# READING
# Gardening

## Exercise 1

Read the text and choose the correct answer.

### My new hobby - Gardening
**By Beth Collins**

A garden is much more than just creating a beautiful environment. It can be a way to save or even make money and, more than that, it can be a place where you can express yourself. For me it's a bit of all these things. I know it may sound strange for a 13-year-old to be interested in gardening but I always have been and I would love to make a career out of it.

I have learned many things these past few years I have been reading about and doing some gardening. So, here is my top advice about gardening. First, you do not need to spend a lot of money to have a beautiful garden. Some of the gardens I think are the prettiest are just lines of plants. There aren't many garden decorations and pathways. It's just beautiful plants loaded with fruits and vegetables. We can also find many useful things for free, from pieces of old wood, to old pots and pans. Or, we can build things for free from materials that other people have thrown away.

If you just remember that planting way more than you need will take the stress away of losing some plants, you will save yourself a lot of worry, too. You need to ask yourself, which plants produce enough food to make them worth growing. I actually sat down and did the maths on that one this spring. It amazed me what some plants were worth. A tomato, for example, can produce $50-$150 worth of fruit. It takes up a lot of space but that's a lot of money coming out of a 50p seed! So if I had known sooner what each plant could save us, I would have told my parents to fill our garden with different plants.

And finally, gardening doesn't have to be all or nothing. But then I guess that's more of a personality weakness than anything. I struggle with doing things a little at a time. Once I decide to do something, I usually devote every waking hour to it for a little while and then get tired. So it's okay to just have one tomato plant, and it's okay to have an off year. It will save you a lot of stress.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**1.** Beth wants to express
- **a.** how designing your own garden should be hard work.
- **b.** how gardens can mean different things to different people.
- **c.** he importance of selling flowers to make money.
- **d.** how gardeners have the best job when it comes to profit.

**2.** How does Beth describe her perfect garden?
- **a.** decorative
- **b.** colourful
- **c.** simple
- **d.** complicated

**3.** What advice does Beth give to future gardeners?
- **a.** spend lots of money to make your garden perfect
- **b.** use what you can find around you
- **c.** refuse to spend any money on your garden
- **d.** ask other gardeners to help you

**4.** How does Beth feel about gardening?
- **a.** She wants to grow everything she eats.
- **b.** She hasn't learnt from her mistakes.
- **c.** She needs to work harder in her garden.
- **d.** She has learned plenty of useful tips.

**5.** What would Beth text her friend about gardening?
- **a.** I'm so excited about my new hobby; it's not only fun but I hope I'll make money out of it one day.
- **b.** Gardening is so hard; you have to spend a lot of money and it's stressful too.
- **c.** I'm now spending lots of time watching my parents do the gardening and it looks great.
- **d.** Gardening needs lots of skills and money but it's certainly worth it. I love it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS