

READING

Task 4

Read the text 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.

HOW TO STOP AIRPLANE SICKNESS ON LONG FLIGHTS

By Traci Vandermark

If you are a frequent traveller, then you may have encountered air sickness at one time or another. It is a form of motion sickness that happens as a result of air pressure and inner ear disturbances, which can cause an imbalance in the body's equilibrium. It is normal for even healthy people to experience air sickness, but it does not have to happen. There are simple, natural remedies you can use to keep from developing air sickness.

17

At the first feeling of air sickness, take a nutmeg half and place it under your tongue. The nutmeg has calming and stabilizing effects, and when placed under the tongue it enters the blood stream quickly.

18

Do this the minute you settle on the plane if you are prone to air sickness. If the airline doesn't have ginger tea bags (and most don't), take along your own and ask for some hot water. Ginger has a natural anti-nausea effect. If ginger tea is not available, ask for some ginger ale. It's a good idea to take along some ginger capsules just in case.

19

Avoid sugar or meals high in carbohydrates before a flight. Sugars and carbohydrates can cause adrenaline rushes, which can give the feeling of air sickness or panic attacks. If eating before a flight, make it a high-protein meal with some low-carbohydrate vegetables.

20

Sucking on them helps settle the stomach and dilute any acid that could be causing air sickness. The flight attendant will be happy to give them to you at any point.

21

When booking your flight, try to get a window seat if you find that having the extra view keeps you calmer. If you find that sitting inside by the window makes you feel claustrophobic, book an aisle seat so you can move around when needed. Upon taking your seat, make sure the air vent over you is pointed directly at your face. The extra oxygen will help alleviate nausea.

- A Take a bottle of whisky
- B Carry the whole nutmeg with you
- C Bring some peppermint gum
- D Meat and cheese make a good pre-flight meal
- E Find a good remedy
- F View from a window seat
- G Ask for some ice chips
- H Begin sipping some ginger tea

Task 5

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

USING WOOD IN THE UK

By Krista Kimmo

Using timber in the building reduced its carbon load by 310 tonnes compared to an equivalent building made from concrete reinforced with steel.

As far as is known, the Stadthaus in London's Murray Grove is the world's tallest residential building made from wood. Designed by Waugh Thistleton Architects, its load-bearing walls are made from cross-laminated solid timber panels. The stair and lift cores as well as the floor slabs are also made from wood.

Waugh Thistleton Architects say that they strive to design buildings which reduce the human impact on the planet. 'Therefore we see it as vital not only to consider the energy use over the life of the building but also the energy expended in producing the building,' says Ms Kirsten Haggart, project architect for Stadthaus.

For some years, Waugh Thistleton Architects have researched the use of solid timber structures to replace steel and concrete in housing.

'Timber sequesters 0.8 tonnes of carbon per one cubic metre and is a renewable material. In comparison, the production of both concrete and steel are one-way, energy-intensive processes that release large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere,' is how Haggart explains the reasons behind their interest in wood.

The nine storeys of the Stadthaus were assembled in nine weeks, which was significantly faster than could have been achieved with an alternative material. The speed was possible thanks to panels that were prefabricated down to the window and door openings by KLH company in Austria.

The panels were transported to the construction site by lorry, neatly stacked in the order of assembly. On delivery, the panels were immediately craned in position. Four craftspeople trained by KLH took a three-day working week to assemble an entire floor.

The timber panel system was also extremely easy to work with. The precision of the timber structure, compared with a concrete equivalent, allowed and required the architect to work with a very precise facade. The panel joins in the facade are in line across the entire building. As to the floors and walls, the measurements are accurate to ± 3 mm.

22 The Stadthaus in London is known because of _____.
A its storeys C its height
B its unique constructing design D its timber floors

23 The architects strove _____.
A to use as much timber as possible C to reduce the use of concrete
B to experiment with timber panels D to be more eco-friendly

24 Waugh Thistleton Architects experiment with timber because _____.
A it's a good isolating material C it's not damaged
B it requires much energy D it replaces steel

25 The speed was achieved _____.
A with prefabricated panels C due to a great number of workmen
B with platform construction D due to the accurate measurements

26 Everything in the Stadthaus is made from wood, except _____.
A the load-bearing walls C the floor slabs
B the windows D the stair and lift cores

Task 6

Read the text 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.

