READING PRACTICE

Reading and Use of English Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

1 **SPEAK** Work in pairs. You are going to read a text about friendship apps, which put people in touch with others who want to make new friends. Why do you think increasing numbers of people are using these apps?

2 Read the text, ignoring the gaps. Which, if any, of the reasons you gave in Exercise 1 are mentioned?

3 For questions 1–8, read the text again and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 **A** various **B** several **C** plenty **D** number

All four words express the idea of *more than a few,* but only *plenty* fits grammatically. Neither *various* nor *several* are followed by the preposition *of,* and whilst *a number of reasons,* with the indefinite article *a,* would be correct, *number of reasons* is not.

How to go about it

- Read through the whole text first, ignoring the gaps, to get a general idea of the content.
- When choosing an answer, look carefully at the whole sentence, not just the words immediately before and after the gap.

  This is particularly important in a question like number 5 below, where the gap requires a linking word.
- Think about meaning, grammar and collocation when making your decisions. Sometimes, two or all three of these areas will be important for a particular answer.

  For number 4 below, all three areas should be considered. For number 5, both meaning and grammar are important.

FRIENDSHIP APPS

There are (0) C of reasons why you might want to use one of the many friendship apps currently (1) _____. You may, for example, have moved to a new city, where there is (2) _____ nobody you know. Perhaps you're the only single person in your group and you'd (3) _____ go to a concert with someone than spend the evening at a dinner party with cosy couples. Or maybe you just want to (4) _____ your circle of friends – friends you actually meet up with, as opposed to those you know online.

For (5) _____ we may have hundreds of virtual friends, many of us have just a handful of real-life ones. Whilst social media should arguably (6) _____ some of the blame for this, supposedly causing us to lose our ability to communicate face to face, there are other factors. We're working (7) _____ hours than ever before, with little time left over for socialising, and we're also spending more time living alone, (8) _____ marriage in favour of the single life. No wonder friendship apps are increasingly in demand.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1	**A** disposable	**B** available	**C** enjoyable	**D** suitable
2	**A** absolutely	**B** completely	**C** perfectly	**D** entirely
3	**A** prefer	**B** better	**C** rather	**D** happier
4	**A** widen	**B** rise	**C** grow	**D** spread
5	**A** despite	**B** instead	**C** unless	**D** although
6	**A** catch	**B** stand	**C** take	**D** meet
7	**A** greater	**B** further	**C** longer	**D** higher
8	**A** waiting	**B** delaying	**C** pausing	**D** holding

4 SPEAK Work in groups. Do you agree that social media is 'causing us to lose our ability to communicate face to face'? Why/Why not?

SISTERS

Clara and Silvia Petrosillo were eight and six respectively when they moved into the house next door to ours one cold December morning. I watched from the warmth of our lounge as the sisters helped their parents carry a number of items into their new home from the family car. They worked in unison, each holding on to the same box or object, moving perfectly in step with one another towards the front door without ever exchanging a single word, like a well-rehearsed dance duo. They seemed at ease in each other's company and I imagined they must spend a great deal of time together. I wasn't wrong.

At first, I was reluctant to approach the sisters, whose expressionless faces and wild, unruly hair did not particularly invite friendly overtures. And anyway, they preferred to stay in the house most of the time, so I would only really see them when Mr Petrosillo bundled them into the car in the morning to take them to school. When the evenings grew lighter, they were persuaded to play outside, but to begin with, they seemed fearful of leaving the safety of their back garden, and shyly avoided eye contact with me as I watched them from my own.

Eventually, though, the sisters showed signs of coming out of their shells. They began to venture out into the park across the road, and I seized on the opportunity to speak to them. They allowed me to join in their games, but they would converse together in earnest whispers, which made me feel excluded, the beginning of a new reality, one which quickly drove the sisters apart, and when Clara went off to study law a year later, the distance between them grew. Silvia, who left school at sixteen, took a job as a gardener with the Council, had her head shaved and acquired a large tattoo on her back. She continued to live with her parents. Meanwhile, Clara graduated and moved to London, where she eventually became a partner in an international law firm. My parents told me that the sisters spent very little time together whenever Clara came to visit.

