GE8 EOT1 LISTENING AND READING PRACTICE 2

A. LISTENING

1. **You will hear a woman called Jane Robertson giving a talk about a language called Gaelic. For questions 9-18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.**

Gaelic

Jane is the (9) ..... of a Gaelic school in Scotland.

Today approximately (10) ..... people speak Gaelic in Scotland.

If fewer than (11) ..... people speak a language, it is considered dead.

Jane would like to see one-third of people under 25 speaking and (12) ..... Gaelic.

If very young children are exposed to a language (13) ....., they can learn it most effectively.

Some parents send their children to Jane's school for (14) ..... reasons.

Jane says that two character traits of bilingual children are being more (15) ..... and tolerant.

Jane feels very (16) ..... about the future of Gaelic.

Jane says that what is needed is help from (17) ..... .

With a lot of effort, nowadays 80% of children learn Welsh as a (18) ..... language.

2. You will hear five people are talking about the benefits of learning another language. For questions **19-23**, choose which benefit (**A-H**) each speaker has experienced.

A It has boosted my intellectual abilities.	**19** Speaker 1
B It has improved my chances in education.	**20** Speaker 2
C It has made me sensitive to global issues.	**21** Speaker 3
D It has allowed me to gain faster promotion.	**22** Speaker 4
E It has made getting around in other countries easier.	**23** Speaker 5
F It has allowed me to help other people.	
G It has advanced my awareness of the way language works.	
H It has helped me make friends.	

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B. READING

1. **Read and choose the correct answer:**

When 24-year-old Elena Vance decided to learn Mandarin Chinese, most of her friends thought she was taking on an impossible task. Living in a small town in Scotland, Elena didn't have access to native speakers or specialized local academies. Instead, she relied entirely on digital applications, online community forums, and language exchange programs over video calls.

Many people believe that the primary motivation for taking up a new tongue is professional advancement. However, for Elena, the choice was purely personal. "I've always been fascinated by how different languages shape the way we perceive the world," she explains. "When you learn a completely new writing system, you aren't just memorizing symbols; you are training your brain to organize thoughts differently. It felt like unlocking a hidden room in my own mind."

Her journey wasn't without hurdles. During her first six months, Elena found herself struggling immensely with the "tones" in Mandarin, where the meaning of a word changes entirely based on its pitch. She recalls an embarrassing incident where she accidentally insulted her online tutor's cooking when she meant to praise it. Instead of giving up, she laughed it off and increased her audio exposure, listening to Chinese podcasts during her daily walks. Her tutor noted that Elena's greatest strength was her refusal to let a fear of making mistakes slow her down.

A year into her studies, Elena noticed an unexpected benefit. Her ability to concentrate on complex tasks at her day job as a software developer had improved. Scientists often emphasize that multilingualism acts as a workout for the brain, building cognitive flexibility. Elena felt this firsthand. "I used to get distracted easily," she says. "But navigating two wildly different

1. **What does the writer say about Elena's environment when she started learning Mandarin?**

A She was surrounded by friends who were also fluent in the language.
B She lacked traditional local resources to help her study.
C She moved to Scotland specifically to find better language academies.
D She struggled because her internet connection was unreliable.

2. **Why did Elena decide to learn Mandarin?**

A She wanted to boost her career prospects as a software developer.
B Her employer required her to master a secondary language.
C She wanted to explore how language influences human thought.
D She was preparing for a mandatory university exchange program.

3. **What did Elena's tutor say was her greatest strength during the first months?**

A Her ability to laugh and stay happy in embarrassing situations.
B Her decision to listen to Chinese podcasts during her daily walks.
C Her determination to keep going even when she lost her confidence.
D Her refusal to let the fear of making mistakes stop her progress.

4. **How did learning Mandarin help Elena in her daily job?**

A She was able to work as a software developer in two different languages.
B She became better at ignoring distractions while working.

