

B1 LEVEL

SECTION:READING

Reading task 1

Read the holiday brochure and decide if each statement is True or False

YUKON ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

Looking for the perfect place for a holiday? Then come to the Yukon, in north-western Canada, where we have package holidays to please everyone.

From October to March you can choose one of our „winter wonderland“ holidays. These include skiing, snowmobiling and dogsledding. From March to August we have organised hiking or mountain climbing activities, as well as canoeing or white water rafting down some of the most beautiful rivers in the Yukon Valley. All of our adventure package holidays include guides and instructors to help you enjoy activities you have never tried before. Accommodation ranges from four-star hotels to log cabins or camping grounds.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Package holidays are available all year round. | True | False |
| 2. You can travel by dogsled in July. | True | False |
| 3. You can do watersports in the Yukon. | True | False |
| 4. You can only stay at campsites. | True | False |
| 5. Phone calls to the company are free of charge. | True | False |

Reading task 2

Read the article and mark the statement as True or False

TRAVEL GUIDE: SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is one of the most beautiful countries in the world and a favourite destination for many travellers. From Kruger National Park to the Kalahari Desert, South Africa provides a great introduction to Africa, but it has more to offer than stunning landscapes.

If you visit South Africa, make sure you stop off in Cape Town. There is so much to see and do, you'll never get bored. There's always something happening in this exciting city, and it has great shops, too. The more adventurous can take a trip up Table Mountain or take a boat trip to see great white sharks and seals. Cape Town has something for everybody.

South Africa is a place that everyone should visit at least once in their lifetime! Book now for a holiday you will never forget.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. South Africa is not evry popular with tourists. | True | False |
| 2. The Kalahari Desert is in Cape Town. | True | False |
| 3. There is not much going on in Cape Town. | True | False |
| 4. You can see some big, scary fish there. | True | False |
| 5. The author recommends that everyone should go to South Africa. | True | False |

Reading task 3

SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

A slow and heavy step, which had been heard upon the stairs and in the corridor, paused immediately outside the door. Then there was a loud knock on the door.

"Come in!" said Holmes.

A very tall man entered, with the chest and limbs of a Hercules. His dress was rich with a richness which would, in England, be considered bad taste. He was wearing a double-breasted coat with fur-trimmed collar and cuffs, over which he wore a deep blue cloak lined with flame-coloured silk. His boots, which went halfway up his legs, were also trimmed with fur, completing his appearance of barbaric richness. He had a thick moustache and a straight chin suggesting strong determination, but a black mask hid the upper part of his face. He was carrying a hat in one hand, while his other hand was raised, as if he had just finished straightening his mask.

"Please take a seat," said Holmes. "This is my friend and colleague, Dr Watson. Whom have I the honour to address?»

"You may address me as Count von Kramm, a Bohemian aristocrat. I hope your friend is a man I can trust. If not, I prefer to speak to you alone," said our strange visitor.

"You can say anything in front of this man that you can say to me," Holmes replied. The Count nodded and continued. "You will excuse the mask; my employer wishes my true identity to remain a secret.»

"If your majesty would like to tell us your problem," Holmes remarked, "I will be happy to advise you.»

The Count sprang from his chair, paced nervously up and down the room, then took off the mask and threw it on the floor.

"You are right!" he cried. "I am the King. Why should I try to hide it?»

"Why, indeed?" said Holmes. "I knew, even before you spoke, that you were the Grand Duke of Cassel-Felstein and the King of Bohemia."

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. The visitor's mouth and chin are hidden by a mask. | True | False |
| 2. | | |
| 2. The visitor says he is Count von Kramm. | True | False |
| 3. The visitor is unsure whether to trust Watson. | True | False |
| 4. Holmes does not know why the visitor has come. | True | False |
| 5. Holmes realises the visitor is the King when he takes off the mask. | True | False |

Reading task 4

Read the text and decide if the sentence are True, False or Doesn't Say.

FACE YOUR FEARS DAY

What are you afraid of? Snakes, heights, the dark?

Whatever it is, it's time to face your fears! Face Your Fears Day is on the third Tuesday in October, and it is the day when people stand up to the things that scare them and say "You don't scare me anymore!" The day was started by a blogger called Steve Hughes in 2007 to help people become a little braver.

On Face Your Fears Day, people do brave things. Last year, The Grove School in England met 'scary' animals like snakes and spiders, and even had a climbing wall setup in the playground for students who wanted to face their fear of heights. Many charities visit schools and colleges to do presentations about how to beat social fears, like public speaking or hanging out with people they don't know. Also, over the last few years, bloggers have posted videos of themselves facing their fears in order to encourage others to do the same.

