

GRAMMAR

1 Choose the correct option (a, b or c).

- 1 She ____ her driving test so she's upset at the moment.
a 's been failing b 's failed c 's failing
- 2 You ____ that video game for hours. Turn it off now.
a 've played b was playing c 've been playing
- 3 ____ your own house before?
a Have you ever owned b Do you ever own
c Have you ever been owning
- 4 The purpose of this letter is ____ our new service.
a explain b explaining c to explain
- 5 I don't remember ____ Joe at school yesterday.
a see b seeing c to see
- 6 Don't forget ____ some cake for me!
a to leave b leave c leaving
- 7 We took our shoes off so as ____ the floor dirty.
a to not make b not to make c not making
- 8 It ____ a nice day. There isn't a cloud in the sky.
a won't be b 's being c 's going to be
- 9 They ____ late because they've got work in the morning.
a 'll definitely stay b definitely won't stay
c won't definitely stay
- 10 There ____ be a general election next year because there's one every four years.
a 's due to b due to c 's due

/10

2 Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in the box.

a few a little handful hardly any lack
majority minority number whereas while

- 1 I tidied up the flat ____ it was raining.
- 2 He's in charge of a large ____ of important clients.
- 3 I've got ____ CDs now because I listen to everything online.
- 4 I prefer watching TV, ____ you prefer reading.
- 5 The ____ of young people, almost 70 percent, are unhappy with their politicians.
- 6 I don't get on with ____ of my colleagues, but most of them are really nice.
- 7 The coach seems to think there's a ____ of talent in the team.
- 8 She needs ____ time to get used to the new school.
- 9 There were a ____ of visitors at the museum, but not many.
- 10 The staff who wanted to work were in a ____ because most of us wanted to stay at home.

/10

VOCABULARY

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- 1 Simon's a very ____ (like) guy. He always stops for a chat.
- 2 Thank you for the present. You're very ____ (thought).
- 3 I felt quite ____ (emotion) at my sister's wedding.
- 4 Have you got any ____ (predict) for the World Cup tournament?
- 5 We need to look at this problem more ____ (analysis).
- 6 My cousin works as a ____ (research) in the biology department at the university.

/6

4 Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in the box.

brought back by heart every detail
playing tricks rings a bell short-term memory
slipped my mind

- 1 I don't remember ____ of the story, but I can remember the main points.
- 2 The teacher has asked us to learn a poem ____ so we can say it in class.
- 3 Watching that old TV show ____ memories of my childhood.
- 4 His ____ is poor so he tends to forget the things that he's just done.
- 5 What was his name again? It's ____.
- 6 That article _____. I'm sure I've read it before.
- 7 You've definitely met her before. Your memory must be ____ on you.

/7

5 Complete the sentences with the missing words.

- 1 Igor is an a ____ s businessman. He won't let anything stop him being successful.
- 2 Karla's very o ____ g which is why she likes meeting new people.
- 3 I love how the s ____ t shines through the window in the morning.
- 4 We followed a little t ____ k which led down to the river.
- 5 We could see lots of small boats lined up along the c ____ e.
- 6 The thieves stole p ____ s jewellery worth thousands of dollars.
- 7 Her performance was m ____ t. She must be one of the greatest ever opera singers.

/7

HOW TO ...

6 Choose the correct words to complete the conversations.

Conversation 1

A: Have you heard The Blades' new album?

B: No. Rock music isn't really my ¹ **cup of tea** / **passionate**.

A: Oh, really? What music do you like?

B: ² **Given** / **Had** the choice, I'd listen to either blues or folk music.

A: I like folk music, too! I'm not really ³ **by** / **into** modern folk, though.

B: Me neither. I'd much ⁴ **prefer** / **rather** listen to traditional folk without any strange sound effects.

A: Shall we put on some folk music then?

B: How about ⁵ **if** / **whether** we listen to some blues first, then we can listen to some folk?

Conversation 2

A: I can't believe they've found that walker who got lost in the mountains.

B: I know. They were lost for two weeks in really ⁶ **harsh** / **modest** conditions. It snowed every day.

A: I ⁷ **bet** / **get** the impression that they didn't even have the right equipment.

B: I'm not 100 percent ⁸ **fact** / **sure**, but I'd say they were a tourist who didn't know the area.

A: You're probably right. They ⁹ **certain** / **clearly** didn't know how dangerous it can be.

B: Well, there's no ¹⁰ **doubt** / **way** that I could survive up a mountain with no equipment. I'd last about five minutes.

/10

Total: /50

READING

4 Read the text about changes in education. Tick the topics that are mentioned.

- 1 The size of the class at Armand's school ____
- 2 The type of child Armand was ____
- 3 The subjects Armand's son enjoys doing at school ____
- 4 The schools that politicians go to ____
- 5 The cost of going to a private school ____
- 6 How the classroom seating was arranged in Holly's school ____
- 7 The way Holly is involved in a school ____

17

The changing face of education

Two of our reporters discuss how schools have changed and what schools of the future might look like.

Armand

I would say that schools have changed very little in the last twenty-five years. When I was at school, there were thirty students in the class and we mostly worked in small groups because it was more manageable for the teacher. While we learnt certain things by heart, like historical events and chemical elements, we also worked on projects, where we could apply what we'd learnt.

I was fond of my school because I had a nice group of friends, even though I wasn't a very outgoing boy. I think the social aspect of school is really important. I also remember being a curious child. Doing coursework suited me because I could really get into the things that I was interested in.

