

READING SKILL

ACTIVITY 1: BOOK REVIEW

Read the following book reviews.

For each of the texts (1-6) choose the correct sentences (A-H).

There are TWO sentences which you DO NOT NEED to use.



1 – *I am a Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes.

Despite Mr. Hayes's long history as a movie guy, *I am a Pilgrim* is not a film treatment bloated into a book form. It's a big, breathless tale of nonstop suspense, and it has something rarely found in big-budget movies of the same genre: the voice of a single writer instead of the patchwork nonsense created by endless collaborators and fixers. Mr. Hayes delivers his share of far-fetched moments, and no doubt he'd like to see *I am a Pilgrim* filmed one day. But he's his worst enemy in that regard. His novel will be hard for any movie version to beat.

2 – *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins.

Ms Hawkins' story has three women to narrate it. But Rachel, the main one, hits a new high of unreliability. For one thing, she's drunk throughout most of the story, so her memories are not to be trusted. Not even is she sure if what she remembers really happened. Her whole life has become a lie. Her boozy behaviour has led to her being fired in London, but she still sticks to her old, rigid commuting schedule because she has nothing else to do.

3 – *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

The book is about Atticus Finch, who appears as an unconventional hero and role model due to his morality rather than his physical capabilities. *To Kill a Mockingbird* focuses on that gut instinct of right and wrong, and distinguishes it from just following the law. I read Harper Lee when I was 13, the perfect age to appreciate the big issue it addresses in a brilliantly accessible but emotional way. Atticus Finch shows us the importance of standing up for what's right, even when no one around is supportive and you know you are going to lose. The book gave me guidelines for life, and that's a very special gift.

4 – *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

There's so much in Austen's writing that resonates with Western and Eastern culture. Indeed, when I first read *Pride and Prejudice*, I thought the characters could be Indian, the way unmarried girls are paraded around and the paternal worries about what to do with your daughter when she doesn't have much of a dowry. Austen was a quietly subversive feminist writer. In Elizabeth Bennet you have a girl who's too intelligent to play the game and I really related to that.

5 – *Frost in May* by Antonia White.

This was the first Virago Modern Classic and it led me to all the great women writers that Virago published. A novel based on White's time in a Catholic boarding school in 1908, the story gripped me like no other. Here was a whole new world where the protagonist, Nanda, discovers literature. At school all my friends passed this book around.

6 – *Prime Suspect* by Linda La Plante.

Organised crime is rife on the streets. While the Krays and Richardsons are languishing behind bars a new undercurrent of violent crime and terrorism lies in their wake. Determined to prove herself, the main character is drawn into her first murder case, the killing of a young girl who has been

savagely beaten. Operating in a male-dominated world and learning to deal with the brutality she sees, Jane is in at the deep end.

1. <i>I Am a Pilgrim</i>	
2. <i>The Girl on the Train</i>	
3. <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>	
4. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	
5. <i>Frost in May</i>	
6. <i>Prime Suspect</i>	

Adapted from www.theguardian.com

ACTIVITY 2: HEARING LOSS COSTS MORE THAN ABILITY TO HEAR

Read the text below and for questions 1-8 choose the correct answer A, B or C. Only ONE answer is correct.

Mark Hammel's hearing was damaged in his 20s by machine gun fire when he was serving in the Israeli Army. But not until decades later, at 57, did he receive his first hearing aids.

"It was very joyful, but also very sad, when I contemplated how much I had missed all those years," Dr. Hammel, a psychologist in Kingston, N.Y., said in an interview. "I could hear well enough sitting face to face with someone in a quiet room, but in public, with background noise, I knew people were talking, but I had no idea what they were saying. I just stood there nodding my head and smiling.

"Eventually, I stopped going to social gatherings. Even driving, I couldn't hear what my daughter was saying in the back seat. I live in the country, and I couldn't hear the birds singing.

People with hearing loss often don't realize what they're missing," he said. "So much of what makes us human is social contact, interaction with other human beings. When that's cut off, it comes with a very high cost."

And the price people pay is much more than social. As Dr. Hammel now realises, "the capacity to hear is so essential to overall health."

Hearing loss is one of the most common conditions affecting older adults. An estimated 30 million to 48 million Americans have hearing loss that significantly **diminishes the quality of their lives** academically, professionally and medically as well as socially.

The National Register of Health Service Psychologists states: "For the majority of people with hearing loss, the difficulties faced can wreak havoc in a person's life." Yet, the register added, "Many people who have hearing loss are not aware of it, or are unwilling to discuss their hearing loss."

In a large survey by the National Council on the Aging, two-thirds of older adults with untreated hearing loss explained their reluctance to get a hearing aid with statements like "my hearing is not bad enough" or "I can get along without one," and one person in five said things like "it would make me feel old" or "I don't like what others will think about me". Untreated hearing loss can have physical consequences as well, including excessive fatigue, stress and headaches, which may result from trying so hard to hear and understand spoken language.

It is also distressing for family members who typically report feeling frustrated, annoyed and sad as a consequence of communication difficulties and misunderstandings.

A 2011 study by the Better Hearing Institute, found that untreated hearing loss adversely affected productivity, performance and career success, and was associated with a loss in annual

income that could reach \$30,000. Those in the study with severe hearing loss were twice as likely to be unemployed as people with normal hearing and nearly twice as likely to be out of work as their peers who used hearing aids.

