

READING

Task 4

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (17–21). There are three choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE STUDYING ABROAD

17

Studying abroad you have the chance to explore new cultures, meet amazing people and travel more in several months than you probably will throughout the rest of your life. However, before jetting off to a foreign continent for four months, there are about a thousand tiny details that need to be ironed out.

18

After getting transfer credits approved, obtaining a passport and visa, haggling with financial aid and booking flights, it is almost surreal that all this preparatory work leads to an actual destination. Relieved to have conquered the tedious steps, it's easy to breeze through all the other preparatory steps and centre your focus on your destination.

19

Once you leave the U.S., electrical outlets will no longer resemble the face of those at home. It is necessary to purchase purchasing universal outlet converters and adapters before you leave, as they can be expensive in foreign countries and are often difficult to find. The adapter will change the foreign plug so that you can connect your device to the outlet. This does not change the voltage, though, so you will definitely need a converter or transformer to make the wattage of your device compatible with the country's power supply. You should also consider leaving expensive hair straighteners or blow dryers at home. They generate a lot of heat, and even with a converter, the differing voltage can blow them out.

20

Many students opt not to bring their smart phone while studying abroad, worried about loss or theft during their travels. If you are careful with your belongings though, these devices are great tools to communicate with fellow study abroad friends and loved ones at home. Some popular texting apps are What's App and textPlus, which both allow you to send text messages for free through Wi-Fi. Another App I highly recommend is Skype for iPhone.

21

Getting used to your country's exchange rate is tough enough, but the foreign transaction fees your bank charges on purchases in a different currency are really a killer. Each time you swipe your card or pull cash from an ATM, the money you're being charged but not spending begins to rack up. Before leaving, check to see if your bank at home has international branches in your abroad destination so that you are not charged a fee each time you visit the ATM. If you do not have the advantage of an international bank, withdraw the maximum amount of cash per ATM visit. This way, you will only pay a nominal fee and will have enough money to last you a few weeks.

Which paragraph advises you...?

- A to book tickets beforehand
- B to keep your mind on your money
- C not to leave your phone at home
- D to search the social sites before leaving
- E to buy devices that convert alternating currents
- F to concentrate on the place of living
- G to take advantage of it during college
- H to stock up on medicines

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (22–26) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

WHY THE BIGGEST FAILURES ARE THE MOST FLUENT

If you're struggling to become fluent in English there is something you can do right now to speed up your progress: start failing more.

Look, the only way that you're going to increase your fluency in English is to practice, and if you're not making any mistakes this means that you're not practicing enough.

There is absolutely no reason for you to be afraid of making mistakes in the classroom. Your teacher should be sympathetic to your level and not demand perfection from you. If they get mad at you for making mistakes, you should consider getting a new teacher.

When you travel abroad and speak with native English speakers, there is no need for you to be afraid of making mistakes while talking to them. Most people don't enter into conversations looking to find mistakes in the way the other person speaks. People you talk to abroad will be more concerned with trying to help you out than judging you for your English.

And what about while you are in your home country speaking English? Who can really expect you to speak perfect English while you are living in a country where that language isn't spoken as a first language? Most of the people you talk with in English will probably be more concerned with how their English sounds than how your English sounds.

You should definitely not be concerned with how your English sounds to foreigners. You're just not that important to them for them to spend much time thinking about how bad your English is. They will probably forget about you a few minutes after talking with you.

Everybody makes mistakes, even native speakers of English. Nobody is born speaking perfect English; fluency is something that takes time and hard work to achieve.

So don't be discouraged by your mistakes. Learn to embrace them and value them for the important role they play in your learning process.

