

5A

No time for anything

The bad news is time flies.
The good news is you're the pilot.
Michael Altshuler, American entrepreneur

G distancing **V** expressions with time **P** linking in short phrases

1 LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT busyness

Match the sentence halves.

- 1 OCD **stands** d
 - 2 In the winter I take vitamin C to **ward** _____
 - 3 A healthy diet and regular exercise help to **keep** _____
 - 4 I never have time to relax – I'm always _____
 - 5 Doing sport helps me **keep my mind** _____
 - 6 I'll find out the date and time and **get** _____
- a **back to** you.
b **off** my problems with my teenage daughter.
c some serious illnesses **at bay**.
d **for** obsessive-compulsive disorder.
e **off** colds.
f **on the go**.

2 GRAMMAR distancing

a Complete the sentences with a word from the list.

according agreed apparently appears
believed expected may seem

- 1 There are believed to be as many as 10,000 homeless people living on the streets of the capital.
- 2 It _____ that there is a connection between eating too many carbohydrates and depression.
- 3 The Prime Minister is _____ to announce his resignation by the end of the day.
- 4 _____ to local residents, the man had been acting suspiciously.
- 5 The thieves _____ have been disturbed while they were going through the rooms upstairs.
- 6 It would _____ that the employee was sacked because he had been stealing money from the company.
- 7 It is generally _____ that climate change is one of the greatest dangers facing the planet.
- 8 _____, the footballer was arrested because of an incident at a party last night.

b Complete the second sentence so that you distance yourself from the information. Use the correct form of the verb in brackets.



- 1 The prize was awarded to the wrong contestant. (seem)
It seems that / would seem that the prize was awarded to the wrong contestant.
- 2 Politicians have been falsifying their expenses. (appear)
_____ politicians have been falsifying their expenses.
- 3 The country's largest bank has gone bankrupt. (announce)
_____ the country's largest bank has gone bankrupt.
- 4 The pop star has had a nervous breakdown. (think)
The pop star _____ had a nervous breakdown.
- 5 The accused was under the influence of drugs. (may)
The accused _____ under the influence of drugs.
- 6 An employee leaked the information to the press. (say)
_____ an employee leaked the information to the press.
- 7 The burglars entered through an open window. (might)
The burglars _____ through an open window.
- 8 The economic situation will improve by next year. (hope)
_____ the economic situation will improve by next year.

c Complete the sentences in your own words.

- 1 Human beings are believed to be descended from
one common ancestor.
- 2 It seems that diesel cars _____.
- 3 Apparently, fast food _____.
- 4 There are rumours that a well-known singer _____.
- 5 It is said that sea levels _____.
- 6 It would appear that printed books _____.
- 7 According to doctors, _____.
- 8 It has been announced that the next Olympic Games _____.

3 LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT How long are we prepared to wait before we freak out?

Replace the **bold** British English word or phrase with an American English expression.

- 1 I don't mind people checking their phones – I **don't find it annoying**.
it doesn't really bug me.
- 2 Can you see if you can catch the attention of a **waiter** – I'd like another drink.
a s.
- 3 Do you think you'll make it to the **cinema** for the 6.30 showing?
m _____ th _____.
- 4 My parents **get very angry** if I turn up late for meals.
g _____ m _____.
- 5 If I'm not in the mood for cooking, I'll sometimes get a **takeaway** on the way home.
a t _____.
- 6 I can't stand **waiting in a queue** at the post office.
w _____ i _____ l _____.

4 VOCABULARY expressions with time

a Complete the **bold** phrase in the sentences with the correct form of a verb from the list.

give have kill make up for play for run out of
save spare spend take (x2) take up waste

- 1 My nephew spends **too long** playing video games in his room.
- 2 He _____ **an hour** yesterday evening sitting in a traffic jam.
- 3 It _____ **me a long time** to get home tonight because of the roadworks on the main road.
- 4 We _____ **a lot of time** when we go to Dubrovnik if we get a direct flight instead of flying via Frankfurt.
- 5 I had to _____ **time** when my computer crashed during my presentation – fortunately it restarted after only a few minutes.
- 6 Megan has football training every weekday and also at weekends. The sport _____ **all her time**.
- 7 I'd love to help you, but I'm too busy. I just can't _____ **the time**.
- 8 Jack didn't go out for a year when he was studying for his exams. Now he's out every night. He's _____ **lost time!**
- 9 My mum _____ my brother a **really hard time** for damaging the car.
- 10 Olga is enjoying her first term at university. She's _____ **the time of her life**.
- 11 I couldn't finish the exam because I _____ **time**.
- 12 I _____ **my time** having lunch because I didn't have to go back to work in the afternoon.
- 13 Mike went into the art gallery to _____ **time** before his train was due to leave.



b Complete the sentences with prepositions.

- 1 My colleague has been really stressed recently, so she's having some **time off**.
- 2 I see my old school friends _____ **time** _____ **time**.
- 3 I couldn't answer my phone when you rang. I was in a meeting _____ **the time**.
- 4 The children were starving, and they ate all their lunch _____ **no time**.
- 5 My mum is a bit _____ **the times** – she refuses to get a smartphone.
- 6 The manager called the staff into her office **one** _____ **a time**.
- 7 I don't know any of the groups my dad likes. They were all _____ **my time!**
- 8 He can be very annoying _____ **times**, but I still love my brother.
- 9 If we don't hurry, we won't get to the theatre _____ **time** for the start of the play.
- 10 Parents can speak to the head teacher any time _____ **9.00** _____ **1.00**.
- 11 Our car broke down, so it was dark _____ **the time** we arrived home.
- 12 Karen is very punctual. She's always _____ **time**.

c Complete the time expressions in the conversations.

- 1 A Where are you going?
B Shopping! I need some *me* _____ **time**.
- 2 A Can you help me translate this email later?
B Sorry, I can't. I'm a bit _____ **of time** today.
- 3 A Why do you want to work from home?
B Because it's very **time-**_____ having to commute to London every day.
- 4 A Why does Eddie spend so long at the gym?
B He's got **time on his** _____ since he was made redundant.
- 5 A Why are you looking so happy?
B It's my last day before my holiday. _____ **time tomorrow**, I'll be on my way to New York.
- 6 A Do you think the business is in trouble?
B Yes, I do. It's just a _____ **of time** before it goes bankrupt.

- 7 A Can I have five more minutes?
B Sorry, **time's** _____. Visitors have to leave by 8 p.m.
- 8 A Why aren't you going to see Will again?
B Because he spends **the** _____ **time** talking about himself!
- 9 A Do you think Liverpool can win?
B I doubt it. They're losing 2–0, and there **isn't much time** _____.
- 10 A Are you going to look for a new job?
B No, I'm staying where I am **for the time** _____.
- 11 A My computer is really slow.
B It's _____ **time** you got a new one.
- 12 A Did you walk to the station?
B No, we got a taxi, so we got there **with time to** _____.

5 PRONUNCIATION linking in short phrases

a Draw a line between the words that are linked.

- 1 Oliver's asking for some extra time off.
- 2 My cousin Nick is never on time.
- 3 Doing housework takes up a lot of time.
- 4 We walked to town as we had loads of time.
- 5 We seem to have run out of time.
- 6 It's a question of time before the sports centre closes down.

b 5.1 Listen and check. Listen again and repeat the sentences.

c 5.2 Listen and write the sentences.

- 1 *I was kept awake by the roar of the traffic.* _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

d 5.2 Listen again and repeat the sentences.