

**ENGLISH**

**BEC PRELIMINARY**

**MARCH 2011**

## Activity 1

### Reading

**Read the text about South Africa. Then decide if each sentence (1 - 6) is correct or incorrect.**

- 1- It's a good idea to combine a city break with a country break.
- 2- There is little to do close to Cape Town.
- 3- You can travel by cable car right to the top of Table Mountain.
- 4- To get the most out of the countryside, it's necessary to go to several parks.
- 5- It's better to avoid using the roads around Kruger National Park.
- 6- You can stay overnight in Kruger National Park.

### South Africa: City and Safari

South Africa is a beautiful country with a varied landscape. There are superb mountain ranges, incredible forested sea-shores, desert plains, and national parks full of amazing wild animals. For the perfect holiday, try spending a few days in the city followed by a safari.

### Cape Town

Cape Town is a wonderful city that offers white, sandy beaches, and exciting city centre, excellent food and great street entertainment. Take a guided tour to find the best places to go. For the more adventurous, talk to the local people and find out what Cape Town's really like, or visit the fishing villages outside the city. The most memorable thing about Cape Town is its greatest natural landmark. Table Mountain, which rises to 1,086m at its highest point. Try walking to the top and looking down at the city itself. If it's too far for you to walk, you can go most of the way by cable car and then walk for about another hour to the top.

### Kruger National Park

After the city, it's worth heading out to the countryside. There are many national parks in South Africa and there's so much to see and do in them that it's best to concentrate on visiting just one. You can always choose a different park next time you come. Kruger National Park is one of the most popular places to go. You can hire a car and drive there yourself, as generally the roads are good and there are road maps available. The tourist roads in the park are also in good condition. However, if you prefer, you can join an organised safari. These can last one day, or longer if you want to stay in one of the hotels or lodges in the park. Whatever your choice, look out for elephants, lions, rhinos and leopards, and for hippos bathing in the rivers and animals drinking from the muddy waterholes. Afterwards, you can carry on exploring the countryside or perhaps try South Africa's biggest city, Johannesburg, which is just a few hours' drive away. Whatever park of South Africa you visit, your memories will last forever.

## Activity 2

### Listening

You will hear to someone talking about Nelson Mandela.

Highlight the right word in each of the pairs (1- 16).

Nelson Mandela is (1) *one / ones* of the most respected people in the world. For countless reasons he is a (2) *hug / huge* hero. He is a person all us can learn many lessons from. He has seen almost everything in his (3) *nine / ninety* decades, from being tortured to becoming president of the country he loves. He (4) *retried / retired* in 1999 but continues to travel the world helping people.

Nelson was born in 1918 (5) *into / onto* a South Africa that was divided along black and white (6) *racism / racial* lines. He says he had a wonderful childhood. He first learnt of the terrible apartheid system when he (7) *studies / studied* to become a lawyer. This led to his involvement in the African National Congress (ANC), which he later became the leader (8) *of / for*.

The South African government (9) *made / did* its best to keep Mandela from spreading his message of equality for blacks and racial (10) *unity / unify*. It put him in prison for 27 years. He became famous around the world as an (11) *icon / iron* of the struggle for freedom in South Africa. Rock stars, actors, politicians and ordinary people campaigned to (12) *free / freed* him and end apartheid.

Mandela was released from prison in 1990 and the world (13) *rejoiced / rejoined*. His never-ending hope, energy and enthusiasm won him the (14) *heart / hearts* of millions. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. A year later, he was elected to be his country's first (15) *even / ever* black president. Today, he is still hard at work offering (16) *advice / advise* about global problems.

## Activity 3

### Reading

Read the text about an amazing stuntman. For questions 1-3 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.



**PHILIPPE PETIT**

### HIGH WIRE WALKER

On August 7, 1974, a 24 year-old French high-wire-walker called Philippe Petit performed one of the most amazing stunts the world has seen. He positioned a thin cable between the former twin towers of the World Trade Centre more than 400 metres above the ground. Then he walked across the wire from building to building, doing various acrobatic movements on the way.

Petit performed for around an hour while an amazed crowd watched from below. When he finally came down, he was immediately arrested. The next day, his stunt made headlines and pushed major political stories off from the page. He had so much publicity that in the end the charges were dropped. His stunt became known as "the artistic crime of the century".

