

- 1 Look at the photos and the title of the blog. What do you think geocaching is?
Read the blog once to check your ideas.

MY HOBBY – geocaching

Blog post written by Lucy Barton, aged 14



I started geocaching because of my uncle – he's done it for years. Geocaching is a treasure hunt that you do with an app. The 'treasure' is a box called a cache that someone else has hidden. There are 2 million of these, all over the world! It's a really fun hobby and I'm so glad my uncle told me about it. We have a great time doing it together, but if he's busy I go with friends, or do it by myself.

The app takes you quite close to the cache, and then it gives you a puzzle to help you find exactly the right place. A lot of older people are geocachers, so some of the puzzles are difficult for me as they are about movies and TV shows that I haven't seen. But I don't really mind – I can always look them up on the internet!

It's a fantastic feeling when you find a cache! You have to open the box and put your name in the little book inside. Often, there are things in the cache as well. You can take something out to keep if you want to, but if you do that, you should always put something new inside for the next person.

Next year, I'm going to start using the paid version of the app. Then, I can make and hide my own caches! I'm also going to tell all my friends and family about geocaching. It's such a great way for everyone, from adults to little kids, to spend time together, enjoy themselves and get to know their local area.



PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

Reading Part 3

- 2 Read the text again. For each question, choose the correct answer.

- 1 What do we learn about Lucy from the first paragraph?
 - A She has done her hobby for longer than her uncle.
 - B She didn't enjoy her hobby much at the beginning.
 - C She doesn't always do her hobby with other people.
- 2 What does Lucy say about the puzzles?
 - A They can be hard for her because she's young.
 - B It's a shame so many of them are about films.
 - C People shouldn't look online to find the answers.
- 3 What must you do when you find a box?
 - A check how many people have already found it
 - B leave something of yours for the next person
 - C write down who you are in the little book
- 4 What does Lucy plan to do in the future?
 - A spend more time geocaching in the city
 - B get other people interested in geocaching
 - C spend less money on going geocaching
- 5 What do we find out about geocaching from this article?
 - A It's becoming more popular every year.
 - B It takes a long time to learn how to do it.
 - C It's a good hobby for people of all ages.



TALKING POINTS

What makes geocaching a good hobby?

Would you like to try it?

Why / Why not?

READING

- 1 Read the blog quickly. What is Sascha's hobby? Would you like to try this hobby? Why? / Why not?

MAKING SHOES FOR FUN

A blog by Sascha Marr, aged 14

My hobby is making shoes. It's an unusual hobby, but I love the fantastic feeling of wearing shoes that I've made myself.

I've always liked designing things. I remember drawing clothes and shoes when I was eight, and I made my first skirt aged nine. Then three years ago, I began making shoes, and I now spend my free time doing that.

I became interested in making shoes when my cousin told me about an online shoe-making course that he was doing. I immediately wanted to do one too. Mum booked me on a four-day course at the I Can Make Shoes school in London to see if I liked it, and then I did a ten-day course there in the summer holidays.

I loved the courses. On the longer one, I made four pairs of shoes! I couldn't believe it. The teachers were excellent. That's what was best about the classes. They made us work really hard but they wanted all their students to have fun, too.

I've made about 15 pairs of shoes now. At the moment I'm making a pair of trainers using an old pair of jeans, but I've used all kinds of different things before, from old leather handbags to old cotton dresses!

Making shoes has changed my plans for the future. I know now that I want to be a designer, but not a shoe designer. I've decided I'll do home design. I've designed lots of shoes and also some clothes, so I'd like to try something new.



PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

Reading Part 3

- 2 For each question, choose the correct answer.

- 1 Making shoes has been Sascha's hobby
 - A for eight years.
 - B since she was nine.
 - C for three years.
- 2 The first course that Sascha did in shoe making was
 - A an online course.
 - B four days long.
 - C ten days long.
- 3 What did Sascha like most about the courses?
 - A having fun with the other students
 - B getting lots of shoes
 - C having such good teachers
- 4 The shoes that Sascha is working on now are made from
 - A old jeans.
 - B old handbags.
 - C old dresses.
- 5 In the future, Sascha would like to be
 - A a shoe designer.
 - B a home designer.
 - C a clothes designer.



EXAM TIPS

- Before you read the text, look at the title and the photo to get an idea of what it's about.
- You should always answer all the questions. If you aren't sure what the correct answer to a question is, choose the one that you think is right.

1 Read the sentences and circle the correct options.

- 1 I can play the piano. I think learning to play an instrument / *play a sport* is a good hobby.
- 2 Kerry loves *dancing* / *cooking*, especially to Latin music like salsa.
- 3 Sam always gets the highest score when we are *playing computer games* / *watching TV*.
- 4 I hate *going shopping* / *spending time online* because I never have any money to spend.
- 5 Eric loves *watching TV* / *listening to music*. He likes action films most of all.
- 6 Greg enjoys *photography* / *acting* and is always in the school play.
- 7 I enjoy spending time online *chatting* / *dancing* to friends.
- 8 Rob doesn't like *cooking* / *collecting* dinner after a long day at school.
- 9 *Photography* / *Making things* is my new hobby and I've taken a lot of pictures with my new camera.
- 10 Sandra is very good at *singing* / *watching TV*.
I think she should enter a talent show.

2 Read the sentences and complete the phrases.

- 1 I love r e a d i n g b o o k s of any kind, but thrillers are my favourite.
- 2 A lot of students find it easier s _ _ _ d _ _ _ t i _ _ o _ l _ _ e than looking up facts in a book.
- 3 My little sister enjoys m _ _ i _ g t _ i n _ _ like small boxes and cards.
- 4 Jenna loves a _ _ i _ g. I really think she might become an actress one day.
- 5 My friend likes c _ l _ _ c _ _ n _ fridge magnets from the countries he's visited on holiday.
- 6 My brother is always p _ _ y _ _ g s _ _ r _ . It can be football, badminton or tennis. He just loves to be active.

3 Read the email and circle the correct option, A, B or C.



[Reply](#)

[Forward](#)

Subject: Great party

From: Jess

To: Sally

Hi Sally,

I had such a fun ¹ ... yesterday. We all had a ² ... and it was lovely to ³ ... with everyone. I haven't had a ⁴ ... like that for ages. It was a fantastic ⁵ ... to receive the present and the card that everyone wrote in. I'm ⁶ ... we could get together one last time before I move. Thank you for organising it all. I hope you enjoyed ⁷ ... too.

Love Jess

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 A laugh | B day out | C feeling |
| 2 A brilliant | B fun | C great time |
| 3 A spend time | B be glad | C have time |
| 4 A feeling | B laugh | C fun |
| 5 A day out | B time | C feeling |
| 6 A glad | B spend | C have |
| 7 A with someone | B your | C yourself |