

READING PRACTICE

Exercise 1. Read the text below and complete the table with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text for each answer.

City holidays – the verdict

This survey looks at two popular holiday destinations and compares their main advantages and disadvantages. First of all, London. The best part about taking a holiday in London is that there are a large number of monuments. You can visit places like Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and many more. However, one downside of going to London is that the weather can be changeable. Sunny weather is not guaranteed, even in the summer, so bring an umbrella. Overall, though, we think London is excellent when it comes to historical places.

Now let's look at Dubai. Dubai is well-known for its amazing shopping malls, in particular the Mall of the Emirates, which is one of the largest and best shopping malls in the world. However, one problem in Dubai is that in June, July and August, the weather can be unbearable. There are often temperatures of up to 50°C, which even the locals struggle to cope with. Therefore, our view that Dubai is best for travellers in winter and spring. The holiday you choose, therefore, depends a lot on what type of holiday, and what type of weather, you are looking for.

City holidays – the verdict

City	Advantage	Disadvantage	Verdict
London	Many ¹ _____	² _____ may be poor	Very good for ³ _____
Dubai	Outstanding ⁴ _____	Often ⁵ _____ in summer	Suitable for a holiday in ⁶ _____

Exercise 2. Complete the table below. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.

London	The underground in London was an immediate ¹ _____ with people in the capital.
Paris	The Paris metro has featured in many ² _____.
New York	The New York metro is unusual because passengers can use it ³ _____ a day.
Singapore	With the aid of up-to-date technology, the Singapore metro can transport a higher ⁴ _____ each day than older underground systems.
Seoul	Underground passengers in Seoul can enjoy rapid and ⁵ _____ internet connections while travelling.
Kobe and Osaka	⁶ _____ were first introduced in Kobe and Osaka in 1981. In the beginning, many metro users were ⁷ _____ to travel in the first carriage of the train, but this did not last long.
Moscow	The Moscow metro is known all over the world because of its ⁸ _____.

Going Underground

A brief look at metro systems around the world

The world's first underground system was built in London in the 19th century and was an instant success with Londoners. It was not long before other capital cities around the world wanted their own underground systems. The Paris metro, which is one of the most attractive and distinctive metro systems in the world, mainly due to the Art Nouveau signs and station architecture, opened in 1900. Today, over half a billion people a year use the Paris metro, and its stations have appeared in numerous films and advertisements. Across the Atlantic, the New York underground, known as the subway, opened four years later, in 1904. Today, it is one of the few metro systems which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In the later 20th century, rapidly developing cities such as Singapore and Seoul built their own metro systems, and with the benefit of modern technology were able to construct more sophisticated and up-to-date metro networks. In Singapore, they were able to construct deeper and larger tunnels, and therefore carry a greater volume of passengers through the network every day. In addition, more modern systems have included

interconnectivity into their metro systems. Visitors to Seoul, for instance, are often surprised at the availability of reliable and rapid internet connections during their journey underground. A ground-breaking step forward in metro technology was the introduction of the first driverless trains. In 1981, two Japanese cities, Kobe and Osaka, opened metro systems simultaneously, both with driverless trains. At first, worried passengers were reluctant to travel in the front coach of a fully automated metro train, but it did not take long for the travelling public to become accustomed to it.

Whether the system is modern or old, driverless or driven, internet-connected or not, all metro systems in the world share one thing which explains their enduring popularity – the ability to shift people at great speed from one part of a city to another. Some metro systems, like Moscow, are famed worldwide for their beauty; others, like Singapore, for their efficiency; but it is clear that modern cities simply could not function effectively without the presence of the thousands of miles of track and stations sitting right beneath us in every major city on Earth.

Exercise 3. Read the extract from the programme of events at an arts centre. Complete the table below. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the reading passage for each answer.

name	type of event	main theme	notes
Jake Duff	EXAMPLE: 0 <u>comedy</u>	1	has been called 2
Nick Robertson	3	supernovas	a 4 will be on sale
'Kate and Joe'	5	6	opportunity to talk to the 7
Sharon Williams	8	seeing 9 in new ways	subjects are often reflected in 10

This week at the Prospect Arts Centre

Monday and Tuesday at 7.30: Jake Duff

If you want to see a Shakespearean tragedy, you're bound to be disappointed, but if it's comedy you want, look no further. Jake's hilarious look at rural life will make you laugh till you cry. Recently picked by Ten-Street Magazine as best newcomer, Jake says he'd love to be named their 'Top Satirist'. To judge by his present form, he's sure to achieve this ambition very soon.



