

GS 12 - Unit 10: Reading

Exercise 2: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5.

It was commonly believed that the brains of men and women were wired differently, with men better at spatial awareness and logical reasoning and women at social skills, multitasking and memory. (1) _____ more recent research has determined that the gender of the brain does not necessarily match the gender of the person to whom it belongs. (2) _____ believe that gender differences in thinking are less physically determined but more as a result of social conditioning. There has been a lot of research recently into the teenage brain (3) _____ appears to show that a brain does not totally mature until the mid-20s and consequently parts of the brain which control behaviour, such as risk-taking, planning ahead, etc., are less developed in the teenage years.

Some suggestions have been that learning a language or musical instrument can help to keep the brain active, the same applies to (4) _____ crosswords and activities with numbers, such as Sudoku.

Motor skills are important when children are young, memory and cognitive ability (5) _____ a higher importance in one's teens and twenties, whilst emotional intelligence is very important for young adults and adults.

[Adapted from Expert IELTS Teacher Book 1]

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|---------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Question 1: A. But | B. Or | C. And | D. So |
| Question 2: A. The others | B. Others | C. Other | D. Another |
| Question 3: A. who | B. whom | C. where | D. which |
| Question 4: A. getting | B. having | C. doing | D. making |
| Question 5: A. consume | B. assume | C. presume | D. resume |

Exercise 3: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5.

The idea of learning often conjures images of classrooms and textbooks. (1) _____, learning isn't confined to formal education; it's a lifelong process that can happen anywhere, anytime. Whether you're a recent graduate or a (2) _____ professional, there's always something new to discover and skills to develop. You can pursue your interests through online courses, attend workshops, or simply (3) _____ conversations with people from different backgrounds. Learning a new language can open doors to (4) _____ new cultures and broaden your communication skills.

Overall, lifelong learning fosters a sense of curiosity, (5) _____ helps your mind be active and engaged. So, embrace the joy of learning, no matter your age or background. There's a whole world of knowledge waiting to be explored!

[Adapted from Solutions]

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|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Question 1: A. However | B. Therefore | C. Otherwise | D. Moreover |
| Question 2: A. seasoned | B. reasoned | C. reasonable | D. seasonal |
| Question 3: A. mix up | B. strike up | C. put up | D. wake up |
| Question 4: A. few | B. little | C. many | D. much |
| Question 5: A. who | B. which | C. where | D. when |

Exercise 4: Read the following passage and circle the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct word that best fits each of the numbered blanks.

It's never too old to study

At the age of 97, Allan Stewart set a world record for being the oldest university graduate when he (1) _____ his Master of Clinical Science from Southern Cross University in New South Wales, Australia. This was Stewart's fourth university (2) _____, which broke his own Guinness World Record in 2006 when, aged 91, he (3) _____ a law degree at the University of New England. Stewart (4) _____ his first degree, a Bachelor of Dentistry, from the University of Sydney in 1936. He later completed a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at Northwestern University in Chicago, and worked as a (5) _____ in London, Sydney and the rural areas of northern New South Wales. He said that people were never too old to study. "It is never too late to (6) _____ your mind, make new friends and (7) _____ yourself to achieve something worthwhile." Allan Stewart has (8) _____ an inspiring example for us to follow and learn throughout our lives.

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|--------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 1: A. received | B. sold | C. bought | D. revised |
| Question 2: A. paper | B. degree | C. certificate | D. form |
| Question 3: A. created | B. made | C. completed | D. graduated |
| Question 4: A. learnt | B. earned | C. bought | D. stayed |
| Question 5: A. scientist | B. lawyer | C. teacher | D. dentist |
| Question 6: A. train | B. expand | C. consolidate | D. create |
| Question 7: A. force | B. develop | C. challenge | D. carry on |
| Question 8: A. achieved | B. taken | C. given | D. set |

[Adapted from Global Success Workbook 12]

Exercise 5: Read the following advertisement and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 6.

Restart Lab – Turning Unemployment into a Learning Journey

For many adults, long-term unemployment can feel like a personal failure, even when it is caused by economic shifts beyond their control. Restart Lab is a distance-learning initiative created by a network of educational institutions to turn that difficult period into a realistic opportunity for growth.

