10 SURPRISE!

VOCABULARY Phrases with *in, out of, at, by*

1 **Complete the sentences with *in*, *out of*, *at* or *by*.**

1 I didn't mean to delete the email – I did it _____ accident.
2 We met _____ secret to plan Marta's surprise party.
3 It was completely _____ character for David to lose his temper like that.
4 Please let me know _____ advance if you can't come to dinner.
5 Sixteen people _____ all turned up to watch our first performance.
6 I'll answer any questions you have _____ detail during the class tomorrow.
7 She found out completely _____ chance that her friend had moved house.
8 The car driver admitted he was _____ fault for the accident.
9 Don't give your details on social media websites – they're _____ risk of being misused.
10 The boy on the skateboard appeared _____ nowhere and ran straight into me!

2 **Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first sentence. Use a phrase from Exercise 1.**

1 It wasn't me who caused the fire.
I wasn't _____.
2 This message has suddenly appeared on my screen.
This message has appeared _____.
3 I wasn't expecting to see Martin in town today.
I saw Martin in town today _____.
4 I'll tell you all about my problem later.
I'll tell you about my problem _____ later.
5 Sarah and I met without telling anybody.
Sarah and I met _____.
6 It was extremely unlike Daniel to lose his temper like that.
When Daniel lost his temper, it was completely _____.
7 If we lose this match, we might lose the championship.
The championship is _____ if we lose this match.

3 **Answer the questions about you.**

1 What was the last thing you did in secret?
_____
2 Have you ever done anything out of character? What?
_____
3 How far in advance do you make arrangements for the weekend?
_____
4 How many cousins do you have in all?
_____
5 When was the last time you did something by accident?
_____

READING

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

A Coincidences – magic or maths?
B Great coincidences in history
C There's no such thing as a coincidence

PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

Reading and Use of English Part 6

2 **Read the article again. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.**

A It was soon revealed that they had been born on the same day.
B Now that would be a real surprise.
C Similarly, people will meet others who look like themselves, and falling babies will land on the same person – albeit very, very rarely.
D And this is where the problem lies, because there usually isn't one.
E As a result, the coincidence becomes much easier to accept.
F This was a remarkable stroke of luck in its own right, but it is only half the story.
G But are they just two chance events, with no special meaning?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Coincidences almost never fail to surprise us. An unexpected meeting in an unexpected location, two simultaneous events, a dream that appeared to come true the next day – there are many varieties of coincidence. 1 Here are a couple of examples for you to consider.

On July 28th, 1900, the King of Italy, Umberto I, was having dinner in a restaurant in the city of Monza. He was surprised to discover that the restaurant owner was also called Umberto and that they both looked and spoke very much alike. 2 What is more, the restaurant owner had married a woman called Margherita, which was the name of the queen whom Umberto had married on the same day, and the restaurant was opened on the day of the King's coronation. Sadly, the restaurant owner was shot dead the next morning. Then, later that same day, King Umberto I was also shot dead.

Then there is the case of Joseph Figlock, a street sweeper in Detroit, USA, in the 1930s. He was sweeping a street when a baby fell from a high window onto him. The baby survived the fall, and both man and baby were unharmed. 3 The following year, another baby fell from another window onto poor Joseph Figlock as he was passing underneath. And once again, they both survived the event.

So what are we to make of these extraordinary events? One explanation is known as the Law of Truly Large Numbers. This says that with a large enough sample, many strange coincidences are likely to happen. Because we never find it strange when likely things occur, we tend to pay a lot of attention to unlikely events. We notice them more, and look for an explanation. 4 It's just that we humans find it very difficult to understand large numbers.

Considering there are more than seven billion people on the planet, improbable occurrences are to be expected. The unlikeliest of events become highly likely to happen somewhere. Even dreams which appear to predict the future can be explained by the Law of Truly Large Numbers. When seven billion people all dream for two hours per night, some of those dreams are bound to 'come true' the next day. 5

As mathematics professor John Allen Paulos says, 'In reality, the most astonishingly incredible coincidence would be the complete absence of all coincidence.' What? No coincidences at all? Ever? 6

EXAM TIPS

- Read the text quickly for its general meaning and read the sentences A–G, underlining the important words.
- Look at the sentences in the text before and after the gaps to find possible links with the sentences A–G.
- Read through the whole text with your answers in place to check it makes sense.

3 **Match the highlighted words in the article to the meanings.**

1 in an extremely surprising way .....
2 not hurt or damaged .....
3 happening at the same time .....
4 things which happen .....
5 a group of people or things being tested .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS