

YOUR NAME:

YOUR CAMPUS:

READING: SECOND CONDITIONAL.

EXERCISE 1. Read the following passage about a trip to Florence and choose the best answer (a, b or c) for questions 1 to 5.

The most beautiful building I have ever seen is the Duomo (Cathedral) of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Italy. Built over a period of 170 years, it was completed in 1466. It is most famous for its giant cupola (dome), which was designed by Filippo Brunelleschi and is regarded as an engineering masterpiece of the Renaissance. The Duomo is still the tallest building in the city and can be seen from almost every position.

I think many people would agree that it is beautiful, but there are many famous buildings throughout the world that others would choose before the Duomo: the Taj Mahal in India or the Colosseum in Rome, for example. But I have chosen it because of the feelings I had when I first saw it close up.

Let me explain. I was on holiday with some friends in northern Italy and one day we decided to make a trip to Florence. We arrived there at lunchtime and walked around most of the sites – the Ponte Vecchio, the Uffizi Gallery. We could see the Duomo in the distance everywhere we went, and it certainly looked impressive. We then had something to eat, looked around the stores for an hour and decided to go back to the car. We had a map of the city but I'm not too good at reading maps and, well, we weren't lost but we didn't know exactly where we were.

Then suddenly we turned a corner and there it was: the Duomo, with its enormous cupola right in front of me. I was so close I could almost touch it. Usually when you visit the Duomo you approach it from the front and can see it getting bigger and bigger. But we had been in a narrow side street and had come across it by accident and I was so overcome with its size and beauty that I couldn't speak. I think I stood there for a full ten minutes just looking at it.

That is what I remember when I think about the Duomo, and that's why it is, for me, the most beautiful building in the world.

(1) Brunelleschi ...

a) built the Duomo.

- b) was responsible for part of the Duomo.
- c) began the Duomo.

(2) Most people...

- a) don't know about the Duomo.
- b) prefer other buildings.
- c) don't like the Duomo.

(3) The writer was...

- a) staying in Florence.
- b) visiting his friends.
- c) on holiday.

(4) After going shopping, the writer ...

- a) decided to leave the city.
- b) decided to visit the Duomo.
- c) went in the wrong direction.

(5) The Duomo affected the writer so much because...

- a) he didn't expect to see it.
- b) he had looked forward to seeing it.
- c) he hadn't seen it before.

EXERCISE 2. Read the following article on taking a holiday and mark sentences 1 to 7 T (True) or F (False).

We all look forward to our holiday. It's a chance to forget about the stress of the office or the factory and relax for a week or two. We can then return, feeling healthy and ready to face the challenge of work once again. Recent research, however, suggests that for some people going on holiday might cause more stress than staying at work.

It's a particular problem for those people who find it impossible to relax. For a few weeks they are living in a different country or town, with different accommodation and different people around them. They miss their home, their friends, their food. And they worry about things: how much work will I have when I get back to the office? What's happening to the house? Are the family enjoying themselves?

There are also problems caused by spending twenty-four hours a day with the family. During the rest of the year, individual members of the family can get away from each other; they go to school or work; they see their friends. But on holiday, they can't do that; there is no escape. It's not surprising, then, that there is tension, disagreement, arguing.

Also, the theory that most of us return from a holiday fresh and ready to start work seems to be largely untrue. Many people feel depressed about walking back into the office; it often takes them up to a week to get back to normal. Some can't stand the thought of work at all, and call the office to say they are sick.

But if all this is true, why do we all think that holidays are such wonderful things? The answer is that we lie to ourselves and our friends. We have spent so much time and money planning the holiday that we are scared to admit it was disappointing. 'We had a great time,' we say, even if the weather was lousy and the hotel was a dump.

(1) Holidays are relaxing for everyone. T / F

(2) Some people don't like being in a new place. T / F

(3) Everybody usually forgets about work. T / F

(4) Families on holiday have fewer arguments. T / F

(5) People usually find it difficult to return to work after a holiday. T / F

(6) Some can't return to work after their holiday because they are sick. T / F

(7) People often don't tell the truth about their holiday. T / F