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linguistic systems taught my brain how to filter out background noise much better." Now, Elena is preparing for an intermediate proficiency exam and has even started a local club for language enthusiasts. Reflecting on her experience, she notes that the hardest part isn't the grammar or the vocabulary, but maintaining consistency. "You don't need a natural talent for languages," she advises. "You just need fifteen minutes every single day and the willingness to sound a bit silly at the beginning."	**C** She learned how to balance the grammar rules of two different languages. **D** She discovered a new way to cure her serious attention problems. **5. Elena's final advice shows that successfully learning a language depends on:** **A** replacing natural talent with long hours of study on weekends. **B** accepting that you will look silly and practicing for a short time every day. **C** understanding that grammar is much harder than learning vocabulary. **D** trying to be perfect with pronunciation from the very beginning.

2. Read and choose the correct answer:

Welcome to the home of the future The *2009 British Homes Awards* challenged the industry to design a house that can adapt to different life stages. The participants were asked to rethink the construction and design of individual homes, so that they were easily adaptable to less mobile inhabitants, and also to create communities in which ageing occupants could continue to enjoy shared amenities. The top design also had to be attractive to its potential buyers, because the competition was put to the public vote. The winner, gaining 12,000 votes from Mail on Sunday readers, was the strikingly modern SunnySideUp, designed by Kosi Architects. Here are its three main features: **1. Upside Down House** The architects took as a starting point the accepted norm for a house – rows of houses facing onto streets crammed with cars,	**1. According to the article, The British Homes Awards challenged architects to design a house** A. for disabled people B. for ageing inhabitants C. that could adapt to all ages D. for young families with children **2. According to the article, in the winning property, bedrooms are downstairs to** A. benefit from the view B. have easier access to the house C. have more privacy in the living room D. keep the same pleasant atmosphere the whole day

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with living rooms on the ground floor and bedrooms above. Then they scrapped it.

They ended up with the living room, dining room and kitchen on the top floor where they can benefit from the light and views, and maximise energy efficiency. And they put the bedrooms on the ground floor where the garden aspect gives inhabitants increased privacy, and a cool temperature is maintained throughout the day. The two floors are linked by wide, gentle gradient stairs, which are designed to allow for a stair lift to be fitted if necessary as owners age.

2. Concealed Parking Spaces

But the feature that, according to Warren Rosing, one of the Kosi architects responsible for the design, was particularly popular with the public, is actually the parking.

In a SunnySideUp development no one has to look out onto a street full of cars, or worry about their kids being run over, because the terrace zone at the first floor level link all the homes and is a car-free zone.

Vehicles are tucked away on the lower floor, leaving safe and pleasant spaces outside the houses for people to meet, and kids to play.

A lift takes people directly from garage to living area, so that all residents, including the elderly and those with heavy shopping, can move comfortably between the floors. The natural feel of the front area is enhanced by the planters that are placed outside the kitchens at the front to encourage residents to grow vegetables and flowers where they can be seen.

The idea is that not only would they look pretty, but they would be a talking point, encouraging interaction between residents on the terrace area outside.

3. Flexible Spaces

But it's the fact that the space is designed to adapt to the changing needs, including the fluctuating income of its owners, that makes it a thought-provoking, as well as a winning, design.

3. **According to the article, the parking spaces in this house design are**

A. on the first floor
B. on the ground floor
C. in a separate building
D. in the street

4. **According to the article, in the SunnySideUp house the ground floor**

A. can be rented
B. can be sold separately
C. is only used to store cars
D. has a room for grandparents

5. We learn from the article that

A. children can play safely outside the house
B. the houses overlook a street crammed with cars
C. the back garden is the main talking point for the inhabitants

6. **According to the article, the house has been designed**

A. to be rented
B. to be shared if necessary
C. for families with a small income

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The lower-floor bedrooms have separate outdoor access so they can be easily let. The idea is that owners can get some extra money to pay for their mortgages during the first years. And later in the future, those bedrooms can be used as a granny flat, or an office, and can easily be converted into a separate one-bed flat if your kids won't leave home.

And if more space is required, as well as the usual loft that can be converted, there is potential for a gallery floor to be inserted in the living room.

4. Where can you get one?

At the moment the SunnySideUp house is still just a set of drawings. But Warren Rosing says, "We are hoping to have it built."

The organisers are in talks with builders, but due to the economic climate it may take longer than we would like." We're sure it will be worth the wait" they say.

7. According to the article, the SunnySideUp development

A. is being built
B. will never be built
C. will hopefully be built
D. has been recently built

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