

1

Your life

Reading

1 Skim the blog post about childhood things. Circle the correct option to complete each sentence.

- 1 At first, the writer *doesn't want* / *wants* to get rid of her childhood things.
- 2 She *refuses to take* / *takes* the things home with her.
- 3 In the end, she decides to *keep a few things* / *throw everything away*.

2 Read the blog post. Match the beginnings of the sentences (1–5) with the endings (a–j). Five are extra.

1 The box was filled when the writer	_____
2 When she first finds the box, she feels that her childhood possessions	_____
3 The T-shirts	_____
4 Back at her home, she can't	_____
5 In the end, she realizes that her old things	_____

a belonged to her mother.
b were gifts from friends.
c went to university.
d aren't trash, but memories.
e was a young child.
f remind her of her favorite music as a teenager.
g aren't themselves memories: they're just old objects.
h fit the box in her trash can.
i could be enjoyed by her own children one day.
j find a place to store the box.

4 Circle the statement (1–5) which best summarizes what the writer realized.

- 1 It can be difficult to get rid of gifts from people you love.
- 2 It's best to completely let go of the past.
- 3 You shouldn't let your house become too full of trash from your childhood.
- 4 Memories are more important than things.
- 5 Things can be an important part of your identity.

What do you do with things from your childhood?

When I left home fifteen years ago, a lot of stuff from my childhood went in a box in my mother's house. Now she's moving and I have to deal with it. It looks like a box of trash: a worn-out teddy bear; a plastic doll with one arm missing; some random T-shirts, slightly ripped, with the names of bands no one remembers—things I don't need anymore. Too many, too old. I myself haven't thought about any of these items since I put them in the box when I left home for university. And yet here they are—not trash, but *memories*. My memories. From when I was a baby until I left home, the bear slept next to me in my bed every night. The broken doll was a tenth birthday gift from my favorite aunt. The T-shirts are souvenirs from my teenage years—a brief time when the bands I liked were an important part of my identity. And right now, I can't bear the thought of throwing any of this away.

And so I close the lid, tape it up, and prepare to take the box home with me, to the apartment I share with my husband and kids. Where will I put it? I have no idea—we don't have a lot of space. And what will happen to it? If the past is anything to go by, nothing. The box will probably sit quietly for another decade until it's my turn to move and I discover it—forgotten again—and try to figure out what to do with it. My memories.

Back at my house, I try to find a place to store the memory box. The cabinets are all full and so is the tiny storage area in the basement of the building. The box won't fit under my bed. And then it hits me. It isn't quite right to call these old things my memories. After all, my memories are in my head—and in my heart.

When I open the box and look again with clear eyes, I see that the bear and the doll are both so badly damaged that no child would want to play with them. The T-shirts are torn and not even close to clean. Nobody—especially not me—needs these things. I have a photo of me, aged three, with the bear and one from a few years later playing with the doll—before she lost her arm. And there are also photos of me and my friends wearing those T-shirts with our favorite bands on them—I can enjoy looking at those and remembering those years, that music, the concerts. My *actual* memories. And now I know. It's time to let these old things in the box go.



Grammar

Auxiliary verbs in questions and short answers

1 Put the words in the correct order to make questions.

1 my / Jackie / you / do / remember / friend / ?

2 Indonesia / brother / Wayan's / isn't / in / living / ?

3 friends / work / new / at / some / haven't / made / you / ?

4 in / Wang / didn't / up / China / grow / ?

5 are / living / hometown / your / in / still / your / friends / oldest / ?

6 friend / Krakow / have / from / Sylvie's / met / you / ?

3 Did you become friends when you first met?

- a Yes, I was.
- b Yes, we have.
- c Yes, we did.

4 You didn't see Mr. Ong yesterday.

- a No, you didn't.
- b Yes, that's right, I did see him.
- c Actually, I did see him.

5 I met Karla in Mexico City.

- a She's from there, isn't she?
- b You met her in Mexico City, didn't you?
- c Didn't you meet her there?

6 Can you give me Leon's phone number?

- a I didn't, did I?
- b Didn't I already give it to you?
- c You gave it to Leon, didn't you?

7 Piet and Carmen met at work.

- a They met at work, didn't they?
- b Were they working in the same office?
- c They have?

2 Match the answers (a-f) with the questions (1-6) in Exercise 1.

a Yes, I have. She's lovely. _____

b No, they aren't. _____

c Yes, I do. _____

d No, I haven't yet. _____

e Yes, he did. _____

f No, he isn't. _____

3 Read each sentence and circle the correct response.

1 We've known each other for twenty years.

- a You did?
- b You have?
- c You are?

2 I didn't know Jorge when we were kids.

- a Neither did I.
- b So did I.
- c Yes, they were.

4 Complete the conversation with these verbs. There is one extra.

don't	did	did	do	were
aren't	have	haven't	was	doesn't

Jan: I know I've told you two about each other, but ¹ _____ you met?

Bianca: No, we ² _____. I'm Bianca.

Carlos: I'm Carlos. Nice to meet you. You're from Italy, ³ _____ you?

