

BOB04B22 - Anglický jazyk B2-2

WEEK 1

Course Introduction & Requirements*

Identifying the Main Ideas in a Text**

Vocabulary: Single-Word and Multi-Word Verbs (Phrasal Verbs)***

Reading Comprehension Practice****

Course Requirements* are stated clearly in the syllabus. Rules and guidelines for earning class credit (zápočet), such as attendance policies, assignment deadlines, and other expectations, ensure that all students are evaluated based on the same criteria.

Students who are unable and/or cannot manage to fulfill the requirements should be prepared for the reality that they will not receive credit (zápočet) for the course.

Knowing how to **find the main idea**** of a paragraph or text is crucial for effective reading comprehension. It allows readers to grasp the central point, understand the author's message, and remember the key information. This skill is fundamental for learning, critical thinking, and effective communication.

Understanding the main idea provides a framework for understanding the rest of the text. Details and supporting information become more meaningful when connected to the central theme.

Knowing the main idea makes it easier to summarize the text accurately. A good summary focuses on the central point and its key supporting details.

Understanding how to identify the main idea in others' writing can help improve one's own writing skills, particularly in crafting clear and focused paragraphs and essays.

Multi-Word Verbs / Phrasal verbs*** can sometimes offer a more precise or vivid way to express an idea than a single-word verb. Native speakers frequently use phrasal verbs, so understanding and using them appropriately contributes to more natural-sounding academic English.

Phrasal verbs can carry subtle meanings that are not always apparent from the individual words.

Understanding these nuances is crucial for comprehension and effective communication. While some phrasal verbs are more informal, many are perfectly acceptable in academic writing and speaking.

Knowing which phrasal verbs are appropriate in academic contexts is important. Phrasal verbs are frequently used in academic lectures, discussions, and written work. Mastering them is essential for success in academic settings.

Reading comprehension**** is the bedrock of learning, allowing students to grasp the meaning of texts and integrate new information with their existing knowledge. It enables students to understand instructions, follow directions, and learn from textbooks, articles, and other academic materials. Strong reading comprehension skills are essential for success in all subjects, from language arts to math and science.

Reading comprehension goes beyond simply decoding words; it involves critical analysis, interpretation, and inference. Students with good comprehension skills can analyze texts, identify main ideas, evaluate arguments, and draw logical conclusions. These skills are vital for academic success, as they allow students to engage with complex material and develop their own informed opinions.

Numerous studies have shown a strong correlation between reading comprehension and academic performance. Students with strong reading comprehension skills tend to achieve better grades, perform well on standardized tests, and demonstrate higher levels of engagement in the classroom.

Identifying the Main Ideas in a Text

Part 1: Read the following text and for each of the blank spaces (1 - 15) fill in the proper preposition.

TEXT:**Location on Earth**

[A] Perhaps as soon as people began to **communicate** with each other, they also began to **develop** a language of location, using landscape features (1) _____ directional cues. Today, we still use landmarks to help us find our way. When ancient peoples began to sail the oceans, they recognized the need for ways of finding directions and describing locations. Long before the first compass was developed, humans understood that the positions of the sun and the stars – rising, setting, or circling the sky – could provide accurate locational information. **Observing** relationships (2) _____ the sun and the stars to find a position on Earth is a basic skill in **navigation**, the science of location and wayfinding. Navigation is basically the process of getting from where you are to where you want to go.

Maps and Mapmaking

[B] The first maps were probably made by humans who drew locational diagrams on rocks or in the soil. Ancient maps were fundamental (3) _____ the beginnings of geography as they helped humans **communicate** spatial thinking and were useful in finding directions. The earliest known maps were constructed of sticks or were drawn on clay tablets, stone slabs, metal plates, papyrus, linen, or silk. Throughout history maps have become increasingly more common, as a result of the appearance of paper, followed (4) _____ the printing press, and then the computer. Today, we **encounter** maps nearly everywhere.

[C] Maps and globes convey spatial information through graphic symbols, a “language of location,” that must be understood to appreciate and comprehend the rich store (5) _____ information that they **display**. Although we typically think of maps as being representations (6) _____ Earth or a part of its surface, maps and globes have now been made to show extraterrestrial features such as the moon and some of the planets.

[D] **Cartography** is the science and profession of mapmaking. Geographers who specialize (7) _____ cartography supervise the development of maps and globes to ensure that mapped information and data are accurate and effectively presented. Most cartographers would agree that the primary purpose (8) _____ a map is to **communicate** spatial information. In recent years, computer technology has revolutionized cartography.

