# 2 Exam Skills Trainer

## Reading

**Strategy**
Statements in *true / false* exercises often repeat words from the text, but this doesn't necessarily mean that the statements are true. Underline the key words in each statement to help you to really understand the meaning of the whole sentence and not just the individual words.

**1** **Read the Strategy. Then read the statements that follow the text and underline the key words. The first one has been done for you.**

**2** **Read the text. Are the sentences true or false? Write T or F.**

### Hurricane in Jamaica

I was staying with my aunt and uncle in Jamaica when the hurricane came. They've lived in Jamaica all their lives so they know about hurricanes. I, on the other hand, was born in Britain because my parents came here when they were first married. They bought a house in London, found work, and my sister and I were born a few years later. Our parents always tell wonderful stories about Jamaica and we go there as often as we can. We love staying with our aunt and uncle in the north of the island. Last year, my sister started university and my parents were busy working, so they said I could go on my own, which meant the visit was even more exciting than usual.

I went in December, because between October and mid-December the weather isn't as hot, but it's still lovely. However, it's also the hurricane season during those months, so you have to watch out for that. Luckily, my aunt and uncle heard the warning on the radio before I arrived, and as a result, there was already lots of extra food and drink in the house. I was glad about that, as one of my favourite things about being in Jamaica is the food!

As soon as we saw the first signs of the hurricane, we closed the windows and the doors, and then we waited. The storm was a Category 1 hurricane, with heavy rain and winds of about 125 km/h. I played games and chatted with my cousins to pass the time, and we ate lots of food. But I remember the sound of the wind crashing around the house, day and night, and I felt quite scared. My aunt told me there was nothing to worry about and that they'd had worse storms than that, so I felt a bit better. While we waited, we listened to the news on the radio; there was some flooding on the roads and on farms, and some damage to buildings. The storm began on Monday, and then by Wednesday it was moving out to sea. So we weren't indoors for very long really, and afterwards, there was sunshine again!

1 The writer used to live in Jamaica. _____
2 Her parents are always positive about their home country. _____
3 The writer was worried about going to Jamaica this time. _____
4 Most hurricanes in Jamaica take place at the end of the year. _____
5 The storm surprised the writer and her family. _____
6 The writer was afraid for the whole time. _____
7 The rain flooded their house. _____
8 The hurricane lasted for less than a week. _____

## Listening

**Strategy**
Before you listen, read the questions and options carefully to get an idea of what the recording is going to be about.

**3** **Read the Strategy. Then read the questions and answers and predict what the recording is about. Think about words you might connect with this topic.**

**4** **2.04** **Listen to the text and answer the questions. Circle the correct answers (A–C).**

1 When the writer was a child, her parents
A taught her the names of all the stars.
B bought her books about space.
C spent time listening to her talk about the planets.
2 What is true about the writer at school?
A She liked science best.
B She imagined being a musician one day.
C She was talented at maths.
3 When did she decide to be a space scientist?
A after a lesson at school about meteoroids
B after she saw a shooting star
C after she watched a film about space travel
4 What did she do when she first finished her education?
A She worked abroad.
B She went travelling.
C She stayed in Britain.
5 What is her advice to people who want to be space scientists?
A work hard at university
B get a good science degree
C study different subjects

## Use of English

**Strategy**
If you are unsure which option is correct, cross out the option that is definitely wrong. Then read the sentence with both remaining options and decide which one sounds better. If you are still unsure, guess!


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**5** Read the Strategy. Then read the text and complete gaps 1–8. Circle the correct answer A, B or C.

### The Avengers

Superheroes are very popular: people love films like *The Amazing Spider Man*, *Batman Begins*, *X-Men*, *Thor* and *Captain America*. All of these films are great, but in my opinion *The Avengers* is [1]___ superhero film. I like *The Avengers* because it's different. Superheroes are usually lonely people – they save the world on their own. [2]___ isn't how things work in *The Avengers*.

Loki is the bad character in the film, and he's [3]___ Thor's brother. The film begins when Loki and his powerful army steal the Tesseract. This is a source of energy, and Loki can use it to destroy the Earth. Nick Fury is the good character, and he's also the leader of an organisation called S.H.I.E.L.D. Nick knows that he isn't strong [4]___ to fight against Loki – so he creates a team of superheroes. Now Iron Man, the Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye and Black Widow are working together! How can they fail?

There are [5]___ characters in *The Avengers*, but they each have a great story and great scenes to play too. The final battle scene between the superhero team and Loki's army is the [6]___ scene in the film. The script is very clever too, and there are [7]___ funny lines for all the characters.

The [8]___ of putting superheroes together was amazing, and audiences loved it. The film made $1.51 billion worldwide and received many awards.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A good | B better | C the best |
| 2 | A What | B Then | C This |
| 3 | A too | B also | C as well |
| 4 | A many | B either | C enough |
| 5 | A a lot of | B much | C a little |
| 6 | A exciting | B most exciting | C more exciting |
| 7 | A any | B some | C much |
| 8 | A idea | B opinion | C view |

## Speaking

**Strategy**

A speaking task may ask you to compare two photos showing people in different places and doing different activities. You should talk about their similarities and their differences. While you are comparing, you should also speculate about what is happening in each situation.

**6** Read the Strategy and the phrases below. Which of the phrases could be used for talking about similarities (Si), differences (D) and speculation (Sp)? Can you add any more phrases to each category?

1 (It) can't be ... because ...
2 Both photos show ...
3 One obvious difference is ...
4 (They) must be ... because ...
5 In contrast to the first photo, the second photo ...
6 The common theme in the photos is ...

**7** Compare and contrast the two photos.

A



B



## Writing

**Strategy**

When you have finished writing, it is important to re-read your work. Check that it is clear and makes sense. Then check again for spelling and punctuation mistakes.

**8** Read the Strategy. Then read the example of a message. Underline three spelling mistakes and two punctuation mistakes.

✉ Hi Luke.

I went to see *Jurassic World* last night. The storie is about a place called Jurassic World which is an artificial dinosaur resort off the coast of Costa Rica. One of the dinosaurs escapes and thats when the trouble starts! It's realy good? I love the speciel effects.

Anyway, while I was at the cinema, I saw an advert for a job. They want people to sell popcorn. I know you're looking for a job, so you should phone them.

See you soon. Ben.

**9** Imagine you went to the cinema last night and are writing to your English friend. Write a message in which you:

- describe the film.
- give your opinion of the film.
- make a suggestion to your friend.

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