

Ellis Island

Ellis Island is a small island in the bay of New York. A hundred years ago it was the place where new immigrants to the USA first arrived. Every year hundreds of ships full of immigrants came across the Atlantic from Europe. There were so many that the US government decided to build a special reception centre on Ellis Island.

On January 1st, 1892 an Irish girl called Annie Moore was the first immigrant to pass through the centre. To mark the event, the immigration officers gave her a £10 gold coin. It was Annie's 15th birthday on the same day. 16 million people followed Annie through the doors of the centre between 1892 and 1954 when it was closed.

At the end of the 18th century, there were only 4 million people in the USA. But by 1900, the population had grown to 75 million. Ellis Island became the door to a new life for many Europeans.

When they arrived, the immigrants had a medical examination and an intelligence test. The ones who failed the tests (only 2% of the total) had to go back to Europe. Some of them jumped into the sea and tried to swim from the island to New York. The successful ones entered the USA and, after many difficulties, most of them stayed. Today, nearly half of all Americans are connected to someone who passed through Ellis Island.

First, read and listen to the text about American immigrants. Then read the following sentences and choose T (true) or F (false).

1. Today, new immigrants enter the USA at the centre on Ellis Island.
2. The Reception centre at Ellis Island was built because of the great number of immigrants.
3. Immigration officers gave Annie Moore a £10 gold coin as a birthday present.
4. At the end of the 19th century America's population was 75 million.
5. To enter the USA, the immigrants had to pass a medical examination and an intelligence test.
6. Most of the immigrants failed the tests.
7. The ones who failed tried to swim from Europe to New York.
8. Nearly 50% of Americans have a family connection with someone who arrived at Ellis Island.

Danny's writing to his friend Callum, who used to live at Mandela Court.

From: Danny

Subject: News

Hi Callum!

Sorry I haven't written recently. I've been busy because we've had four tests at school this week.

Everyone's fine here. Beth and Andy are getting married soon and Mum has bought me a suit for the wedding! Beth sends you her love. Dad and Mum aren't here at the moment. They've gone to Thailand on holiday.

What else has happened? Luke has just won a big maths competition – he's in the local paper this week. And Winston and Lorina have had another baby. They've called him Justin. There's a new leisure centre in Sydney Street. I've been there a few times and it's very good.

What about you? Has anything interesting happened recently? The football has just started on TV so I'll say goodbye now.

Write soon.

Danny

Listen again and follow in your book. Then complete the sentences using words from Danny's email.

1. Danny has been busy this week because ... *... he's had four tests at school.*
2. Danny's parents aren't there because...
3. Luke is in the paper this week because...
4. ... and he's four days old now.
5. Danny likes the new leisure centre. He's...
6. He wants to finish his email because...

Complete the sentences with the Present perfect.

1. I can't get any money. I ve forgotten to bring my bank card. (forget)
2. I _____ (try) to phone Clare but she isn't in.
3. Beth isn't here. She _____ (go) to work.
4. Come and sit down! The film _____. (start)
5. Danny _____ (have) a shower and now he's getting dressed.
6. Andy's walking home from the shops. He _____ (buy) a chicken and some vegetables.

Well done!