Wednesday at 7.30: Nick Robertson

Nick is a very popular regular at the Prospect, and if you attended last year's talk you'll remember his astonishing slides and clear explanation of how the solar system functions. This year Nick is turning his attention to supernovas, and it promises to be an equally fascinating evening. His latest booklet, 'What is a galaxy?', will be available after the talk, and if you'd like to buy a copy, Nick will be happy to sign it for you.

Thursday to Saturday at 8.00: 'Kate and Joe'

The latest by Canadian playwright Geraldine Scott, 'Kate and Joe' is a moving exploration of growing up. Set in the industrial town where Scott lives, the play will have three performances here at the Prospect, before its extended run in Toronto. On Thursday the actors will be happy to stay and answer questions after the performance. This event is likely to prove very popular, so please book as soon as possible.



All this week: Sharon Williams

Sharon is well known for her fresh insight. In this new photographic exhibition, she moves away from her usual theme of people's emotional states. Through her use of polished metal, we see multiple reflections of everyday objects, apparently floating in air and transformed into abstract shapes. When this exhibition ends, Sharon is starting work on a major commission for the city council.

LISTENING PRACTICE

- 1 **Work with a partner. Tell them the things you like and don't like about the area you live in.**
- 2 **Imagine you could create your perfect neighbourhood. Rate the list below in order of importance (1 = most important, 8 = least important). Then compare your ratings with a partner's and give reasons for your choices.**
 - ☐ good schools
 - ☐ outdoor leisure facilities (eg tennis courts)
 - ☐ nightlife and entertainment
 - ☐ shopping outlets and restaurants
 - ☐ wide footpaths and cycle ways
 - ☐ access to medical care
 - ☐ access to public transport
 - ☐ green spaces

Prepare to listen 3 Look at the tasks in Exercises 4 and 5 and answer these questions.

- 1 Read Questions 1–5. What do you need to write, words or letters?
- 2 Look at locations A–J. Describe their location to a partner (eg *A is behind the cinema*).
- 3 Read Questions 6–10. Which of these options is true?
 - A You must write exactly three words.
 - B You can write one, two or three words.
 - C More than three words is fine.

4 **1.8** Listen to the first part of a presentation and answer Questions 1–5.

Questions 1–5

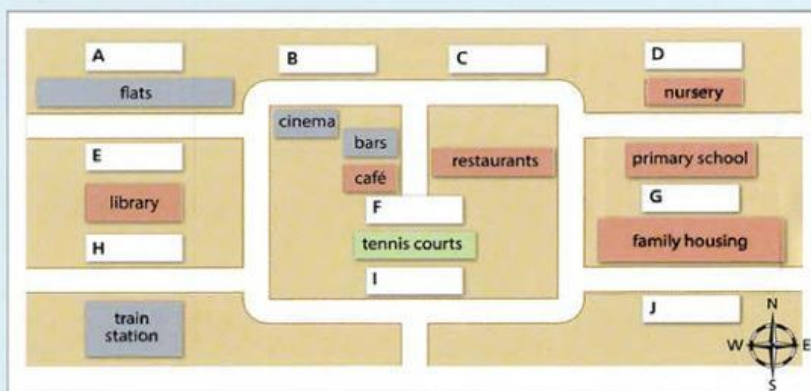
Target score: ____ / 5

Label the plan below.

Write the correct letter, **A–J**, next to questions 1–5.

- 1 public gardens
- 2 street market
- 3 bus station
- 4 shopping centre
- 5 medical practice

Noughton: a 21st-century development



5 **1.9** Listen to the next part of the presentation and answer Questions 6–10.

Questions 6–10

Target score: ____ / 5

Answer the questions below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

- 6 How many children can attend the school?
- 7 What else is provided for children in Noughton?
- 8 In which building will rain water be used?
- 9 What can people in Noughton produce?
- 10 What can residents use for free?

Explore further 6 Look at audio transcript 1.9 on pages 104–105. What phrases did the speaker use to express location?

7 Would you like to live in Noughton? What would you change about it?

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Continuous tenses

The continuous tenses highlight the duration of the activity so that there is a focus on the activity in progress.

Present continuous: The present continuous is used to talk about:

1 *Something that is happening / in progress now*

Some people are sitting on the grass and having a picnic.

