

Term I

Form 10

Reading Test

Text A

READING EXAM

► 15 minutes

3 Read this short article about British and American families. Choose the best phrase from A–K to fill in gaps 1–10, to complete the text. There is one phrase that you won't need to use.

FAMILY

WHEN British and American people use the word *family* ¹ _____ the mother, father and their children. In a general social context, 'the family' is usually ² _____ mean this nuclear family.

Society in Britain and the US ³ _____ a nuclear family living in the same house and ⁴ _____ each other's lives. Fifty years ago, the typical family was a husband and a wife, and two or three children. The father spent all day at work and ⁵ _____ decisions about how the money he earned was spent. The mother stayed at home to manage the house and look after the children. Children were ⁶ _____ their parents.

Many modern families live rather differently, and because of this some people think that the family unit is dying and society ⁷ _____. Many couples still get married, but others live together without ⁸ _____. A few years ago, couples living together usually got married when ⁹ _____ a family, but this happens less now. Another trend is ¹⁰ _____ married later in life and to have fewer children, so the size of the average family is shrinking.

A taken to	G made most of the
B closely involved in	H which normally consists of
C getting married	I they wanted to start
D they often mean only	J expected to obey
E is being weakened	K is traditionally based on
F for people to get	

Text B

(1) If you look from a helicopter at any English town, you will see that the residential areas consist almost entirely of rows of small boxes, each with its own little patch of green.¹ The principle, however, will be clear: the English all want to live in their own private houses with their own private gardens.

(2) What you cannot see from your helicopter, you will learn as soon as you try to visit an English home.² Some humorists claim this is the result of 'a conspiracy to mislead foreigners', pointing out that our streets are never straight, every time a street bends, it is given a different name, there are at least 60 confusing synonyms for 'street', and the numbering of the houses is hopelessly illogical.

(3) The house numbers are at least as well camouflaged as the street names.³ One taxi-driver explained: 'An Englishman's home is his castle, right? We can't actually have massive walls around it, but we can make it difficult to get to.'

(4) The Englishman's home is much more than just his castle; it is also his identity and his prime obsession.⁴ The mania for home improvements is widespread. Research shows that only 2% of English males and 12% of females have never done any Do-It-Yourself.

(5) Working on home improvements is an opportunity to exercise our creative talents.⁵ Although it may sometimes be an economic necessity, we see the arrangement, furnishing and decorating of our homes as an expression of our unique personal taste.

A You may have its address and a map, but you will have great difficulty in finding the house you are looking for.

B Or at least that's how we like to think of it.

C This is an unwritten rule of home ownership and the moving-in ritual.

D They are either hidden, or even not there at all.

E In better-off areas, these boxes will be further apart, and the green patches attached to them will be larger.

F This is why a house is not something you just passively 'have', it is something you constantly 'work on'.