

Reading

Saving the Great Wall

Is there anything that humans have built on Earth which is visible from the moon without a telescope? Many people think the answer to this question is 'The Great Wall of China'. ¹ _____. The Wall is almost 7000 km long but it cannot be seen from so far away.

It is, nevertheless, China's most important tourist attraction. ² _____. Many of these visitors choose to travel from nearby Beijing and the parts of the Wall closest to the capital are beginning to show the impact of mass tourism. There are hundreds of souvenir sellers, noodle stalls, fast food restaurants, several car parks and a cable car. Although there are signs saying that it is against the law to do so, thousands of people carve their names in the Wall and leave litter nearby.

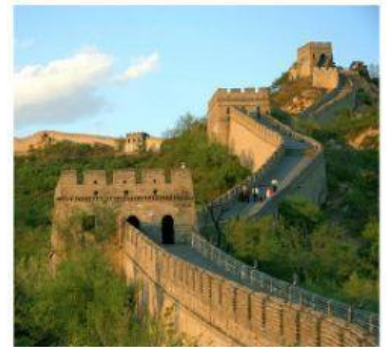
Tourism is not the only modern development that is having an impact on the Wall, however. ³ _____. A 123-metre area was cut away so that a vegetable market could expand and not long after, another 35 metres were knocked down to make way for a road.

The destruction of part of the wall is nothing new, however. In its two thousand year history it has suffered damage from floods, earthquakes, and military attack. ⁴ _____. Many sections of the Wall have already collapsed.

Repairing the damage that has already been done costs money and not everyone in China agrees that it is worth it. Although for some the Wall is an important part of their national heritage, for others it is just a reminder of the tragic part of China's history when it had to defend itself from

invaders. Some people even think that because so many died building the Wall, it is actually wrong to preserve it.

There are, of course, those who do want to save it. One of them is William Lindesay, an Englishman living in China, who hiked along the Wall in 1987 and wrote a book about his experience. Lindesay has started a group called 'Friends of the Great Wall'. ⁵ _____. But Lindesay says that time is running out. 'In another twenty years there will be so many buildings around the Wall that it will be almost impossible to see it,' he says.



Five sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- a) Millions of foreign and Chinese people visit it every year.
- b) Recently, two sections were destroyed with the permission of the government.
- c) They are wrong.
- d) Despite this, they have not been successful.
- e) They try to prevent more development along the sections of the Wall closest to Beijing.
- f) Over the centuries, farmers have used bricks from the Wall to build houses and shelters for animals.

GRAMMAR

1. Read the story. Then fill in the blanks with the infinitive (with or without to) or the gerund form of the verbs in brackets.

How many of us have considered a. _____ (travel) back in time as a possibility? It has been the theme of countless TV programmes for children, which have taught us b. _____ (believe) that the possibility exists, or that it will exist in the future. Who among us wouldn't want c. _____ (see) what it was like in ancient Greece or Rome? Imagine d. _____ (talk) to someone from an earlier civilization and e. _____ (find out) what the past was really like. Amazing, isn't it? From a scientific viewpoint, however, there are too many obstacles. Even if we wished f. _____ (build) a time machine, we would need g. _____ (go) faster than the speed of light. At the moment, we're not even close!

Fiction is filled with plots and scenarios which raise questions. For example, which period in fiction would you decide h. _____ (visit)? And what if you got there but something didn't let you i. _____ (come back)? Wouldn't you miss j. _____ (be) with your family and friends? But although we might enjoy k. _____ (think) about the possibility, too many things make us l. _____ (doubt) that time travel is possible. As Stephen Hawking pointed out, if time travel were possible, people would have travelled back to our time. Therefore, we should expect m. _____ (see) people from the future. Of course, true believers explain this way by n. _____ (say) they are here, but we haven't recognized them yet!

2. Complete the sentences with the correct form of MAKE and LET.

- a. Susan _____ everyone listen to her yesterday.
- b. My boss _____ me work from home so I can look after my children.
- c. Did your parents _____ you stay out late when you were at school?
- d. When I was a kid, I _____ to eat everything on my plate, even if I didn't like it.

3. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words.

- a. Tanya and Sylvia are the same age. **OLD**

Sylvia _____ Tanya.

- b. You can't go out at night because you are too young. **OLD**

You _____ to go out at night.

- c. Nobody in the school dances better than Marco. **THE**

Marco _____ in the school.

- d. The storm was so violent that our windows were broken. **SUCH**

It was _____ that our windows were broken.

- e. I thought the test would be harder. **HARD**

The test _____ I expected.

- f. Our hands and feet hurt because of the cold. **SO**

It _____ that our hands and feet hurt.

- g. As our cat grows older, it gets fatter. **THE**

The older our cat grows, _____ gets.

- h. We are too poor to go on holiday this year. **RICH**

We aren't _____ on holiday this year.

