

Reading Sample Tasks

Reading Sample Task – B1 Matching

Read the newspaper article about reasons to start using a bicycle as a means of transport. Nine headings have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A-K the most appropriate sentence for each gap (1 - 9) in the text. Write your answers in the spaces provided. An example (0) has been given.

A. When in operation, bicycles don't produce much pollution.	G. The fabrication of bicycles has fewer effects on the climate.
B. Bicycling may be more time-efficient than taking a car.	H. Using a bike for transportation can help you lose weight.
C. Studies show that people who cycle to the office are healthier and more productive.	I. It's easier to finance a new bicycle than a new car.
D. Bikes use less space.	J. Bicycles are an effective alternative to having more than one car.
E. Bikes are cheaper to maintain and operate than automobiles.	K. Bicycles provide mobility for those who may not qualify or afford to drive.
F. Bikes save taxpayers money by reducing road wear.	

0	Q1.	Q2.	Q3.	Q4.	Q5.	Q6.	Q7.	Q8.	Q9.
I	G	A	J	H	D	B	E	K	C

9 reasons to start using a bicycle for transportation

Economic instability and ever-increasing climate change are just two of the many reasons why riding a bike is an excellent alternative to driving.

 0 .

Thanks to the recession, auto loans are hard to find these days — even if you have good credit. But for the price of a single car payment, you can buy a well-made bicycle that should outlast most cars. Add a few hundred dollars more for rain gear, lights and accessories, and you have all-weather, anytime transportation.

Q1. _____.

All manufactured goods have environmental impact, but bicycles can be produced for a fraction of the materials, energy and shipping costs of a car.

Q2. _____.

Bikes eliminate the oil, fuel and hydraulic fluids dripped by automobiles onto the road surface — which means less toxic runoff into local waterways.

Q3. _____.

Perhaps you're not in a position to adopt a bicycle as primary transportation. But bikes make great second vehicles. You can literally save thousands of dollars a year using a bicycle for workday commuting and weekend errands in households which might otherwise be forced to maintain two cars.

Q4. _____.

The health benefits of regular aerobic exercise are well-known. Depending on your riding style and local road conditions, you could easily burn 600 calories an hour through brisk cycling. Most bike commuters report losing 6 to 9 kilos during their first year in the saddle without changing their eating habits.

Q5. _____.

Parking lots have enormous environmental and financial impact, particularly in urbanized areas. The more bikes you can get on the road, the fewer parking lots you need to build.

Q6. _____.

We're not talking about the crazy — and illegal — antics of New York bicycle messengers. But bikes are often faster than cars in urban areas, especially when city designers have set aside proper bike lanes. There's nothing more satisfying for a bicycle commuter than breezing past a long line of gridlocked traffic.

Q7. _____.

You'll never throw a rod on a bicycle, and dropping a transmission on a bike usually means replacing a bent derailleur hanger or worn-out chain. Bicycles do require service, but you can learn to perform most of it yourself. Even if you have a shop do things for you, costs will be trivial compared to a car.

Q8. _____.

Not everyone can get a driver's license (or wants one), and the cost of purchasing, insuring and maintaining a car is out of reach for a lot of people. Almost everyone can afford some sort of bike. Other than walking, bicycles are the most cost-effective transportation on the planet.

Q9. _____.

This is why most enlightened employers are eager to accommodate commuting cyclists. Healthy workers are better workers — and that's good for the bottom line. Bikes are smart business.

Reading Sample Task – B1 Sentence completion

Read the following text about water and complete sentences 1 to 8. Write your answers in the spaces provided using a MAXIMUM OF 4 CONSECUTIVE WORDS TAKEN FROM THE TEXT. The first one (0) has been done for you.

