foreign-language films on TV. And it's good to remember you're not going to annoy people by speaking their language poorly. Most people will be patient and encouraging, and glad that you're trying to communicate with them.