

Aptis Reading Practice 1 Part 1

Hi Will,

Sorry about missing training this week. Yesterday, I attended a tennis (0) **match** with my father. It was a semi-final between Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. We were (1) to get tickets! We (2) there early to see the warm up at the court. We tried to get an (3) from both players, but it was (4) . The game was very (5) , about three hours, but we saw an incredible match. Would you like to go to the final if I get tickets? See you soon, Harry.

- 0. a) play b) match c) celebration
- 1. a) fast b) fortune c) lucky
- 2. a) arrived b) stayed c) moved
- 3. a) sign b) autograph c) notice
- 4. a) impossible b) difficult c) hard
- 5. a) short b) long c) large

Part 2

One autumn morning, a man was walking along the sea shore.

- A. The boy said if the man helped him, twice as many would be saved.
- B. The man asked why he was throwing the starfish into the sea.
- C. But there were thousands of starfish and the man thought he couldn't throw them all into the sea.
- D. The boy, who couldn't be older than 10, said that he was saving lives.
- E. He came across a boy hurriedly tossing starfish into the sea.
- F. There were hundreds of starfish marooned on the sand.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Part 3 - Read the text and complete each gap with a word from the list at the bottom.

Climbing Mount Everest

In the week of the 60th anniversary of the (1) _____ time that a New Zealander and a Nepali man reached the top of Mount Everest, the world's (2) _____ mountain was climbed by 80-year-old Yuichiro Miura of Japan. Science has made this (3) _____ easier. The death rate has dropped significantly in the last 20 years (4) _____ to an increased understanding of how to safely climb Everest. Weather forecasting is more (5) _____ and draws on satellite data to let climbers know correctly and exactly when there is due to be a period of good weather for climbing to the top. (6) _____ and clothing are much better designed from new materials and this allows the climbers to carry lighter oxygen tanks and use stronger and safer ropes and boots. (7) _____ has improved. In 1953 they used radios to talk to each other. They now use satellites and mobile phone systems. However, not everyone can climb Everest.

much	because	communication	first	due
expensive	accurate	ever	highest	equipment

PART4

Read the passage quickly. Choose a heading for each numbered paragraph (1–7). There is one more heading than you need.

Beowulf

1. **Origins of Beowulf**

The epic poem Beowulf, written in Old English, is the earliest existing Germanic epic and one of four surviving Anglo-Saxon manuscripts. Although Beowulf was written by an anonymous Englishman in Old English, the tale takes place in that part of Scandinavia from which Germanic tribes emigrated to England. Beowulf comes from Geatland, the south-eastern part of what is now Sweden. Hrothgar, king of the Danes, lives near what is now Leire, on Zealand, Denmark's largest island. The Beowulf epic contains three major tales about Beowulf and several minor tales that reflect a rich Germanic oral tradition of myths, legends, and folklore.

2.

The Beowulf warriors have a foot in both the Bronze and Iron Ages. Their mead-halls reflect the wealthy living of the Bronze Age Northmen, and their wooden shields, wood-shafted spears, and bronze-hilted swords are those of the Bronze Age warrior. However, they carry iron-tipped spears, and their best swords have iron or iron-edged blades. Beowulf also orders an iron shield for his fight with a dragon. Iron replaced bronze because it produced a blade with a cutting edge that was stronger and sharper.

3.

The Northmen learned how to forge iron in about 500 B.C. Although they had been superior to the European Celts in bronze work, it was the Celts who taught them how to make and design iron work. Iron was accessible everywhere in Scandinavia, usually in the form of "bog-iron" found in the layers of peat in peat bogs. The Beowulf epic also reveals interesting aspects of the lives of the Anglo-Saxons who lived in England at the time of the anonymous Beowulf poet. The Germanic tribes, including the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes, invaded England from about 450 to 600 A.D. By the time of the Beowulf poet, Anglo-Saxon society in England was neither primitive nor uncultured.

4.

Although the Beowulf manuscript was written in about 1000 A.D., it was not discovered until the seventeenth century. Scholars do not know whether Beowulf is the sole surviving epic from a flourishing Anglo-Saxon literary period that produced other great epics or whether it was unique even in its own time. Many scholars think that the epic was probably written sometime between the late seventh century and the early ninth century. If they are correct, the original manuscript was probably lost during the ninth-century Viking invasions of Anglia, in which the Danes destroyed the Anglo-Saxon monasteries and their great libraries. However, other scholars think that the poet's favourable attitude toward the Danes must place the epic's composition after the Viking invasions and at the start of the eleventh century, when this Beowulf manuscript was written.

5.

The identity of the Beowulf poet is also uncertain. He apparently was a Christian who loved the pagan heroic tradition of his ancestors and blended the values of the pagan hero with the Christian values of his own country and time. Because he wrote in the Anglian dialect, he probably was either a monk in a monastery or a poet in an Anglo-Saxon court located north of the Thames River.

6.

Beowulf interests contemporary readers for many reasons. First, it is an outstanding adventure story. Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon are marvellous characters, and each fight is unique, action-packed, and exciting. Second, Beowulf is a very appealing hero. He is the perfect warrior, combining extraordinary strength, skill, courage, and loyalty. Like Hercules, he devotes his life to making the world a safer place. He chooses to risk death in order to help other people, and he faces his inevitable death with heroism and dignity. Third, the Beowulf poet is interested in the psychological aspects of human behaviour. For example, the Danish hero's welcoming speech illustrates his jealousy of Beowulf. The behaviour of Beowulf's warriors in the dragon fight reveals their cowardice. Beowulf's attitudes toward heroism reflect his maturity and experience, while King Hrothgar's attitudes toward life show the experiences of an aged nobleman.

7.

Finally, the Beowulf poet exhibits a mature appreciation of the transitory nature of human life and achievement. In Beowulf, as in the major epics of other cultures, the hero must create a meaningful life in a world that is often dangerous and uncaring. He must accept the inevitability of death. He chooses to reject despair; instead, he takes pride in himself and in his accomplishments, and he values human relationships.