

Reading

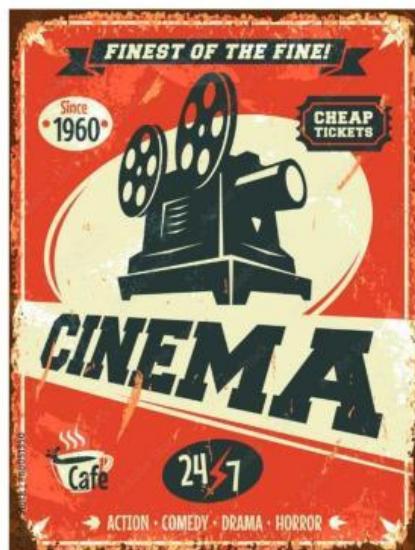
Task 1

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5). There are three choices you do not need to use.

1



2



3



4



5



Which event _____?

- A. provides a film marathon during a month
- B. provides assistance to conservation programs
- C. provides a venue
- D. provides a gig
- E. provides a workshop
- F. provides financial support for film creators
- G. provides a wide range of films
- H. provides a space for parking

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

Task 2

Read the texts below. For questions (6 -10) choose the correct answers (A, B, C or D).

We live on the island of Hale. It's about four kilometres long and two kilometres wide at its broadest point, and it's joined to the mainland by a causeway called the Stand - a narrow road built across the mouth of the river which separates us from the rest of the country. Most of the time you wouldn't know we're on an island because the river mouth between us and the mainland is just a vast stretch of tall grasses and brown mud. But when there's a high tide and the water rises a half a metre or so above the road and nothing can pass until the tide goes out again a few hours later, then you know it's an island.

We were on our way back from the mainland. My older brother, Dominic, had just finished his first year at university in a town 150 km away. Dominic's train was due in at five and he'd asked for a lift back from the station. Now, Dad normally hates being disturbed when he's writing (which is just about all the time), and he also hates having to go anywhere, but despite the typical sighs and moans - why can't he get a taxi? what's wrong with the bus? - I could tell by the sparkle in his eyes that he was really looking forward to seeing Dominic.

So, anyway, Dad and I had driven to the mainland and picked up Dominic from the station. He had been talking non-stop from the moment he'd slung his rucksack in the boot and got in the car. University this, university that, writers, books, parties, people, money, gigs. And when I say talking, I don't mean talking as in having a

conversation, I mean talking as in jabbering like a mad thing. I didn't like it ... the way he spoke and waved his hands around as if he was some kind of intellectual or something. It was embarrassing. It made me feel uncomfortable - that kind of discomfort you feel when someone you like, someone close to you, suddenly starts acting like a complete idiot. And I didn't like the way he was ignoring me, either. For all the attention I was getting I might as well not have been there. I felt a stranger in my own car.

As we approached the island on that Friday afternoon, the tide was low and the Stand welcomed us home, stretched out before us, clear and dry, beautifully hazy in the heat - a raised strip of grey concrete bound by white railings and a low footpath on either side, with rough cobbled banks leading down to the water. Beyond the railings, the water was glinting with that wonderful silver light we sometimes get here in the late afternoon which lazes through to the early evening.

We were about halfway across when I saw the boy. My first thought was how odd it was to see someone walking on the Stand. You don't often see people walking around here. Between Hale and Moulton (the nearest town about thirty kilometres away on the mainland), there's nothing but small cottages, farmland, heathland and a couple of hills. So islanders don't walk because of that. If they're going to Moulton they tend to take the bus. So the only pedestrians you're likely to see around here are walkers or bird-

watchers. But even from a distance I could tell that the figure ahead didn't fit into either of these categories. I wasn't sure how I knew, I just did.

As we drew closer, he became clearer. He was actually a young man rather than a boy. Although he was on

the small side, he wasn't as slight as I'd first thought. He wasn't exactly muscular, but he wasn't weedy-looking either. It's hard to explain. There was a sense of strength about him, a graceful strength that showed in his balance, the way he held himself, the way he walked.

