

READING TASK

ACTIVITY 1 WINTER SPORTS USA

You are going to read an article about winter sports in the USA.

For gaps 1-10 choose the answer (A, B or C) which best fits each gap. Only ONE answer is correct.



Winter sports are popular in North America. In winter time, a large part of the continent is covered in snow for up to four months.

Only two areas of the USA are mild or warm in winter – a) the coasts, especially Florida and southern California, and – b) the southern part of the Mississippi basin.

1| else it gets cold, often very cold. By the end of November, many American states are often covered in snow; and 2| recent winters have been less cold, sport in winter usually means winter sports or indoor sports.

By January, many people in North America will have temperatures of -30°C ; not every day, of course, but 3| low temperatures are not rare. In Chicago and Minneapolis, the temperature can fall below -40° .

When it is very cold, especially when there is a cold wind, few people want to go outside, 4| they have to, but on sunny winter days, winter sports are popular.

In the large flat regions in the middle of North America, the most popular winter sports are snowmobiling, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing. Ice skating is popular too; lakes and rivers freeze, and many towns and cities have free open-air skating rinks. In many places, these are floodlit after dark, 5| people can enjoy skating in the evening.

However, for many people, real "winter sports" means downhill skiing; and in the USA, there are two principal areas for this, the Adirondack Mountains in the North East, and the Rockies in the West.

The Rockies are probably the best place in the world for skiing. North America's "continental" climate means that the snow that falls there is usually very dry, very powdery. It provides perfect skiing conditions in the most famous skiing resorts, 6| are mostly at a 7| of over 2000 metres.

The best resorts are in Colorado and Utah, where the air is usually 8| clear through the winter months. In Colorado one finds America's most famous skiing resorts, Vail and Aspen, where the stars and the rich go for their winter holidays. But the great ski areas of Utah are just as good, with miles and miles of slopes.

There is one big difference between American ski resorts and most Alpine resorts in Europe: the traffic! For most Americans, a skiing holiday means a trip by plane, as most Americans cities are far from the Rockies. Americans do not 9| long holidays, so they cannot spend several days driving to the Rockies. The situation is different for people in Los Angeles and other West Coast cities. They can drive to ski resorts in just a few hours.

Nevertheless, American ski resorts encourage visitors to come by plane and use buses when they arrive: lots of ski resorts offer free bus services from the nearest airports; some, like Aspen, provide free buses between the hotels and the pistes.

10|, people do not sit for hours in their cars, moving very slowly towards the slopes, and the air is not polluted.

Conditions are not going to get worse; the quality of the environment in America's mountains is a very important issue.

1.-	A) where	B) Everywhere	C) Nowhere
2.-	A) although	B) because	C) so
3.-	A) so	B) such	C) that
4.-	A) if	B) unless	C) when
5.-	A) for	B) so that	C) why
6.-	A) that	B) where	C) which
7.-	A) height	B) high	C) highness
8.-	A) beautifully	B) as	C) much
9.-	A) go	B) stay	C) take
10.-	A) As a result	B) Because	C) However

ACTIVITY 2 WHY SALES ARE PSYCHOLOGICALLY 'IRRESISTIBLE'

You are going to read an article about why sales are psychologically irresistible. For questions 1-10 choose the correct answer. Only ONE answer is correct.

Sales play on our fear of missing something: once something is sold you won't get another opportunity to buy it. So, when we see an interesting item with 80% off, instead of walking away and thinking rationally about whether we truly need it, we are more likely to buy it, telling ourselves it's a great deal, even if we end up not using it.

Most of us use the price of an item to help determine its quality. We assume the more expensive an item is, the better it is. So, when we see a €700 jacket reduced to €190, we will assume that it is a better deal than another jacket which has a lower full price of €140. We just have to have it, even if the cheaper jacket has a more practical use.

Stores try to get us to focus on how much we are saving, instead of on what we are spending. After purchasing specials we feel that we have made great savings. It isn't until our credit card arrives that we acknowledge how much we have spent on all of those 'great' buys.

Sales shopping takes time and is an emotional investment. Some sales shoppers spend the whole day (or even days) looking for a bargain. As a result, they feel compelled to come back with something they like or they think they like.

Professor Kit Yarrow of The Golden Gate University advises that the best way to beat sales is to write a list of what you really want before you shop, take time to consider whether you really want an item, and always ask yourself if you would still want the items if they cost the full asking price.

1. What makes us buy something at the sales is the fear of ...

| |

2. If an item has 80% off the price, we buy it ...

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3. We tend to think that ...

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4. We feel that we get a real bargain if ...

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5. Something that makes sales irresistible is: ...

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6. Although the items are bargains, ...

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7. The time invested in the sales is an important factor. So, ...

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8. According to Kit Yarrow, you should ...

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9. The main advice Kit Yarrow gives sales shoppers is: ...

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10. Which of these factors is NOT connected to the fact that 'sales are psychologically irresistible'?

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Adapted from Yes Magazine

LISTENING TASK

ACTIVITY 1 STRESS

Listen to an interview about stress and choose the correct option A, B, or C for each of the sentences 1 - 10. Only ONE option is correct.



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1. Which statement is true?

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2. Scott thinks ...

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3. Something that stresses Scott is waiting ...

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4. Why is he stressed now?

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5. One of the things he notices when he is stressed is that he...

| |

6. What does Scott do about stress?

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7. Tai Chi can help fight stress because, while you're doing it, you ...

| |

8. Sometimes stress makes him ...

| |

9. The exercise he uses to calm him down is something like ...

| |

10. He can do this exercise anywhere, anytime, because ...

| |

www.podcastsinenglish.com

ACTIVITY 2 HOUSING PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

Listen to someone talking about a housing plan for homeless people and choose the correct option A, B, or C for each of the sentences 1 - 10. Only ONE option is correct.

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1. One of the reasons many people become homeless is ...

| |

2. Among the homeless people there are teenagers who ...

| |

3. Living on the street is dangerous for people because they can ...

| |

4. Illnesses can be spread easily in shelters because they are ...

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5. Shelters are not enough because they ...

| |

6. Which statement is correct?

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7. In the first part of the plan, the city will ...

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8. The second part of the plan will ...

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9. Why is this plan different from others?

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10. The mayor hopes to have to put the plan into action.

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www.cdlponline.org

WRITING TASK

ACTIVITY 1 AN INFORMAL EMAIL

Next month you are moving to Manchester, where you have found a job. Write an email to your friend Liz, who lives there. Give her your news and tell her about the job and your accommodation arrangements. Ask her about what to do in Manchester.



ACTIVITY 2 AN ARTICLE

Your English teacher has asked you to write an article for the school magazine about your schooldays. Include information about: the kind of school you went to, subjects and teachers, discipline and an anecdote that you remember.

SPEAKING TASK

In this part of the test we are going to ask some questions that you are expected to answer. Try not to use monosyllabic answers, but to build up your responses; please show interest and take active part in this task.



1st question ¿?

Answer |

|

2nd question ¿?

Answer |

|

3rd question ¿?

Answer |

|

4th question ¿?

Answer |

|

5th question ¿?

Answer |

|

Describe these pictures



Photo by RobW



Photo by Chiot's Run



Photo by Evilpeacock

source: www.educastur.es