0.	There is a lot of water in the world, but it	<i>is a scarce resource.</i>
Q1.	Most of the water in the world	<i>is seawater / is in the oceans.</i>
Q2.	Underground water is good	<i>for human use / fresh water.</i>
Q3.	The majority of Americans have	<i>enough fresh water.</i>
Q4.	To move water, people use	<i>aqueducts / (human-made) channels / channels called aqueducts / human-made channels called aqueducts.</i>
Q5.	When it rains, water resources	<i>are replenished.</i>
Q6.	Contamination can make fresh water	<i>unusable. / be *unusable / might be *unusable.</i>
Q7.	The USA will run out of water if the number of people	<i>continues to grow./ grow in the future</i>
Q8.	People do not really know the quantity of	<i>water they use.</i>

Why is water an important resource?

In most parts of the world, water is a scarce resource. That might seem strange, because there is so much water on Earth. Almost all of the water on Earth, more than 97 percent of it, is seawater in the oceans. The rest is called fresh water, because it does not have a high salt content. Most of the world's fresh water is frozen solid in large glaciers in Antarctica and Greenland. Almost all of the fresh water that is available for human use is either contained in soil and rock below the surface, called groundwater, or in rivers and lakes. In most areas of the United States there is enough fresh water for human use. Yet usable fresh water is not as abundant as you might think. In some areas, like the arid Southwest, there is not enough water. In those areas, water has to be transported long distances from other places in human-made channels called aqueducts. Even in areas with plenty of fresh water, there are sometimes shortages. Rainfall is the only way that water supplies are replenished. During times of drought, when rainfall is below average for a number of years, water supplies can become dangerously low. Even when rainfall is adequate, water from rivers and lakes might be unusable because of pollution. In some areas, groundwater cannot be used because when it is removed from the ground, nearby wetlands would be damaged by drying up. As the population of the United States continues to grow in the future, water shortages will become more common, because the supply of available water remains the same. Water conservation will become more and more important as time goes on.

People use water in many ways at home: drinking, cooking, bathing, brushing teeth, washing clothes, dishes, and cars, flushing toilets, watering gardens and lawns, and filling swimming pools. Most people do not think much about how much water they use. Perhaps this is partly because they don't pay for it each time they use it, except when they buy bottled water.

Reading Task – B2.1 Matching

Read the following text about a horse. Put the phrases (A-G) in the right place. There are 2 EXTRA PHRASES that you should NOT use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

A	had been out riding along
B	after three hours
C	stayed by the side of 18-year-old
D	was able to help
E	before breakfast
F	tried to pull
G	arrived with

0	Q1.	Q2.	Q3.	Q4.
C	A	D	F	B

Horse trapped for three hours in mud as tide approached



Nicole Graham, who owns more than 10 horses and runs a horse dentistry business, ___**0**___ Astro, who weighs 495 kg, keeping his head above the mud as rescue teams worked to rescue him.

Miss Graham and her seven-year-old daughter Emily ___**Q1.**___ the coast at Avalon Beach on Corio Bay in Victoria, when both horses sank into the mud.

The woman ___**Q2.**___ her daughter and the other horse on to firmer ground but Astro proved a different prospect.

Rescuers first ___**Q3.**___ Astro free with fire hoses, then a winch, but eventually a vet had to sedate the horse, and he was eventually pulled clear with a tractor ___**Q4.**___, minutes before the tide reached him.

Reading Task – B2.1 Sequencing

Read the following text about James Cook and put events A to J into the order that they took place. There is AN EXTRA EVENT that you should NOT use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

A	James Cook gave a name to a part of a country.
B	He was asked to examine the sky.
C	James Cook owned a ship.
D	He began as an assistant in commercial business.
E	He was asked to discover a new region.
F	His wedding took place.
G	James Cook spent his childhood in England.
H	He achieved a new record.
I	James Cook became a sailor.
J	For four years, he worked abroad for a season.

0.	Q1.	Q2.	Q3.	Q4.	Q5.	Q6.	Q7.	Q8.
G	D	I	F	J	B	A	E	H

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

Captain James Cook was a famous explorer of the 18th century. He was born on 27 October 1728 in Marton, Yorkshire. His father was a farm foreman. James went to Postgate School. When he was 17 Cook went to work in a shop in the village of Staithes on the coast of Yorkshire.

