

4 Taking time out

READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

Part 6

Exam task

- 1 Look at the exam task instructions, and at the title and the introduction to the text. What is the topic?
- 2 Quickly read the main text and the missing sentences (A–G). Underline the reference words and phrases in the sentences, as in sentence A, that may help you to find links between the text and the sentences.

You are going to read an article about the increasing interest in listening to stories. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Now do the exam task, using the words you have underlined as clues.

The storytellers telling new tales for the digital age

Telling a good story is the most ancient of entertainments – but thanks to the iPod generation, it's coming back into fashion.

By Lena Corner

If you are looking for something to do in the country next Saturday night, in a field in Higher Ashton you'll find a storyteller named Martin Shaw. He will be telling a 13th-century tale of knights, loyalty and romance, starting before midnight and finishing some time around dawn. Bring coffee and a warm blanket, advises Shaw.

Shaw's long tale is one of the highlights of next weekend's Westcountry Storytelling Festival. 'We started out seven years ago with a group of about 100 people gathered in a field,' says artistic director Chris Salisbury. **1** It's a similar tale at the Beyond the Border Festival, which takes place in a dramatic setting near St Donat's castle, right on a cliff edge. When it began in 1993, it had just three storytellers. Now there is a cast of 90 and it is the biggest festival of its kind in the world.

The renewed interest in the art form can be traced to the mid-1980s when Hugh Lupton, Ben Haggarty and Sally Pomme Clayton formed the excellent Company of Storytellers. **2** 'There was a mistaken belief that stories were to be told only to people under the age of six,' says Salisbury. 'People began to realise this wasn't necessarily so.'

Before this change came about, the spoken tradition had undoubtedly been in decline. 'It really was a forgotten art form,' says David Ambrose, festival director of Beyond the Border. 'Our ancestors knew all about it but we forgot how vital it was. **3** I'm sure TV also played a part, and people becoming able to read – we live in a world where things can be written down so we no longer need to remember them.'

Although storytelling occupies an area somewhere between comedy, poetry and theatre, its reputation also suffered from being associated with old men reading out dull stories everyone had heard before. **4** 'That's probably because it's a folk tradition which comes from the heart, so you do get a real mixture. At least at festivals there is some quality control.'

Ambrose believes storytelling's growing appeal is linked to a renewed enthusiasm for live performances, particularly music, following a decline in interest some years ago. **5** 'You only have to look at what's gone on in the music industry. Live forms of any art do something that recordings can't.'

Most storytellers describe their craft as the art of painting visual images in listeners' minds. Some say that to tell stories just comes naturally to them, while others study at one of the many storytelling schools that have appeared in recent years. It is never, ever about reading aloud, and Salisbury compares good storytelling to modern jazz. **6**

And so interest continues to grow. You only have to look at sales of stories recorded on CD, currently one of the main areas of growth in the publishing industry, to see how much we are starting to enjoy having tales told to us.

- A 'When it gets done badly like that, it is truly awful,' says Salisbury.
- B 'As the musician adds to and partly changes a familiar tune, so the storyteller breathes new life into familiar tales,' he says.
- C The group spent the next decade promoting its craft, teaching beginners how to tell a tale and, crucially, persuading people that storytelling was a valid adult art form.
- D I think this was a social thing, to do with the break-up of the traditional family unit.
- E Unlike all those kinds of entertainment, though, storytelling requires no set design or costumes.
- F 'Since then it has grown into a three-day event with an audience of thousands.'
- G 'For a while back then we all became a bit obsessed with TV, film and digital art forms, but people have now become keen to attend them again,' he says.



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Part 4

Look at the exam task example. What differences are there between the two sentences?

Now do the exam task. In each case, note down the changes you need to make from the first to the second sentence.

Exam task

For questions 1–6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between **two** and **five** words, including the word given. Here is an example (0):

Example:

- 0 Even though we set off at 7.30, it was too late to avoid the morning traffic.

EARLY

Even though we set off at 7.30, it WASN'T (or WAS NOT) EARLY ENOUGH to avoid the morning traffic.

- 1 The band did some new songs once they had sung all their big hits.

WENT

The band sang all their big hits and then some new songs.

- 2 I'll always remember my first visit to Hollywood.

FORGET

I'll for the first time.

- 3 The singer's agent said photographers couldn't take any pictures of her.

REFUSED

The singer's agent any pictures of her.

- 4 Tickets don't go on sale until noon, but people started waiting here six hours ago.

HAVE

Tickets don't go on sale until noon, but people six hours.

- 5 Theatre tickets are so expensive that students can't buy them.

CHEAP

Theatre tickets are to buy.

- 6 Simon is an ambitious singer, but he hasn't succeeded in becoming famous yet.

MANAGED

Simon is an ambitious singer, but he still famous.

Grammar

too and enough, present perfect, verb + infinitive / -ing

Correct the mistakes in these sentences written by exam candidates. In some cases, more than one answer is possible.

- 1 I already have booked hotel rooms for all the students.
- 2 Mr de Winter dislikes to live in the east wing of the building.
- 3 Sometimes we do not have enough time for go to the gym.
- 4 We can go out somewhere in my car, which I just have bought.
- 5 When I finish to work I come back home.
- 6 I haven't still seen the manager to complain about this.
- 7 I think fifty kilometres is too far for us walking.
- 8 I regretted to send her to the doctor so late.
- 9 I sometimes miss to watch TV programmes that I really like.
- 10 Zoos have been controversial since some years, because of the way they treat animals.