

8

Time out

READING

1 Complete the article with these words.

continuously decreasing development improve increase progress

Smartphones aren't all bad news!

We hear a lot of bad things in the news about smartphones and the way they are changing our world. But let's stop for a minute and think about all the ways they help us make ¹.....

Smartphones keep us safe. Those apps which ²..... track our location help our friends and family know where we are all the time. And they can even help the emergency services to find people who are trapped after disasters such as earthquakes.

Smartphones actually ³..... our brains – we don't need to remember lots of facts any more because we can look them up on the internet. But this doesn't mean our brain power is ⁴..... – It's just that we have learned how to find information quickly and then we organise it differently in our brains.

Smartphones are also helping the ⁵..... of poorer countries. If you think about it, buying a few smartphones or tablets gives a school access to all the information on the internet. How many textbooks would they need to buy to get the same amount of knowledge?

Finally, smartphones ⁶..... our free time. Being able to shop, check emails and find information on our phones saves time. One study claims we have twenty-two extra days of free time a year, all thanks to our phones!

2 Read the article about taking photos quickly. What experience is the writer describing? Does she feel this was generally a good or bad experience?

3 Read the article again and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

1 In the writer's opinion, the best thing about smartphone photos is that they are

- A very good quality. C instant.
B inexpensive. D easy to post online.

2 The writer began the project in order to

- A remember what she did for a year.
B share her experiences with people she knows.
C improve her photography skills.
D make a decision about her education.

3 In the third paragraph, the writer says that selecting the right images for her project was sometimes

- A relaxing. C difficult.
B boring. D impossible.

4 At the end of the project, the writer felt

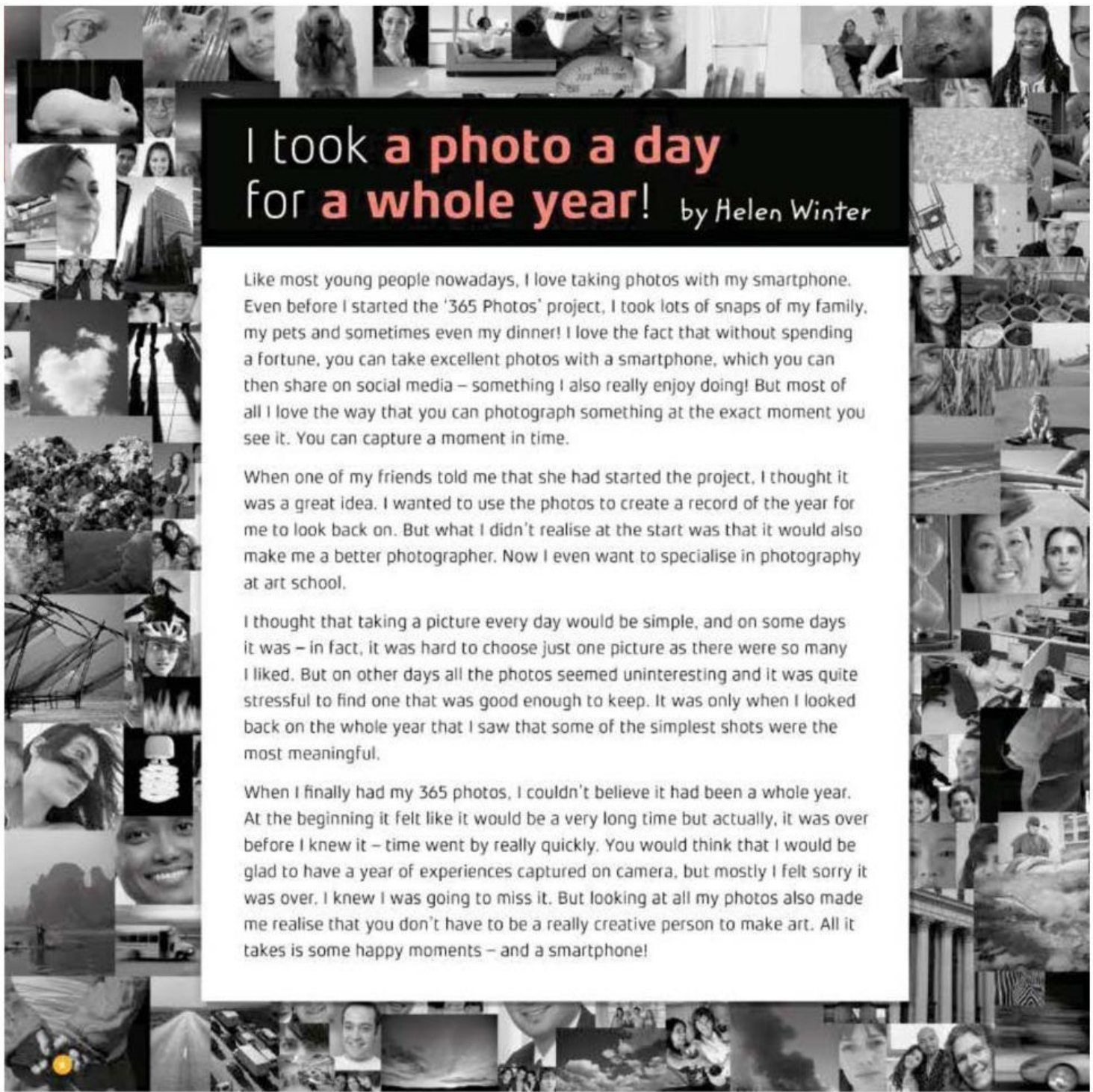
- A worried that she hadn't achieved her aim.
B sad that she couldn't continue working on it.
C happy that she had so many good memories.
D surprised by how much she enjoyed it.