In 1746, when he was 18, Cook moved to Whitby where he joined ship owners John and Henry Walker as a merchant navy apprentice in the coal trade. (Their house in Grape Lane is now the Captain Cook Memorial Museum). When his 3-year apprenticeship ended, Cook began working on trading ships in the Baltic Sea. Then in 1755 Cook joined the navy. War broke out with France in 1756 and Cook spent most of his time on ships off the coast of North America. During the siege of Quebec in 1759 Cook mapped the mouth of the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

In 1760 Cook was appointed master of the Northumberland under the command of Captain Alexander. From 1760 to 1762 Cook carried out a number of surveys of the coast of Canada. He returned to England and was discharged on 11 November 1762. On 21 December 1762 Cook married a woman named Elizabeth Batts, the daughter of an inn keeper from Wapping. They had 6 children but only 3 survived to adulthood.

From 1763 to 1767 Cook was employed surveying Newfoundland during the summer, while he spent each winter in England. James Cook finally returned to England on 15 November 1767.

At that time the Royal Society planned to send a ship to Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus across the Sun. So in May 1768 Cook was put in charge of a ship called the Endeavour. It sailed from Plymouth on 25 August 1768. Cook arrived at Tahiti on 13 April 1769. The transit of the planet Venus occurred on 3 June. Cook then sailed to New Zealand and surveyed both islands. Cook then sailed to explore the east coast of Australia, which he called New South Wales. Cook returned to England on 12 June 1771.

Next Cook was put in charge of an expedition to try and find a great southern continent. He sailed in a ship called the Resolution on 13 July 1772. Cook did not find any great southern landmass but on 17 January 1773 he became the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle. Cook also discovered the South Sandwich Islands.

Reading Task – B2.1 Matching (Vocabulary)

Read the following text about a prison escape. Match the words listed below (1 to 8), marked **IN BOLD** in the text, with their definition (A-K). Make sure the definition fits with the meaning in the context. There are 2 **EXTRA** definitions that you should **NOT** use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

0.	ran
Q1.	plenty of
Q2.	turned
Q3.	flee
Q4.	daring
Q5.	device
Q6.	muffled
Q7.	removed
Q8.	harvested

A. brave, audacious
B. collected
C. converted into
D. covered up
E. discovered
F. extracted
G. full
H. get away from
I. implement, gadget
J. many
K. were in charge of

0	Q1.	Q2.	Q3.	Q4.	Q5.	Q6.	Q7.	Q8.
K	J	C	H	A	I	D	F	B

Alcatraz escape still surprises, 50 years on

By Alastair Leithead

Those who **(0) ran** Alcatraz liked to say nobody ever escaped alive. But that hasn't stopped US marshals from continuing the search for three men who made it off the island 50 years ago. According to the official version, Frank Morris, and the brothers John and Clarence Anglin were presumed drowned in the cold and choppy waters of San Francisco Bay.

There are **(24) plenty of** people who think they did make it ashore and have been in hiding ever since. Rumour had it they would return to the prison **(25) turned** tourist spot on the 50th anniversary of their escape. Although it's not certain where the urban myth began, US Marshal Michael Dyke spent the day on the island anyway, just in case.

Papier-mâché heads

Most prisoners who tried to **(26) flee** "The Rock", as it became known, were captured or killed or drowned. But this was one of the most **(27) daring** and intricate escapes in the notorious prison's history - involving spoons, papier-mâché heads and rubber raincoats. It began by digging away at the concrete around the air vents in their cells with spoons and a drill-like **(28) device** fashioned from a vacuum cleaner. Accordion practice **(29) muffled** the sound of the drilling, and cardboard was carefully used to cover each hole as it grew. Soap became a substitute for **(30) removed** rivets. When the time came, they squeezed through into a utility corridor and headed for the roof.