Bianca: That's right—from Naples. And you come from Costa Rica, ⁴ _____ you?

Carlos: Yes, I ⁵ _____. But actually I spent a few years in Rome—at university.

Bianca: ⁶ You _____?

Carlos: I was there from 2010 to 2013.

Bianca: Seriously? So ⁷ _____. I You weren't at the European University of Rome, ⁸ _____ you?

Carlos: Yes! Were you?

Bianca: I was! Jan, did you know about this?

Jan: No, I didn't. But I ⁹ _____ have a feeling that you two should meet.

5 Number the conversation lines (a–j) in the correct order.

a _____ Nuria: Yeah, I have. I got a text from her a few days ago.

b _____ Nuria: She sounded well. She's moved to a new apartment.

c _____ Nuria: Not far from Las Ramblas.

d _____ Nuria: Yes, she did. You should text her.

e _____ Nuria: No, it isn't. You should get in touch. She asked about you last week.

f _____ Ana: Oh, she has? Where?

g 1 Ana: Have you heard from Kati?

h _____ Ana: How is she?

i _____ Ana: Oh, that's not far from my work, then.

j _____ Ana: She did?

6 Complete the conversation with one word in each space.

Jody: ¹ _____ you ever see Marcus?

Liz: ² _____, I do—every day at work.

Jody: But ³ _____ he working at a different job now?

Liz: ⁴ _____, he isn't. He's changed his mind about that.

Jody: Oh, he ⁵ _____? I didn't expect to hear that!

Liz: ⁶ _____ did I. But they wanted to keep him, so they offered him more money.

Jody: I guess he really ⁷ _____ a valuable employee, isn't he? They must really like his work.

Liz: Yeah—they ⁸ _____.

Listening

1   Listen to the podcast about education. Match the names (1–4) with the correct belief about the goal of education (a–d).

1 Tom	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	a find employment
2 Bea	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	b understand nature
3 Amir	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	c live in society
4 Lise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	d develop intelligence

2   Listen to the podcast again. Are the statements (1–8) true (T) or false (F)?

1 Zara says that she believes that current education systems are not meeting the needs of students and society. T F

2 Tom thinks that everyone should leave high school with the necessary skills to start a career. T F

3 Tom believes that university is probably unnecessary for most people. T F

4 Bea works as a science teacher at a university. T F

5 Bea points out that science can be practical and useful. T F

6 Amir thinks that Tom and Bea's opinions are incorrect. T F

7 For Amir, the information you learn in education is the most important thing. T F

8 For Lise, building relationships is an important part of education. T F

Vocabulary

Education

1 Match the words (1–9) with the words (a–i) to make expressions.

1 evening	a system
2 memorize	b classes
3 education	c grades
4 pay	d for exams

5 carefully review	e a degree
6 get good	f attention
7 stay	g a lot of facts
8 graduate from	h focused
9 get	i high school

2 Complete the sentences with some of the expressions from Exercise 1.

- 1 One of the easiest ways to succeed as a student is to _____ to the teacher in class.
- 2 When studying, sit somewhere quiet and comfortable so you can _____ on your work.
- 3 If you go to university to _____, you need to study hard—sometimes even in the evenings.

4 When I studied history at school, I had to _____—dates, places, and people's names.

5 You should _____ at the end of the year—they give you an opportunity to show that you really know the subjects.

6 If you want to change your career or learn new skills, you could look at the _____ that are available at your local college.

7 Think carefully about what you'd like to do after you _____, and ask your teacher or older relatives for advice.

8 The _____ isn't right for everyone. Some people prefer to learn new skills while they work.

Focus On

Short questions

1 Circle the correct question words.

A: Jess and Lina have gone camping.

B: ¹Where / What to?

A: I'm sharing an apartment near university.

B: ²How long / Who with?

A: Yusuf has finally finished his degree.

B: ³Where / What in?

A: This poem was written in 1930.

B: ⁴Who / How long by?

A: Petra is taking a break from her studies.

B: ⁵How long / When for?

A: They borrowed \$10,000.

B: ⁶What / Where for?

2 Complete the short questions with the correct prepositions.

A: Ella has joined a couples' dance class.

B: Who ¹_____?

A: Hector, her best friend.

A: Orhan wants to borrow your calculator.

B: What ²_____?

A: His math homework.

A: Ursula has just completed a master's degree.

B: What ³_____?

A: Environmental law.

A: I'm going out now.

B: How long ⁴_____?

A: About two hours.

A: \$15,000 was given to the school!

B: Who ⁵_____?

A: I don't know. It was a secret donation.

A: We're planning a class trip.

B: Where ⁶_____?

A: The art museum.

2 Match the beginnings (1–7) with the endings (a–g) to make sentences describing people who have contributed to a community.

1 He means so much to all of us _____

2 If I could write computer code like her, _____

3 He's the person _____

4 She's the reason why _____

5 My passion for martial arts _____

6 I admire him for _____

7 She's an amazing painter _____

a who brings people together.

b I started playing soccer.

c because he believes in us.

d because her work really makes you feel something.

e his sense of humor.

f I'd be really happy.

g comes from his classes.