One day last summer, Clara turned up driving a two-seater convertible. The Petrosillos' house was up for sale and she'd come to clear her old things out. I was back home as well, visiting my parents, and happened to be looking out of the lounge window, from where I could see Silvia taking out the rubbish. When she saw her sister parking, Silvia paused as though she might go out into the street to greet her. But then she turned around and went quietly back into the house.

Then one afternoon, I saw the sisters sitting on the front doorstep in what looked like embarrassed silence, putting on their old roller-skates. They skated slowly around the driveway a few times before finally going out

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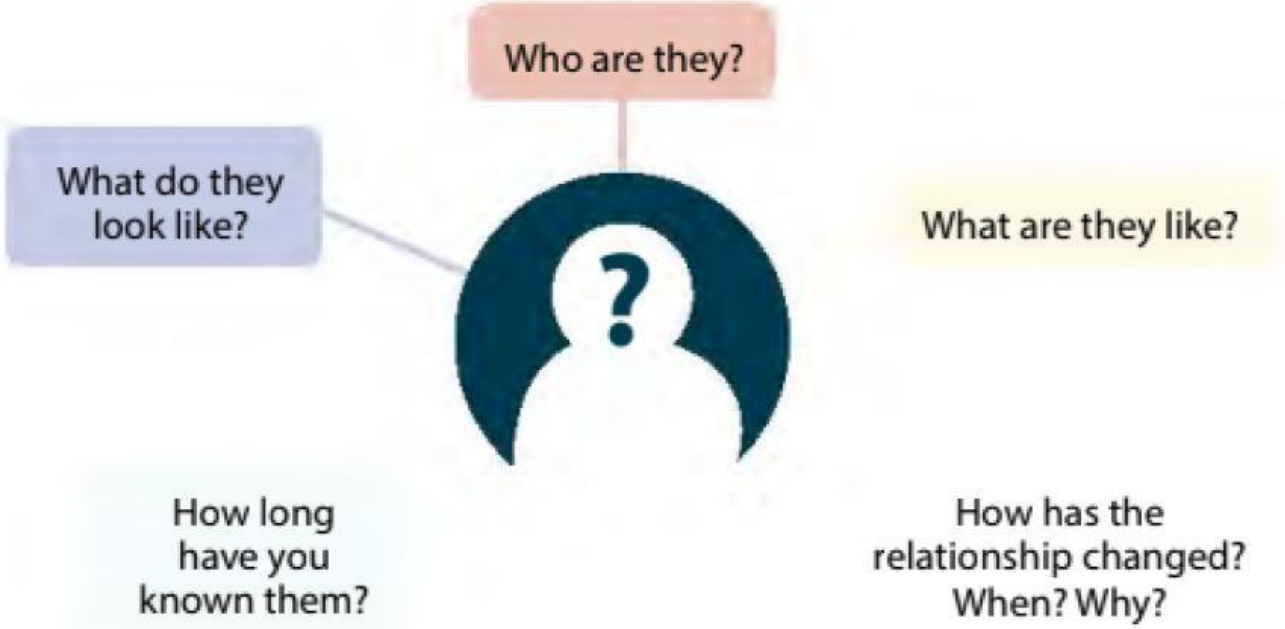
and they laughed very little. To be honest, the only time they looked truly happy was when they were on their roller-skates, sailing hand-in-hand down the road, with Clara, who seemed more confident, shouting at the younger Silvia to bend her knees or straighten her back. As for me, and despite my best efforts, the Petrosillo sisters never really allowed me to get close to them. They preferred to keep themselves to themselves and do everything together, alone.

