

# Skills Test Unit 9

## Everyday English

### 1 Complete the dialogue with the missing words. Use one word in each gap.

**Sally** I was just <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to Henry about the Isle of Wight Festival.

**James** Really? What did he say?

**Sally** He said that they've announced the bands that are going to play.

**James** <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ wonderful! We'll have to go, won't we?

**Sally** Definitely! It <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on the radio that the tickets will be on sale in two months' time.

**James** Oh <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_! I can't wait that long!

**Sally** Poor <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. You hate waiting, don't you? But just think – in two months' time, we're going to be watching our favourite bands!

## Listening

### 2 ♀ Listen to four speakers talking about the media. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

1 The speakers are talking about which types of media they do and don't use. \_\_\_\_

2 All the speakers like tabloids. \_\_\_\_

### 3 ♀ Listen again. Complete the sentences with A, B, C or D. You can use each speaker more than once.

1 Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ recently watched a film about celebrities.

2 Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ enjoys reading the newspaper on the train.

3 Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ likes soap operas.

4 Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ and Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ don't read newspapers.

5 Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ talks about people doing several things at once.

6 Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ watches TV, but doesn't read newspapers or use the internet.

7 Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ enjoys reading about celebrities.

8 Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ thinks broadsheets are better than tabloids.

# Reading

## 4 Read the text. Circle the correct answers (a–d).

### William Randolph Hearst

George Hearst, an American businessman and politician, had become a multi-millionaire after finding gold in California. He invested in a lot of different companies and projects which further increased his wealth. But not all of his projects were successful. He acquired a newspaper called the *San Francisco Examiner*, which, at the time, was unsuccessful and losing money, as payment for a gambling debt. In 1887, his only son, William, begged his father to allow him to take control of the newspaper. George wasn't keen on this idea at first, but William was delighted to have the opportunity to run a newspaper. He had first become interested in journalism when he was a student at Harvard University. Now his dream had come true.

Forty years later, William Randolph Hearst was the richest and most famous newspaper man in the United States. In fact, it is said that by the mid-1920s one in every four Americans read one of his newspapers every day. He had made a success of the *San Francisco Examiner*, and now he owned twenty daily newspapers and eleven Sunday newspapers as well as well-known magazines such as *Cosmopolitan* and *Harper's Bazaar*. He even had his own Hollywood film company and produced his own films. William Randolph Hearst's newspapers had become popular because he had introduced a new style of sensational news reporting which was called 'yellow' journalism. All his newspapers published exciting stories about crime with lots of pictures and large headlines, and many of the stories weren't actually true. He also cut the prices of his newspapers to get more and more people to buy them, and employed some of the best writers in America to write newspaper columns and stories. It was the beginning of tabloid journalism, and it made William an extremely important and powerful man in the world of politics and the media.

From the 1920s, William spent more and more time away from the public at his home in California. He became famous in the United States for being a rich man who wanted to be alone and who never left his house. He lived in a huge house which looked like a castle, and he spent millions of dollars building more and more rooms, and filling the house with European paintings, and surrounding it with animals and plants from all over the world. It was his way of escaping from the public world, a world that had never really loved him and had rejected him when he tried to become a politician. In the early 1900s, William Randolph Hearst had told the world that he was going to run for President of the United States. He had spent millions of dollars on political campaigns, had failed to win an election to become mayor of New York, and had never become President. The man who was once more powerful than anyone else in America spent the last few years of his life in his mansion with few friends.

**5 Read the text. Choose the correct option.**

- 1 Which of the following events happened first?
  - a George Hearst acquired the *San Francisco Examiner*.
  - b George discovered gold in California.
  - c George gave his son a job at a newspaper.
  - d George started investing in lots of companies.
- 2 How did William feel about starting work at the *San Francisco Examiner*?
  - a He was worried about making a success of the newspaper.
  - b He was very pleased about getting the job.
  - c He hadn't really thought about being a journalist before.
  - d He wanted to start as soon as he had started at university.
- 3 Which of the following did William Randolph Hearst own in the 1920s?
  - a the most successful newspaper in San Francisco
  - b over forty different newspaper titles
  - c a number of Hollywood magazines
  - d more daily newspapers than Sunday newspapers
- 4 Which of the following features of 'yellow' journalism is *not* true?
  - a There are a lot of crime stories.
  - b There are lots of pictures.
  - c The writers aren't very good.
  - d The price is low.
- 5 According to the text, why did Hearst want to be alone?
  - a He didn't have much money any more.
  - b He felt that people didn't like him.
  - c He preferred to travel all over the world.
  - d He had strong political views.