

# SKILLS TEST 2

# Extension

## READING

1 Read the article. Then match the parts of the sentences (a–k). There are three extra sentences you don't need.

### The power of gossip

Humans are one of the most successful animals in the world. We have become the most powerful, most important species on the planet, and of course, we have become one of the most intelligent. We have created films, books, buildings, businesses, the internet and many other complicated and beautiful things. So what is the secret of our success? What makes us different from other animals, which have achieved none of these things? The answer might surprise you.

Humans have been able to talk or communicate for a very long time. Early humans could tell each other where to find the best food, or to communicate about dangerous

things. However, this did not make humans special. Many animals can do this, too.

The real change was when humans learned to gossip. This means chatting to other people, talking about other people's private lives – and sharing information about them. People learned to talk about what other people were like, who was honest, who was important or not important, in the same way that we now gossip about people around us or TV stars.

This change was important. Since humans first started to gossip, we have thought of ourselves as part of a much larger group of hundreds or thousands of people. Earlier, humans only remembered information about their close family. We developed the

idea of being part of a society and we needed to concentrate on more and more information.

Some scientists believe that gossip also helped humans to get better at imagining things. When we gossip about another person, that person is usually not there, in front of us. It is quite easy to talk about things we can see or hear, but talking about things which are only in our memory or our imagination is actually very complicated. It is possible that we are the only animals that can do this.

So, as humans learned to gossip, our brains got larger and larger. We also developed more and more language skills. So, the next time someone tells you that gossiping about people is bad, they might be wrong!

- 0 People are more successful than
- 1 Knowing how to communicate
- 2 It isn't only humans that can
- 3 Gossiping is the ability to
- 4 Learning to share information about other people
- 5 Learning to gossip meant that we could
- 6 It's possible that only humans can
- 7 Brain size is linked to

- a happened many years ago.
- b was a more recent change.
- c any other species on Earth.
- d the ability to gossip.
- e form large societies.
- f the ability to communicate.
- g communicate with each other.
- h use a form of language.
- i imagine things.
- j talk about other people.

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2 Read the article again. Complete the summary with one word in each gap. Use words from the article.

- 0 Humans have become a very successful and powerful species.
- 1 We have created many forms of art, and have invented complicated things such as the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 For a long time, we have been able to warn each other about \_\_\_\_\_ things.
- 3 However, we are not the only \_\_\_\_\_ with the ability to do this.

- 4 The ability to chat about other people, or \_\_\_\_\_, changed our development.
- 5 One important function of this was to decide whether other people were important or \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Learning to do this was an important step towards living in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Gossiping depends on having an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Our ability to use \_\_\_\_\_ increased as our brains became larger.

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### LISTENING

3  Listen to two teenagers talking about things they don't learn. Put the things they talk about in the correct order.

- A Young people not learning about organising their time.
- B Anna cooking breakfast.
- C Young people having problems with other people.
- D Anna forgetting her homework.
- E Ben reading an article.
- F Young people having problems with money.
- G Anna having an argument with a friend.
- H Anna wanting to go to the cinema.

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4  Listen again and complete the notes with 1–3 words.

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- 0 Anna hasn't done her *history homework* yet.
- 1 Anna says that Veronica always says \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Anna asked her mum for \_\_\_\_\_ for the cinema.
- 3 Her parents are angry with her because she left \_\_\_\_\_ in a mess.
- 4 Ben read \_\_\_\_\_ about things teenagers should learn.
- 5 He says that teenagers need to learn how to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Ben says that teenagers get money \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Anna says that she doesn't learn about \_\_\_\_\_ at school.
- 8 Ben thinks teenagers need to understand what to do when life \_\_\_\_\_.

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