Until, that is, Harry Reynolds appeared on the scene; Clara's scene. She was seventeen, and he was seven years older, with a car, and a well-paid job in a life assurance company. Silvia appeared untroubled by this. Her face, at least, gave nothing away; but then, it never did. Clearly, though, it was through the front gate. They exchanged an awkward glance, then moved off down the road, gradually gathering speed. At one point, Silvia wobbled, and it looked as if she was going to fall over. But Clara held out her hand, and Silvia, after a brief hesitation, took it. As they skated on, it was, for a moment, as though nothing had changed, and the sisters were who they had once been, before life came between them.

Reading and Use of English Part 5 Multiple choice

1 SPEAK Work in pairs. Describe a relationship with a family member or friend which has changed over the years.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 **You are going to read a short story about two sisters. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

1 What point does the writer make about the sisters in the first paragraph?

- **A** They preferred not to speak to each other.
- **B** The closeness of their relationship was apparent.
- **C** They enjoyed doing the task they had been given.
- **D** This was not the first time they had moved house.

2 In the second paragraph, the writer says that she

- **A** was discouraged by Mr Petrosillo from playing with the sisters.
- **B** was not allowed to go next door to the sisters' house.
- **C** was initially put off by the appearance of the sisters.
- **D** was nervous about inviting the sisters into her garden.

3 What is meant by 'the sisters showed signs of coming out of their shells' in lines 20–21?

- **A** They looked older and more mature.
- **B** They appeared to be growing in confidence.
- **C** They made it clear that they wanted to play.
- **D** They indicated that they were allowed to leave their house.

Don't forget!

- Read the whole story first for an overall understanding.
- For each question, eliminate the options which are clearly wrong, then check the option or options you have not eliminated.
- If you still cannot decide, choose one of the options.

4 In the third paragraph the writer says that the Petrosillo sisters

- **A** refused to let her go roller-skating with them.
- **B** said some unpleasant things about her to each other.
- **C** showed little interest in her attempts at friendship.
- **D** deliberately tried to make her feel unwelcome.

5 What does *this* refer to in line 36?

- **A** the age difference between Harry and Clara
- **B** the fact that Harry was successful
- **C** the nature of Harry's work
- **D** the fact that Clara had a boyfriend

6 When Clara returned to her parents' house last summer, the sisters

- **A** appeared uncomfortable in each other's company.
- **B** were noticeably less proficient at roller skating.
- **C** were no longer on speaking terms with each other.
- **D** had trouble throwing away their old possessions.

3 **SPEAK** **How do you think your life will change in the next ten years?**

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Language focus Contrast linkers

Underline the most appropriate option. Sometimes more than one option is possible.

1 We enjoyed our day in the countryside, in spite of *raining / it rained / the rain.*

2 Although I got to the airport late, *they wouldn't let me check in / I still caught my plane / I didn't have my passport.*

3 Elena and I got on well during the holiday, despite *of the fact she's older than me / her being older than me / our age difference.*

4 I'm not keen on package holidays, whereas *I'm not fond of camping / my brother loves them / my sister doesn't like them either.*

5 My grandparents are going on a cruise next month, even though *they don't particularly like boats / they like visiting different places / they both get seasick.*

6 We usually spend part of our summer holiday by the sea. This year, *whereas, / however, / although,* we've rented a cottage in the mountains.

Reading and Use of English Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Situated on the banks of the river Guadalquivir, Seville **(0)** *C* the best of Andalusian culture, with its rich Moorish heritage, fine food and passionate flamenco music. Hidden within the narrow streets of its historic centre are beautiful courtyards **(1)** ..... of flowers, bringing an air of calm to an otherwise vibrant city.

Begin your **(2)** ..... to Seville with a guided tour aboard an open-top bus or one of the many horse-drawn carriages which **(3)** ..... off from the cathedral. Then climb the Giralda tower for a spectacular **(4)** ..... of the city, before strolling around the gardens of the Alcázar palace. Seville, of course, is **(5)** ..... for its delicious 'tapas', so if you need a break from sightseeing, **(6)** ..... Triana or Santa Cruz, where you can sample the delights of southern Spanish cuisine.

