

1 Reading Comprehension

Section A

Section B

Section C

Exercise 4

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY ➤➤

CEFR : B2

You are going to read a magazine article about the reason why dogs are man's best friend. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. There is an example at the beginning (0).

As this exercise is at medium level, we have provided you with only four different answers to choose from.

EXAMPLE

0 How do dogs show devotion to humans?

- A They can smile or grin.
- B They are willing to make eye contact with us.
- C They start moving their tails rapidly.
- D They react happily to the sound of our voice.

ANSWER C

Man's best friend



The dog is a loving companion to a man. He is happy to go everywhere with his master. He shows his affection for his master by wagging his tail and licking his hand or face. If his master is blind, the dog helps him to cross the street and acts as his loving guide. No man can feel lonely when he has a dog for company.

A dog keeps watch over his master's house. He will not allow anyone to touch anything belonging to his master. He will bark when a stranger approaches the house. He might even bite a thief who is not scared away by his bark. A dog is useful to a shepherd to look after his sheep. If any of the sheep stray from the flock, the dog will bring them back. He will not allow a wolf or fox to attack the sheep.

A dog is useful in catching criminals like thieves. Police dogs help policemen – the dog will use his keen sense of smell to lead the police to the hiding place of the criminal.

A dog is loyal and faithful to his master. Nothing will induce him to leave his master. His master might be a poor man or even a beggar but still his dog will not leave him to go with anyone else. A dog worships his master as if he were a god. Based on the tone of your voice and your body language, your dog will do its best to emulate your current state of mind. When you're sad, they'll look at you with big doe eyes. When you're angry, the fur will rise on their backs and they'll start barking and growling at inanimate objects. Whereas humans might not respond to your emotional upswings and downswings in the way that you'd like, dogs will always be there whether you're thrilled, depressed, or anywhere in between.

A dog has a sharp sense of hearing and smell. He can hear footsteps from a great distance. At night he will be up and about at the least sound. He can smell his master from far off. He will rush out of the house to jump on his master and welcome him home.

A dog is prepared to die rather than allow any harm to come to his master. Dogs have been known to die to save their masters. A dog might even die of grief after his master is dead. He is certainly a true and faithful friend. It is right to call him man's best friend.

Reading Comprehension

1 According to the text, a dog protects his master's house by

- A barking when a stranger comes near the house.
- B barking to scare a thief away.
- C looking out of the house.
- D All of the above.

2 A sheepdog

- A doesn't go to the front or head of the animals to turn or stop the animals.
- B guards sheep and other livestock for farmers.
- C is not patient at all.
- D can be trained to kill animals.

3 What is said about police dogs in paragraph 3?

- A Police dogs are dogs that help the police to solve crimes.
- B They use their powerful sense of smell to track criminal suspects.
- C They may chase a criminal suspect and hold him until the officer arrives.
- D All of the above.

4 How does a dog show his loyalty?

- A He will leave his master if he is hungry.
- B He will bark if his master goes with other people.
- C He will always stay by his master's side.
- D He will bite beggars or poor people.

5 Which of the following statements is correct?

- A Dogs are emotionally connected to their master.
- B If his master feels sad, the fur will rise on the dog's back.
- C Dogs might not respond to the master's emotional downswings.
- D Dogs don't notice their master's body language.

6 What would a dog do to protect his master?

- A He would rush out of the house to welcome him home.
- B He would follow him to his workplace.
- C He would die to save his master's life.
- D He would growl at inanimate objects.

Reading Comprehension

Exercise 4

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY >>

CEFR B2

You are going to read an extract from a magazine article. Five paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from paragraphs A–H the one which fits each gap (1–5). There are two extra paragraphs which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

As this exercise is at medium level, to help you find the correct answers we have provided you with two extra paragraphs.

WHY ARE WE HOOKED ON HOROSCOPES?

Whenever I read a paper or magazine, I'm drawn to the horoscopes page. I know there's no real truth in it, but I still want to know the prediction for my star sign. It feels like a little ritual, and I enjoy it. Yes, I know millions of people were born on the same day, at the same time, but, irrationally, I think I'm going to read something unique about myself. 0 H



It is also an appealing illusion to feel you can be 'defined', and therefore more easily understood by others. Capricorns are said to be solitary creatures, for example, while Leos like to take centre stage, and Taureans are trustworthy and reliable. Ancient civilisations used horoscopes to divide time into years, months and hours – the word 'horoscope' comes from the Greek, meaning 'to tell the time'. 1

Nowadays, reading our horoscope is a collective self-deception, like doing the lottery. We imagine if we believe in something enough it will come true. What we can always rely on is the omission of bad news. Sad events, such as death, divorce or illness, are never there. 2

Horoscopes offer escape from daily anxieties – grown-up fairy tales many of us consume without questioning. The interesting discovery was when we looked at women's personality traits in terms of how much interest they took in their star signs. The women who didn't know much about it weren't similar at all. 3

Yet horoscopes may give meaning to random events in our lives. So we can think, "It's not going well because I'm a Pisces and we are destined to suffer". If we can blame it on Saturn or Mars, we can feel a little less responsible for our inability to keep a job or a partner. 4

There is something in each one of us that is superstitious, that can't be convinced by reason. We are able to dream, to access our imagination. The problem is it makes us vulnerable to astrology, clairvoyants or any type of guru who claims to know something about our essential being, our needs, our desires – our future. 5

It isn't as literal as saying "You're going to meet someone tomorrow". It's a macroscopic view. It gives us a sense of where we're placed. I encourage individuals to reflect and consider, and in that reflection they often find themselves.



