# 1.4 READING

Working away from home
- phrasal verbs and collocations
- daily routine

**1 Read the text quickly and choose the best title.**

A I love my long holidays at home ☐
B Life is difficult when my husband comes home ☐
C This is not the right job for me ☐

**Arthur lives in Portsmouth with his wife and three children. He has a good job but he isn't happy. Arthur is the captain of a large tanker. He loves ships and the sea and is good at his job. He earns a lot of money and has a lot of free time at work to study languages and write. So what's the problem?**

Arthur has a 'three months on – two months off' contract, which means that he goes to sea for three months and then has two months' holiday. This means that some years he isn't at home for Christmas, some years he is away during the summer holidays and every year he misses someone's birthday, school shows and other special days. His children are twelve, ten and six and they grow quickly at that age.

When Arthur comes home, the children spend a day or two just looking at him and trying to think of what to say. The last week of his leave is filled with tears. There are also good times. The family have parties to celebrate any birthdays missed and they sometimes have Christmas dinner in November or January but there is always a feeling of sadness that they can't happen at the right time.

Life is also difficult for his wife, Theresa. She is a teacher and, for three months, has no husband to help her with shopping, cooking, cleaning and checking homework. She is very strict, so the children help with the housework, go to bed at nine o'clock and get up for school without any problems. Theresa prepares dinners in advance and makes the most of every hour of the day. Then, Arthur comes home. He ignores the normal bedtimes because he wants to tell his children stories and play with them. The children stop doing housework and, because they go to bed late, they are tired when they get up in the morning. Of course, Theresa understands and is pleased to see her family so happy, but it takes a week or more to get life back to normal when Arthur goes back to sea.

Now, Arthur wants to find a job on land but he knows it isn't easy. What can a ship's captain do when he isn't on a ship? Arthur's dream is to be a writer of children's books and work from home. This dream cheers him up when he is on the other side of the world and still has two months before he sees his family again.

GLOSSARY

**tanker** *(n)* – a large ship that carries oil

**leave** *(n)* – time that you are allowed to spend away from your work

**strict** *(adj)* – expecting people to obey rules or to do what you say

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**2 Read the text and choose the correct answers A–C.**

1 Arthur doesn't like
- A working on a boat.
- B spending time away from his children.
- C the captain on his ship.

2 Arthur gets two months' holiday
- A after working for three months.
- B once a year.
- C at the same time each year.

3 Arthur never
- A spends Christmas at home.
- B celebrates his children's birthdays.
- C has a year when he is at home for all the special days.

4 Arthur's wife
- A doesn't do all the housework when Arthur is away.
- B doesn't go out to work.
- C isn't very well organised.

5 When Arthur is at home, his wife
- A is angry with him for changing the children's bedtime.
- B is tired for the first week because of the changes.
- C is happy to see how her husband spends time with their children.

6 In the future, Arthur wants to
- A work on ships that don't sail long distances.
- B write about his life at sea.
- C stay at home and write stories for children.

**3 Look at the underlined phrases in the text. Complete the sentences with one word in each gap. The first letters are given.**

My sister's son is fifteen. He's a bit difficult. I think a lot of children are, at that **a**ge.

1 It's a very sad film. My eyes are always filled with **t**_____ when I watch it.
2 Don't wait for the day of the concert to buy tickets. We can buy them in **a**_____ on the Internet.
3 This is the last day of our holiday. Don't spend the time at your computer. Make the **m**_____ of the day. Go swimming, go for a walk, have some local food.
4 My dad works three days on, three days **o**_____, so he often works at the weekend.
5 My mum works **f**_____ home, so she is always there when we get back from school.
6 We're in Australia! I can't believe it. We're on the other **s**_____ of the world!

**REMEMBER THIS**

**Expressions with 'of'**

The genitive form in English is often written with 'of', e.g.

*the captain of a ship*
*a feeling of sadness*
*the last week of his leave*
*a writer of children's books*

**4 Read REMEMBER THIS. Put the words in the correct order.**

is / a / Lucy / English / of / teacher
*Lucy is a teacher of English.*

1 children / Elizabeth / a / three / of / is / mother
_____

2 the / is / of / last / school / this / week
_____

3 week / my / the / Saturday / favourite / is / day / of
_____

4 my / of / skateboard / this / the / dreams / is
_____

## VOCABULARY PRACTICE | Phrasal verbs and collocations

**5 Look at the vocabulary in lesson 1.4 in the Students' Book. Choose the correct word.**

# Our lives

We are all different and here is your chance to tell other people about your typical day.

**Joanna, aged 17**

My mum gets up [1]*last / late / first*, but I also get up early – at 7 o'clock every morning. Then I [2]*take / wake / get* up my brothers. They don't like getting [3]*off / up / on* early, that's why I 'help' them ☺. We [4]*get / go / make* dressed and have our breakfast. We [5]*have / take / wash* the dishes and go to school.

School finishes at half past three. At home, I look [6]*for / after / up* my two brothers. My parents finish work at five o'clock. At seven o'clock we eat together and then I do my homework. I usually take the dog [7]*out / on / up* for a walk. I love our dog Maxy and I always enjoy our walks. I [8]*go / fall / get* asleep at ten o'clock! It's a busy life, but at the weekend, I am free! And I can get up [9]*early / late / first* at last!

**Comments (1)** *Wednesday 18th April, 23.14*

Are you sure you go to bed at 10? Look at the time of your post!

## WORD STORE 1E | Daily routine

**6 Complete the sentences with the words from the box.**

at for (x2) on (x2) out of to (x3)

I don't want to stay at home on Saturdays.
1 They like to go _____ museums and look at the beautiful things there.
2 Our cat often sits _____ the sofa with us.
3 Aylin goes _____ a run in the park every day.
4 Sometimes it's difficult to get _____ bed in the winter when it's so dark outside.
5 At the weekend, we go _____ a swim at the beach.
6 Boris usually lies _____ the sofa all weekend and watches TV!
7 My grandparents never go _____ bed late.
8 My brother often goes _____ the gym with his friends.

LIVEWORKSHEETS