Petit first became interested in performing when he was a child, after somebody gave him a magic kit. He started by doing magic shows in salons around Paris in the late 1960s, he was also one of the earliest modern-day street jugglers. He had taught himself to walk the high wire at the age of 16 and he made his first illegal wire walk in 1971, when he walked between the towers of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

As well as New York and Paris, Petit has done wire-walks all over the world, including between the towers Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia. His story has been the subject of plays and more recently in 2008 director James March made a film about his life. This film was a huge success and received various awards.

#### ***1 What is the writer's main aim in writing the text?***

- A to talk about the things Philippe Petit has achieved
- B to explain how to become a street entertainer
- C to give information about some famous buildings
- D to warn against the dangers of high-wire-walking

#### ***2 After Petit's arrest for his World Trade Centre stunt***

- A a politician told the police to release him
- B the crowd stopped the police from arresting him
- C nobody thought the stunt was against the law.
- D the media interest became very important.

#### ***3 What would a reader learn about Philippe Petit from the text?***

- A He tries to avoid the media.
- B He rarely plans his stunts.
- C He has several performance skills.
- D He dislikes very high buildings.

## Activity 4

### Listening

#### Horror films

#### Before listening:

##### a) Try to answer these questions.

- Why do you think people enjoy watching horror films?
- What is your favourite film genre (e.g. action, comedy, drama, horror)?
- Why do you like that particular genre?

##### b) Match the words in the table (a - l) to their definitions (1- 12).

a. gory	b. hardware store	c. loads of
d. on my own	e. scary	f. sinister
g. slasher film	h. special effects	i. supplies
j. surrounded by	k. tense	l. trapped

1. alone, with nobody else
2. unusual pieces of film action created with particular equipment
3. frightening
4. a lot of (informal)
5. all around something
6. food or other things necessary for living
7. shop selling materials and equipment for the house or garden
8. unable to move or escape from a place
9. a film in which people, in particular young women, are killed very violently with knives
10. involving blood and violence
11. filled with suspense
12. something which is very bad and evil

c) Now listen and decide if each of the statements is TRUE or FALSE.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. The writer has liked horror films since she was a child.		
2. She finds all horror films amusing rather than frightening.		
3. One zombie film she mentions does not end well.		
4. Not all zombie films are supposed to be taken seriously.		
5. "The Mist" was based on a real incident in a small town in the UK.		
6. The writer wasn't convinced by the monsters in "The Mist".		

## Activity 5

### Writing

Choose **ONE** of the following opening sentences and write a story. (100 words)

- *Everyone avoided the big old mansion. It was believed to have...*
- *I decided to go for an evening stroll. I walked about three blocks when I felt it...*
- *They would have been fine if they hadn't stopped for the stranger...*

## Activity 6

Put each verb in brackets into a suitable verb form.

### Moving house

I come from a very large family, and recently my parents (1. decide) ..... that they (2. spend) ..... long enough living in an overcrowded house in Birmingham. "We (3. move) .....to the country", my father (4. announce) ..... one evening. "I (5. sell) ..... this house, and we (6. live) on a farm." So last week we (7. load) all our possessions into two hired vans, and for the last few days we (8. try) ..... to organize ourselves in our new home. Yesterday, for example, my three brothers and I (9. start) ..... painting the downstairs rooms.

Unfortunately while I (10. mix) the paint, one of my sisters (11. open) ..... the door. Nobody (12. tell) her that we (13. be) in the room, you see. So instead of painting the walls, we (14. spend) ..... all morning cleaning the paint off the floor. But worse things (15. happen) ..... since then. This morning when I (16. wake up) ....., water (17. drip) ..... through the ceiling next to my bed. We (18. spend) ..... today so far repairing the roof. It's not all bad news, though. The school in the village nearby (19. close down) ..... two years ago, and my parents (20. not – find) ..... another school for us yet.

## Activity 7

Decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

### The latest news

Dear Linda,

I'm sorry I (1) ...*B*... to you for so long, but I (2) ..... very busy lately. All last month I (3) ..... exams, and I (4) ..... anything else but study for ages.

Anyway, I (5) ..... studying now, and I (6) ..... for my exam results.

As you can see from this letter, I (7) ..... my address and (8) ..... in Croydon now. I (9) ..... that I wanted a change from central London because it (10) ..... so expensive. A friend of mine (11) ..... me about this flat, and I (12) ..... here about two months ago. When you (13) ..... to London this summer, please visit me. I (14) ..... here until the middle of August.

Then I (15) ..... on holiday to Scotland.

