

Reading and Use of English • Part 5

In this part you:

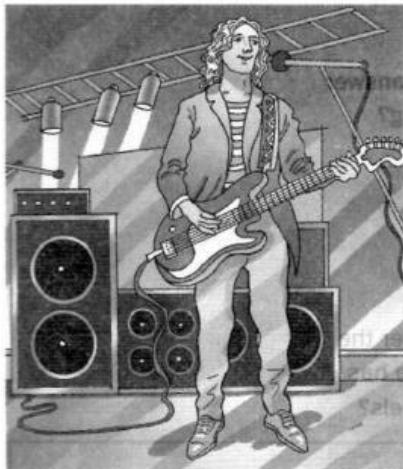
- read a long text
- answer six multiple-choice questions
- choose your answer from four options (A, B, C or D)

1a Read quickly through the section of the text below, and then cover the text and try to tell your partner about it, in your own words.

Tip! Before you answer the questions, read quickly through the text to get a general idea of what it is about.

b Now try to answer the following questions in pairs about the person telling the story to check your understanding.

- 1 Who is Anna, do you think?
- 2 What activity was she planning to do? Who with?
- 3 How were they feeling? Why?
- 4 What were they slightly worried about?
- 5 What were they optimistic about?



Anna's Story

I'd been learning to play the guitar for what seemed like years, without much success. So I'd wanted to go to see rock guitarist Jason perform for ages – and now he was coming to our town. My friends and I were all fans, so 'thrilled' just didn't go far enough to describe how we felt! Our town isn't particularly big or amazing, so we couldn't quite believe he'd included it in his concert tour. But there it was, on the programme. So we spent the weeks before the performance planning what we'd wear and how we'd get there – all the time hoping, of course, that our parents would say we were old enough to go unaccompanied. But then it was an afternoon concert for under-18s, so we reckoned the chances were pretty good!

2a Read this question about the section of text that you have just read.

What was a surprise to the writer about the concert?

Read through the text again and underline the part which gives you the answer.

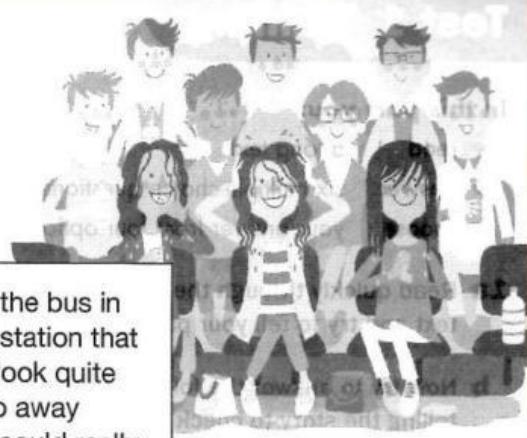
b Now read the four options below. Which one is the closest to the answer you marked in the text?

- A that a well-known musician would perform just for young people
- B that her parents had given her permission to go
- C that it would be held in such an uninteresting location
- D that the rock guitarist was performing alone



3 Read the next section of the text. Check your understanding by answering the following questions. Work with a partner.

- 1 How did they travel to the concert?
- 2 What were they wearing?
- 3 What was the weather like?
- 4 How did the weather affect them?



The day of the concert finally came, so off we went to catch the bus in our carefully-chosen outfits – only to find halfway to the bus station that we were caught in a sudden downpour of rain, so we didn't look quite as good as we'd hoped. But then we were only an hour or so away from finally seeing our musical hero perform live, so nothing could really dampen our spirits. We carried on nevertheless, finally taking our seats in the concert hall looking slightly wet, but with big smiles on our faces.

4a Find the answer to the following question in the text. Underline the parts of the text which gave you the answer.

What does the writer mean by *nothing could really dampen our spirits*?

Compare your answer with your partner.

b Now look at the four options. Which one is closest in meaning to the answer that you underlined in the text? Why are the other three options wrong?

- A It was impossible to feel any worse than they did already.
- B They were disappointed that the rain had soaked their clothes.
- C Even the weather couldn't spoil the way they felt.
- D They were determined to look happy despite their appearance.

5 Now read the final section of the text. As you read, think about whether the writer is positive or negative about this part of her trip, or whether she has mixed feelings. Which words and expressions reveal how the writer feels?

Finally, the longed-for moment came, our guitar hero walked out on stage – and we were astonished! He looked absolutely nothing like all the pictures we'd collected of him – in fact, we barely recognised him. But determined not to be put off, we just settled back into our seats and focused on the music – and that certainly didn't disappoint. All the hits were there, the skilful playing, and the way he made the instrument sing so effortlessly, in just the way I'd always hoped to – but had always failed miserably. It was amazing, and after he'd left the stage we walked out of the concert without speaking, almost as if words would break the spell of what we'd just seen.