Reading Comprehension

- A This is a time for giving extra attention to your loved ones, and home and domestic routines, dear Sagittarius. Yesterday's New Moon happened in the sector of your chart that rules these matters, and today, the Sun and Chiron align in that same sector.
- B According to a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin, 70 percent of information in newspaper horoscopes is positive, substantially higher than any other part of a newspaper.
- C Yet the women who followed them closely conformed significantly to their sign definition. So they can be influential, to the point where you could twist your personality to fit in with what they say.
- D Instinctively, we don't like the idea that events are random – so horoscopes offer us the comfort of predictability. Widespread interest in the rational and logic hasn't, it seems, dented our hunger for any of the generalisations that horoscopes rely upon.
- E Priests and kings looked to the stars to tell them whether they would win in battle or enjoy a good harvest. Horoscopes only began being aimed at ordinary people from the end of the 19th century.
- F Believing you can see into your own future by examining the stars, these five celebrities have all expressed an interest in the likes of astrology, horoscopes, mediums and more.
- G Many people look forward to their weekly horoscope, using their astrological sign predictions as a guide for what's to come. Astrology gives us a sense of meaning that people can't find it anywhere else.
- H This temptation to read personal meaning into a general description is recognised by psychologists, who refer to it as the 'Barnum effect'. We are all surprisingly willing to attribute the vaguest personality descriptions to ourselves.

Reading Comprehension

Exercise 4

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY ➤

CEFR B2

You are going to read four different opinions from scientists about how to spot lies. For questions 1–7, choose from the writers (A–D). The writers may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

As this exercise is at medium level, we have provided you with only four different opinions to choose from.

WHICH SCIENTIST



- 0 says something that means the same as the old saying "Liars never look you in the eye"?
- 1 points out that a lying person shows signs of closure?
- 2 found that liars use fewer first-person pronouns to disassociate themselves from the lie?
- 3 noticed that, by telling the truth, liars feel like they are giving up control?
- 4 advises paying close attention to hard-to-hide micro-expressions?
- 5 states that people who are not telling the truth seem busy with trivial activities?
- 6 claims that when a person is lying, they tend to include very specific information?
- 7 says that for some people lying can become compulsive?

Reading Comprehension

A Sergio Bosco, Cattolica University

Whether you are talking to your child, spouse, co-worker or friend, you may find yourself questioning their genuineness and wondering from time to time if they are telling the truth. When someone is lying, his or her body language can often give you a clue. Some people get so accustomed to lying that they do so even when there is no clear purpose, and when their lies are easily proved to be false, leaving everyone scratching their heads over the point of their falsehood. Over the years, I've worked with a number of these people – so-called pathological liars – and gained some insight into the way they think. Believe it or not, their lying makes some sense, when you look at it through their eyes. The reason people lie when it just doesn't matter is because they actually do think it matters. While everyone around them thinks it's an inconsequential issue, the liar believes it is critically important. Often, people tell lies because they are trying to control a situation and exert influence to get decisions or reactions they want. The truth can be 'inconvenient' because it might not conform to their narrative. People who tell lie after lie are often worried about losing the respect of those around them. They want you to like them, be impressed, and value them.

B Jeffrey Hancock, Cornell University

In my research I've discovered that when people make up a story about themselves, they tend to use 'I' and 'me' less often than people who are being truthful. Instead, they'll speak about themselves in the third person ("This is a girl who loves to ski") or even truncate their language ("Really into listening to jazz") – anything to give themselves psychological distance from the lie. Ask most people what they were doing last week and they'll have to pause and think about it. That's even more true of teenagers, who generally don't have the capacity to tell an elaborate story on the fly. If someone keeps performing a random physical action that seems unnecessary – cleaning their glasses excessively, retying their shoelaces, or dusting off the (clean) table in front of them – they may be lying. The guilt and anxiety make them restless. To sell us on the integrity of their answers, liars often use phrases emphasising the validity of their statements, like "to tell the truth" and "to be perfectly honest". Most truthful people don't need to go that far. People often lie to escape from speaking the truth and view it as something that is important for survival. Unfortunately, most humans aren't very good at detecting lies. However, asking the right questions and observing a person's body movements can reveal the truth.

C Lionel Efferbam, La Sorbonne

You may think a smile can easily disguise your true feelings, but the expressions that flash across a liar's face will give away what they are really thinking – whether they know it or not. These clues are often so difficult to detect that even trained experts have trouble discerning them. But you may be able to spot a liar by the red colour on their cheeks as anxiety can cause people to blush. Or they try not to make eye contact. Most people believe that they can tell whether a person is lying by looking them in the eye. It's more important to examine a person's entire demeanour, as there's no one feature that's apt to give away a liar. When people are in the middle of a lie their facial expressions may show you. Look for flared nostrils, lip biting, rapid blinking or sweating. These changes in facial activity signify an increase in brain activity as a lie begins. Some people will get a slight flush to their face when they are lying, so look for blushed cheeks as anxiety may set in.

D Mark McCormick, Columbia University

Most people believe that 'lie detector' tests can accurately predict whether somebody is lying, but they're no longer admissible as evidence in court. Honesty is characterised by features that are in sync with one another – so besides posture, note the fit between face, body, voice, and speech. Like an animal avoiding detection, a liar may pull his arms and legs inward or keep his movements to a minimum – anything to appear smaller. Someone who is lying may cover their mouth or eyes with their hands, or close them altogether. Both of these come from a natural tendency to want to cover a lie. When people lie their speech tone and cadence may change. They could start speaking with a higher or lower tone than normal, and either speak more slowly or rapidly. The content of the stories may become more detailed than usual. This again is their brain working in overdrive.