Please write soon,

*Margaret*

- |                   |                     |                  |                  |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1) A don't write  | B haven't written   | C am not writing | D wasn't writing |
| 2) A was being    | B had been          | C am             | D have been      |
| 3) A had          | B was having        | C had had        | D have had       |
| 4) A haven't done | B don't do          | C wasn't doing   | D am not doing   |
| 5) A stop         | B will have stopped | C have stopped   | D was stopping   |
| 6) A wait         | B am waiting        | C have waited    | D was waiting    |
| 7) A am changing  | B had changed       | C will change    | D have changed   |
| 8) A will live    | B have been living  | C live           | D have lived     |
| 9) A decided      | B have decided      | C was deciding   | D decide         |
| 10) A will become | B becomes           | C has become     | D will have      |
| 11) A tells       | B told              | C was telling    | D will tell      |
| 12) A have moved  | B had moved         | C was moving     | D moved          |
| 13) A will come   | B came              | C come           | D were coming    |
| 14) A am staying  | B stayed            | C stay           | D have stayed    |
| 15) A have gone   | B went              | C am going       | D will have gone |



### Activity 8

Complete each sentence with one of the verbs in the box, using an appropriate tense. Use either the active or the passive form.

advance	ban	become	carry
conduct	<del>construct</del>	discourage	hold
predict	suggest	<del>use</del>	weigh



The first mobile phones were constructed in Stockholm in the 1950s – but were not very mobile! They could only be used in cars because the receiver and the transmitter (1) ..... over 40 kilos and had to (2) ..... in the boot. But technology (3) ..... so quickly that by the early 1990s mobiles could (4) ..... in the palm of the hand and people talking on their mobiles (5) ..... a familiar sight everywhere from trains to restaurants.

Of course, not everyone welcomed mobiles, and in the mid 1990s their use (6) ..... from many schools to prevent children using them in classrooms. Even recent research which (7) ..... that prolonged exposure to the microwave emissions from mobiles might be a health hazard (8) ..... their use, and analysts now (9) ..... that by 2025, 90 per cent of all electronic communication (10) ..... by mobile phone.

Activity 9  
Complete the quiz below.



## What would you do if you were rich?

*Most people would like to be rich. They think: 'If I were rich, I wouldn't have any problems. I'd be able to buy everything I wanted and I wouldn't worry about the future.' But there would be one problem: How would you spend your money?*

**If someone gave you a small amount of money, would you**

- a) buy a computer? ☐
- b) buy lots of new clothes? ☐
- c) organise a party? ☐
- d) do something else? (say what) ..... ☐

**If you won quite a lot of money, would you**

- a) go to Disneyland in France or the USA? ☐
- b) buy yourself and your friends new bikes? ☐
- c) save it? ☐
- d) do something else? (say what) ..... ☐

**If you were very rich, would you**

- a) give your money to poor people? ☐
- b) buy a jet plane? ☐
- c) buy a Greek island? ☐
- d) do something else? (say what) ..... ☐



When you have done the FUN Magazine quiz, ask and answer these questions.

Then write your true answers in complete sentences.

- 1) What would you do if someone gave you a small amount of money?
- 2) What would you do if you won quite a lot of money?
- 3) What would you do if you were rich?

## Activity 10

Look at the pictures and say what you would do in these situations.



If you were ill?



If you could fly  
in a spaceship?



If you were a famous  
writer?



If you saw a ghost?



If you met Tom Cruise?



If you had a time  
machine?

## Activity 11

### Use of English

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use no more than three words.

1. Humans are more intelligent than animals.

Animals aren't \_\_\_\_\_ as humans.

2. Dogs are good pets in comparison to cats.

Dogs are \_\_\_\_\_ cats.

3. Cheetahs are faster than any other animal in the world.

Cheetahs are \_\_\_\_\_ animals in the world.

4. Insects aren't as cute as some animals.

Insects are \_\_\_\_\_ than some animals.

5. It's a long time since I played basketball.

I \_\_\_\_\_ basketball for a long time.

6. They've just won the match.

They \_\_\_\_\_ the match a few minutes ago.

7. Our team needs to score a goal!

Our team \_\_\_\_\_ a goal yet!

8. The afternoon was so hot that we decided to go to the beach.

It was \_\_\_\_\_ that we decided to go to the beach.

9. He is such an interesting person to talk to.

I find him \_\_\_\_\_ to talk to.

10. "Don't forget to buy some more batteries!"

He reminded \_\_\_\_\_ some more batteries.

11. "Could I ask you where you live?"

She asked me \_\_\_\_\_.

12. "I didn't speak to your girlfriend!" shouted the boy.

The boy denied \_\_\_\_\_ girlfriend.

