

Aim High 5 Exam practice 1

Reading

Tips

Read the text quickly to find out what it is about.

- Read the sentences A–G.
- Read the sentences before and after each gap in the text very carefully.
- Look at pronouns, conjunctions, and linking words to give you clues about the missing sentence.
- Read the text again with the missing sentences and check that it makes sense.

Read the text about an alternative way to have a holiday. Some parts of the text have been removed. Complete the text by matching the sentences (A–G) to the gaps in the text (1–6). There is one sentence you do not need.

Swapping homes

¹ _____ Is it about traipsing around tourist sites and exclaiming with wonder at ancient monuments? Is it about eating exotic food and hearing different languages spoken? Or is it about experiencing a different culture and way of life? If your answer to the last question is ‘yes’, you might like to consider the house swap. ² _____ The theory is simple. First, you choose a country you’d like to visit. Then you use a house-swapping website to locate someone who has a home in that country and who is interested in travelling to your country. ³ _____ Then you go and live in each other’s houses for the agreed period of time.

So, what are the advantages of house-swapping? ⁴ _____ Because you are not paying anything for your accommodation, the only main expense of your trip is the travel. Then there is the comfort aspect – living in a person’s home is a lot more relaxing and homely than living in hotel rooms or self-catering accommodation.

⁵ _____ Well, not really, according to the fans. There is obviously some hassle involved in readying your house for your guests: but these are seen as minor inconveniences. ‘It’s a bit of a pain having to clear space in your wardrobe, and make sure everything is easy to locate in the kitchen,’ says Ivy, a veteran house-swapper, ‘but once you get used to it, it isn’t a major problem.’

⁶ _____ ‘It becomes almost a way of life,’ says Jenny, who has swapped homes fifteen times. ‘It works because it’s an entirely new experience. It’s not just a house swap. It’s also a car swap and a friend swap – in fact, it’s a life swap!’ So, if travel for you is not just about sightseeing but is also about experiencing different cultures, you might like to consider it.

- A The most obvious benefit is the cost saving.
- B Are there any drawbacks?
- C Those who have experienced house-swapping nearly always go back for more.
- D You correspond to agree on the dates of your swap.
- E What is foreign travel all about?
- F There are a few disadvantages to house-swapping.
- G Thousands of people now choose this as a way to travel to and experience other countries.

Use of English

Tips

- Read the text through once to find out what it is about.
- Think carefully about the meaning of the word in each gap.
- Read the four possibilities and see which word has the exact meaning needed.
- Think about the grammar and collocations of the words, to see which one fits the gap.
- Check that the other three words don't fit.

Complete the text with the correct words (a–d).

Do you speak Esperanto?

If different languages ¹ _____ people from communicating, why not invent a new one that everyone can learn? This is exactly what Dr Ludovic Zamenhof attempted to do in the ² _____ nineteenth century. He wanted to create a new language that was neutral and easy to learn, to promote world peace and understanding. What he ³ _____ was Esperanto. The language is ⁴ _____ a mixture of European languages, and many of the words might look ⁵ _____ to speakers of languages with Latin or German roots. Examples would be the Esperanto words *jes* (yes) and *ne* (no), which are not ⁶ _____ to their counterparts in several major European languages. So, was the Esperanto experiment a ⁷ _____? The idea didn't ⁸ _____ as Zamenhof had intended, and Esperanto didn't become the main ⁹ _____ of international communication. But some speakers did decide to ¹⁰ _____ Esperanto as their second language, and the language still has up to two million speakers today. So maybe the dream of an international language of peace is not completely dead.

1 a impede	b separate	c prevent	d divide
2 a late	b end	c back	d last
3 a came up to	b came to	c came up with	d came
4 a based on	b based in	c made for	d in
5 a familiar	b same	c recognized	d known
6 a changed	b unlike	c dissimilar	d strange
7 a success	b achievement	c goal	d aim
8 a take on	b take off	c take up	d take to
9 a way	b use	c vehicle	d mean
10 a commence	b start	c adopt	d begin

Listening

3.11 Read the task. You will hear a recording about the development of writing. Choose the best answer (a–d) according to what you hear.

- 1 In the beginning, writing was
 - a invented mainly for agricultural purposes.
 - b first used by the Romans.
 - c based on letters.
 - d made on pieces of wood.
- 2 The Sumerian script evolved to represent
 - a the alphabet we know today.
 - b consonants.
 - c names and numbers.
 - d capital letters.
- 3 The shapes used in Roman script are simple because
 - a the Roman Empire stretched across Europe.
 - b they were written by hand.
 - c they were carved in stone.
 - d they only used capital letters.
- 4 Aldus Manutius created
 - a a script for computers.
 - b the Times New Roman font.
 - c slanting letters.
 - d the alphabet using upper- and lower-case letters.

Writing

Tips

- Plan your ideas before you start writing.
- Think of appropriate adjectives and other descriptive language to use.
- Remember to include a recommendation to the reader.

An English-language magazine is advertising for reviews of holidays. Write a review of a recent holiday, real or imagined.

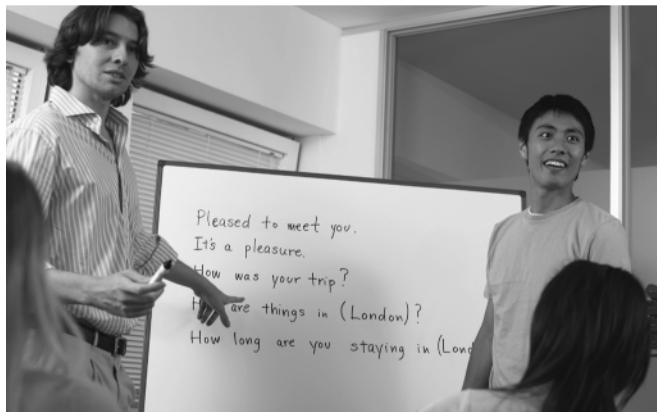
In your review:

- describe the holiday
- explain why it was good or bad
- give your opinion of the holiday
- make a recommendation to the reader.

Speaking

Preparation

- Look at the photos and think of useful vocabulary.
- Say how the photos are similar and different, using a variety of expressions, e.g. *'This photo shows ..., whereas the other photo shows ...'*
- Answer all the questions and give your opinion.



1 These two photos show people learning languages.

Compare the photos.

- How are the people learning?
- Which way do you think is best? Why?

2 Answer the questions.

- Do you find it easy or difficult to learn languages?
- What languages would you like to learn? Why?
- What could help you to learn these languages?