



A. READING / 15



She cycled 120 miles to a wedding, and her lunch budget was just 51p a day.

- A** Michelle McGagh, a 34-year-old journalist, had a mortgage of £230,000 which she wanted to reduce. Last November, she looked at her finances and she discovered that every year she spent a lot of money unnecessarily – for example, £1,570 in the pub, £1,110 in restaurants, and £400 on coffees. So she made a radical plan – to stop spending money for a year. She continued to pay her broadband, gas, and electricity bills, and allowed herself £30 a week to buy food and household essentials. But she couldn't spend money on anything else – no clothes, no buses or flights, no meals out, no drinks, and no cosmetics.
- B** She cooked large quantities of curry and bolognese sauce, which lasted her a week, and which she ate with rice or pasta. It was cheap and healthy, but also 'really boring'. She also experimented with home-made cleaning products and beauty treatments, like using vinegar for cleaning or olive oil as moisturiser, but she decided that most of them didn't really work.
- C** At first, she tried to see her friends as often as before. She cycled 120 miles to be at a friend's wedding, and camped in their garden to avoid paying for accommodation. The following weekend, she rode 60 miles to Brighton to meet friends. But she couldn't join them for dinner in a restaurant, and when they went to the pub, she drank tap water. In the end, she simply went out less, which made her feel more isolated.
- D** Of course, she couldn't afford to go abroad, so she missed a trip to Ibiza with friends. Her only holiday was a cycling trip to East Anglia, where again she camped. Here, for the first and only time in the year, she bought food that she had not cooked herself – a bag of chips for £1.95.
- E** At the end of the year, she had saved £23,000. She was much slimmer and fitter – over the year, she had cycled 6,500 miles. She says she now feels freer and happier, because she appreciates the simple things in life. She also gained confidence and a sense of adventure.
- F** But she learned the hard way that you can't really socialize if you don't want to spend money. The evening after her year-long challenge ended, she bought all her friends a drink in the pub. But she has not gone back to her past spending habits. She occasionally pays to socialize and go on holiday. She has even taken a taxi. But after buying a few new clothes and some perfume, she insists, 'I have absolutely no interest in buying anything else.'
- G** So what's her key tip for those who want to save? 'Whenever you open your wallet, think about whether what you are buying is something you need or something you want. We all say, 'I need to buy this.' Most of the time, we want to buy it. Maybe we don't know the difference between needing something and wanting something any more.'

Activity 1: Read the article. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false)

1. Michelle could use public transport during her no-spend year.
2. At her friend's wedding, she slept in a tent.
3. She didn't lose any weight during the year.
4. She never had ready-made food or takeaways.
5. She thinks that when we buy something, we should ask ourselves why.

B VOCABULARY / 10

Activity 1: Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. / 5

1. Many people stop working and _____ at the age of about 65.
a. get
b. leave
c. retire
2. They say that people who wear _____ clothes are usually happy.
a. colourful
b. square
c. useful
3. 'Please call us if you see anything _____' the policeman said.
a. enormous
b. unusual
c. square
4. Please have your boarding _____ ready for checking at the desk.
a. pass
b. visa
c. ID
5. I'm not surprised you're _____ – you've been working for six hours!
a. amazing
b. huge
c. exhausted

Activity 2: Complete the words with the missing letters. / 5

1. You don't need to make a r _____ tion for this train – it's never full
2. There were several famous faces sitting in the a _____ nce for last night's show.

3. This is someone you chat to on the internet. O_____ f_____
4. This is someone who lives near your house. N_____
5. In most of the shops they let you pay by c_____d

C. USE OF ENGLISH /40

1. Maria has met Mrs. Woods, an old family friend, on the bus. Complete their dialogue by clicking on the correct form of the verb. /15



Maria: Hello Mrs. Wood.

Mrs. Wood: My goodness! Hannah! The last time I saw you was five years ago. How are you? And your parents?

M: We're fine, thank you. Dad **is / was** in Russia at the moment.

W: Really? What **does he do / is he doing** there?

M: He **writes / is writing** a book about Russian traditions while he **learns / is learning** Russian.

W: How long **does he stay / is he staying**?

M: He **is coming back / comes back** next week, 23rd December to be precise.

W: How exciting! How's your Mum?