Our online campus offers flexible vocational pathways (1) _____ to people who have been away from formal education for years. Each track combines psychology-based coaching with (2) _____ retraining modules that focus on workplace tasks rather than abstract theory.

Learners enrol through a simple registration process and then join small mentoring circles, where instructors encourage them (3) _____ realistic learning goals and carry on self-study between sessions. Short video lessons explain how to (4) _____ up on your digital skills and present past experience with confidence, while reflection journals help you keep your mind sharp during your job search.

Every fortnight, we send feedback reports (5) _____ adults who want to see evidence of their progress, boosting motivation and making it easier to plan the next step in their journey. For those facing financial hardship, our institution also offers a limited number of (6) _____ to learners who can demonstrate commitment to completing the programme.

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|---|---|---|---|
| Question 1: A. tailoring | B. tailored | C. which tailored | D. to tailoring |
| Question 2: A. intensive distance-learning vocational | B. vocational intensive distance-learning | C. distance-learning vocational intensive | D. intensive distance-learning vocational |
| Question 3: A. setting | B. set | C. to set | D. to setting |
| Question 4: A. brush | B. clean | C. put | D. cut |
| Question 5: A. with | B. to | C. for | D. into |
| Question 6: A. scholar | B. scholarly | C. scholarships | D. scholarship |

Exercise 6: Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct arrangement of the sentence to make a meaningful paragraph/letter in each of the following questions.

Question 1:

- Mia: Are you still enrolled in that adult education course you mentioned?
- Mia: That determination will boost your motivation, and it might even broaden your horizons.
- Ben: Yes, it's distance learning, so I had to adapt to studying after midnight sometimes.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| A. b-a-c | B. b-c-a | C. a-c-b | D. c-a-b |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|

Question 2:

- Sophie: I'm trying, but my phone keeps distracting me, and I feel pressured to reply to messages.
- Sophie: That could work. Can you also share your up-to-date notes from the instructor's folder?
- Liam: Sophie, your attendance dropped after you switched to distance learning. Everything okay?
- Liam: Sure. I'll type up a short summary after each lesson, and you can keep a study journal to stay motivated.
- Liam: Why not engage in a study session on video twice a week and keep the chat muted?

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A. c - a - b - e - d | B. c - a - e - b - d | C. a - c - e - b - d | D. c - e - a - b - d |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Question 3:

- Mr. Chen: If it's relevant, I can allow you to attend some face-to-face sessions and work on flexible hours.

- b. Lily: I want to get a master's degree, but I'm worried the workload will distract me at work.
 - c. Lily: Thanks. I'll register in advance and keep on self-study, so my attendance won't drop.
 - d. Mr. Chen: Good—stay up-to-date, and tell me if any obstacle delays your progress.
 - e. Lily: I'll manage to balance it, and I hope it improves my professional skills.
- A. c - b - e - a - d B. b - a - c - e - d C. b - e - d - a - c D. d - a - c - e - b

Question 4:

Dear Daniel,

How are you these days? How's college going?

- a. But the instructor taught us how to use the shared folder and calculator tools for quick calculations, which made it manageable.
- b. Last week I completed the final project, and my former employer said the new skills were relevant and impressive.
- c. I kept on practising every night and wrote down useful feedback in a journal.
- d. After I retired, I felt my skills were getting distant from the job market, so I decided to take up a short vocational course in digital marketing.
- e. The online platform looked complex, and I almost delayed my registration.

Write back when you can.

Best,

Alex

- A. d - a - e - c - b B. e - d - a - c - b C. d - e - a - c - b D. d - e - c - a - b

Question 5:

Dear Sophie,

I hope you're doing well.

- a. The first week felt discouraging, but the tutor was engaging and kept my mind sharp with quick tasks.
- b. I'm also trying to stay connected with classmates by sending short voice notes after lessons.
- c. When my company announced a small restructuring, I worried about unemployment and decided to take up an evening course.
- d. Now I'm more informed about the field, and my attitude toward learning has become much more positive.
- e. I even made a simple study plan in advance, so I wouldn't get distracted or delay assignments.

Take care and write back soon.