Guards doing their rounds periodically checked on the faces of their prisoners. The three escapees appeared to be sleeping soundly, the guards were unaware they were papier-mâché heads with real hair, **(31) harvested** from the prison barber shop.

The three made it up to the roof, and despite the searchlights, headed over high barbed-wire fences. At a watchtower blind spot they used improvised bellows to inflate a raft fashioned from rubber raincoats. A fourth member of the gang had been unable to remove his air vent quickly enough, and by the time he broke through, the others had already cast off into San Francisco Bay - to their deaths or to freedom - depending on what you believe. Remnants of the raft were found washed up on a nearby island, but the men were never seen again.

Reading Task – B2.2 Multiple-choice questions

Read the following text about mobile phone usage and decide which answer (a, b or c) is the most appropriate according to what you read. Write your answer in the space provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

0. Most people

- a. agree that mobile phone usage has a positive effect on the economy.
- b. feel that mobile phone usage helps control prices.
- c. agree that mobile phones are becoming more economical.

Q1. Leonard Waverman says

- a. countries benefit equally from greater mobile phone ownership.
- b. that a higher ratio of phones per person helps countries be more competitive.
- c. that GDP¹ goes up with an increase in the number of mobile phones.

Q2. Mobile phones

- a. help people talk to their bank managers.
- b. help people in poorer countries to access money.
- c. are still not common in developing countries.

Q3. Using mobile phones for banking

- a. became popular in Kenya later than in many other developing countries.
- b. means that workers are more likely to be paid on time.
- c. makes it easier for people to catch taxis and get deliveries.

Q4. M-banking

- a. is ideal for first-time bank clients.
- b. has made illegal transactions more difficult.
- c. is a safer option for most people.

Q5. Banking regulations

- a. are currently too tight.
- b. need to help stop criminal activity.
- c. need to be more restrictive.

0	Q1.	Q2.	Q3.	Q4.	Q5.
a	c	b	c	a	b

A bank in every pocket?

The idea that mobile phones bring economic benefits is now widely accepted. In places with bad roads, few trains and parlous land lines, they substitute for travel, allow price data to be distributed more quickly and easily, enable traders to reach wider markets and generally ease the business of doing business. Leonard Waverman of the London Business School has estimated that an extra ten mobile phones per 100 people in a typical developing country leads to an extra half a percentage point of growth in GDP¹ per person. To realise the economic benefits of mobile phones, governments in such countries need to do away with state monopolies, issue new licences to allow rival operators to enter the market and slash taxes on handsets. With few exceptions (hallo, Ethiopia), they have done so, and mobile phones are now spreading fast, even in the poorest parts of the world.

As mobile phones have spread, a new economic benefit is coming into view: using them for banking, and so improving access to financial services, not just telecoms networks. Pioneering m-banking² projects in the Philippines, Kenya and South Africa show the way. These “branchless³” schemes typically allow customers to deposit and withdraw cash through a mobile operator's airtime-resale agents, and send money to other people via text messages that can be exchanged for cash by visiting an agent. Workers can then be paid by phone; taxi-drivers and delivery-drivers can accept payments without carrying cash around; money can be easily sent to friends and family. A popular use is to deposit money before making a long journey and then withdraw it at the other end, which is safer than carrying lots of cash.

There is no need to set up a national network of branches or cash machines. M-banking schemes can be combined with microfinance loans, extending access to credit and enabling users to establish a credit history. Some schemes issue customers with debit cards linked to their m-banking accounts. All this has the potential to give the “unbanked” masses access to financial services, and bring them into the formal economy.

What can governments do to foster m-banking? As with the spread of mobile phones themselves, a lot depends on putting the right regulations in place. They need to be tight enough to protect users and discourage money laundering, but open enough to allow new services to emerge. The existing banking model is both over- and under-protective, says Tim Lyman of the World Bank, because “it did not foresee the convergence of telecommunications and financial services.”

