

Skills Test Unit 2 Test A

Name: _____

Everyday English

1 Complete the dialogue with the words below.

fancy regret let's sounds shall

George It's a lovely day today. Why don't we go cycling?

Rachel Hmm. I don't ¹ _____ getting my bike out.

George Oh, all right. ² _____ go for a walk, then.

Rachel That ³ _____ interesting, but I don't want to walk far.

George That's no problem. There's a good, short walk near here. You won't ⁴ _____ it.

Rachel I hope not! OK then. When ⁵ _____ we go?

George Well, it's eleven o'clock now. How about after lunch?

Mark: ____ / 5

Listening

2 Listen to a radio interview with two young writers, Ben and Lucy. Circle the two correct sentences.

- A They were both at the same school.
- B They have both written a travel blog.
- C They both went to Brazil.
- D They have both written short stories.

3 Listen again. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 What were the first things that Ben wrote?
a adventure stories **b** poems **c** travel books **d** short stories
- 2 What was the first thing that Lucy wrote?
a a poem **b** a travel blog **c** American literature **d** a travel guide
- 3 What part of the country did Lucy see when she travelled in the summer holidays?
a the mountains **b** the parks **c** the lakes **d** the major cities
- 4 What do both Ben and Lucy advise young writers to do?
a write short stories **b** write for one hour every day **c** always be ready to write
d get experience

Mark: ____ / 10

Reading

The teenage explorer

In December 2011, when sixteen-year-old Amelia Hempleman-Adams arrived at Heathrow Airport in London, journalists from all the major newspapers were waiting for her. She had just spent the last seventeen nights in the Antarctic, enduring snowstorms and temperatures as low as -50°C , and she had become the youngest person in the world to ski to the South Pole.

Amelia's remarkable long-distance trek to the pole had been planned by her father, David, an experienced explorer who was famous in Britain in the 1980s and 1990s for his record-breaking expeditions. In his career, he had walked to the North Pole by himself, with no support from any other people, and he had climbed to the top of the highest mountain on every continent in the world. However, skiing across the Antarctic to the South Pole with his teenage daughter and a small team of other skiers was the most challenging journey of his life, mostly because, as a parent, he was very worried about Amelia.

Amelia's preparation for the expedition was very thorough. She spent a lot of time trekking across the English countryside to get fit, and she camped in a large supermarket freezer warehouse to get used to the low temperatures. She also asked for advice from her two older sisters, both of whom had already been to the North Pole with their dad. In fact, famously, her sister Alicia had flown to the North Pole at the age of eight to be with her father at the end of one of his expeditions. As a result, she was the youngest person ever to visit the most northerly place on Earth.

During the expedition, Amelia carried two very special gifts in her bag. Before starting her adventure, she had met Alexandra Shackleton, the granddaughter of the polar explorer, Ernest Shackleton. Alexandra's grandfather had tried and failed to lead a team of brave adventurers to the South Pole in 1909, and she gave Amelia two gifts to remind the young girl of the amazing history of polar exploration. The first was a coin which had belonged to Ernest Shackleton. The second was a photograph of the famous explorer. Like so many early polar explorers, Ernest Shackleton, who never reached the South Pole in his career, had lost his life in the Antarctic. He had a heart attack during a scientific expedition in the 1920s.

When she returned from the expedition, Amelia said that she had enjoyed taking time out from school, and getting to know her father, but she had missed her friends and had found it difficult to deal with the freezing cold and the boring food. She also complained about her father's snoring. It hadn't been easy to sleep in a tent every night with her noisy dad.

4 Read the text. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 There was a lot of media interest in Amelia's journey across Antarctica. ____
- 2 Amelia became the youngest person in history to ski to the South Pole. ____
- 3 Amelia's dad had already been on expeditions to the South Pole. ____
- 4 David and Amelia crossed the Antarctic alone. ____
- 5 Amelia spent some time preparing for the trip by training in the Arctic region. ____
- 6 Amelia's sisters had been to the South Pole before Amelia made her journey. ____
- 7 Ernest Shackleton was the first person to ski to the South Pole. ____
- 8 Amelia carried a photograph of Ernest Shackleton with her to the South Pole. ____
- 9 Amelia was able to keep in touch with some friends during her trip. ____
- 10 On the expedition, Amelia found it difficult to sleep at night because of the cold. ____

Mark: ____ / 10

Writing

5 Write a story about something that has happened to you on holiday, or while travelling. Start the story with one of the sentences in A, and finish your story with one of the sentences in B.

A

I felt so embarrassed when ...

While I was on holiday by the sea ...

Some time ago, I met an interesting person.

B

In the end, we decided to keep in touch.

I couldn't believe my eyes!

I was so happy that I started to cry.

Write your story. Use the plan to help you.

Paragraph 1: Begin your story in an interesting way. Introduce the characters, the time, the place and how you felt.

Paragraph 2: Develop the story, describing events in the order they happened.

Paragraph 3: Bring your story to an end. What happened?

Mark: ____ / 15

TOTAL MARKS: ____ / 40

Challenge!

6 Complete the text with the correct words (a–c).

Francis Birtles – the first man to drive from England to Australia

In 1927, Francis Birtles ¹ _____ an epic journey by car from England to Australia. At the time, he was a ² _____-aged man in his forties who was very relaxed and ³ _____ – he was friendly to everybody. On his journey, he drove across India and ⁴ _____ the coast of Burma before heading for a port in the south of what is now Malaysia and taking a ship to Australia. He felt seasick during the ⁵ _____. By the time he reached Melbourne eight months after setting off, he ⁶ _____ across four continents. He had also ⁷ _____ to know a lot of people on the way. Amazingly, while he ⁸ _____ the end of his trip in Melbourne, a policeman ⁹ _____ him to move his car because he was obstructing traffic. Today, Birtles's car is in the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. You can ¹⁰ _____ a tour of the museum and a tour guide will tell you all about it.

- 1 a began b was beginning c had begun
- 2 a middle b medium c mid
- 3 a arrogant b assertive c easy-going
- 4 a along b after c over
- 5 a voyage b trek c excursion
- 6 a drove b was driving c had driven
- 7 a given b gone c got
- 8 a celebrate b was celebrating c had celebrated
- 9 a asked b was asking c had asked
- 10 a go b fetch c take