6. In the first paragraph, what is Caitlin's main point about the island?

- A It can be dangerous to try to cross from the mainland.
- B It is much smaller than it looks from the mainland.
- C It is only completely cut off at certain times.
- D It can be a difficult place for people to live in.

7. What does Caitlin suggest about her father?

- A His writing prevents him from doing things he wants to do with his family.
- B His initial reaction to his son's request is different from usual.
- C His true feelings are easily hidden from his daughter.
- D His son's arrival is one event he will take time off for.

8. Caitlin emphasizes her feelings of discomfort because she

- A is embarrassed that she doesn't understand what her brother is talking about.
- B feels confused about why she can't relate to her brother any more.
- C is upset by the unexpected change in her brother's behaviour.
- D feels foolish that her brother's attention is so important to her.

9. In the fourth paragraph, what is Caitlin's purpose in describing the island?

- A to express her positive feelings about it.
- B to explain how the road was built.
- C to illustrate what kind of weather was usual.
- D to describe her journey home.

10. In 'because of that' in paragraph 5, 'that' refers to the fact that

- A locals think it is odd to walk anywhere.
- B it is easier for people to take the bus than walk.
- C people have everything they need on the island.
- D there is nowhere in particular to walk to from the island.

Task 3

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (11 - 15). There are three choices you do not need to use.

A Dance

In this class, you will learn four different types of dancing: salsa, tango, Zumba and hip-hop. Join our excellent dance teachers, Antonio and Stella, who will show you special techniques over a ten-week course. So, if you love music and are ready to have fun, join our classes on Monday and Wednesday!

B Film School

This year, Jason Williams is leading our film school course. Jason is a young director and teacher. He will show you how to use a video camera, manage lights, and act in a movie. The group will make a small film at the end of the course. This is an exciting course, so sign up now!

C Hill Walkers

The Hill-walking Club opens on September 1st. If you love walking in the mountains, this club is for you! The first walk is to Crystal Lake on Mount Marcy. Hill walkers should wear good walking shoes and bring lots of water, a raincoat and food in a bag. If you're ready to get exercise, join this group!

D Dog training

This course is for you and your dog! Learn to train your dog how to sit, jump and run. Dog-training expert, Imelda Ruff, will show you techniques to train your dog for local and national shows. If your dog is successful, you can enter the big national show at the end of the year. So come to this course if you and your best doggy friend want some fun together!

E Ancient China

In this unusual course, we discover China's ancient art and culture. Hyung Wei Chang will teach you about the best ancient Chinese artists, the Ming dynasty, and you will also learn about ancient Chinese buildings. On the last day of the course, the group will have dinner at The Golden Elephant on Green Street.

F World Music

In this amazing course, you will listen to music from Africa, Australia, India and many other countries worldwide. You will also have the chance to try unusual instruments like the triangle. In this course, you will meet famous world musicians and go to concerts to listen to their music. This is the most expensive course, but it's excellent.

G Cooking

Do you love to eat? Then, maybe you should learn how to cook! Pierre Chevalier teaches you how to prepare French food in a simple way. Pierre will also teach you about Italian, Greek and Turkish food. Everyone must bring their own ingredients, but you are allowed to eat everything you make!

H Painting Course

Nikolai Ramonov will meet all new students at Studio 4 to teach art. The course includes art history and painting. You will learn how to use oils and watercolours. You will also learn how to paint an object, a person and a landscape. Nikolai is a well-known artist in his town of St. Petersburg.

11. Kezia is from London in the UK. She loves her city because it's exciting and interesting. In her free time, she likes going to restaurants. She enjoys trying products and dishes from different countries.

12. Floyd is from Kingston, the capital of Jamaica. He lives near the Bob Marley Museum in the city center. In his free time, Floyd likes to visit the zoo and gardens with his friends and enjoys walking to the waterfall in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica.

13. Badou is from Paris, France. During the week, he's a student at the Sorbonne. At the weekends, he works in a bookshop in the city. Badou loves visiting museums, painting pictures and shopping when he has time.

14. Jennifer is from San Francisco in the United States. She owns a small shop that sells women's clothes, bags and shoes. She works a lot, but in her free time, she loves music, meeting friends, and going to nightclubs.