[E] Cartographers can now gather spatial data and make maps faster than ever before – within hours – and the accuracy (9) _____ these maps is excellent. Moreover, digital mapping enables mapmakers to experiment with a map's basic characteristics (for example, scale, projections), to **combine** and manipulate map data, to **transmit** entire maps electronically, and to produce unique maps (10) _____ demand.

United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Exploring Maps*, page 1

[F] The changes in map data collection and **display** that have **occurred** through the use of computers and digital techniques are dramatic. Information that was once collected manually from ground observations and surveys can now be collected instantly by orbiting satellites that send recorded data back to Earth (11) _____ the speed of light. Maps that once had to be hand-drawn can now be **created** on a computer and printed (12) _____ a relatively short amount of time. Although artistic talent is still an advantage, today's cartographers must also be highly skilled users of computer mapping systems, and of course understand the principles (13) _____ geography, cartography, and map design.

[G] We can all think of reasons why maps are important for conveying spatial information in navigation, recreation, political science, community planning, surveying, history, meteorology, and geology. Many high-tech locational and mapping technologies are now in widespread use (14) _____ the public, through the Internet and also satellite-based systems that **display** locations for use in hiking, travelling, and direction finding for all means (15) _____ transportation.

Gabler, R.E. et al (2009). *Physical geography* (9th edition). Belmont, CA: Brooks / Cole.

Part 2: Decide which note below (a or b) best summarizes the main idea in each of the paragraphs (A - G) from the text on the previous page.

[Page 2]

- PARAGRAPH A:** a) People first needed to describe location when they started sailing across oceans
b) Language to describe location = used since people started to communicate ✓
- PARAGRAPH B:** a) Maps developed only after invention of paper
b) Maps drawn since early human history
- PARAGRAPH C:** a) People need to know what symbols represent so they can understand maps
b) Maps = locations on Earth vs. globes = locations elsewhere
- PARAGRAPH D:** a) Geographers make maps
b) Cartographers make maps
- PARAGRAPH E:** a) Mapmakers now use advanced computational techniques
b) Mapmakers use computational techniques to experiment with map design
- PARAGRAPH F:** a) Technological changes → dramatically changed how maps are made
b) Need to gather more information → slowed down mapmaking
- PARAGRAPH G:** a) Today, main purpose of maps = no longer to represent location
b) Maps & related technologies today used for a wide variety of purposes

Part 3: Vocabulary building: single-word verbs and multi-word verbs. Some single-word verbs and multi-word verbs express the same meaning (e.g. *discuss* and *talk about*).

In general, where there is a choice, the single-word verb is preferred in academic writing, and the multi-word verb equivalent is often preferred in informal writing and speech. For example: *This chapter will mainly **discuss** culture as shared psychology.* (NOT ~~talk about~~) However, some multi-word verbs are common in academic writing. For example: *account for, be associated with, be based on, carry out, consist of, focus on, look at, result in.*

EXAMPLES:

Single-Word Verb(from the TEXT)

Phrasal Verb / Multi-Word Verb

COMBINE	=	JOIN UP	[INSEPARABLE]
COMMUNICATE	=	PUT ACROSS	[SEPARABLE]
CREATE	=	PUT TOGETHER	[SEPARABLE]
DEVELOP	=	BUILD UP	[SEPARABLE]
DISPLAY	=	LAY OUT	[SEPARABLE]
ENCOUNTER	=	COME ACROSS	[INSEPARABLE]
OBSERVE	=	LOOK AT	[INSEPARABLE]
OCCUR	=	COME ABOUT	[INSEPARABLE]
TRANSMIT	=	SEND OUT	[SEPARABLE]

NOTE → A good knowledge of single-word verbs and multi-word verbs will help you in the READING section (e.g., synonyms), on the KEY WORD SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION section . . . and with your writing & speaking.

Part 4: Complete the sentences below (1 - 9) using the correct phrasal verb / multi-word verb from Part 3. You may have to change the tense. Use each phrasal verb / multi-word verb only once.

- (1) If I'd had children I might have _____ life differently. [OBSERVE]
- (2) The torch [BrE] / flashlight [AmE] _____ a powerful beam of light. [TRANSMIT]
- (3) She would always proudly _____ a plate of her famous chocolate-chip cookies for visitors. [DISPLAY]
- (4) She joined the company in 2000 and has _____ considerable experience in marketing. [DEVELOP]
- (5) He _____ a wonderful meal from very few ingredients. [CREATE]
- (6) How did the problem _____ in the first place? [OCCUR]
- (7) Good communication between suppliers _____ the supply chain and improves efficiency. [COMBINE]
- (8) When I go out for my afternoon walk I usually _____ a group of children playing. [ENCOUNTER]
- (9) It's an interesting idea and I thought he _____ it _____ well. [COMMUNICATE]

Academic Vocabulary / Word Formation Practice

Complete the following sentences (1 - 15) by filling in the blank spaces with **the proper form of the word given for that sentence**. Use ONLY ONE word per blank space: DO NOT add any words [e.g. prepositions].