Glossary

¹ **GDP**=gross domestic product: the total value of the goods and services that a country produces in a year

² **M-banking**=mobile banking

³ **branch**=an office representing a company or organization in a particular area

Reading Task – B2 True/False Justification

Cal que l'examinand indiqui correctament si la frase és *True* o *False* i, a més, cal que ho justifiqui amb les quatre primeres paraules de la frase on es troba la resposta. La justificació també ha de ser la correcta perquè la resposta es consideri vàlida.

Read the following text about dogs and decide whether the statements are true or false. You must justify your answer by writing down the FIRST 4 WORDS OF THE SENTENCE where the answer is found. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

	Statements	True	False	Justification
0	Scientists claim that movement of the tail has an important meaning.	X		A new experiment suggests
Q1.	Some animals ate a lot because of experiments.		X	<i>Rats and monkeys had</i>
Q2.	Past research concentrated on behaviour within the same class of animals.	X		<i>However, all these experiments</i>
Q3.	The experiment included two people talking.	X		<i>All four of these</i>
Q4.	The scientists thought dogs would go to the owner to show concern whenever they heard a person cry.	X		<i>Dr Custance and Ms</i>
Q5.	The results of the research seem to show that dogs are more sensitive to people in pain.	X		<i>This indicated that dogs / As they report in</i>
Q6.	In the experiment, the animals almost always turned to the person known to them.		X	<i>And of the 15 (dogs)</i>
Q7.	The experiment has definitely proven that dogs can feel real empathy towards humans.		X	<i>These discoveries suggest that / But although the results</i>

Man's best friend

Can dogs really show empathy towards humans?

Dogs quickly become part of the family. Tales abound of dogs celebrating joy in a household or commiserating when tragedy strikes. This may not seem surprising after 15,000 years of co-evolution. But what hard evidence is there of dogs' empathy with humans? A new experiment suggests that behind all the wagging tails there really is something deeper going on.

Past experiments have hinted that animals can feel sympathy. Rats and monkeys had been found to forgo food to avoid delivering electric shocks to relatives. Similarly, apes have recently been documented consoling one another after conflicts. However, all these experiments and observations were demonstrating an animal's sensitivity to distress in other members of the same species. Deborah Custance and Jennifer Mayer of Goldsmiths College, London, set out to see if dogs could detect the emotional state of humans.

To do this, Dr Custance and Ms Mayer conducted an experiment to study the response of dogs when a nearby human suddenly began to cry. The researchers knew that interpreting responses would be difficult, since dogs tend to whine, nuzzle, lick, lay their heads in laps and fetch toys for people in distress.

Although such actions hint at a dog wishing to offer comfort, they could also be signs of curiosity, or suggest that a dog is simply distressed by seeing its master upset.

To work round this, the researchers presented 18 dogs of various breeds with four separate 20-second conditions. They included their owner crying, a stranger crying and both taking it in turns to hum "Mary had a little lamb". All four of these conditions were preceded by two minutes of mundane conversation between Ms Mayer, who filled the role of the stranger, and the dog's owner.

Dr Custance and Ms Mayer suspected that if exposure to crying led dogs to feel distress, then regardless of who was crying, the dog would go to their master to seek comfort. They also theorised that if curiosity, rather than empathy, was the driving force, then the humming would cause dogs to engage with people.

As they report in *Animal Cognition*, "person-oriented behaviour" did sometimes take place when either the stranger or the owner hummed, but it was more than twice as likely to occur if someone was crying. This indicated that dogs were differentiating between odd behaviour and crying. And of the 15 dogs in the experiment that showed person-oriented responses when the stranger cried, all of them directed their attention towards the stranger rather than their owner.

These discoveries suggest that dogs do have the ability to express empathetic concern. But although the results are clear enough, Dr Custance argues that more work needs to be done to be sure that such behaviour is true empathy. It is possible, she points out, that the dogs were drawing on previous experiences in which they were rewarded for approaching distressed human companions. Dog-owners, however, are unlikely to need any more convincing.