# READING COMPREHENSION

1. Read the email about a family gathering. Five sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences **A–G** the one which fits each gap (**1–5**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Hi Claire

I heard that you're out of hospital now and I hope you're feeling much better. **0** [B] It was a shame you couldn't be there but everyone sends you their best wishes and says get well soon.

Granny had such a lovely time. It was a good idea of mum's to have a garden party because there were lots of children there. **1** [ ] The twins are nearly four and there's Bluebell, who is now a toddler, and a newborn baby boy called Dylan. I held him for a little while and it reminded me of when your brother Arthur was a baby. Do you remember when I used to come and babysit? You were such a cheeky girl – much more difficult to look after than Arthur. **2** [ ]

Anyway, of course you already know Arthur couldn't come all the way back from New York but he sent Granny some beautiful flowers and a card. In fact, she got lots of nice cards and presents and Ella also made her a fantastic cake. **3** [ ] She's really talented. I suspect she may be Granny's favourite great-grandchild!

I saw Jamie briefly and he says hello. He seems to have settled down now and his girlfriend is really lovely. She's called Sarah and she's very different from that awful woman he used to go out with. What did we use to call her? Moody Melanie! I'm glad she wasn't there.

Joanna and John were packing for their holiday but they popped in to see Granny. John managed to drop a bowl and smash it, even though they were only there for about half an hour! He's just as accident-prone as he ever was. Granny thought it was pretty funny. **4** [ ]

It was a nice touch to invite some of Granny's friends as well as family and we enjoyed getting to know them. Granny says she is having more fun now in her retirement than in her forties and fifties because then she was just focused on work and the family and she didn't use to have much time for socialising. **5** [ ] Her friends, Edna and Rowena, are in their late seventies but they don't seem elderly somehow. They certainly seemed to enjoy the children's company and all the tea and party food.

I'm attaching some photos so you can see how happy Granny was. I'm making a photo book too. Would you like me to order one for you?

Let me know when you're fully recovered and I'll bring her for a visit. She'd love to see you.

Lots of love

Julianne

**A-** She said she remembered previous family get-togethers when mum would always ban him from the kitchen!

**B-** I thought I'd email you to tell you about Granny's 70th party.

**C-** As a middle-aged woman myself, I can see what she means!

**D-** You would hide in all sorts of places and it took me ages to find you.

**E-** I was amazed at how many people turned up to celebrate with her.

**F-** I can hardly believe she's only 15.

**G-** I'd forgotten how many kids Anna has now.

2- Read the following article and choose the correct option (**A, B, C** or **D**).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

## ***Bringing the countryside into the city centre***

*Student architect Alan Clark talks about parks around the world.*

Most people in the world live in cities. But city life isn't always great it's often too hot to spend time outside in the summer, there's pollution from traffic and there are signs everywhere saying that people can't ride skateboards or bikes. However, green spaces can bring the countryside into city centres and really make people's lives better.

I played in my local park as a child, but I never thought about how important it was to me. Then, at sixteen, my uncle invited me to stay with him in Valencia during the school holidays and took me to the Jardín del Turia. This amazing park is over seven kilometres long and until 1986 it was just empty land after the river flooded the whole city. It now has space for walking, social areas for chatting and even a playground for kids. You don't have to pay to use it, so everyone can enjoy it. People who live nearby are healthier and happier and love their city park.

I started reading about other exciting green spaces and found the High Line in New York. This was an old railway line, ten metres above the city, and is now a colourful park with flowers and wild areas, and amazing views over the city. The city government was worried it would be expensive to build and no one would use it. However, it was popular from day one. As well as New Yorkers, it attracts thousands of tourists, and the money they spend in the city more than pays for it. Local people work with city gardeners to keep it tidy.

The Underpass Park in Toronto is on land under road bridges, which was covered in rubbish before. You don't see it as you drive past, so it's a special, secret place. It's also peaceful, as you can't hear the traffic above. Because the road gives it a roof, people can use it in all weather and it's lovely and cool in the summer. It doesn't have much natural light, but mirrors on the 'walls' solve this problem. Mainly teenagers use it, and because they feel it's theirs, they know they must keep it clean and they mustn't leave rubbish.

1. What is the writer doing in the first paragraph?

A- explaining how his work as an architect helps to make cities better

B- telling people about the dangers of pollution in cities

C- explaining the need for green spaces in cities

D- giving advice to people on how to build new parks in their city

2. Alan first became interested parks while he was…

A- visiting a relative.

B- playing in his local park.

C- studying at school.

D- working with his uncle.

3. What do we learn about the High Line in New York?

A- Not many people used it at first.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B- There are sometimes too many tourists.

C- It is quite expensive for the city.

D- People who live nearby help to look after it.

4. How does Alan feel about the Underpass Park?

A- He is disappointed that it doesn't get much natural light.

B- He is glad that people of different ages use it.

C- He is worried that people might leave rubbish there.

D- He is pleased that people can't see it from the main roads.

5. Which best describes Alan's opinion about green spaces in cities?

A- They're nice, but they aren't as good as the real countryside.

B- They are a good way to use empty land and can bring lots of benefits to people.

C- They are expensive to build, and they can cause problems.

D- They make cities look more attractive, but people don't always use them.

LIVEWORKSHEETS