TOP SHOPPING MALLS

27 The Grove

Infuse your shopping experience with some Hollywood style at this LA staple — a shopping destination with trendy stores, famous clientele and even a few paparazzi. Scope out the goods at stylish shops including Anthropologie, Madewell, UGG Australia and Johnny Was. And just in time for the holidays, top off a day of shopping with a sweet treat at Sprinkles Cupcakes, coming in November 2012. A savvy shopper can give his feet a rest and take a ride on the Grove Trolley, the free electric trolley that runs between the Grove and the nearby farmers market.

28 Mall of America

Welcoming over 30 million visitors every year, the Mall of America knows what attracts the crowds. In addition to having a fantastic collection of stores, they also provide shoppers with a little entertainment. First, there are a number of restaurants for you to get refuelled. Second, you can watch a movie at one of the 14 available screens. Last, there is an amusement park and aquarium right inside the mall. Oh, and you could get married here as well.

29 Rodeo Drive

For those who have never heard of Rodeo Drive before, you should know that it has absolutely nothing to do with cattle or westerns. In fact, nothing could be farther from the truth. This fascinating shopping district is where the elite come to play and where the rest of us learn the art of window-shopping. Versace, Yves Saint-Laurent, Gucci and Cartier are only a few of the mega names that call this zip code home.

30 Ala Moana Centre

What could drag you away from the ocean breezes and Mai Tais? Well, the largest open air shopping centre in the world of course. Over 50 million visitors walk through its many aisles ever year. Another great reason to visit the Ala Moana Centre is its 'Centrestage' where you can watch a number of fantastic performances. There is also an array of restaurants for you to enjoy. Whether you are in the mood for a quick bite to eat or a relaxing dining experience, you can find it here.

31 The Galleria Dallas

The Galleria Dallas is a great mixture of high-end and affordable shopping. Offering you famous brands from Gucci to Gap and Pottery Barn to Bath & Body Works you could spend an entire day here and still not get to see it all. Of course, when you get tired of shopping you can always make your way to the ice rink and strut off your Olympic talents. Prefer just to watch? Enjoy a great meal at one of the restaurants that surround the rink and enjoy the show.

32 West Edmonton Mall

Claiming to be the largest shopping mall in all of North America, the West Edmonton Mall is worth visiting. There are of course a huge number of stores for you to explore but it also has a great selection of other attractions for its guests ... all 20 million of them. There is the World Waterpark, movie theatres, dinner theatre, casino, petting zoo, Ice Palace and much more. It even has its own hotel.

This place is worth visiting because...

- A** it provides you with a chance to breathe fresh air
- B** it has the biggest number of cinemas
- C** the visitors can go skating there
- D** you can see the latest fashion trends there
- E** the shoppers can take a free ride during the visit
- F** you go there only at night
- G** you can easily find accommodation
- H** the visitors can drive mini vans inside it

Task 7

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

GOLD RUSH

In 1897 newspapers announced the steamer Portland was bringing in a ‘ton of gold’. People who had been penniless before (33) _____. The people of the US who were facing a depression embraced the news. They flocked to Seattle and San Francisco trying to find passage to the Klondike. Many left for the gold fields, (34) _____.

To get to the Klondike by land you would have to travel over either White Pass or Chilkoot Pass. One person said that no matter which way you went (35) _____. White Pass was referred to as ‘Dead Horse Trail’, for some 25,000 horses died from the strain and were trampled to nothing on that trail. Chilkoot Pass was a 25 mile long trail (36) _____. It shot up half of that in that last 1/2 mile. They also experienced trouble with avalanches.

The climate called for different attire and most men were shocked to find many women wearing men’s attire. The other popular outfit was bloomers with short skirts. Because they were around such rough men many women even (37) _____.

Women from all walks of life joined the Gold Rush. Some accompanied their husbands while others came on their own as fortune seekers. Women came north as miners, housewives, entertainers, shopkeepers, nuns, teachers, businesswomen, authors, and some even (38) _____. Many women ‘struck it rich’. One of these hard working women was Mrs Willis. She staked a claim that yielded \$ 300,000. She also opened a laundry business in Dawson City.

- A were highly paid employees
- B were now rich beyond imagination
- C that shot up two thousand feet
- D but very few came back rich
- E the profitable job of sharing overpriced drinks
- F came as tourists
- G acquired the habit of swearing
- H you would wish you had taken the other way