Facing your fears can be difficult. If you are afraid of something, you should try slowly facing it. For example, if you are afraid of snakes, start by looking at pictures and videos of them. Do some research and learn everything you can about them, because a lot of the time it is the fear of the unknown that is the biggest fear of all. When you feel you are ready, maybe take a trip to the zoo to watch them behind the glass. After a while you'll feel comfortable and confident enough to hold them. It'll take time, but don't worry or rush, all fears are beatable!

Our fears can hold us back in life, but we shouldn't let them. Face Your Fears Day gives people the boost they need to defeat the things that scare them. This day is actually more about courage than fear. Will you be brave enough to face your fears this year?

1. The first Face Yours Fears Day in 2007.

True False Doesn't say

2. On that day, people avoid the things that scare them.

True False Doesn't say

3. Some people are afraid of going to parties.

True False Doesn't say

4. Its easier to beat a phobia if you do it quickly.

True False Doesn't say

5. Face your Fears Day focuses more on people being brave than being scared.

True False Doesn't say

Reading Task 5

Read the text and choose the correct answer.

ALEXA'S BLOG

Hi everyone! Thanks for all your thoughts on my previous blog post. I loved reading all your comments. I've got some great news! My friend, Alice, and I have just booked our summer holiday.

We're going to Mexico to take part in a coastal conservation volunteer programme. We're leaving on the 1st August and we're going to stay there for three weeks! I think it'll be an unforgettable experience. We arrive at Guadalajara International Airport early in the morning and then we are

going to leave for the town of Guyutlán by bus. It's about a four-hour drive from the airport. However, I don't mind as we'll be able to look at the view on our way there.

During the programme, we are going to help with the conservation of the sea turtles and crocodiles. We're going to help protect the turtle nests and study the behaviour of other wildlife. But that's not all! We're also going to have two hours of Spanish lessons every day. It's going to be hard work! At the weekends, we don't have to work and can enjoy ourselves at the beach. I can't wait! I will tell you all about it when I get home since there isn't any Wi-Fi there and I'm not going to take my smartphone or tablet with me. What are your plans for this summer? Let me know in the comments below.

1. The main purpose of the blog post is

- a) to ask people to volunteer abroad
- b) to advertise a holiday destination in Mexico
- c) to inform people of future plans

2. Alexa will spend her summer holidays

- a) volunteering abroad.
- b) studying the behaviour of sea turtles.
- c) travelling around Mexico.

3. What is NOT true about the volunteer programme?

- a) It involves learning a skill.
- b) It involves working seven days a week.
- c) It involves working with various types of animals.

4. Alexa thinks it will be difficult to

- a) not have any free time.
- b) learn Spanish.
- c) work and study at the same time.

5. During the trip, Alexa

- a) will use her tablet to access the Internet.
- b) won't be updating her blog.
- c) will tell her friends about her experience.

Reading task 6

HOW LED LIGHTS CAN SAVE SEA TURTLES' LIVES

Sea turtles are amazing animals that have lived in our oceans for millions of years. However, today, they face many dangers. One of these comes from non-natural light. When baby sea turtles, also called hatchlings, come out of their eggs, they need to find the ocean quickly. They usually do this by following the natural light of the Moon and stars reflecting off the water. But in many places, artificial lights – from streets, buildings, and homes – are much brighter than the Moon. These lights can confuse baby sea turtles and make it hard for them to find their way to the ocean. This causes them to lose their way and head toward the land instead of the sea. When this happens, the baby turtles can get lost, dehydrated, or even be eaten by other animals.

Although artificial light is usually a problem for sea turtles, we don't have to live in the dark to protect them. Research shows that using special artificial lights, placed low to the ground and slightly covered so they can't be seen from the beach, reduces the chances of sea turtles getting confused. These turtle-friendly lights are also better for people as they can improve visibility while driving by reducing the shine on the car windows. If you live near the coast or are visiting a beach where sea turtles live, you can help. Use lights that are not bright and low to the ground. Close curtains at night to reduce the amount of light coming from inside buildings.

Sea turtles have another enemy. Every year, hundreds of thousands of these sea animals are caught by large fishing boats in their fishing nets by accident – this means six to eight turtles daily for each boat in Mexico alone. Surprisingly, in this case, artificial lights can be helpful for sea turtles.

Studies show that turtles use their sight to find food, but when swimming underwater at night, it's hard to see the fishing net. So, different organisations have developed fishing nets with LED lights. By adding lights to fishing nets, scientists have found a way to prevent turtles and other animals from getting caught in the nets, reducing the number of unwanted catches by 60% to 95% without lowering the amount of fish caught.

Using LED lights on fishing nets doesn't just help sea turtles. When sea animals get stuck in the net by mistake, they might damage it. It costs time and money to remove sea turtles from their nets and to fix or replace the broken nets. In addition, LED lights are energy-efficient and last a long time. This new design of fishing nets reduces costs, making it a less expensive option.