Best,

Mia

- A. c - d - a - b - e B. c - a - e - b - d C. a - c - e - b - d D. c - b - e - a - d

Question 6:

- a. I set rules to deal with it: I put my phone in another room and type up a short summary after each class.
- b. Instead, the first weeks were full of distraction, especially during distance learning lectures at home.
- c. After I graduated as a school-leaver, I entered college and expected learning to feel effortless.
- d. For maths, I brush up on calculation skills with a calculator, and I practise until the problems feel solvable.
- e. This simple management plan has improved my focus and helped me become more well-rounded.

- A. d - c - a - b - e B. c - b - a - d - e C. c - d - b - a - e D. e - a - c - d - b

Question 7:

- a. This routine helped me calculate how many hours I truly had each week, so I could determine realistic goals and avoid delaying assignments.
- b. The biggest obstacle was distraction: messages, late-night scrolling, and constant interruptions during reading.
- c. Even on tiring days, that small progress kept me motivated, and graduation now feels like a satisfying journey rather than pressure.
- d. To cope with this, I made plans in advance, pressed "Do Not Disturb" at midnight, and engaged in short study sprints tracked on a shared spreadsheet.
- e. When I started my master's degree while working full-time, I underestimated the complexity of balancing deadlines and family time.

A. e - b - d - a - c

B. e - d - b - a - c

C. b - e - d - a - c

D. e - b - a - d - c

Question 8:

- a. A friend of mine signed up for three micro-courses at midnight, without checking the syllabus, then quit two because the workload was complex and distracting.
- b. Lifelong learning can be empowering, but it also has a hidden cost when people treat it like a race.
- c. When learning stays realistic and relevant, it improves confidence and careers; when it becomes constant chasing, it steals time, sleep, and satisfaction.
- d. With endless courses and “upskill” posts, learners feel pressure to collect certificates, especially on phones during commutes.
- e. The quick starts left her frustrated and negative, so she chose one course, kept a weekly plan, and saved notes in a shared folder to track progress.

A. b - d - a - e - c

B. b - a - d - e - c

C. d - b - a - e - c

D. b - d - e - a - c

Question 9:

- a. Because the information is so broad, it's easy to waste time on irrelevant videos, expensive subscriptions, or even fake certificates, which can feel discouraging.
- b. With a realistic schedule, they adapt to steady practice, stay connected with classmates, and turn pressure into motivation, so attendance stays high even when work delays them.
- c. These days, lifelong learning isn't only for school-leavers; many adults take short online courses to improve their work skills or simply pursue a new hobby.
- d. Overall, the biggest benefit is not only acquiring a new qualification, but also keeping the mind sharp and widening horizons, as long as study doesn't take over life.
- e. To handle that, good platforms show clear learning outcomes, and learners can register for one course at a time, keep notes in a shared folder, and ask an instructor for feedback.

A. c - a - e - b - d

B. c - e - a - b - d

C. a - c - e - b - d

D. c - a - d - e - b

Question 10:

- a. Courses in areas like automotive repair, baking, and digital design teach students to solve real problems through hands-on projects and simple digital tools.
- b. Because they practise with real tasks and short internships, graduates often adapt faster at work and can earn money sooner, which also supports local businesses.
- c. Many school-leavers think vocational training is less valuable than college, but this view is changing as companies look for practical skills and reliable teamwork.
- d. In one workshop, learners read customer reports, check tools, record the steps on a checklist, and explain their plan before they start fixing anything.
- e. For these reasons, schools should promote vocational options to parents and students and show that skilled work can be a proud, modern career.

A. c - a - d - b - e

B. c - d - a - b - e

C. a - c - d - b - e

D. c - a - b - d - e

Exercise 7: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks.

The Importance of Lifelong Learning in a Rapidly Changing World

(1) _____. The pace of technological advancements and evolving industry demands mean (2) _____. By committing to continuous education, individuals can adapt to new challenges and seize emerging opportunities.

Lifelong learning fosters personal and professional growth. It enables individuals to acquire new skills, (3) _____. This adaptability is crucial in today's job market, where roles and required competencies are constantly evolving.

Enhancing problem-solving abilities and innovation, (4) _____. Employers value lifelong learners for their proactive approach and versatility.

(5) _____. It empowers individuals to lead fulfilling, dynamic lives, capable of adapting and thriving in an ever-changing world.