The school my son goes to now has a similar way of doing things. When he started there, it brought back memories of my own school days. The classes are a bit bigger at his school, but they still work in groups. In fact, my son's been preparing a group science presentation for the last few weeks. The main difference between our experiences of school is that they seem to be teaching my son more professional skills. For example, while he's been doing his science project, he's also been learning how to do research and communicate effectively. Looking to the future, I don't think there'll be any big changes. Some politicians want schools to be more like the schools of the past where students have to learn facts and figures, but that'll never happen. Project-based lessons work well because they give students the experience they'll need in the workplace.

Holly

Some people would say I was lucky to go to a private school. We had incredible facilities, only twenty students in a class and we all left with good qualifications. However, I couldn't stand my school and, given the choice, I would have gone to a normal one. I'm afraid my childhood memories aren't very positive!

For one thing, my school was very old-fashioned. All the students had to sit in rows and there was no group work. We only learnt the traditional subjects, which included Latin, and we didn't study anything modern like design. The teachers were really strict and we were given a great deal of homework. They believed you only succeed in life by working hard.

Although I don't have children, I'm a volunteer at a local school. It's a state school, which is open to the public, and I'm impressed with the way subjects are taught. While the classes are quite big, the teachers manage to make the classes interesting. They're very keen to promote creativity so the majority of students do dance, art and music. I'm sure most children would rather spend their time doing that than learning a language which was last spoken 2,000 years ago! Whilst I think creative skills are important, I think students also need to learn skills which will help them in the world of work. Students will definitely carry on learning essential subjects like maths and science, but I'm fairly certain that technology and management skills will also be compulsory in the future.

5 Read the text again. Are the statements True (T) or False (F)?

- 1 Armand had to remember everything he learnt at school. T / F
- 2 As a child, Armand enjoyed meeting and talking to new people. T / F
- 3 Armand's son has recently been working on a project with other students. T / F
- 4 Armand agrees that schools should stick to traditional methods. T / F
- 5 Holly wanted to go to a different school as a child. T / F
- 6 Holly thinks her school taught in a modern way. T / F
- 7 Holly volunteers at a local school which is like her old school. T / F
- 8 Holly thinks schools should teach skills that are related to working. T / F

18

How would you describe yourself?

Five readers discuss their qualities and weaknesses.

Suki

I'd say I'm quite a bubbly person and I'm fairly certain my friends would agree with me. Of course, I get sad from time to time, but life's too short to be pessimistic. I don't want to waste my time thinking about the future. In fact, I've just read a book which analyses why so many people are unhappy. The author says it's because we don't spend enough time in the here and now. Basically, we're so anxious about what we might need in future that we forget to enjoy the present. It's such a simple idea, but I agree with the author 100 percent.

Johnny

My friends are really easy-going and I enjoy their company. The problem is they never do what they promise to do. For example, I'd arranged to meet them for a meal the other night, but they cancelled at the last minute. It's not the first time either. I got the impression it was no big deal for them, but I was really disappointed. If you commit to something, you should do it. That's why I always behave in the way my friends would expect me to.

Ali

I work as an accountant so my job is quite analytical. The thing is, I'm not very good at paying attention to detail and I have to make a big effort to do it well. Because of that, I need to switch off from my job in my free time. I've found that the best way to do that is by trying out new things. I don't mind taking risks and I'm passionate about travelling, which is why I've just bought myself a big motorbike. Given the choice, I'd much rather be out on the road than sitting in my office, working on spreadsheets.

Jake

Ever since I was young, I've always preferred my own company. Some people think I'm grumpy, but I just find it hard to be in big groups of people. That said, I've got a handful of good friends, though, who I play chess with. What I love about chess is that you can enjoy the company of other people without having to make small talk. I'm also pretty good at chess because I've got a good memory. I can usually remember every detail of a game, which helps me examine and improve my performance.

Laura

I don't know why, but I've always found it difficult to remember things. It's not a long-term memory problem because I can remember events and I've got very clear childhood memories. The problem I've got is that I don't remember the day-to-day things. For example, I keep losing things because I can't remember where I put them or I might not remember to meet a friend. In fact, just yesterday I was due to celebrate my friend's birthday and it completely slipped my mind. Luckily, my friends know what to expect so they don't get upset. If they didn't know what I'm like, they might think I was completely unreliable!

6 Read the text about people's personalities. Match the adjectives (A–H) with the people (1–5). There are three adjectives you do not need.

- 1 Suki: ____
- 2 Johnny: ____
- 3 Ali: ____
- 4 Jake: ____
- 5 Laura: ____

- A pessimistic
- B adventurous
- C practical
- D optimistic
- E analytical
- F ambitious
- G reliable
- H forgetful

/5

7 Read the text again. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1 What is Suki's attitude towards the future?
A It's important to plan for it.
B It's better not to worry about it.
C It makes her unhappy to think it.
D It makes her excited to think about it.
- 2 Why is Johnny disappointed with his friends?
A They were late for a meeting recently.
B They never have time to meet up with him.
C They can't be trusted to keep a promise.
D They don't know how to have a good time.
- 3 What does Ali say about her job?
A She doesn't make enough effort.
B She's bought a motorbike to get to work.
C She feels the need to forget about it.
D She'd like to know more about spreadsheets.
- 4 How does Jake feel about being with other people?
A He doesn't like discussing unimportant things.
B He gets grumpy in big groups of people.
C He'd like to have a bigger circle of friends.
D He finds it hard to remember people's names.
- 5 Why did Laura miss her friend's birthday?
A She had something else planned.
B She had lost something important.
C She had been upset by a friend.
D She hadn't remembered the event.

/10

Total: /50