If you have time, take a **(7)** ..... out to the Roman ruins of Italica, birthplace of the emperors Trajan and Hadrian. Just a short bus **(8)** ..... away from the city centre, Italica boasts an impressive Roman amphitheatre and numerous mosaics.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

0	A discovers	B explores	C offers	D involves
1	A plenty	B lots	C crowded	D full
2	A stay	B visit	C sight	D arrival
3	A set	B put	C get	D give
4	A vision	B view	C aspect	D appearance
5	A seen	B looked	C known	D heard
6	A come across	B head for	C move on	D take to
7	A travel	B trail	C track	D trip
8	A ride	B walk	C pass	D run

LISTENING 1

Audio

Listening Part 3 Multiple matching

1 6.1 **You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about problems in their relationships with other people. For questions 1–5, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says was the cause of the problem. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.**

A the stress of working long hours
B the other person's general lack of tolerance
C having different ideas about how to keep someone occupied
D the other person's lack of self-confidence
E not having enough time together
F the other person's inability to adapt to a new role
G never having enough money
H the other person's sense of injustice

Speaker 1 ☐ 1
Speaker 2 ☐ 2
Speaker 3 ☐ 3
Speaker 4 ☐ 4
Speaker 5 ☐ 5

Don't forget!

- Underline key words and phrases in the eight options.
- Listen carefully both times before making your final decision.

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Listening Part 1 Multiple choice

6.2 You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

1 You hear a woman on the radio talking about her father.

What does she say about him?

A He was not very talkative.

B He was very similar to her.

C He was very sure of himself.

2 You overhear a man talking about a former teacher.

What does the man say about the teacher?

A His teaching style was boring.

B His behaviour was distracting.

C His enthusiasm was contagious.

3 You hear a woman complaining about one of her employees.

What is she complaining about?

A his untidy appearance

B his poor punctuality

C his impolite behaviour

4 You hear part of a radio programme in which a man is giving advice.

Who is he giving advice to?

A parents

B teachers

C teenagers

5 You hear two people talking about a friend.

What do they agree about her?

A She is impatient.

B She is indecisive.

C She is bad-tempered.

6 You hear a girl talking about her tennis coach.

How does she feel about his coaching methods?

A pleased with the importance he gives to fitness

B impressed by the encouragement he gives to players

C grateful for the individual attention he gives to her

7 You hear a man and a woman talking about a person in a photograph.

Who is the person in the photograph?

A the man's sister

B the man's mother

C the man's daughter

8 You hear an elderly woman talking to a man about her new neighbours.

What does she like about them?

A They are often away at weekends.

B They have been very friendly.

C They look after their garden.

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LISTENING 2

Listening Part 1 Multiple choice

8.1 You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

> **Don't forget!**
>
> You will hear distractors. Listen carefully both times before deciding on your answer.

1 You hear a hotel manager talking to his staff.
What is he doing?
- **A** informing them of something
- **B** inviting them to do something
- **C** criticising them

2 You hear a married couple talking about a campsite they stayed at.
What did they both like about it?
- **A** It was quiet.
- **B** It was near a city.
- **C** It had good facilities.

3 You hear two people talking about a place they have just visited.
What kind of place is it?
- **A** a stadium
- **B** a museum
- **C** a palace

4 You overhear a woman leaving a voicemail message for her friend.
Why is she calling?
- **A** to check an arrangement
- **B** to cancel a planned trip
- **C** to make an apology

5 You hear two people on a plane talking about the airline they are flying with.
The man thinks the airline has improved
- **A** its punctuality.
- **B** the quality of its meals.
- **C** its treatment of passengers.

6 You hear a woman talking about tourists in her town.
What is she complaining about?
- **A** They have no money to spend.
- **B** There are too many of them.
- **C** They make too much noise.

7 You hear two tourists talking about their tour guide.
What do they agree about her?
- **A** She isn't very good at explaining things.
- **B** She isn't very knowledgeable.
- **C** She isn't very patient.

8 You hear a man talking about a beach he recently visited.
What did he like about the beach?
- **A** the quality of the sand
- **B** the temperature of the sea
- **C** the closeness of the shops

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