

Grammar

- 1 Complete the text with these words. There are two extra words.

did • had • use • used • was • were would

I didn't (1) to be a good listener. I (2) always be thinking about what I wanted to say next or, even worse, thinking how bored I was. I never (3) to be able to concentrate very well in classes either. Then, last year I read a book called *How to be a better listener*. The best piece of advice I read was to ask a question about what the speaker (4) just said. For example, if they said they had seen a film at the weekend, I would ask 'What was it like?'. It really worked. Now, I use the technique in my classes. In my last history class, I (5) about to lose my concentration, but I thought of some questions to ask the teacher while he was speaking and it really helped. When I asked my questions, he was actually impressed that I had been listening!

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- 2 Choose the correct alternatives to complete the story.

When they were at primary school Jim and his younger brother Danny, (1) wouldn't/didn't used/didn't use to get on. Jim would often play jokes on his brother, for example one day he put a plastic spider on Danny's shoulder. Danny (2) used to scream/would scream/screamed and ran out of the house. Another example was when Danny changed the time on Jim's alarm clock. Jim (3) would arrive/arrived/was going to arrive at school one hour early.

However, things have changed. Since they started secondary school they (4) have been getting/have got/were getting on better. Jim often helps Danny with his Maths homework and last week they started playing music together. Danny still (5) hadn't/hasn't/wasn't forgiven his brother for the spider incident, though!

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- 3 Complete the news story with the correct form of the verbs given.

Last week a remarkable story (1) (unfold) about a chimpanzee and a lion cub, both residents of a world-famous zoo in Beijing, China. A lion cub was abandoned by his mother at birth and zoo keepers, wanting to keep the cub alive, decided to call on Kuru, a female chimpanzee, who two weeks previously (2) (lose) her own baby due to natural causes. They believed that Kuru would look after the lion cub and treat it as one of her own. The lion cub was placed in Kuru's cage and Kuru, with the help of zoo workers, immediately (3) (react) to the situation and started feeding the young lion with the aid of a human baby's bottle. Since Monday, zoo keepers (4) (monitor) the relationship between the two animals and they have confirmed that a strong relationship (5) (form) between them.

/ 5

Total / 15

Vocabulary

4 Complete the text with one word in each gap.

It was the final set in the Wimbledon tennis final and Ivanovich was serving for the match. His opponent Tony Grande looked as cool as a (1) on the other side of the net; his eyes as cold as (2) As Ivanovich bounced the ball, the stadium was as quiet as a (3) He served into the corner and quick as a (4) Tony Grande returned the serve, his backhand as solid as a (5) Ivanovich dived to his right and hit the ball perfectly into the back corner. He had won the match.

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5 Complete the text with the correct form of the words given.

How long do emotions last? This is a question that (1) (research) at the University of Leuven in Belgium have been investigating. They found that (2) (sad) may last up to 240 times longer than surprise, fear, or even boredom. The reason for differences in duration is linked to the significance of the event. 'Compared to short emotions, long-lasting emotions are typically the result of events of high (3) (important),' noted the authors in the (4) (conclude) of their new study. Another thing they found was that the women in the study experienced their feelings for a longer duration than the men. Although the study is intriguing, its (5) (accurate) has been questioned as the sample size of 233 students was relatively small.

/ 5

6 Choose the correct alternatives to complete the dialogue.

Louise: What's wrong, Poppy? You look like you want to get something off your (1) head/chest.
Poppy: I wanted to help Jeremy with his homework on Saturday but my parents say I have to lend them a (2) hand/shoulder with the decorating.
Louise: Why doesn't your brother help? He loves painting.
Poppy: No, he has a football match. He's got my parents completely under his (3) hand/thumb. You know the worst thing?
Louise: What?
Poppy: It's his room they want me to decorate!
Louise: You're pulling my (4) hair/leg, aren't you?
Poppy: I wish! I'm giving my brother the cold (5) neck/shoulder until Saturday.

/ 5

Total / 15

Reading

- 7 Read three letters about unusual experiences. Match the questions (1–6) with the people (A–C). You can choose the people more than once.

Letters from readers

This month, we are featuring some of your unusual experiences.

A

One day I was in the middle of a spelling test, when my head started hurting. I didn't pay much attention to it at first because I had often had headaches before and I decided to try to finish the test. However, as I started to write the next word in the test – 'conscientious' I think it was – something strange happened. I couldn't remember how to write. When I looked down at what I'd written, the letters were in the wrong order and didn't mean anything. Then I put up my hand and tried to speak to my teacher, but I couldn't. It was as if a cloud had descended over my brain, making me incapable of communication.

I was taken to hospital, where the doctors were mystified, but said it may have been a migraine – a severe type of headache that can have a strong effect on the body. They told my parents to monitor the situation and make sure I got lots of rest. I was a bit scared and so were my mum and dad, I think. What if I stayed like this forever? Fortunately, there was an improvement in my condition just a few hours later. Gradually, things began to make sense and by that evening I was able to communicate normally again. Since then I've read that what I experienced is called temporary aphasia and that it sometimes accompanies certain kinds of headache. The experience has made me really appreciate the power of words. You don't know what you have until it's taken away. **Abby**

B

My strange experience happened on holiday in California with my mum and dad. It was a balmy August afternoon and my dad and I had decided that in order to cool off we would go for a dip in the sea. The temperature of the water was just perfect. We waded into the deep waters and started swimming.