15. Carla is from Sydney, Australia. She works in the National History Museum. She likes her job but wants to travel more in the future. She speaks Spanish quite well, and she is learning Mandarin. She wants to live in Beijing for one year as an English teacher.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (16 - 20). There are three choices you do not need to use.

Jane had always lived in the city, amidst the hustle and bustle of tall skyscrapers and busy streets. Growing up in such a fast-paced environment had its benefits. (16) However, she was increasingly tired of everything around her: the noise, the traffic, the stress.

Everything changed when she visited her grandparents in the countryside one summer. Walking through the vast green fields, listening to the gentle chirping of the birds, and feeling the cool breeze on her face was a refreshing experience. (17)

By the end of her stay, Jane found herself contemplating a life outside the city. She felt an unusual connection to nature and started exploring the idea of permanently moving to a rural area. Six months later, Jane made up her mind and decided to leave

her city apartment. (18) Her friends thought she was making a hasty decision, but she felt it was the right choice for her.

Now, living in the countryside, she has her own garden and even a few farm animals. (19) There's a sense of community she had never experienced before. While she occasionally misses the convenience of city life, the natural beauty and calmness of her new surroundings more than make up for it. (20) She often jokes that the only traffic she encounters now are the sheep crossing the road.

- A. The peace and quiet were in complete contrast to the noisy city life she was accustomed to.
- B. She secured a job in a local school and rented a small cottage by the river.
- C. She spends her mornings tending to her plants and feeding the chickens.
- D. Many nights, she found herself looking at the starlit sky from her bedroom window.
- E. There were always things to do, places to visit.
- F. But the constant noise and chaos often left her feeling exhausted.
- G. She loves visiting the local farmer's market on weekends.
- H. The people living there seemed content and relaxed.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

Use of English

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (21-26) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

The maple tree is a commonly recognized tree, especially known for its vibrant autumn colors. Found in cool, temperate (21) , this tree is popular in many parts of North America. During autumn, its leaves change from green to brilliant shades of orange, red, and yellow, and often become a tourist (22) in regions where they flourish.

Many might simply see the maple tree as a decorative plant, but it has multiple (23) that go beyond its visual appeal. Historically, its wood has been used for crafting furniture, musical instruments, and even for making syrup. Nowadays, if you (24) in your kitchen, you might find maple syrup, a sweet liquid (25) from the sap of the maple tree, which is a popular topping for pancakes and waffles.

The production of maple syrup is quite fascinating. The sap is collected during the early spring when temperatures start to (26) after the winter, and it's later boiled down to produce the syrup. This sweet treat has become a staple in many breakfast dishes around the world.

	A	B	C	D
21	climates	weathers	surroundings	circumstances
22	distraction	attraction	deviation	diversion
23	jobs	uses	tasks	duties
24	glance	see	watch	look
25	shaped	made	built	formed
26	grow	lower	drop	increase

Task 6

Read the text below. For questions (27-32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Australia's wildlife is quite different to animals in the rest of the world (27) Australia is far and isolated from many other countries. Some of these animals live in protected national parks, (28) the platypus, the kangaroo and the koala. The platypus looks like a duck but has a tail and soft brown fur. It spends most of its time in rivers, searching for food. The baby platypus grows in an egg, but it drinks milk from the mother as it grows.

(29) are four types of kangaroos in Australia. The Eastern Grey and Red kangaroos are larger, approximately two meters in height. However, the Red kangaroo is the heaviest, with around 90 kilos average weight. This kangaroo lives in a very dry region in New South Wales. The Eastern Grey is found in Queensland and Victoria.

(30) smallest and lightest kangaroo is the Antilopine which weighs about 38 kilos. We find this animal in Northern Australia, where it enjoys grassy plains and forests. (31) is about 1 meter in height. The Western Grey Kangaroo, a little larger at 1.2 meters, is found in the Darling River Basin as it prefers the forest and coast. The Western Grey kangaroo (32) 54 kilos in weight.

	A	B	C	D
27	since	however	though	although
28	so	as	such	like
29	They	There	This	Those
30	The	An	A	-
31	This	It	These	Those
32	are	be	is	been