1. What light should the turtles follow to find the sea?

- A.** light reflecting off the sea
- B.** the direct light of the Moon
- C.** lights that humans use to help them

2. What happens if the turtles follow artificial light?

- A.** They find dangerous animals.
- B.** They don't swim in the right direction.
- C.** They walk in the wrong direction.

3. What is another advantage of using turtle-friendly lights?

- A.** They reduce energy consumption in houses and streets.
- B.** They can help people who are visiting the beach at night.
- C.** Drivers can see better while travelling on the road.

4. What is another problem for sea turtles?

- A.** They get stuck in nets while trying to catch fish.

- B. They can't see fishing nets in the dark
- C. Fishing boats are reducing their food supply.

5. What is the purpose of fishing nets with LED lights?

- A. To keep turtles away from the nets.
- B. To help sea turtles find their food.
- C. To attract more fish to the nets.

6. **What does the writer say about the LED lights on the fishing nets?**

- A. They are damaged easily.
- B. They are cheap to use.
- C. They are quick to repair

Reading task 7

UNDERWATER SEARCH FOR LOST LOVE

Yasuo Takamatsu met Yuko in 1988. Yasuo was a soldier and Yuko worked at a bank in Onagawa, Japan. They quickly fell in love. Yuko was gentle, modest, and enjoyed classical music and painting. On Friday, March 11, 2011, Yasuo drove Yuko to the bank. Later that day, a powerful earthquake hit the city, followed by a tsunami warning.

Yasuo was at a hospital with his mother when the earthquake happened. The main roads to Onagawa were blocked. He was driving back on the small back roads when Yuko texted, "Are you O.K.? I want to go home." The tsunami reached Onagawa at 3:20 p.m., destroying buildings and killing people. The next morning, soldiers arrived to search for bodies. Yasuo searched for Yuko every day from morning till evening until June when he started a new job. Then he searched on weekends, always hoping not to find Yuko's body.

A month after the tsunami, Yuko's pink flip phone was found in the bank's parking lot. An unsent text from 3:25 p.m. read, "So much tsunami." Yasuo knew she had been alive until then. Other bank employees' bodies were found later. One was found six weeks after the tsunami, another in September 2011, but Yasuo still searched for Yuko.

By September 2013, after two and a half years of searching on land, Yasuo decided to search the sea. He contacted a dive shop to learn how to dive. The instructor, Masayoshi Takahashi, organised dives to clean tsunami rubbish. Yasuo believed Takahashi could help find Yuko. Yasuo told him, "I want to learn to dive to find my wife." On his first dive, the water was freezing. Yasuo was scared. He could have hurt himself or got caught by a rope, but that didn't worry him. The water wasn't clear, and that was the real danger. Takahashi told him not to touch the bottom to avoid moving the sand.

One day, Yasuo visited Masaaki Narita, who had lost his daughter, Emi, in the tsunami. Emi worked with Yuko at the bank. The women had gone to the bank's roof but were swept away by the massive wave. Yasuo felt sorry for Narita and offered to look for Emi too. But Narita decided to dive himself. In February 2014, Yasuo introduced Narita to Takahashi.

In January 2016, Narita prepared for a dive. His wife, Hiromi, watched because she worried about him. The ocean was dangerous, and she didn't want to lose him too. Narita said, "If I die, throw my ashes in the sea." He dove, and after 35 minutes, resurfaced safely. Hiromi walked to her car and drove off. It was time to deliver rice balls and deep-fried chicken.

Despite all these efforts, Yasuo continued his search for Yuko, holding on to hope.

1. Yuko worked as a _____

- A. soldier
- B. bank clerk
- C. doctor
- D. artist

2. Where was Yasuo when he received Yuko's text?

- A. at work
- B. at hospital
- C. In his house
- D. In his car

3. Yuko's phone _____

- A. was in her bank's office
- B. contained information about her time of death
- C. was found six weeks after the tsunami
- D. had pictures of the tsunami

4. When Yasuo went diving for the first time, he was afraid because _____

- A. he couldn't see in the water
- B. he wasn't a good swimmer
- C. he might hurt himself
- D. he couldn't stand the cold

Answers key:

Task 1: 1F, 2F, 3T, 4F, 5T

Task 2: 1F, 2F, 3F, 4T, 5T

Task 3: 1F, 2T, 3T, 4T, 5F

Task 4: 1T, 2F, 3DS, 4F, 5T

Task 5: 1c, 2a, 3b, 4c, 5b

Task 6: 1a, 2c, 3c, 4b, 5a, 6b

Task 7: 1b, 2d, 3b, 4a