13. The judges have chosen five finalists.

Five finalists \_\_\_\_\_ by the judges.

14. Someone is meeting me at the airport.

I \_\_\_\_\_ at the airport.

15. I played football really well when I was younger, but now I don't.

I \_\_\_\_\_ football really well when I was younger.

16. "Let's go shopping this afternoon."

She \_\_\_\_\_ shopping that afternoon.

17. It's not possible that he's gone home.

He \_\_\_\_\_ gone home.

18. There 's a chance that they have taken the dog for a walk.

They \_\_\_\_\_ the dog for a walk.

19. If he doesn't come by 6 p.m., I'm going home.

I'm going home \_\_\_\_\_ by 6 p.m.

20. You should take the train instead of the bus.

If \_\_\_\_\_, I'd take the train instead of the bus.

21. I'm sure he was at home last night.

He \_\_\_\_\_ at home last night.

22. We were told to wait here by the director.

It was the director \_\_\_\_\_ to wait here.

23. I didn't understand what he was saying because I hadn't read his book.

If I had read his book, I \_\_\_\_\_ what he was saying.

24. It doesn't need to be finished this afternoon.

It isn't \_\_\_\_\_ this afternoon.

25. What a shame he wasn't able to come.

I wish he \_\_\_\_\_ to come.

26. She let her son go to Mar del Plata for the weekend.

She \_\_\_\_\_ to go to Mar del Plata for the weekend.

27. Peter didn't come to the meeting yesterday. Perhaps he was ill.

Peter \_\_\_\_\_ ill yesterday because he didn't come to the meeting.

28. I think Thomas needs to see a doctor. His cough is terrible.

With that terrible cough, Thomas \_\_\_\_\_ to see a doctor.

29. I could never have passed that exam without your help.

I could never have passed that exam if you \_\_\_\_\_ me.

30. Can I talk to you for a minute Paul?

I \_\_\_\_\_ talk to you for a minute Paul.

## Activity 12

### Reading

You are going to read an article about the uses of computers. Eight sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A – I the one that best fits each gap (1 – 7). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

### The computer and its uses

Few industries have changed so much in such a short time as the computer industry, and the pace of change shows no sign of slowing. The computer now has a role in almost every aspect of modern life, and it has radically affected the way people work, play, study and organise their lives.

As we enter the 21st century, computers are influencing ways of teaching and learning, as access to computers in schools is becoming more widespread and varied. **0 H**

In a teaching mode, computers provide a wide variety of information and practice material. They can also play a testing role in a range of subjects including Maths, English and Modern Languages. The one-to-one interaction students have with the computer, along with the immediate response to their answers, help to promote independent learning.

**1** In the fast-changing world of business, employees are being physically removed from the workplace and the proximity of their colleagues, while remaining virtually connected via telephone, and the Internet. Laptop computers enable business-people who travel to have access to important information at the touch of a key. **2**

Computers are used to solve time-consuming data-management problems, such as payroll calculations, keeping stock records, bank account transactions, airline reservations,

and scientific and engineering computations. Computers are also important in the collection, organisation, storage, retrieval and interpretation of information. **3**

In the film industry, computers are used to create graphics for scenes which would have been inconceivable in the past. This technique was used for films like 'Jurassic Park' where

the incredibly realistic scenes of dinosaurs were all computer-generated.

**4** Additionally, computer technology enables the training of pilots in flight simulators. Not only do these create the illusion of flying but they are safer and cheaper than training staff in aeroplanes.

In the home, the computer has become a great source of entertainment with the introduction of interactive Virtual Reality programs which are available on CD-ROM or through the Internet. They enable people located in different places to come together and interact with one another in real time using speech, sound and 3-D animated graphics. **5**

Nowadays, computers come equipped not only with a mouse, but also a host of different devices. Such components are essential if you are to spend any time online, whether it is playing games or researching any number of topics on the Internet. **6** It is possible to explore sites on anything you are interested in, or even chat with celebrities, experts and others who share your interest. Keep up with the latest news, fashions and reports. Look up facts on everything from who invented the plane to where to go on holiday.

In the future, today's technology will probably become obsolete as machines become more powerful. **7**

The development of smaller machines will mean that it will be possible to condense all the written knowledge in the world into devices the size of a child's notebook. All human knowledge will literally be at your fingertips.