However, those in the survey who had hearing aids were, on average, more socially active and less likely to be depressed, worried, or insecure, and their family members were even more likely than they were to have noticed these benefits. In America, the majority of hearing aid users agreed that their quality of life improved with better hearing and said that their hearing aids were worth the investment. Not only are hearing aids tied to improved relationships, higher social activity, but they have also shown to have an impact on whole body health. When the ability to communicate is returned, many times a sense of openness to the world is also returned. Many hearing aid users believe hearing aids have had a positive effect on their general health.

1. Choose the sentence that is correct about Mark Hammel's hearing	
2. Mr Hammel had bitter-sweet feelings when he realised...	
3. What worried Mark Hammel most about his hearing loss was how ...	
4. "Diminishes the quality of their lives" (paragraph 6, line 16) means to...a person's life	
5. According to the survey, most adults with hearing loss object to using hearing aids because...	
6. According to the survey relatives of people that are "hearing impaired" feel.....about the communication problems this condition implies.	
7. A 2011 study found that people with untreated hearing loss...	
8. The purpose of this text is to...	

Adapted from www.nytimes.com

ACTIVITY 3: KINDRED SPIRITS

You are going to read a text about travelling. For gaps 1-6 choose the answer (A-D) which best fits each gap. Only ONE answer is correct.

Some destinations drift in and out of fashion, while some seem ever-present in travelers' consciousness. India is squarely in the latter camp.

Nothing can define India and you have to spend a lifetime to understand this land.

1[] after hundreds of trips, you will still be amazed by this country.

2[] other countries that went through homogenization, India is incredibly open and has absorbed ideas from various cultures. Home to several of the world's major religions, many are drawn here by the intense spiritual experiences on offer made all the more transcendental by the colour, and clamor of a truly multicultural society and stunning natural landscapes.

In our cover story of this issue we focus on some of the country's most sacred sites, the River

Ganges in Varanasi, the Kumbh Mela festival, Amritsar's Golden Temple 3[] its ancient meditation and yoga traditions.

Spiritualism and religion permeate every pore of India, and are part of its inescapable character and allure. And for all its growing modernity, everything from food and clothing to architecture and politics is shaped at its roots by Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Sikhism, to name 4[] a few.

With a history intertwined with so many different strands of faith, it's impossible to even begin to understand this complex country without first witnessing the effect religion and spirituality have on the daily life of its 1.25 billion inhabitants. 5[] a Westerner would be shocked to see 1 million people gathered for a religious festival, an Indian might wonder where the remaining went.

For travelers, it's a chance to experience some of the most spectacular and spiritual religious sites on the planet. 6[] you are a spiritual person or a nature enthusiast, you can get your money's worth.

Adapted from National Geographic Traveler Magazine

WRITING SKILL

ACTIVITY 1:

Imagine that a friend of yours is to organize a festival in his/her home town and has asked you for some help. Write a letter to your friend giving some advice and tips that could help in the organisation and preparations. Include the following points: 1) Location; 2) Various arrangements: (safety, traffic, catering, first aid); 3) Music (180 - 200 words)



ACTIVITY 2:

'A lot more things could be done for people with disabilities in our society' What do you think? What do you think should be done? (180 - 200 words)

LISTENING AND SPEAKING (SEPTEMBER 2016)

LEVEL B2

LISTENING SKILL

ACTIVITY 1: SIX REAL BUT STRANGE ADDICTIONS

For this activity you will have to do TWO TASKS.

Task 1: For questions (1-6) choose the addiction for which one of the statements (A-G) is true. There is one statement you DO NOT need to use.



1. Tanning addiction	
2. Addiction to nasal sprays	
3. Addiction to reading	
4. Addiction to unusual things	

5. Addiction to your phone	
6. Addiction to plastic surgery	

Task 2: For questions (7-12) choose the best answer (A, B or C).

7. People with a tanning dependency...	
8. The use of nasal sprays...	
9. An addiction to reading...	
10. An addiction to using your mobile phone...	
11. Reality star Heidi Montag...	
12. According to the specialist...	

www.mentalhealthguru.com

ACTIVITY 2: A WALK IN THE WOODS

You are going to listen to Ken Kwapis talking about his last film "A Walk in the Woods". For questions 1 - 8 choose the best answer (A, B or C). Only ONE answer is correct.



1. The film is about...	
2. According to Ken Kwapis, the book turns out to be a ...	
3. Why does nature "step in" once in a while?	
4. REI Dave is...	
5. Ken characterizes Mary Ellen as...	
6. The music of the film makes you feel...	
7. What does Kwapis mean by "an unmediated experience of nature"?	
8. Some of the shots were possible because the crew ...	

Adapted from www.imdb.com.

SPEAKING SKILL

TOPIC: CULTURES ARE LOSING THEIR IDENTITIES

Help Marvin the Martian put in order his thought about the provided topic.



'Can multiculturalism result in a country losing its identity?'

"So yes, country can shape multiculturalism a so that
it's identity or changes culture, but that not is
necessarily a thing bad"



by Antonio Pérez León

Source:

https://www.educastur.es/estudiantes/idiomas/pruebascertificacion/modelos/-/document_library_display/gDaKh5XUDjQn/view/440463