

In this part you:

- **read** through one long text divided into sections, or up to six shorter texts
- **find** information in the text that matches ten short questions

Tip! Make sure you read the instructions and the title of the text, if there is one. Then read through the questions and underline any key words that may help you find the answer.

1. Read through what Maisie says about her first family skiing trip. Then find the part of the text in which she talks about:

- 1 how optimistic her dad was about how the family would feel regarding the trip.
- 2 something they did that subsequently proved very useful
- 3 what her dad had overlooked when calculating whether they could afford it
- 4 her family's attitude to going somewhere cold for a holiday.

I think it was my dad's idea that we should give a skiing holiday a try – despite the fact that, as a family, we've actually never been very keen on chilly weather, snow, and all those other things you have to cope with on trips to places like the average ski resort! But, determined not to be put off, he went ahead and booked it, hoping that our enthusiasm would grow once the departure date drew a bit nearer. Of course, when he was first deciding whether we could pay for it all, he hadn't reckoned on all the extra expense involved – warm clothes, gloves, ski-lift pass. But we were all touched by the fact that he really wanted to give us a special treat, so we put on a brave face, and even went to get in some practice on the dry ski slope near our home before we left – which we were all glad we'd done, in the event.

2a Which one of these sentences matches most closely what Maisie says about the trip?

- A They really appreciated what their dad was trying to do for them.
- B They feared they weren't going to enjoy skiing, however hard they tried.
- C They changed their minds about the trip when they realised skiing wasn't as hard as they'd thought.

b Why are the other two options wrong?

3 Now read what Marko says about his first time out on the ski slopes. Find the part in which he talks about:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 the discomfort he felt while attempting to ski | 3 the sudden change in his level of ability |
| 2 what he'd imagined himself achieving | 4 his irritation at the lack of warning from others |

Of course, nobody had told me what it would really be like to be on skis, had they? They'd somehow carefully avoided mentioning it would be virtually impossible to stand up on skis initially, never mind gliding skilfully down the slope, doing an amazing jump or turn at the bottom, and hearing gasps of admiration from everyone watching. I spent most of the first hour or so down on the ground, ankles burning with the pain of being twisted over my unforgiving boots. But I was determined to keep going, and it wasn't long before something amazing happened and I actually experienced what it felt like to ski a short distance without crashing over. From then on I didn't look back – and by the end of the week, my instructor had actually promoted me out of the beginners' group. Way to go!



4a Which of these sentences most closely matches what Marko says about his skiing experience? Underline the part of the text where he says this.

- A His early attempts made him realise he probably wasn't a natural skier.
- B He refused to be put off by his initial lack of success.
- C After his poor performance, his instructor's response came as a complete surprise.

b Why are the other two options wrong?

You are going to read an article about four young people taking part in swimming races in open water. For questions 43–52, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Tip! Read closely when you think you have found the answer to a question. There may be information in more than one paragraph which appears to answer a question, but it won't be *completely* correct in both. Check carefully!

Which person

made a costly mistake about what strategy to use in the water?

found they were handling poor conditions more easily than some other competitors?

was lucky to have escaped being injured while swimming?

was on the way to victory at an early point in their race?

felt confident about producing a good performance prior to the race?

remained unaware for some time that others in the race were in difficulty?

exceeded their own expectations in the initial stages?

missed out on winning due to an unfortunate occurrence?

received much-needed support at a critical point?

felt they'd learned from the race despite not being successful?

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Advice

44 Look for a reference to poor conditions. B says the water was *rough*, and D mentions conditions were *dire*. Which one found that other swimmers were not continuing with the race?

49 Which person was surprised to keep up with the leaders early on, as they knew those swimmers were better?

A Angela

As I was about to set off, I just kept thinking about what my coach had told me: 'The ones who are ready are the ones who win.' And I knew I'd done everything I possibly could to prepare, even swimming the course a few days previously, so I felt his words really applied to me. On the day of the race, the water was calm but I couldn't see far ahead, and I'd lost sight of the other competitors, so I hoped I was leaving them behind. Then suddenly I felt a huge bang on my chest and realised other people were actually ahead of me – and one had kicked me hard. She apologised and no damage was done, fortunately, but it was a reminder to try and keep my distance, if possible. Anyway, the incident didn't affect the result – I was so far back by then that I couldn't possibly have won anyway!

B Sam

On race day, I was a bit cautious getting into the water as it was rough. And there were a lot of other people swimming the same route, so my plan was to try and keep up with them, while also avoiding them so that I didn't get kicked, difficult though that might be. Once in the water, I actually began to swim a lot harder than I'd ever done in practice and I suddenly realised I was keeping up with swimmers who were clearly stronger than me in training. However, I soon noticed they'd all switched to a more relaxed breaststroke, presumably to pace themselves and conserve their energy, while I'd made up my mind to maintain the faster overarm crawl, and becoming worn out in the process. Anyway, to cut a long story short, I just decided to put this race down to experience. I found myself further and further behind, and in the end realised I'd never be able to win!

C Krista

There were so many swimmers taking part that I knew I'd have to swim tactically. The only problem was, I didn't really know any tactics! But I decided to up my speed to pass the swimmer ahead of me, and then settle into a rhythm before I passed the next one. That'd always seemed to work OK before, as long as I managed to swim wide around them to avoid getting hit. Anyway, I was soon up among the leaders and in with a good chance. The aim of the race was to swim out around a marker, then back to the beach, and run straight to our coach who'd be timing us. The three fastest times would win. However, as I hadn't got my glasses on, I rushed up to the wrong person, sadly ... and dropped out of the first three places as a result. Oh well!

D Tom

The sea conditions were pretty dire on race day, with big waves rolling towards the shore. I decided I'd just let others go ahead of me and simply aim to finish – that in itself would be an achievement. I resolved to see each wave as a challenge and meet each one head on, then go with the current as much as possible. The trouble was, doing that, I couldn't really see what the other swimmers were up to, so I was amazed when I heard some of them call out that it was too rough and they were giving up! I'd been coping OK, so I ploughed on, although I was getting tired. What really got me through, though, was finding my close friend swimming just nearby, so we made a promise to each other then to keep going now we'd come so far – and we did! That's what I call teamwork – even though we didn't win!