

PART I: LANGUAGE

A. Complete each of these sentences so that it means the same as the sentence written before it.

1. Scott started taking surfing lessons two months ago.

Scott _____ two months.

2. Lucy likes skiing in the mountains, but she prefers a beach holiday.

Although _____ a beach holiday.

3. Scott's parents told him, 'Don't be so negative!'

Scott's parents told _____ negative.

4. I don't want to go on holiday with my family but I can't choose.

If _____ on holiday with my family.

5. Nicholas is very good at skiing. His father is an instructor.

Nicholas, _____, is very good at skiing.

B. Complete with the correct tense or form of the verbs in brackets. Use modals, when necessary.

***Sugarloaf Mountain***

Nicholas Priesley, aged 16, had gone skiing with his father in Sugarloaf Mountain, one of the best ski resorts in the USA. It was a Sunday afternoon and they ¹(climb) _____ back down the mountain

when Nicholas saw a shortcut. He decided to take the shortcut although his father insisted on ²(continue) _____ on the official path. They agreed ³(meet) _____ back at the car park for the drive home. And that was the last his father saw of him that day. After a few hours Nicholas's father raised the alarm. A massive search party ⁴(organize) _____ but it soon began to snow and the search stopped.

Meanwhile, Nicholas was desperate. He ⁵(lose) _____ his way completely and realized that he ⁶(spend) _____ the night on the mountain. Fortunately, he knew how to make a snow cave so he found a safe place to build his cave and lay inside waiting to be rescued.

The next day, Nicholas ⁷(find) _____ by a man on a snowmobile, who immediately took him back to the resort where his parents ⁸(wait) _____. "I must admit I ⁹(be) _____ really fortunate," said Nicholas minutes after arriving at the resort. "Next time, I promise I ¹⁰(pay) _____ more attention to my father's suggestions," he said.

C. Fill in the blanks with words from the box. There are **four extra words** which you do not need to use.

AMAZING	AMAZED	AS	BEEN
BEING	DIDN'T	DOESN'T	GET
GETTING	IF	PROMISED	SEEN
	SO	UNLESS	

Mind the gap

It had been a tough year and Lucy was looking forward to _____ away. Her exams had gone well and she had _____ accepted into university, but she knew she needed this gap year. If she _____ do it now, when would she be able to go? Six long years of medical school awaited her, _____ taking a year off to travel before starting her studies seemed the right thing to do.

Her parents and best friend had _____ her off at the airport – her mum had cried, her dad had given her an extra hundred pounds, and her friend had threatened never to speak to her again _____ she didn't keep in touch. Lucy _____ to email regularly, but knew it might be difficult at times _____ she was going to some places where Internet access would be a problem.

As Lucy sat on the plane waiting for take-off, nervously rolling and unrolling her boarding pass, she thought about her first port of call – Tanzania. _____ the weather was bad, she would climb Mt Kilimanjaro. It would be the start of her _____ year-long adventure.

D. Complete the following dialogue with a suitable word or phrase.

Winter holidays are coming

Scott: The winter holidays are just a month away!

Nick: I know! This year I'm planning to go snowboarding. I want to try my new snowboard.

Scott: New snowboard? Wow! How long (1) _____?

Nick: For a couple of weeks. And I can't wait to try it!

Scott: You must (2) _____.

Nick: I *am*. Look, I have an idea. Do you fancy (3) _____?

Scott: I'd love to. But my parents won't let me. My mother has already told me that (4) _____.

Nick: The beach? But you hate the beach.

Scott: I know, but what can I do?

Nick: If I were you, I (5) _____.

Scott: I've tried that a million times. But they won't listen. Plus, they think that winter sports are too dangerous.

Nick: What if you tell them my father will be with us? He's an experienced instructor.

Scott: That's a good idea, but maybe next time. Thanks anyway, mate.

Nick: Sure thing.

PART II: READING

E. Read the passage and answer the questions.

The best holiday ever!

Winter was fast approaching and all Scott wanted to do was to go snowboarding. Unfortunately, Scott's parents had different plans. They had booked a weeklong tropical cruise. Scott hated warm weather and had asked if he could just stay at his best friend's house so he could snowboard every day with his friends at the local mountain. His parents didn't want to hear anything of it. He kept discussing the topic with them, but they would not change their minds. Family time was important to them, and it was tradition that they spend winter break together.

The week of the cruise arrived, and Scott was still mumbling his complaints as he and his family left their house to head south. Scott's dad told him that he would only make the holiday worse for himself if he didn't change his attitude and open his mind to a new experience. Scott still couldn't stop thinking about all of the snow he was leaving behind.

When they arrived at the port to board the ship, Scott had a hard time admitting that he was impressed with the size of the ship. He remembered the brochures said something about a surfing pool. Maybe surfing would be similar to snowboarding. After all, it involved riding a board.

Scott climbed on board the ship with his parents and he couldn't believe how extravagant the accommodations were. The dining room looked like a royal hall and the game room had all his favourite games and more. To his surprise, the ship's deck had several different swimming pools, even a surfing one. It was incredible! It had waves and the girl who was demonstrating how to ride the waves made it look like a ton of fun.

By the time the holiday was over, Scott had new friends he planned to keep in touch with, a new hobby and great memories. He apologized to his parents for his initial negativity, and told them it was the best holiday ever.



1. Why didn't Scott want to go on the cruise holiday with his family?
2. How did Scott's parents deal with his demand to stay with a friend?
3. What did Scott's parents advise him to do when they left their house?
4. When did Scott start to think differently about the cruise holiday?
5. Why did Scott consider this to be the best holiday ever?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

PART III: WRITING

F. Choose ONE of the following subjects and write **about 120 words**.

1. An online magazine is publishing a series of short stories about strange or unusual experiences. The best stories will be given a prize. The story must end with the following sentence:

It was the strangest experience of my life.

Write your **story**.

Scott: That's a good idea, but maybe next time. Thanks anyway, mate.

Nick: Sure thing.

2. Your English friend is coming to visit you next month and this is part of an email he has sent you:

I'm really looking forward to this trip, but you know me, I like to plan everything well! I would very much like to go and see as much as possible, without spending too much money. Have you had any thoughts about how we could make the most of the week?
Simon

Write your **email**.