

**READING****1 Read about favourite toys and games. Tick A, B, or C.****Shriyan**

When I was growing up my favourite toy was my bike. Luckily, because of where I lived and because my parents let me have a lot of freedom, I could ride it a lot. I remember coming home from school and going out on my bike to the park, or just around the streets. Now I'm a parent myself, and I worry that children can't play outside in the same way I used to. There is so much more traffic — it just isn't safe for them to cycle by themselves. I decided to start a 'Playing Out' session in my street. We close the road for three hours once each fortnight. Then the children can play in the road, like I used to. They ride bikes, they skip, they draw on the road with chalk. It's amazing. Some local residents weren't sure about it at first, but now they can clearly see the benefits. Even people who don't have children come into the street and join in. 'Playing Out' is quite difficult to organize because you need permission from local government to close the road, and you need at least four adults to be responsible for the children, but it's definitely worth the trouble.

Alison

You could always tell I was going to be an engineer. I loved construction bricks, even when I was very small. That's one of the best things about the toy, of course. It doesn't matter if you've got tiny hands, you can still build a castle, or a car, or a robot ... and then you can make something completely different with the same pieces. Some boxes of bricks come with a set of instructions to help you build a particular plane or building. I used to build that once, and then all the pieces went into a big plastic tub in my bedroom. I spent many hours building my own creations. I think construction bricks have changed since I was little. There are more specialized pieces, like different wheels and connectors. And I really don't think there should be 'pinkified' boxes of bricks 'for girls', where the colours are different and the specialized pieces are flowers and pets. They should be banned!

Frank

I'm the youngest child in my family. Perhaps I'm a little bit bossy and a little bit spoilt. Anyway my favourite games always involved telling people what to do! I used to make my parents and my older sisters hide my soft toys around the house. I used to pretend the toys were in trouble and my sisters were the 'baddies'. Then I'd dress up as a superhero and run around rescuing them. Or, if my family were busy, I would play hospitals with the soft toys. I was the doctor, of course, and the soft animals used to have lots of injuries and illnesses. I used to put bandages on them and put them in bed. I really loved those toys and I even took one special bear with me to university.

- 1 Shriyan was worried about his children's weight before he started the 'Playing out' sessions.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 2 People in Shriyan's street have got used to the 'Playing Out' sessions.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 3 Shriyan didn't have to ask permission to close the road.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 4 Shriyan doesn't look after the children by himself during the sessions.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 5 Alison thinks even very young children can use construction bricks.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 6 Alison didn't use to build anything using the instructions.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 7 Alison doesn't think boxes of bricks should have so many specialized pieces.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 8 Frank used to make his sisters play with him.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 9 Frank's parents knew he was going to be a doctor when he grew up.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 10 Frank's games show that he was an imaginative and caring child.
A True B False C Doesn't say

2 Write S for Shriyan, A for Alison, F for Frank.

Example: My family used to hide my toys so I could 'rescue' them. F

- 1 I don't think there should be a girls' version of my favourite toy. _____
- 2 I think children have less independence these days. _____
- 3 I used to pretend my toys were my patients. _____
- 4 My favourite toy matches my choice of job. _____
- 5 I worked hard so my children can play the games I used to play. _____

LISTENING

3 Are the sentences true or false?

1. Patrick and Selina have never met each other before.
2. Selina still lives in London.
3. Selina didn't like her job in London.
4. Selina is living with her parents.
5. Patrick also went to London.
6. Selina is surprised that Patrick is married.
7. Patrick has a daughter named Marigold.
8. Patrick invites Selina to his house.

4 Write the correct number to fill the gaps.

1. They have not seen each other for over years.
2. Selina was in London for years.
3. Selina has been back for months.
4. Patrick has been married for years.
5. Patrick's children are and years old.

GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

5 Put the words in order to make questions.

Example: like you do food vegetarian ?

Do you like vegetarian food?

- 1 work have we to do evening this ?

- 2 yet tickets you have the bought ?

- 3 the how have violin been you long learning ?

- 4 I shall water you a glass of get ?

- 5 much inherit you money how did ?

6 Underline the correct word(s).

Example: I was watching TV when I heard / was *hearing* a noise.

- 1 Did you *have to* / *had to* wear a uniform at your school?
- 2 Molly *can* / *could* swim really well when she was little.
- 3 I *think* / I'm *thinking* this pasta is amazing. What's in the sauce?
- 4 Has the news finished *yet* / *just* ? I don't want to know the football score.

- 5 Adam loves *the football / football* . He's a big fan of Chelsea and Paris SG.
- 6 *Will / Are* you going to see Jordan later?
- 7 It's the tallest skyscraper *of / in* London. You can see it from miles away.

7 Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verb in brackets. (present simple, present continuous, present perfect, past simple, past continuous, past perfect, be going to or will)

Example: Lucy and Emilia have known (know) each other for years.

- 1 What time _____ you _____ (wake up) after your busy Friday night?
- 2 As soon as I left the shop, I realized that I _____ (lose) my phone.
- 3 '_____ you ever _____ (eat) real English fish and chips?' 'No, I haven't.'
- 4 'Jo? Where are you?' 'I _____ (make) coffee in the kitchen. Would you like a cup?'
- 5 While you _____ (play) outside, I was tidying the house.
- 6 Hanif _____ (retire) when he's sixty. At least, that's what he says.
- 7 I usually _____ (do) my English homework on Wednesday nights.
- 8 Marion _____ (leave) the Netherlands tomorrow and driving back to the UK.
- 9 I'm saving for a new scooter. I _____ already _____ (get) £500.
- 10 By the time we arrived, the concert _____ (start).

8 Match 1–10 with a–j.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 cut <u>e</u> | a in common |
| 2 spend _____ | b of petrol |
| 3 get on _____ | c money from a relative |
| 4 have a lot _____ | d the train |
| 5 miss _____ | e down on chocolate |
| 6 warm up _____ | f with someone |
| 7 run out _____ | g before a match |
| 8 eat out _____ | h money for a holiday |
| 9 inherit _____ | i at a restaurant |
| 10 save _____ | j money on clothes |

9 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. There are three words that you don't need.

bill couple crowd ex flatmate goal insurance loan rank salary st adium stepchildren umpire zone

Example: This is my flatmate Eric. Seb's moved out and Eric has his old room.

- 1 Excuse me, is there a taxi _____ near here?
- 2 Everyone in the _____ cheered when the referee gave a penalty.
- 3 Leo is Tandi's _____ but they have a lot of the same friends.
- 4 They're building a new _____ for the World Championship.
- 5 Are Hilary and Oscar a _____ or are they friends?
- 6 Please don't cycle in the pedestrian _____.
- 7 Nathan has two _____. His wife Rowena was married before.
- 8 Her new job has a better _____ than her last job.
- 9 We need to buy some travel _____ before we go on holiday.
- 10 Our striker scored a _____ but we still lost the match.

WRITING

10 Write about a favourite toy or game from your childhood (100 words). Answer the questions:

- What did the toy/game look like?
- How did you play with the toy? / How did you play the game?
- Why did you like it?
- Where did you use to play with it?
- Would you give a toy/game like this as a gift to a child today? Why?/Why not?