2 *Changes and developments*

The number of Web users who shop online is increasing.

3 *Temporary situations*

My friend is staying in a holiday camp.

Past continuous: The past continuous is used to talk about:

1 *Continuing past actions happening at the same time as another short action*

I was swimming in the sea when the rain started.

2 *Descriptions of a background scene in the past*

Some people were relaxing by the pool and others were playing tennis.

3 *Temporary situations in the past*

For the first two days of my holiday I was staying with friends.

Present perfect continuous: The present perfect continuous is used to talk about:

1 *Actions that started in the past and are continuing now*

My best friend has been learning French since January.

2 *The results of a recent activity*

I'm so tired. I ve been waiting for the train for hours.

3 *Repeated actions or situations in a period up to the present*

They ve been thinking about where to go this weekend.

Practice exercises

- 1 Decide on a correct tense (present continuous, past continuous or present perfect continuous) and complete sentences 1–6 using the verbs in brackets. Decide which rule matches the meaning of each sentence.
- 1 'What _____ (do)? You look exhausted!'
Tense: _____ Rule number: _____
 - 2 'Can you help me with my homework?' 'No, I _____ (watch) TV.'
Tense: _____ Rule number: _____
 - 3 The number of people taking up extreme sports _____ (increase) since the early 1990s.
Tense: _____ Rule number: _____
 - 4 Last month, I _____ (have) acting lessons, but I had to stop when I lost my voice.
Tense: _____ Rule number: _____
 - 5 They _____ (walk) in the countryside when suddenly it started to rain.
Tense: _____ Rule number: _____
 - 6 I don't like the book that I _____ (read) at the moment.
Tense: _____ Rule number: _____

Grammar tip: Continuous verbs are usually **active** verbs (such as *to run*) that refer to an action. **Stative** verbs (such as *to know*) refer to a state and are usually used in simple tenses, e.g. *I want a new bike*, not *I am wanting a new bike*, as *to want* refers to a state, not an action. Some verbs such as *to see* have both an active and a stative meaning.

- 2 Look at sentences 1–5 and decide if the main verbs should be in the present continuous or the present simple.
- 1 *I am not agreeing / I don't agree* that going to the cinema is better than watching films on TV.
 - 2 *I have / I am having* a great time in Paris at the moment. (meaning = to enjoy)
 - 3 *I like / I am liking* studying Spanish in my free time.
 - 4 *Do you mind / Are you minding* if I sit here?
 - 5 *I think / I'm thinking* about learning to sail next year. (meaning = to plan to do)

- 3 Underline the examples of continuous tenses in the following passage from a Reading text, then complete the summary below using continuous verbs from the text.

The amount of leisure time available to people has been increasing since the early twentieth century when machines started to be invented to do many labour intensive tasks both at work and in the home. Previously, people were spending many more hours doing basic menial tasks and as a result had less time available for hobbies and activities. Although recently many people have been complaining about their work-life balance, studies show that the amount of free time we have has been rising continuously for over 50 years. More people are playing sport on a regular basis nowadays, and young people are taking up traditional style hobbies such as knitting and walking in the countryside. There has also been a large amount of government investment in leisure facilities in local communities, which has assisted the uptake of hobbies for a range of people including children and the elderly. A few years ago, visitors to a local park would see people who were playing football or walking their dog. However, nowadays people are using the gym or a climbing wall as their way of sporting recreation.

Summary

Over the last half century, the amount of personal free time that people have

(1) _____. Despite the fact that the general opinion of the public is that they have less leisure time than in the past, the reality is the opposite. Nowadays more of us (2) _____ sport regularly, and the younger generation (3) _____ traditional leisure pursuits such as crafts and outdoor activities.

4

Look at the graphs below from an IELTS Writing Task 1 and complete the sentences with the correct tense to describe the visual information.



a Number of people buying daily newspapers in the USA

Overall, the number of people who buy one of the three major daily newspapers in the USA (1) _____ (be rising) since the 1950s. The largest increase in readership has been for the *New York Times*. However, most people (2) _____ (still buy) the *Washington Post* more than any other daily newspaper.

b Viewers of UK TV channels at 8 p.m. on 30th June 2011

The graph shows the number of people who (1) _____ (view) four different television channels on 30th June 2011 at 8:00 in the evening. Almost half the viewers (2) _____ (watch) BBC1 and the remaining 50 per cent were divided more or less equally between the other three channels.