- 22 If you make mistakes, it means that you _____.
A are an experienced speaker
B don't practice a lot
C do much to know the language
D don't learn English
- 23 If you make mistakes in the classroom, your teacher _____.
A should be glad
B should be angry with you
C should understand you
D should be not satisfied
- 24 The foreigners you are speaking to _____.
A don't pay attention to the mistakes you make
B try to correct your mistakes
C judge you by your English
D don't talk to you when you make mistakes in speech
- 25 When you speak English in your home country _____.
A people expect you to speak perfectly
B nobody is concerned about your language
C other people don't think about you
D people don't understand you
- 26 People become fluent in English if _____.
A they work hard mastering the language
B they live in an English-speaking country
C they make a lot of mistakes
D they try to speak avoiding mistakes

Task 6

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (27–32). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

A GUIDE TO LEARNING ENGLISH REALLY WELL

In today's world, hundreds of millions of people want to learn English. Most of them sign up for English classes. Unfortunately, typical English classes are not an effective way to learn English. They produce very slow progress, especially after you reach the intermediate level. Most learners, after years of attending classes, cannot speak English without making a lot of mistakes in grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.

I believe that if you want to learn English well, you cannot wait for your teacher to put knowledge into your head. You have to take charge of your learning. This guide shows you how you can do it in a fun and effective way.

My name is Tomas. My friend Michal and I taught ourselves to speak English fluently with some unusual learning techniques. In 2001, we started Antimoon with one goal: to show other people how they can do the same.

- 27 You have to change your life a little — do crazy things like talking to yourself in English or spending your evening reading a dictionary. In order to do these things, and do them regularly, you have to enjoy doing them. If you are like most learners and don't feel like doing these things, you will have to work on your motivation.
- 28 Improving your motivation for learning English: We share our psychological tricks that helped us enjoy learning English and that you can use to boost your motivation and make a difference in your English.
- 29 English dictionary is the most important thing that you will need when learning English. Successful English learners use their dictionaries all the time — that's how they learn to use new words.
- 30 Your grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation can get worse because of practice. When you speak or write with mistakes, you teach yourself bad habits. These bad habits may be difficult to eliminate.
- 31 When you speak or write, be careful, slow, and use simple language. Look things up in dictionaries and on the Web. If you make a lot of mistakes, focus on writing rather than speaking. If that doesn't help, stop writing and speaking; concentrate on input instead.
- 32 Because how you speak is the biggest thing that people notice about your English. English pronunciation is unpredictable. If you don't put effort into English pronunciation, you will make mistakes, and mistakes can turn into bad habits. The longer you ignore pronunciation, the more bad habits you will form. So don't put it off.

Which part of the text is about...?

- A improving your motivation for learning English
- B the importance of studying English pronunciation
- C the things that are necessary to learn English well
- D avoiding mistakes
- E the need of a good English dictionary
- F learning English words correctly
- G the ways you can damage your English
- H the problems with your writing and speaking

Task 7

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one that best fits each space (33–38). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

TRUE STORIES OF ANIMALS RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE

Politics might feel like a zoo, especially during election season (33) _____. But in the end, the candidates are still people...typically. A number of animals have run for political office over the years — or more accurately were run by enterprising humans. In some cases, these campaigns are publicity stunts or forms of protest. Other times, they promote causes. Sometimes, the animal wins.

If you want to run for president of the United States, New Hampshire has the least stringent requirements of any state (34) _____. It was perhaps with that in mind that the staff of Benson's Wild Animal Farm tried to enter their candidate, a 215-kilogram (475 lb) gorilla named Colossus, in 1980. The zoo argued that the US Constitution never specifically stated (35) _____. It is not clear what, if any, political party 'Colossus G. Benson' was affiliated with.

As much as Colossus's candidacy was a publicity stunt through and through, the zookeepers knew he was too unpredictable to be taken to the New Hampshire State House (36) _____. They kept the gorilla in a trailer outside and sent a chimpanzee wearing a white tuxedo in his stead, (37) _____. The chimp ended up climbing a pipe and swinging from a light fixture.

Ultimately, Bill Gardner, New Hampshire's secretary of state, denied Colossus's bid to run (38) _____. Colossus passed away in 2006.

- A that a presidential candidate must be human
- B that was also time for the city to elect a new mayor
- C because he was less than 35 years old
- D to get your name on the ballot for the primary
- E and the years' worth of media coverage leading up to it
- F placing him in fourth place out of 11 candidates
- G bearing a note declaring Colossus's intent to run
- H to sign the necessary forms