

Reading

Reading exam tip

In multiple-choice reading activities, remember ...
If you aren't 100% sure of the correct answer,
begin by taking away any answers which you know
aren't correct.

- 1 **SPEAKING** Imagine you live in a tent in the countryside in your country. What is your daily life like?

Zeki Basan: life in the wild

1 When Zeki Basan was 16, he lived in a tent for almost a year on the island of Skye in Scotland. It can seem unusual for someone to live like that, especially if you are a teenager, but it wasn't for him. He was on a course at the School of Adventure Studies, and thought it was good to learn how to live away from the city while he was studying. The fact that some of his best memories were of growing up in the mountains in the Highlands with his mother and sister probably helped him make this decision. They used to live far away from any towns and even had to use cross-country skis to take food there every winter.

2 Zeki's mother taught him and his sister how to live close to nature when they were young. So Zeki was comfortable playing and exploring in nature. They also travelled to lots of places abroad, so that his mother, a cookery writer, could learn about traditional ways of making food. He saw how people were able to use the land and natural products, and he also wanted to do that one day.

3 Zeki experienced a few difficult situations while he was learning how to live alone in the tent. Once he was in the mountains when the weather got really bad while he was hiking. It was impossible to see very far in front of him, but he knew to stay calm and not panic. That ability was also really useful when he was on a camping trip with his classmates and the weather was horrible. Some people were extremely tired and anxious and had to leave, but it wasn't a problem for him.

4 Zeki doesn't live in a tent anymore, but would like to see more people living the way that he did, so close to nature, for a short period of time. He says: 'People don't really know their environment ... they don't tend to explore it. But to really know your own environment ... is quite an incredible thing.' He feels that if people connect more with nature, they will understand and enjoy it. Zeki continues to enjoy the outdoors and to use his skills in his life now as a young adult – he works in Iceland as a guide, and in Scotland as a survival skills instructor.

- 2 Read the text about a young man who lived in a tent for a year. Then, for each question, choose the correct answer.

- What is the first paragraph about?
 - the advantages and disadvantages of living in a tent
 - the two locations where Zeki lived
 - why Zeki moved to live away from his family
 - why the way Zeki lived at the time was natural for him
- Why did Zeki decide to live in the tent?
 - He disliked going abroad so often.
 - He wanted to develop particular skills.
 - He didn't like his family home.
 - He couldn't find a place to build a house.
- In the third paragraph, how did Zeki react to the difficult situations he was in?
 - He was relaxed and didn't feel worried.
 - He found it difficult not to feel stressed.
 - He felt impatient and a little angry.
 - He needed to feel more confident about himself.
- According to Zeki, why should people try living in the wild?
 - to test some important abilities
 - to understand what it's like to live in a tent
 - to try living apart from their family
 - to get to know and understand nature better
- Which of the following statements is true?
 - Zeki would certainly like to live in a tent again.
 - Zeki thought living in a tent was too difficult.
 - Zeki's love for nature began when he was young, and he still enjoys it.
 - Zeki doesn't have much contact with nature anymore.

