

Test – unit 8

1 📖 Read the two texts and choose the correct answers.

Text 1

It had all started with the cellar about two years ago. We were going to get the house redecorated after our sons had moved out to live on their own. We thought it would be a good idea to store some of our old furniture and household equipment in the cellar before deciding what to do with it. As you can imagine, the result was a total mess comprising boxes, old toys, sports equipment and hundreds of other things which I didn't even know we still had. While trying to sort things out, I realised that there was so much space down there that we could easily turn the room into a bar or a gym.

I was so keen on the idea that I was actually going to have all the stuff taken away by a house clearance company, but my wife wanted to check everything carefully and sort it into things worth keeping and things to throw out. We ended up having a heated argument about it.

Anyway, as a consequence of my wife's insistence, we carefully sorted things out and made a list of items to dispose of, give away or possibly sell. You might think it was a dull and unpleasant business, sitting in a dusty room clearing up years of clutter, but it was quite the opposite. Many of the things brought back happy memories and, although the whole process delayed the redecoration for two months, it was well worth the effort.

When we'd finally finished, our house boasted a small private gym in the cellar. Although we'd both been regular users of the local gym, it was really great to have one that we could use any time we wanted. Also, donating our sons' old toys and sports equipment to a local charity shop was a really worthwhile thing to do. Actually, we continued with decluttering the house by throwing away some unwanted items of furniture and fittings. Contrary to our initial fears, the house didn't appear empty or soulless. In fact, it felt more like a home and less like a warehouse full of junk.

1 What initially made the writer and his wife decide to have their home redecorated?

- a They couldn't stand the mess in their cellar.
- b They wanted to throw away some old equipment and furniture.
- c They had planned to turn the cellar into a more functional space.
- d Their children had moved out.

2 Which of the following is true about the couple's story?

- a They were both ready to dispose of old things as soon as possible.
- b They agreed with each other during the entire process.
- c They eventually agreed to do the job in a systematic and orderly way.
- d They both thought it was a boring and annoying job.

3 Which of the following was NOT a result of decluttering the cellar?

- a The couple helped others in need.
- b The cellar turned out to be more useful than before.
- c The house lost its character and was unpleasant to live in.
- d The couple started working out in their private gym.

Text 2

It's difficult to deny the materialistic nature of contemporary society. One effect is that we're practically drowning in clutter. But why do we happily restrict our living space by accumulating unnecessary objects? Well, storing things is often comforting as we like to think that we'll use them sooner or later. But, the truth is, we hardly ever do! Sometimes, we're unable to throw them out because of sentiment. More often, however, it's because we are now what's termed a consumer society. We have come to believe that buying things is a measure of our financial success and often purchase things needlessly in a way that is often beyond our financial means. And gradually, over a period of time, we clutter our homes – and our lives – until it reaches crisis point.

That's when we realise that the time has come to do something about it. Most often, it is when we find it difficult to fit the latest purchase into the house or garage; at other times it's because children have grown up and moved out, or we decide that certain items would be better off being donated to a jumble sale for charity.

This is the moment that helps us to see the truth: clutter does have a profound negative influence on our life. It takes up valuable resources: time, space, money and energy. Tidying the house becomes ever more time-consuming, and your living and working space, if you work from home, is severely reduced. Research has also shown that clutter can make you a more passive person – it uses energy which you could otherwise use for more creative pursuits like sports, hobbies or improving your social life.

4 According to the final paragraph of Text 2, decluttering helps us

- a understand better which items we really need.
- b spend less on buying things.
- c improve the quality of our lives.
- d work more effectively.

5 From both texts we learn that

- a there are many good reasons for decluttering your home.
- b it is difficult to work from home if your house is full of junk.
- c many people donate any unnecessary items to charity organisations.
- d people can't lead an active lifestyle unless they first declutter their home.

2 Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

- 1 A real **drawback / point** of living in a big city is that it's quite expensive.
- 2 **At / In general**, I don't use credit cards very often.
- 3 I **support / approve** this point of view because it's very practical.
- 4 Some people **tell / claim** that money is the root of all evil.
- 5 I **tend / believe** to agree with people who don't value material things too much.

___ / 5

3 Translate the Polish parts of the sentences into English.

- 1 You need to _____ (zgłosić skradzioną kartę kredytową) as soon as you can.
- 2 My neighbour has got a _____ (stragan na bazarze) selling fruit and vegetables.
- 3 With online banking, it's quick and easy to _____ (przelewać pieniądze) between accounts.
- 4 I tried to _____ (włożyć swoją kartę) into the slot, but it wouldn't go in.
- 5 Contactless payment is very convenient if you want to _____ (dokonać transakcji) with a small amount of money.

___ / 5

4 Complete the sentences with the missing words. The first letters have been given.

- 1 If you k_____ in the wrong PIN number three times, your card might get blocked.
- 2 They organised a car b_____ sale in the neighbourhood last week to raise money for a local charity.
- 3 Unfortunately, some people value their material p_____ more than relationships.
- 4 The US dollar is the c_____ of the United States.
- 5 Because I need something bigger for my business, I'm going to t_____ my car for a pickup truck.

___ / 5

5 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

- 1 I entered my account online to see how much money I had in it.
I entered my account online to check my _____.
- 2 Some people might buy things without control just to make themselves feel better.
Some people might go on a shopping _____ just to make themselves feel better.
- 3 How much do I need to pay you to change the oil in the car?
How much do you _____ for changing the oil in the car?
- 4 I think we should throw away this old sofa.
I really think we should get _____ of this old sofa

6 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

- 1 No one has informed her about the meeting.

- She _____ about the meeting.
- 2 A plumber fixed the shower last week.
We _____ by a plumber last week.
- 3 People say that it's easy to spend too much these days.
It _____ that it's easy to spend too much these days.
- 4 We needed to borrow some money from the bank.
We needed to take _____ from the bank.
- 5 Someone will send you the documents next week.
You _____ the documents next week.
- 7 Complete the sentences with the prompts in brackets, using the correct form of *have something done*.
- 1 I lost my keys, so I _____ (have / the locks / change) yesterday.
- 2 After the operation, she now _____ (have / her eyes / test) at least once a month.
- 3 I'm staying with a friend this week because I _____ (have / my flat / redecorate) at the moment.
- 4 Extending the garage is going to be quite expensive, so we _____ (not have / it / do) until we've saved up enough money.
- 5 The intercom still doesn't work. We _____ (not have / it / repair) yet.