[Adapted from https://www.linkedin.com/?trk=article-ssr-frontend-pulse_nav-header-logo]

Question 1:

- A. Although formal education is important, it is rarely sufficient for long-term career stability in modern times
- B. In a rapidly changing world, lifelong learning has become essential for staying relevant and competitive
- C. Many people believe that graduating from university marks the end of their educational journey and development
- D. The traditional approach to education focuses mainly on academic grades rather than practical real-world skills

Question 2:

- A. to update knowledge and skills regularly in order to stay competitive
- B. for knowledge and skills can quickly become outdated in many industries
- C. that knowledge and skills can quickly become outdated
- D. knowledge and skills quickly becoming outdated in today's job market

Question 3:

- A. maintaining their expertise across roles while aiming for continuous improvement at work
- B. which focus strongly on developing applicable knowledge for real workplace situations
- C. with resisting changes in the workplace to preserve traditional and familiar working methods effectively
- D. broaden their expertise across fields, and remain competitive amid rapidly evolving industry demands

Question 4:

- A. continuous learning encourages a mindset of curiosity and resilience essential for navigating uncertainties
- B. structured professional standards can sometimes shape how innovation is approached in organizations
- C. the drive to achieve goals often influences how creative thinking skills are developed over time
- D. traditional schooling often fails to adequately prioritize critical thinking and adaptability in its students

Question 5:

- A. Relying solely on past achievements is often enough to secure a stable and prosperous future
- B. Investing in lifelong learning not only boosts career prospects but also enriches personal development
- C. Focusing exclusively on specialized skills limits the ability to adapt to broader professional roles
- D. Ignoring the need for self-improvement can result in missed opportunities and professional stagnation

Exercise 8: Read the following passage about beginning a lifelong journey and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions from 1 to 8.

Lifelong learning is the continuous pursuit of knowledge and skills throughout a person's life. In today's world, where technology is evolving **rapidly**, lifelong learning is essential for both personal growth and career development. But just how does one go about becoming a lifelong learner?

The first step in becoming a lifelong learner is to develop a growth mindset. **This** means believing that your abilities can be developed through hard work, dedication and commitment. Embrace challenges, view mistakes as opportunities to learn, and be open to new ideas and perspectives. Adopting a growth mindset will help you approach learning with a positive attitude and a desire to improve.

Setting **achievable** goals is also an important part of lifelong learning. Goals give direction and motivation to your learning journey. First, identify areas of interest and choose specific skills or knowledge that you want to develop. Second, break your goals down into smaller, more manageable tasks and track your progress. Finally, **celebrate your accomplishments along the way to stay motivated.**

People learn in different ways, so it's also essential that you find the methods that work best for you. You can do this by trying out a variety of different learning methods, such as reading, watching videos, attending lectures and engaging in hands-on practice. At the same time, you should also experiment with different learning tools and techniques until you find what works best for you. Becoming a lifelong learner is a continuous process that requires dedication and effort. Developing a growth mindset, setting achievable goals, and using a variety of learning methods are essential steps to becoming a successful lifelong learner. By embracing learning as a lifelong journey, you will continue to grow, develop new skills, and stay relevant in today's ever-changing world.

[Adapted from Bright]

Question 1: Which of the following is **NOT MENTIONED** as the journey toward lifelong learning?

- A. develop a growth mindset
- B. engage in theoretical practice

Exercise 11: Listen to the conversation and choose the correct answer **A, B, C, or D** for each question.

Question 1: What is the host's main difficulty in language learning?

- A. Speaking B. Listening C. Reading D. Writing

Question 2: Why is listening in exams especially difficult, according to Gabriella?

- A. The topics are always unfamiliar. B. The audio is too long.
C. You can't ask for repetition or explanation. D. The speakers always use slang.

Question 3: What does the host say often happens when he asks someone to repeat in real life?

- A. They speak more slowly. B. They repeat the same thing just as fast.
C. They switch to another language. D. They write the message down.

Question 4: When does Gabriella suggest it might be okay to pretend you understand?

- A. When chatting with a stranger at a bus stop. B. When talking at a bank about paperwork.
C. When speaking to staff at a government office. D. When discussing something with serious consequences.

Question 5: What is Gabriella's best strategy for high-stakes situations if you don't understand well?

- A. End the conversation quickly.
B. Ask them to repeat everything word for word.
C. Begin a summary as a question and break it into smaller questions.
D. Keep listening silently until you understand.