- A** *Another* area where computers are used is in the military, especially in the development of weapons and surveillance equipment to use in satellites for spying.
- B** *Here* you can access all kinds of valuable information and the beauty of it is that you do not need to leave your house to find it.
- C** *Then*, there may well be a microchip in each telephone receiver with more computing power than the huge machines of today.
- D** In fact, *they* are essential tools in almost every field of work from constructing models of the universe to predicting tomorrow's weather reports.
- E** Outside the classroom, computers provide people with greater flexibility and freedom, and also allow them to organise their time in a more productive way.
- F** Programs like *these* can often be downloaded free from different sites.
- G** Connections through a modem allow *them* to transfer data anywhere in the world.
- H** *Their* use enables the learner to develop at his or her own pace and makes the whole learning process more flexible.
- I** Computers are machines which take over more mechanical aspects of our brain.

## Activity 13

### Reading

You are going to read an article about a series of events in Britain which aim to encourage people to draw. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A – H the one which fits each gap (9-15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

### The Big Draw

*Emily Baker rediscovers the simple joy of putting pencil to paper*

I don't draw. I'm intimidated by the idea of putting pencil to paper in the privacy of my own home, let alone in public. **9** ..... I've come with Zoe, my 14-year-old daughter, who is just as daunted but better at pretending she isn't, to a weekend of art workshops launching Britain's ninth annual Big Draw. This month, hundreds of venues across Britain, including libraries, museums, historic sites and schools will be hosting free events designed to encourage people to draw.

'The Big Draw is not about perfecting your artistic technique. It's about recognizing that drawing is a way of engaging with the world,' says Sue Grayson Ford, who runs the Campaign for Drawing, the charity that sponsors the Big Draw and other events. **10** ..... It's our universal language.'

Her words are echoed by our first workshop leader, who says, 'It's less about what you put on the paper than what you see.' Well, that's a relief. We are drawing pictures inspired by words listed on a card. As I move coloured pencils around the paper, I begin to feel relaxed. I look around the room. **11** ..... When we are finished, our works are hung on the wall among a weekend's worth of contributions to form a canvas.



Later, professional artists show us how to draw cartoon characters. We then learn how to make them move under the guidance of an animator. 12 ..... I find I am thinking less about my artistic output and more about how we see the world.

This would delight the founders of the Campaign for Drawing. The charity is dedicated to the principles of the nineteenth-century critic John Ruskin. He believed that art was more about what you see than what is drawn. He felt that if we observed the world more closely, we would take better care of it. I'm not sure how many of those at the workshops are thinking about John Ruskin, but many, including me, are inspired. One elderly woman, there with her two granddaughters, pauses to note: 'I haven't drawn for years. 13 ..... In fact, I think I'm going to do that straight away.'

Parents often notice that as children grow up, they become self-conscious about drawing and give up. '14 ..... Drawing is such a natural form of expression,' says Grayson Ford. 'The Big Draw, hopefully, will encourage people to return to that uninhibited age.'

Nine years ago the Campaign for Drawing launched the first Big Draw in the subway tunnel beneath the Science and Victoria and Albert Museums in London. Grayson Ford didn't imagine that it would expand to include 1000 British events this year, as well as programmes in America and Europe. 15 .....

I'm still pretty inhibited at the end of the day, but I can't forget the peace. On the way home Zoe asks me why I'm smiling. 'I was just thinking I might invest in a sketch pad,' I say.

- A In another session, we design placards about how the media portrays body image.
- B But here I am in a drawing workshop, surrounded by strangers and professional artists.
- C However, some require advance registration.
- D But this has made me feel like taking it up again.
- E Workshop topics range from an Etch-a-Sketch competition in Newcastle to making pop-up buildings for a paper city in Manchester.
- F Virtually every discipline from drama to science uses drawing as a basic form of communication.
- G It's a shame that that happens.
- H Children and adults sit engrossed in what they are doing.

## Activity 14

### Listening

- *Have you ever been to a wedding?*
- *What do you remember about it?*
- *Do you know who Prince William is?*



'...and remember it's morning suits with top hats and here's a Harrods wedding present suggestion list.'

- *Try to explain the cartoon above.*



### The Royal Wedding

**Listen and decide if the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. If they are FALSE, make them TRUE.**

1. 10 Downing Street has sent invitations for Prince William's wedding.
2. Most of the guests are family and friends of the bride and groom.
3. Around a sixth of those at the wedding ceremony are invited to dinner.
4. Prince Charles is hosting the dinner.
5. The couple met while they were students and lived together.
6. Prince William had to ask the media to back off from Ms. Middleton.
7. The couple split up for a year in 2007.
8. Prince William asked Kate to marry him while on holiday in Scotland.