

SECTION A: Reading Comprehension

Read the text and choose the correct option, true (T) or false (F).

The Origins of Umbrellas

Umbrellas may seem like a simple and very useful invention. One tool to protect us from rain, bright sunshine and, believe it or not, snow. We all know what an umbrella looks like and what it is used for. It is essentially a canopy over one's head, held up by a pole and some spokes. It is light and practical and can be folded when not used.

What we also know is that umbrellas are old. They have existed for more than 5000 years and have appeared in archaeological records of ancient civilizations. The oldest example of them is from the Mesopotamian Civilization in West Asia. As the sun was a much greater enemy than the wind and rain in those days, it is believed these ancient umbrellas were first created to protect people from the sun. They were made of palm leaves or papyrus and were huge and heavy. In Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, umbrellas were used exclusively by the upper classes.

Myths in Japan talk about umbrellas or parasols that protected them from rain and snow. But the actual evidence of umbrellas has been found in Ancient China. Going back as far as 3500 BCE, these umbrellas had poles made of bamboo sticks and animal skins stretched across them. This provided protection from both sun and rain. These umbrellas were not waterproof as modern ones are, so we can assume they did not actually last long. The waterproofing of umbrellas came into existence 500 years later.

How did European umbrellas come about? They probably travelled via Rome and Greece from ancient Egypt. We know that Tutankhamun and his family used umbrellas made of feathers or palm leaves to protect themselves from the sun. Since the Roman Empire and the Greeks had such close ties with the Egyptians, it is natural that they took up the habit. In Rome, it was almost exclusively women who used the umbrella to protect themselves from the heat.

It is not clear where exactly the umbrella was invented, since evidence seems to point in different directions. However, when we think of the individual, handheld umbrellas we are familiar with to this day, perhaps China would be a safe option. At least, as far as archaeological data seems to suggest, this was the case.

Stories and myths from Japan say that the ancient Japanese people used umbrellas for rain and snow and these myths and stories should never be dismissed. In fact, umbrellas are so closely mixed with Japanese mythology and folklore that there is a type of ghost or spirit in Japanese culture called Kasa-Obake, which rises from old and broken umbrellas.

Adapted from <https://history.cooperatives.org/when-was-the-umbrella-invented/for-merchandise>

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| 1. The first umbrellas were light and very easy to carry. | T F |
| 2. In ancient civilizations umbrellas were very popular in all social classes. | T F |
| 3. The first Chinese umbrellas were made with the same materials as modern ones. | T F |
| 4. European umbrellas were probably introduced directly from China. | T F |
| 5. There are some Japanese myths which are connected with umbrellas. | T F |

SECTION B: Language in Use

I) Read the passage below. Choose the correct option for each gap and write it in the box.

The Eden Hotel

The Eden Hotel is one of the oldest colonial hotels in South America. This magnificent hotel, 1) _____ was built between 1897 and 1898, gave life to the entire area north of the city of Córdoba, and turned the isolated towns in the Punilla Valley of the Sierras into a hot tourist spot. Opened 2) _____ a German hotel owner in 1897, the opulent accommodation saw many rich and famous guests walk up its grand Carrara marble stairs, including Argentine presidents and actors 3) _____ as international scientists such as Albert Einstein.

Unfortunately, 4) _____ types of guests visited the Eden Hotel. In the years leading up to World War II, it was a popular resort for Nazi officers. In fact, some say Hitler 5) _____ stayed at the hotel. When Argentina officially declared war against Germany in 1945, 6) _____ Argentinian government took hold of the Eden Hotel because of its links to the enemy. Many diplomats stayed there 7) _____ the war.

After the war, 8) _____ there were several attempts to restore the hotel to its former glory, all proved unsuccessful. The hotel closed in 1965, and was abandoned for many years. The structure 9) _____ a Historical Monument in 1988, and that brought the 10) _____ money to reopen the historic architectural building as a museum.

Adapted from <https://www.atlasobserving.com/eden-hotel-eden>

1. _____	A. which	B. who	C. that	D. whose
2. _____	A. in	B. on	C. by	D. for
3. _____	A. in addition	B. and	C. also	D. as well
4. _____	A. another	B. other	C. some	D. the
5. _____	A. he	B. his	C. him	D. himself
6. _____	A. –	B. the	C. an	D. a
7. _____	A. during	B. since	C. for	D. when
8. _____	A. although	B. however	C. but	D. despite
9. _____	A. is declared	B. has declared	C. had declared	D. was declared
10. _____	A. necessary	B. unnecessary	C. unnecessarily	D. necessarily

II) Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. Use modals if necessary.

Rugby

How much do you know about Rugby? Many people 1) _____ (believe) it originated in 1823 at Rugby School, which 2) _____ (still/locate) in Warwickshire, England. A boy named Ellis continued running when he caught the ball instead of 3) _____ (put) it on the ground as it was usual with ball games at the time. Although there 4) _____ (be) little evidence to support this theory, the Rugby World Cup Trophy is now named after William Webb Ellis.

In 1863 some schools and clubs 5) _____ (set) the rules for the game and in 1871 the Rugby Football Union was officially formed. That year, the first international match 6) _____ (play) between England and Scotland.

By 1908 New Zealand, Australia and South Africa 7) _____ (already form) teams and sent them on international trips to play against the Northern Hemisphere nations. As a side fact, the Haka, a traditional Maori war dance, was first performed by New Zealand before a match against Wales in 1905. The Welsh responded by having Teddy Morgan sing the Welsh national anthem. Since then, New Zealander players 8) _____ (use) the Haka to challenge opponents on a sport field whenever New Zealand plays.

The Rugby World Cups are played every four years. This year, the 10th Rugby World Cup was played in France. In 2027, it is scheduled to take place in Australia. International Spectators 9) _____ (travel) a lot if they 10) _____ (want) to enjoy the event.

Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com/sport/rugby>

III) Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.
You must use the word in capital letters and cannot change it.

1. Marta went to the book fair on Friday. She bought two best sellers. BOOKS
Marta, _____ two best sellers.
2. The last time Bob visited the Eiffel Tower was when he was 15. SINCE
Bob _____ 15.
3. I didn't answer your text message yesterday because I lost my phone. WOULD
I _____ my phone yesterday.
4. I won't be able to hear her if she doesn't speak up. UNLESS
I _____ up.
5. Balcarce is a small town. Fangio was born there. WHERE
Balcarce is _____.
6. Pat is busy so she doesn't watch TV. WOULD
If Pat _____.
7. I can't understand unless you tal to me in English. IF
I _____ me in English.
8. I'm sure she is really worried because she has lost her phone. MUST
She _____ because she has lost her phone.

SECTION C: Writing

Choose **ONE** of the following and write **100-120** words.

a) You have decided to enter a short story competition. The competition rules say that the story must **end** or **start** with the following words: **"Sarah felt a bit sad as she got on the plane, leaving her old life behind, ready for something new."**

Write your **story**.

b) The local newspaper has organised a writing contest about information overload which you decided to enter. Write **an article** about the following statement: **"Too much information can make you feel confused."** Do you agree?