

B2 GAP FILLING

TEST 4

MEMORY

Memory is at the (0) _____ of our sense of personal identity. If we did not have memory, we would not be (1) _____ of our relationships with other people and would have no (2) _____ that we had had any past at all. And without memory we would have no knowledge on which to (3) _____ our present and future.

Memory (4) _____ of three processes: registration, retention and recall. Registration happens when we consciously notice something. Retention is the next (5) _____, when we keep something we have noticed in our minds for a certain period of time. Finally, recall occurs when we actively think about some of these things that are (6) _____ in our minds.

Every day we are subjected to a vast (7) _____ of information. If we remembered every (8) _____ thing we had ever seen or heard, life would be impossible. Consequently, our brains have learnt to register only what is of importance.

TEXT 5

HOLIDAYS AT HOME

Official figures show that the number of people (0) _____ international flights is decreasing and that is (1) _____ insignificant changes to holidaying habits.

As the cost of air tickets increases, it appears that more and more families are choosing to (2) _____ their summer holidays at home. People are also becoming more (3) _____ of the harm that flying does to the environment, and see it as a way of helping to (4) _____ the planet, too.

For many parents a summer with no airport queues or overcrowded resorts may seem attractive, but the idea might well be less (5) _____ with their teenage children, who are probably (6) _____ to flying off to the Mediterranean or Miami as soon as school breaks up. So, the question is, how can young people (7) _____ lots of fun when so much will be closed for the holidays, and so many of their friends are (8) _____ to be away?

The answer may lie at the local sports centre. Nowadays, many centres organise summer activities aimed at young people (9) _____ either on indoor or outdoor sports. These might range for instance, from playing table tennis (10) _____ to mountain-biking. As well as being healthy and enjoyable, taking part in activities like these is also an excellent way to (11) _____ new friends. For the most popular activities, though, it is advisable to (12) _____ early for a place – perhaps two or three months in advance.