

1 ▷ Listen and complete the sentences. Write between one and five words for each answer.

- 1 Last month's _____ was great fun.
- 2 His parents and _____ bought him some lovely presents.
- 3 The _____ made him think of when he was a teenager.
- 4 At the end of the night, _____ took taxis home.
- 5 He wants to thank _____ for a special birthday.

2 points for each correct answer

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2 Read the sentences and choose whether the underlined words refer to a, b or c.

- 1 My daughters' favourite animals at the zoo were the tigers. At lunchtime we watched the zoo staff feed them.
 - a daughters
 - b animals
 - c tigers
- 2 Thelma and James both work in sales and have been at the same company for a year. They say it's a great place to work.
 - a sales
 - b company
 - c year
- 3 When I told them I had lots of offers from the universities I visited last month, my parents were really proud of me.
 - a offers
 - b universities
 - c parents
- 4 To celebrate getting his new job, Julio first went to a restaurant for lunch with friends. Then he went to a show in the evening with his wife. They both really enjoyed it.
 - a job
 - b restaurant
 - c show
- 5 My sisters said goodbye to my grandparents and so did my parents, then we got in the car and I gave them a lift to the station.
 - a said goodbye
 - b got in the car
 - c gave them a lift

2 points for each correct answer

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3 Choose the correct answer from the words in italics.

A few years ago I spent a holiday in Indonesia, and while I was there I ¹*took* / *was taking* a boat trip to a remote island. I have always been interested in birds and ²*was being told* / *had been told* that there was some great bird-watching on the islands. As soon as we reached our destination, everyone ³*went* / *had gone* in different directions to explore. I was so keen to do the same that I ⁴*hadn't listened* / *wasn't listening* when the guide told us what time to return to the boat. I ⁵*set off* / *had set off* towards a beach I could see in the distance, where I ⁶*had hoped* / *hoped* to find some interesting birds. After spending some time looking at some fabulous wildlife through my binoculars, and after I ⁷*had taken* / *was taking* several photographs, I suddenly ⁸*had realized* / *realized* that I had no idea what the time was, or when we were meant to be back at the boat. I quickly gathered my things and ⁹*raced* / *was racing* back when I saw the boat disappearing into the distance. Luckily, one of the other passengers ¹⁰*was noticing* / *had noticed* that I was missing and the boat soon turned around to pick me up. Much as I loved the island, I didn't really want to spend the night there alone!

1 point for each correct answer

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4 Choose the correct option a–c to complete the sentences.

- I love listening to music _____ I'm in the bath. It's my favourite way of relaxing!
 - by the time
 - during
 - while
- _____ their new model of smart phone came out, there were people queueing up to buy one.
 - As soon as
 - Until
 - Meanwhile
- In most countries around the world, people aren't able to vote _____ they are eighteen years old.
 - while
 - until
 - during
- Last night, Johanna was busy working in the library. _____, all her friends were out having a good time.
 - By the time
 - During
 - Meanwhile
- _____ people reach the age of sixty-five, they have usually worked for many years.
 - As soon as
 - While
 - By the time

2 points for each correct answer

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5 Read the article about bad news in the media. Then complete the sentences. Use one, two or three words from the text for each answer.

Bad news stories

Many of us complain that there is too much bad news in the media these days, and that journalists tend to focus on negative stories rather than happier, more positive ones. However, a recent study carried out at a university in Canada revealed some rather unexpected results, and it's possible that it's us, the reader, who is at fault, rather than the media.

The researchers weren't convinced that most people really prefer to read good news, and criticized past experiments as being unreliable, so they set out to do some of their own, in order to get to the bottom of things. One of their criticisms of previous research was that it relied on the participants doing tests in their own homes and reporting back their results, rather than being observed under proper scientific conditions.

In these new tests, the researchers monitored the participants as they read news stories, and they noticed that they often chose to read ones with a negative angle. Strangely, this was particularly true of those subjects who had claimed that they preferred news stories about current affairs and society. This led the researchers to believe that many of us may be fooling ourselves, and are in fact more negative than we actually think.

One possible explanation for this is that humans may have an inbuilt negative side, called a 'negativity bias', which makes us naturally focus on danger and disaster. Apparently this isn't simply that we enjoy reading about other people's bad luck, but rather it could be that evidence of bad news signals that we need to change our behaviour in order to avoid potential threats. In other words we are always on the lookout for negative signs that could represent dangerous situations, so that we can change our behaviour appropriately. Laboratory tests also proved that we respond more quickly to negative words such as 'war' or 'bomb' than to words such as 'smile' or 'baby'; when asked to hit buttons flashing up particular words, reactions were quicker when negative words appeared.

Another possible explanation is that we all have a more positive image of ourselves and our lifestyles than is actually realistic. We like to think of ourselves as better than average, and believe that things will have a positive outcome. For that reason, when we are faced with negative news or events, they have much more of a contrast for us and stand out more.

- 1 Who do people often blame for negative stories in the news? _____
- 2 How did the researchers describe previous research on this topic? _____
- 3 Where had experiments been done in the past? _____
- 4 What does reacting quickly to bad news help people get ready for? _____
- 5 What type of view do people usually have about life in general? _____

2 points for each correct answer

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6 Read the article again. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F). If there is no information about this, choose 'not given' (NG).

- 1 New research says that journalists are less negative than other people.
T / F / NG
- 2 People who like current affairs are more likely to read negative news stories.
T / F / NG
- 3 It was proved that the results of all previous experiments were wrong.
T / F / NG
- 4 We generally have a faster response to positive words than negative ones.
T / F / NG
- 5 People with positive attitudes generally have better lives.
T / F / NG

2 points for each correct answer

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7 Choose the correct option a–c to complete the sentences.

1 I like most forms of entertainment but I often _____ why people like films that scare them. It seems so strange!

- a wonder
- b expect
- c remember

2 His friends regularly _____ him of the day he lost his keys and all his money. He would have preferred to forget it had ever happened!

- a believed
- b realized
- c reminded

3 They'd been there once but didn't think they'd _____ the house again, especially in the dark.

- a whisper
- b recognize
- c appear

4 It's a fascinating book, but very few people _____ that all the events actually happened.

- a will appear
- b will believe
- c will disappear

5 After the day had started so badly, nobody _____ that we'd all enjoy ourselves so much.

- a expected
- b forgot
- c screamed

2 points for each correct answer

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8 Complete the sentences with the present simple, present continuous or present perfect form of the verb in brackets.

1 I _____ (know) Oscar for three years. We met when we were at school together.

2 Robert isn't at home because he _____ (spend) all day at the beach and won't be back until later.

3 Ana's quite shy and so she _____ (not/like) loud people.

4 Our friend Toby travels a lot for his new job and _____ (go) to eight different countries since he started.

5 Some people _____ (talk) with their friends every day, even if it's only through social media sites.

6 Sorry, but you've missed Daniel – he _____ (just/go) for lunch with his brother.

7 Ellen _____ (call) last night to say that unfortunately she can't come to the cinema tomorrow.

8 Peter and Julia had an argument yesterday and they _____ (not/speak) to each other since.

9 I _____ (not/meet) my colleague Johanne because we only communicate through email so I don't know what he looks like.

10 Fernando is at his French class. He _____ (learn) the language for his trip to France next month.

1 point for each correct answer

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