

FCE Reading Exercise

In the FCE, you will be given several texts. You must read the texts, and answer the multiple-matching questions. This activity tests your ability to recognize details, opinions, specific information, and implication. Here is a sample reading exercise.

Reading

- 4 Look at questions 1–10. Then read the six short texts (A–F) and answer the questions. The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| forgot to follow a safety measure? | 1 <input type="text"/> |
| describes a misunderstanding? | 2 <input type="text"/> |
| spent a night worrying about a relative? | 3 <input type="text"/> |
| believes they are lucky to be alive? | 4 <input type="text"/> |
| witnessed the theft of something valuable? | 5 <input type="text"/> |
| describes an incident underground? | 6 <input type="text"/> |
| looked after someone who was injured? | 7 <input type="text"/> |
| found employment during their trip? | 8 <input type="text"/> |
| describes their lack of fear? | 9 <input type="text"/> |
| wanted to take up something new? | 10 <input type="text"/> |

A Steffi

A group of us went to Germany two years ago. One afternoon, we had been to a lake to swim and we were strolling back to the tent through the forest. It went quite dark but it wasn't raining. Suddenly there was a flash of light and this enormous tree just to the right in front of us shook violently and started to fall in our direction. We turned and fled in absolute panic. It was a narrow escape. Jenny had dropped her bag. When we went back to find it, it was squashed flat underneath the tree trunk. That could so easily have been us!

B Annie

It was just before midnight when the doorbell rang. My dad answered and there was a policeman standing there. He said he had some bad news and asked to come in. He told us that my brother was trapped inside a cave up in Yorkshire with a friend of his. There had been some really heavy rain and the cave was in danger of flooding. He said there was 'little hope' of finding either of them alive. None of us slept at all, waiting for the phone to ring. However, when it did, it was my brother! He said they had found another way out and had spent the last two hours having a really good breakfast.

C John

We were driving along this mountain road, miles from anywhere, when we came across a trail of tins of food along the road. I looked out of the car window and noticed this camper van about ten metres below us in a field, with its back door hanging off. It had obviously swerved off the road. We stopped the car. A young man was climbing back up towards the road. He was covered in blood, so we offered to take him to hospital. As we drove off, with him lying on the back seat, he started asking about his girlfriend – was she all right? When we reached the hospital we found that someone else had picked her up and had taken her to casualty. Luckily, she was okay, and so was he – eventually – although he was kept in for ten days. They said they were travelling overland to India.

D Rosa

My friend Lauren and I were travelling in Australia. We'd both finished school that summer and were having a year off before university. We were able to find casual work as we moved around the country, doing waitressing mainly. We ended up in this tiny resort on the West coast, where they had a diving school. That was my choice because I'd always wanted to learn. Anyway, there we were, miles from anywhere, and working in the diving school office

was my best friend from primary school! We had lost touch when we were eight as they had moved away, to Australia as it turned out. It was absolutely fantastic catching up with her.

E James

A funny thing happened to my mother when she was in Sweden on a lecture tour for work. She was travelling around, checking into a new hotel every evening. Someone came to meet her each morning, and in one place she was just checking out when they turned up. It was all a bit of a rush apparently. This person picked up a briefcase, thinking it was my mum's, and off they went. Much later, after the lecture, the person said, 'Don't forget your briefcase!' But of course it wasn't my mum's! In fact, she'd thought it belonged to the person meeting her! Fortunately, they found a contact phone number inside. The poor guy was very relieved when they called him and explained the mix-up!

F Helen

I was on a business trip in a big city and staying in a luxury hotel. When I'd checked in, the people on reception had warned me to lock my door at night, but this one particular night it had completely slipped my mind. I still remember waking up in bed and seeing this figure in black standing over me, with all my jewellery in his hands. The strange thing is that I wasn't frightened at the time. Thankfully, he didn't notice I was awake, so I closed my eyes again and lay absolutely still, calmly waiting for him to leave. When he did, I phoned the emergency hotel number immediately, but they never caught anyone.