- (1) COMBINE This drug can be safely used in _____ with other medicines.
- (2) COMMUNICATE A _____ disease is one that can be passed on to other people.
- (3) COMMUNICATE Unable to speak a word of the language, he _____ with his hands.
- (4) CREATE She was responsible for the _____ of a new charity.
- (5) DEVELOP The documentary traced the _____ of popular music through the ages.
- (6) DIRECTION The fork in the tongue gives snakes a sort of _____ sense of smell and taste simultaneously.
- (7) DISPLAY Signs _____ both Chinese and English are common throughout the territory.
- (8) ENCOUNTER On their way home they _____ a woman selling flowers.
- (9) GLOBE English is considered to be the _____ lingua franca (common tongue).
- (10) LANDMARK The Rock of Gibraltar is one of Europe's most famous _____.
- (11) LOCATION The school is _____ near the river.
- (12) OBSERVE An _____ doctor can often detect depression from expression, posture, and movement.
- (13) OCCUR Evidence suggests that errors may indeed be _____.
- (14) TRANSMIT Broadband _____ has speeded up access to these sites.
- (15) SPACE Some of us are more _____ intelligent than others.

↑ **REMEMBER – Spelling counts** ↑

STUDENTS LOSE MANY POINTS ON THIS PART OF THE B2 EXAM DUE TO MISSPELLED WORDS

Preposition Practice

Complete the following sentences (1 - 10) by filling in the blank spaces with the proper preposition. You may use ONLY ONE word for each blank space.

- (1) We turned the box upside down and used it _____ a makeshift table.
- (2) I cannot see the relationship _____ the figures and the diagram.
- (3) In English, the letter Q is always followed _____ the letter U.
- (4) What is the purpose _____ the meeting?
- (5) There are many small engineering firms, some specialising _____ scientific instruments.
- (6) The doctors were astonished _____ the speed of her recovery.
- (7) Political correctness is the principle _____ avoiding language or behaviour that may offend certain groups of people.
- (8) Television, movies, music, and computer games are now available _____ demand in homes over high-speed data links.
- (9) It was all over _____ a relatively short space of time.
- (10) Great care is taken to ensure the accuracy _____ each item.

READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE:**[Page 4]**

Read the following passage - then choose the best answer (a, b, c or d) for each of the questions below (1 - 5).

Gold used in jewelry is mixed with harder metals to add strength and durability. The metals added can also be used to change gold's color, giving it a fashionable rose or white tint, or to lighten or darken the natural yellow tone of pure gold. Mixtures like these, of less costly metals with more valuable ones, are called **alloys**. Copper and silver are the most common metals mixed with gold to make yellow gold jewelry. White gold is usually made with an **alloy** of gold and nickel.

The measure of gold's purity is called a karat. The higher the karat rating, the higher the amount of pure gold: 24 karat is pure gold, 18 karat is 75% pure gold, 14 karat is 58.5% pure gold, and 9 karat is 37.5% pure gold. All other things being equal, the higher the percentage of pure gold used in the **alloy**, the more valuable and expensive the jewelry will be.

Gold jewelry pieces are usually stamped with a marking to identify the karat amount. While gold that is 24K is too soft for jewelry, 18K, 14K and 9K gold are all appropriate for jewelry, and they all make pieces that look great and wear beautifully.

(1) Which of the following statements best captures the main idea of this passage?

- a) Although gold is very valuable, it is also very expensive.
- b) Gold jewelry is stamped with its karat weight.
- c) Gold jewelry is made using alloys.
- d) Colored gold is more valuable than white gold.

(2) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that pure gold is...

- a) ...not used to make rings
- b) ...stamped with 100K
- c) ...an alloy of different metals
- d) ...colorless

(3) According to the passage, the use of other metals in gold alloys...

- I. ...can be used to make the gold different color
- II. ...makes jewelry more expensive
- III. ...makes gold more flexible

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II, and III

(4) Based on its use in the passage, it can be understood that which of the following is most similar to an alloy?

- a) a karat
- b) a blend
- c) an ingredient
- d) an accessory

(5) With respect to the relationship between gold and its karat rating, which of the following statements is/are true?

- I. The lower the karat rating, the less pure the gold.
- II. The higher the karat rating, the more expensive the gold.
- III. The higher the karat rating, the more valuable the gold.

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II, and III