Task 1

• In this article about parents going to school some parts of sentences have been left out.

• Your task is to reconstruct the story by filling in the gaps from the list.

• Write the letters (A-K)in the text

• There are two extra letters that you will not need.

SINGAPORE: PARENTS TAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL MATHS CLASSES

Parents in Singapore dust off their calculators: they are going back to school ***(0)*** _____
their children's homework.

They are taking primary school maths classes **(1)** _____ what their children go through. Adults are signing up for courses **(2)** _____ when their children have questions, the *My Paper* website reports. Parents at a "mastery workshop" pay $700 (£463) **(3)** _____ learning how to solve maths problems, the website says. It's part of a growing trend in Singapore.

Parents **(4)** _____ are divided into groups depending on their existing knowledge and ability. "Some parents come to the workshop with zero maths knowledge,

(5) _____ ," says Nur Hidayah Ismail, the principal of the *Genius Young Minds* centre.

Some parents say it has helped them to understand their children's struggles. But for others **(6)** _____ many years ago, things are more tricky. Mohd Yusof Maruwi, **(7)** _____ , found most of the questions surprisingly difficult. "Luckily, she could understand what was going on," he says.

(bbc.com)

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A) so we have to go very slowly
B) in order to understand
C) *so they can understand*
D) to spend eight hours
E) just in time to take the exam
F) who attended a class with his wife
G) so that they can be helpful
H) who decide to take part in the course
I) who left the subject behind
K) why they are challenged

Task 2

• Read this article about a young man and his girlfriend and then read the half sentences that follow the text.

• Your task is to match the half sentences based on the information in the article.

• Write the letters (A-H) in the white boxes next to the numbers (8-13) as in the example *(0)*.

• Remember that there is one extra letter that you will not need.

MARRIAGE PROPOSAL MAPPED OUT BY PORTSMOUTH JOGGER'S APP

A Portsmouth runner has proposed to his girlfriend by spelling out "Will You Marry Me" using a GPS tracking application. The couple met through a mutual friend on Facebook when they commented on a post and then started chatting.
Ben Chudley, 28, used a running app to track his progress around the city's streets before posting the route on Facebook. When he posted it on Tuesday evening, his girlfriend Olivia Abdul saw it and accepted his proposal. Mr Chudley, who had also drawn dinosaurs and cartoon characters in the same way, said the idea was "very me".

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He explained he had carefully designed his route using online mapping and had run the 5.71mile (9km) route. Mr Chudley told his girlfriend he was going out for a run before posting the map on Facebook and returning, with flowers and a ring, to hear her response. He admitted that posting it publicly "could have been very embarrassing if she had said no."

Mr Chudley had started a Facebook group of similar 'drawings'. In the past he had attempted a seahorse and a dinosaur but said Portsmouth's regular street layout made it easier to form letters. He added that making a wrong turn half way through a run can be "heart breaking" as it means having to start the tracking again.

Surprised Olivia, who was given a gold and diamond engagement ring, said: "I was so happy."

The bride-to-be said the couple had been flooded with well-wishes from friends and family.

(bbc.com)

0)

C

0) Modern technology

8) The app

9) The proposal

10) The letters

11) A mistake

12) Friends

13) Mr Chudley

A) had carefully planned the event.

B) was given to her friends.

C) was used to create a message.

D) have been informed about the event.

E) had already been used by the young man.

F) might make the whole thing much longer.

G) was posted on a community website.

H) were written on a map.

0)	8)	9)	10)	11)	12)	13)
C						

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Task 3

• In the following interview with Chris Guillebeau, the person who has travelled most widely in the world, the questions have been removed.

• Your task is to match the questions (A-H) and the answers (14-19).

• There is one extra question that you do not need.

• Write the letters in the white boxes as in the example *(0)*.

Chris Guillebeau achieved something most people only dream of: visiting every country in the world. Impressive? Here is an interview:

0) _____
CG: I travel at least 100 days a year, but when I'm not on the road I live in Portland, Oregon.

14) _____
CG: There are many, but for me I think the act of travel itself has a thrilling effect. I just love being on the road.

15) _____
CG: Travel forces you to think differently. I live a fairly routine life, and I like the element of adventure that travel brings. When I'm on the road I feel like a different person.

16) _____
CG: A dead cow in the back of a taxi in Sierra Leone would probably be high on the list.

17) _____

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CG: I'm pretty basic. Everything goes in my cabin suitcase and my laptop bag. In addition to taking my computer everywhere I go, I also use a paper notebook to make notes along the way.

18) _____

CG: Just go out and do it! Travel gives me confidence. The more I travel, the more I relax and stop stressing out.

19) _____

CG: I'm planning more trips, of course! There's always more to be done and more places to visit—which is exactly the way I like it.

0)

C

A) ***Why is travel important? How has it changed you?***

B) What's the best travel advice you can share with us?

C) Where do you call home?

D) Have you ever left your passport at home?

E) Is there a place that draws you back again and again? Why?

F) ***What do you never leave at home?***

G) What are you working on right now?

H) What's the strangest thing you've seen in your travels?

0)	14)	15)	16)	17)	18)	19)
C						

Task 4

• Read this article about a person who is afraid of nothing and then read the statements (20-26) following it.

• Mark a statement A if it is true according to the article.

• Mark it B if it is false.

• Mark it C if, on the basis of the article, it cannot be

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decided if it is true or false.

• Write the letters in the white boxes as in the

example *(0)*.

THE WOMAN WHO IS UNABLE TO FEEL FEAR

Mary, a woman from the United States, cannot feel the emotion of fear, because of a very rare genetic condition. She has never been interviewed before, because her doctors say that people could easily take advantage of her if her identity was made public.

She says that she remembers being scared just once in her life. She was still a young girl and her father was fishing and caught a catfish. She was frightened because she didn't want it to bite her. In fact, that was the only time she can remember experiencing fear.

Once, when her sons were small and she was out for a walk, a man called her over. He grabbed her by the shirt, and he held a knife to her throat and told her he was going to cut her. She said, "Go ahead and do it". The man let her go, and she went home, but she didn't call the police, as she didn't see the danger.

She is also unable to recognise a fearful expression on the face of another person. Still, she has normal intelligence and recognises other emotions such as joy, or anger in the same way as others.

If she sees a poisonous snake that would make most people really scared, Mary will touch it without any problem. She isn't afraid in such situations and has no bad memories afterwards.

'If you have no fear, many more terrible things will happen to you,' one of her doctors explained to journalists. 'However, if you have a lot of fear, fewer bad things will probably happen.'

So is it better to be fearful or fearless?

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0) Mary has been different from other people ever since she was born.
20) Her story has already appeared in newspapers in the past.
21) She hasn't felt fear since she was a child.
22) Her father stopped fishing after the catfish incident.
23) The police had to save her when a man attacked her in a park.
24) Mary can understand that you are happy if you smile at her.
25) It is difficult for her to remember faces.
26) According to her doctor people like Mary experience more bad things than most people.

0)	20)	21)	22)	23)	24)	25)	26)

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