After half an hour or so, we noticed a pod of dolphins swimming nearby. As they got closer, we thought they wanted to play with us. It was incredible. Then they started circling us. At first, the circle was quite big but it soon got smaller and smaller until the dolphins were so close to us that we could have reached out and touched them! It was amazing to be in such close proximity to a group of wild animals and yet not feel threatened by them in any way. On the contrary, we felt the dolphins were trying to communicate with us in a friendly way.

After about ten minutes, they swam away and my dad and I swam back to the beach, where my mum was waiting anxiously. Before we had a chance to tell her about our amazing experience, she told us something that freaked us out completely. Someone thought they had spotted a shark in the water near where we had been swimming! It was only then that the dolphins' behaviour began to make sense. If there really had been a shark, then maybe it was about to attack and they had surrounded us in order to protect us. We'll never know for sure, but it's just possible that those dolphins saved our lives. **Jasmine**

C

My wife and I have always been fond of animals, which is why, in 2009, we decided to accept the ownership of a zoo in our home town of Devon.

We found the first couple of years extraordinary, especially in the spring months when numerous young were born and Lucy and I spent endless nights with little sleep looking after what felt like our own children.

We enjoyed looking after all the animals but felt a particularly strong bond between ourselves and the gorillas. It could be because we seemed to understand each other. If they wanted something or if something had happened, they were usually able to get the message across.

One spring, Blanca, one of the female gorillas, had a baby. However, regrettably she didn't seem to feel she had the ability to look after her young daughter and one day she signalled to us to take her away. We were unsure what to do but finally decided that this was the best option.

From that day, Blanca's daughter Cola has lived with us in our house. We have adopted her and now she is part of our family. She lives with us, has her own room and despite being an animal, she is able to let us know through hand signals all of her desires and needs. Who said that animals can't talk? **Matthew**

Which person/people ...

- 1 made a difficult decision after receiving an unusual message?
- 2 couldn't be helped by anyone while the experience lasted?
- 3 felt excitement followed by shock?
- 4 values something more now as a result of what happened?
- 5 had an experience which they understood later?
- 6 experienced something similar to parenthood?

/ 6

8 Read the letters again and answer these questions.

- 1 What does Abby suffer from frequently?
.....
- 2 What did she later discover about her condition?
.....
- 3 What did the dolphins do to Jasmine and her father?
.....
- 4 Why was Jasmine's mum worried?
.....
- 5 What was Matthew and Lucy's relationship with the gorillas like compared with the other animals at the zoo?
.....
- 6 How does Cola communicate what she wants?
.....

/ 6

Total

/ 12

Use of English

9 Complete the text with the correct form of the words given.

Solving the problem of sleep

Most teenagers know that getting enough sleep is important for the (1) (develop) of their brains. However, it's not so easy making it a priority when there are many other more exciting things than sleeping. One trick is to keep a consistent sleep schedule. This allows your body to get synchronised with its (2) (nature) patterns. With a regular routine you will find that it's easier to fall asleep at bedtime. Try to have some before-bed habits like choosing your clothes for the next day, making a to-do list or reading a book. Writing things down can reduce stress and anxiety by (3) (literal) taking things off your mind. Of course you shouldn't eat or do anything that involves a lot of (4) (move) within a few hours of your bedtime and try to avoid the television, computer or your mobile. In fact, avoid all (5) (active) which provide (6) (stimulate) to the body or mind when it needs to relax. Since teenagers need 8–10 hours sleep and the average bedtime is 11.00 pm, the solution might be for schools to start one hour later. Schools that have started doing this have reported increased (7) (alert) in the students as well as increased (8) (produce).

/ 8

Listening

10 Listen to an interview with a teenage actress. Are these statements True (T) or False (F)?

- 1 Nicola did her first acting work when she was five. T/F
- 2 She got the BBC role because her mother contacted the producer. T/F
- 3 Her first film role wasn't in England. T/F
- 4 Most of the filming for *The Window on the Sea* took place underground. T/F
- 5 In Nicola's latest film *The Road Trip*, the actor Louise Blake plays a funny character. T/F

/ 5

11 Listen again and complete the notes with one word in each gap.

- 1 Some people say that her mum is
.....
 - 2 She had to do the scene in the sweet shop about times.
 - 3 *Kidders* was a serious drama: there were some fights and some
 - 4 In *The Window on the Sea* Nicola played a character who was than her.
 - 5 In *The Road Trip*, Louise Blake character and Nicola's mother are similar in that they are both
.....

15

Total	/ 10
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Writing

12 You have decided to enter a short story writing competition. The rules state that you must begin the story with the sentence below. Write your story.

Sarah was walking along the beach when suddenly she saw something sticking out of the sand.

Use these ideas to help you:

- your story should have a beginning, a middle and an end
- you should use a variety of past tenses
- you can use some direct speech with different speech verbs instead of 'said'
- use adjectives, adverbs and similes
- you must start the story with the line given

Write 250–275 words.

[illegible]

This image shows a full page of a handwriting practice worksheet. It features multiple sets of horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no other markings or text present.

/ 10

Speaking

13 You are going to interview someone in your class. Think of answers to questions 1–5 below. Try to think of at least two things to say for each one.

- 1 Tell me something about the area where you live.
- 2 Do you prefer studying on your own or with other people?
- 3 Tell me about a film you have seen that you enjoyed.
- 4 What did you do last weekend?
- 5 What kind of job would you like to do in the future?

You could:

- give a reason
- give an example
- add something else

Now work with a partner. Take it in turns to ask and answer the questions.

/ 10

Total	/ 80
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