

Reading Comprehension 8 th grade

Read the online messages.



Toby: Hey, Oscar! What are you doing online? Don't you have a presentation to finish?

Oscar: Yes, but it's a bit boring. I'll do it later. I wanted to ask you something. You used to attend spelling bees, right? What are they like?

Toby: Well, they aren't the easiest activities, but I think they're lots of fun. Are you good at spelling?

Oscar: Yeah! I used to do English spelling tests with my friends. I wasn't as good as some of them, but I liked taking part.

Toby: Great. Listen, there's a book festival next week and one of the events is a spelling bee. My cousin took part a few years ago and I gave him some help. We can meet tomorrow afternoon after school and I can help you practise.

Oscar: Brilliant! Do I need to do anything else before then?

Toby: No, don't worry. Just bring a notebook and your pencil case.

Oscar: OK! See you tomorrow afternoon. 😊

Toby: One more thing... Read the instructions and rules of the spelling bee. I'll send you the website. And Oscar, make sure you finish your presentation tonight too! Bye! 😊😊😊

Oscar: Thanks, Toby! You're a really good friend. 😊 I'll read the rules as soon as you send me the website. And don't worry about my presentation — I'll finish it tonight, I promise!

Toby: That's great, Oscar! I'm sure you'll do well at the spelling bee. You know, practising together will be fun for me too. See you tomorrow at the school gate at 4 o'clock!

Oscar: Perfect! I can't wait! Bye! 😊

Task 1. True / False.

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| 1. Oscar thinks his presentation is interesting. | T | F |
| 2. Toby thinks spelling bees are easy but fun. | T | F |
| 3. Oscar has to buy a new notebook for the practice. | T | F |
| 4. Oscar and Toby are going to meet after school tomorrow. | T | F |
| 5. Toby asks Oscar to finish his presentation tonight. | T | F |

Task 2. Choose the correct answer (a, b or c).

1. Why doesn't Oscar want to do his presentation now?
a) It's too difficult. b) It's a bit boring. c) He doesn't know what to write about.
2. Who took part in a spelling bee a few years ago?
a) Toby's cousin b) Oscar's friend c) Toby
3. What does Oscar need to bring to the practice?
a) A dictionary and a pen b) A notebook and his pencil case c) His presentation
4. What does Toby ask Oscar to do tonight?
a) To practise spelling b) To read the rules of the book festival
c) To finish his presentation

Task 3. Fill in the gaps.

1. I used to _____ spelling bees, right?
2. We can meet tomorrow afternoon after school and I can help you _____.
3. Just bring a notebook and your _____.
4. I wasn't as _____ as some of them, but I liked taking part.

Task 4. Match the words with their definitions.

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|----------------|---|
| A spelling bee | 1 a person who is in the same family as you |
| B take part | 2 a competition where people spell words |
| C cousin | 3 a small bag for pens and pencils |
| D pencil case | 4 to participate in an activity |

Task 5. Grammar: "used to". Open the brackets with **used to + Infinitive or **didn't use to + Infinitive****

1. Oscar _____ (do) English spelling tests with his friends when he was younger.
2. Toby _____ (attend) spelling bees in the past.
3. Oscar _____ (not / like) spelling, but now he enjoys it.
4. _____ you _____ (take part) in any school competitions last year?
5. Toby's cousin _____ (not / know) how to spell difficult words, but Toby gave him some help.