5 What would be a good introduction to this article?

- A Photography student Helen Winter writes about how to take better photos with your smartphone.
B Helen Winter describes how she created a daily picture diary.
C Do we use our camera phones too much? Student Helen Winter discusses this question.
D Helen Winter, 16, argues that we can make art with everyday photographs.

4 Find words or phrases in the article that have these meanings.

- 1 photos (para 1)
2 a lot of money (para 1)
3 record an event, activity, etc. in a photo or on video (para 1)
4 remember something from the past (para 2)
5 be an expert in a subject (para 2)
6 worrying (para 3)



I took **a photo a day** for **a whole year!** by Helen Winter

Like most young people nowadays, I love taking photos with my smartphone. Even before I started the '365 Photos' project, I took lots of snaps of my family, my pets and sometimes even my dinner! I love the fact that without spending a fortune, you can take excellent photos with a smartphone, which you can then share on social media – something I also really enjoy doing! But most of all I love the way that you can photograph something at the exact moment you see it. You can capture a moment in time.

When one of my friends told me that she had started the project, I thought it was a great idea. I wanted to use the photos to create a record of the year for me to look back on. But what I didn't realise at the start was that it would also make me a better photographer. Now I even want to specialise in photography at art school.

I thought that taking a picture every day would be simple, and on some days it was – in fact, it was hard to choose just one picture as there were so many I liked. But on other days all the photos seemed uninteresting and it was quite stressful to find one that was good enough to keep. It was only when I looked back on the whole year that I saw that some of the simplest shots were the most meaningful.

When I finally had my 365 photos, I couldn't believe it had been a whole year. At the beginning it felt like it would be a very long time but actually, it was over before I knew it – time went by really quickly. You would think that I would be glad to have a year of experiences captured on camera, but mostly I felt sorry it was over. I knew I was going to miss it. But looking at all my photos also made me realise that you don't have to be a really creative person to make art. All it takes is some happy moments – and a smartphone!

5 Complete the sentences with words from Ex 4 in the correct form.

- 1 We will these days as a special time when we're older.
- 2 This is a very time for her – she's studying for her end-of-year exams.
- 3 Dave spent on his new phone – it cost around 1,000 euros!
- 4 I love this of my basketball team. Look how happy we all look.
- 5 Wait, let me take a photo. I want to this happy moment!
- 6 I want to in Russian history in college. I find it fascinating!