6 Now look at the question and options, and underline in the text where you find the answer. Why are the other options wrong? Compare your answers with your partner. How did the writer feel about the musician during the concert?

- A envious of his incredible talent
- B amused by his extraordinary appearance
- C disappointed that he played for only a short time
- D surprised that he performed none of his recent compositions



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You are going to read a short story by a boy called Dan, who is talking about going out with a group of friends. For questions 31–36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Tip! Make sure you know who is writing and what they are writing about before you begin answering the questions.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

It all started when my friends and I booked some concert tickets to go and see *Pulse*, who we considered to be one of the coolest bands around, playing exactly our type of music. But before we went, one of our group suggested we should practise a few dance moves, like the ones the band was so famous for. We were pretty sure everyone else in the audience would be doing exactly that, so we were keen to avoid turning up to the concert only to feel totally excluded, and reduced to the status of mere spectators in front of the stage. So, after a few hopeless attempts at home, we decided to try a dance studio in the city centre.

I set off early that morning – well, 11 am, which is something I don't intend to repeat very often! I'd reluctantly got out of bed, got ready and rushed down to the studio where we'd be learning how to dance along to the kind of stuff that bands like *Pulse* are into. But I have to say, I wasn't exactly overflowing with confidence when we arrived – I'd be the first to admit that I have two left feet when it comes to dancing. And, sadly, the friends I was going with were some way ahead of me at dancing, although the really gifted dancer in our group didn't actually show up in the end.

We walked into the dance studio where we'd be learning the moves, and instantly felt as if, instead of participating in a class, we'd somehow signed up to take part in some high-profile pop band's dance video which was to be expected actually. Luckily, our instructor appeared just then and told us we shouldn't stress if we couldn't do the moves. Instead, we should just concentrate on enjoying it. Apparently it would be an amazing form of exercise and far more interesting than just spending hours on end at some boring hi-tech gym.

Anyway, I was relieved to find that most of the other people in our class weren't anywhere near becoming professional dancers either. That became pretty clear during the warm-up, when it was obvious some of them were even more uncoordinated than I was. Even so, that part of the class was a bit of a shock to the system. I'd assumed we'd be doing some simple muscle-warming exercises like I do at football practice, but evidently not. We were straight into some tough dances and exercises performed along to some rap music I hadn't heard before.

Finally we moved on to what we'd really come for – the kind of moves the band would be performing at the concert, strutting across the stage like true stars. And after doing it for only a short time I really began to imagine I'd got the hang of it and would be looking pretty cool at the concert. Then I suddenly caught sight of myself in the studio mirrors, struggling and straining to keep up with the rest of the class, and saw to my dismay that cool was actually the last thing I'd be looking! But never mind...

Anyway, to cut a long story short, by the end of the session I really felt I'd got somewhere. Afterwards, my friends and I stepped out into the street, safe in the knowledge that even if we weren't going to be wowing the concert crowds with our moves, at least we wouldn't be totally left out!

31 What motivated Dan and his friends to go to the dance studio?

- A They thought their favourite singer might be there, too.
- B They were keen to impress at an event they were attending.
- C They hoped they might be invited to dance on stage at a concert.
- D They knew the studio taught dance moves to their favourite band's music.

32 How did Dan feel when he arrived at the studio?

- A nervous that he might not be able to keep up
- B disappointed that one of his friends hadn't come
- C irritated that he'd had to get up so early
- D tired because of a lack of sleep

33 On entering the dance studio, Dan's impression was that

- A they were going to focus more on exercise than dance.
- B the class was going to be more serious than he'd hoped.
- C it resembled a gym rather than a studio.
- D they had accidentally enrolled for the wrong activity.

34 Why did Dan describe the warm-up as a *shock to the system*?

- A The other students there were even worse dancers than him.
- B The music they danced to was not at all what he'd expected.
- C The moves were far from the gentle introduction he'd imagined.
- D The session was led by some strict professional dancers.

35 What does Dan mean when he says he'd 'got the hang of it' in line 28?

- A He'd progressed as far as he was going to.
- B He'd understood what he was supposed to do.
- C He'd decided he was ready to give up.
- D He'd persuaded himself that he was talented.

36 What would be a suitable title for the story?

- A My talented friends
- B An impossible ambition
- C The best concert I've ever been to
- D A way of joining in