M: Mum is really tired. She loves her job but she **was / has been** busy at the office for the last few weeks. And she also **have / has** cooking lessons in the evening.

W: And what about your brother? Is he doing well at school?

M: Actually, He **has already finished / already finished** school. He **worked / works** for a computer firm.

He **worked / has worked** there for about four years. When I **meet / met** him last week, he **programmed / was programming** something new.

W: And what about you, Maria? What do you do?

M: I'm a musician but I **didn't find / haven't found** a job yet.

W: Well, I hope you find something soon. Well this is my stop. I'll **definitely visit / am definitely visit** you as soon as possible. I miss you all.

M: OK. See you soon, then!

2. Choose the correct option so that it means the same as the original one. /5

1) Unless you come, I won't enjoy the party.

- a. If you come, I won't enjoy the party.
- b. If you don't come, I won't enjoy the party.

2) The police arrived too late, so the robber escaped.

- a. When the police arrived, the robber had escaped.
- b. The robber escaped and the police arrived.

3) Americans sent a satellite to orbit last week.

- a. A satellite was sent to orbit by the Americans.
- b. A satellite is going to be sent to orbit.

4) Mary ate a lot of pizza when she was a child.

- a. Mary liked pizza when she was a child.
- b. Mary used to eat a lot of pizza.

5) She is planning to buy a new car.

- a. She is going to buy a new car.
- b. She will buy a new car.

3. Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences. A, B or C? /10

1. Megan _____ Jordi while she was visiting Barcelona.

- A. Met B. was meeting C. meets**

2. I have _____ finished my exercises. What shall I do now?

- A. Already B. Yet C. since**

3. The train for Madrid _____ at eight.

- A. Will leave B. leave C. leaves**

4. I think Jack _____ a very good doctor when he finishes his studies.

- A. Is going to be B. will be C. have been**

5. Arthur trains _____ than others because he wants to be the best.

- A. Hard B. harder C. hardest**

6. A classical conductor has to learn _____ gestures to communicate with musicians.

- A. To use B. use C. using

7. Do you have any idea where _____ buy the latest Nikes?

- A. Can I B. I can C. Could I

8. Please phone me when you arrive _____ I know you're safe.

- A. So that B. in order to C. because

9. He would do much better at school if he _____ just an hour a day on his studies.

- A. Spends B. will spend C. spent

10. That _____ be the hat you lent me. It's the wrong colour.

- A. Can't B. might C. could

4. Complete the sentences with your own ideas. /10

1. If _____.

2. _____ going to _____.

3. _____ as _____ as _____.

4. _____ yet.

5. _____ by _____.

D LISTENING / 15

Activity 1: Listen and answer the questions / 10 p



1. Sean went to the airport to _____.
a) Travel to Tenerife b) Meet his mother c) Drop off his brother
2. Susie _____ tonight.
a) Isn't doing anything b) is going to a family party c) going out with friends
3. The only thing Caroline doesn't mind doing is _____.
a) Cleaning the bathroom b) cooking c) cleaning the kitchen

4. The clothes which Albert bought online _____.
 a) Were the wrong size b) took a long time to arrive c) were the wrong colour
5. Mick once missed a flight because _____.
 a) He went to the wrong gate b) he went to the wrong terminal c) he woke up late

Activity 2: Listen and match the people with their worst and best moments /5

GLASTOBURY



	Worst moments	Best moments
• ALEX	Lost lots of things	Met a very important person
• CAITLIN	Car didn't start	Performed in a band
• FREDDIE	Was cold and wet	Chatted with Lily Allen
• GRACE	Couldn't find her tent	Saw Robbie Williams

Note: Red arrows in the original image connect ALEX to 'Car didn't start' and CAITLIN to 'Saw Robbie Williams'.

D WRITING: /20

Choose one option. Now write an email to your friend answering the questions. Write 80–100 words.

- a. You're going to write a profile of your favourite (musical) band. Note: the band can be real or imaginary.

Say:

- who the members of the band are and what instruments they play.
- what type of music they play?
- when you first heard of the band or started listening to them.
- why you like them.
- what other people think of them – are they popular?



- b. You're going to write a description of a place in your neighbourhood that you really like.

Say:

- where it is, what it is and when you go there.
- what the place is like and what you do there.
- why the place is so special to you.

