

TASK 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE. SOURCE: <https://test-english.com/reading/b1/learning-english-forum-your-answer-reading-test/>

Read a text about learning English, and for questions 1 to 6, choose the correct option (a, b, c, d)

Learning English Forum.

Your answer!



Banjo_Boy asks:

I was in the USA on a language course last summer. It was a fantastic learning experience! People were so friendly and welcoming. I'm going on a British summer course this year. I heard that English people are more unfriendly and polite. Is that true? I'm worried about the language as well. I learned American English at school, and I've heard that British English is different. I'm worried that I'll misunderstand everyone, make errors and appear impolite. Can anyone help?

Sara_May replies:

Don't worry about the language! It's mostly the same. In terms of grammar, there are no differences at all. There are a few vocabulary differences though, like in the USA they say 'subway', 'gas' and 'apartment', while in Britain they say 'underground', 'petrol' and 'flat'. But it won't be a problem. You'll understand those unfamiliar words from the context. What's more, British people will understand you if you use American words. After all, they watch lots of American shows on television. The British accent is very different from the American one, but personally, I find it easier to understand.

Paulo_Riviera_166 replies:

You won't find the language confusing, but people's behaviour is very different, in my opinion. Americans are more informal and open. They talk about anything – their money, their weight, their health. They are enthusiastic and friendly, and it's easy to get to know them. British people aren't like that. They don't like to talk about their personal lives until they know you well, and they think it is respectful to give you privacy. As a result, it isn't easy to make friends with British people. They are friendly and polite, but they often remain rather distant.

Nellie_111 replies:

Don't worry about making social errors in Britain. People are so polite that if you do something wrong, they won't comment! I agree with Paulo_Riviera_166 in some ways. British people are more distant, but they aren't more formal, in my opinion. For example, in the States, kids sometimes call their dads 'Sir', but British people never do that! In America, success is important, so people will often tell you how great they are. In Britain, it's considered rude to boast about your achievements. If you do, people may tease you or gossip about you. Also, British people hate being complimented. If you say something nice about them, they often look embarrassed and don't know what to say!

Bubbles replies:

I don't know where Sara_May was staying in the UK, but I was in the north of the country on a school trip a couple of years ago. We all stayed with host families, and the only person I could understand was the mother of the family. I couldn't understand anyone else, even after three weeks! The people didn't sound anything like the people I had heard in my course books at school, and I learned British English! I guess people sound different in different areas of the country. All I can say is, good luck, and if you don't understand someone, ask them to write down what they are trying to say!

1, Which sentence best summarises Banjo_Boy's situation?

- a.He is worried about making mistakes in his language and behaviour when he goes to Britain.
- b.His is worried that his trip to America won't be as fun as last year's trip to Britain.
- c.He wants to know whether it is more useful to learn American English or British English.
- d.He wants to learn how to speak well and be polite to his American and British guests.

2. What is Sara_May's advice?

- a.Neither the vocabulary nor the accent differences are hard to understand.
- b.The vocabulary differences are hard to understand, but the British accent is easy to understand.
- c.The vocabulary differences are easy to understand, but the British accent is hard to understand.
- d.Both the vocabulary and the accent differences are hard to understand.

3. According to Paulo_Riviera_166, British people are...

- a.formal and unfriendly.
- b.enthusiastic and personal.
- c.friendly and open.
- d.respectful and distant.

4. According to Nellie_111, Americans are ... than British people.

- a.less likely to comment if you make a social error
- b.less likely to talk about their achievements
- c.more likely to call their parents by a formal title
- d.more likely to feel embarrassed by a compliment

5. Why does Bubbles disagree with Sara_May?

- a.She thinks it's hard to understand British vocabulary.
- b.She thinks the British accent is difficult to understand.
- c.She thinks British grammar is different from American grammar.
- d.She thinks British people won't understand American English.

6. Which of the four people responded to the question: "I heard that English people are more unfriendly and polite. Is that true?"

- a.Paulo_Riviera_166 only.
- b.Paulo_Riviera_166 and Nellie_111.
- c.Paulo_Riviera_166, Nellie_111 and Bubbles.
- d.All of them.

TASK 2: GAPPED TEXT

Read about a Random Acts of Kindness Festival. Match the missing extracts (1-7) to the appropriate gap in the text (A-I) There is one extra extract you do not need to use. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Random acts of kindness



You don't need us to tell you that there's a lot of negativity about these days. We've a good few sporting highlights over the summer but as (0 - C) *well as that some people* are doing what they can to counteract the doom and gloom.

This weekend in Clonakilty, they're hosting the first ever Random Acts of Kindness Festival. They say on their website "We believe that this positivity and kindness (1) _____ the locality creating a special atmosphere."

Why the effort?

What's the deal with doing random acts of kindness anyway? Why would you put effort into something, and not expect anything back? Well, research has shown that doing nice things for other people is (2) _____ and happiness. They can even be the little things like a hug. It's all about the little things.

Live longer and healthier

People who are kind to others tend to live longer lives. In addition, they're less likely to get sick or have aches and pains. Some research has shown that the benefits of happiness from (3) _____ improve your quality of life than exercising and can be just as beneficial as quitting smoking!

Feel good!

You know that good feeling you get after helping someone out? There's actually a term for that – "helper's high." When we experience a helper's high, our brain releases dopamine, one of those "feel good chemicals" in the brain. When our brains release dopamine, we are more likely (4) _____ more relaxed.

Lower stress and depression

The knock-on effect of helper's high then helps you feel less stressed and anxious. Helping others also significantly reduces symptoms of depression, especially in young people. In one study, young people who volunteered (5) _____ helping others were three times happier than young people who volunteered for other reasons.

Meeting new people

Random acts of kindness and volunteering helps bring people together. It's a great way to meet (6) _____. You never know who you'll meet.

Get started

So, if volunteering and helping others makes you so happy, you live longer, healthier, and it reduces anxiety and depression why not start paying it forward? The best part about helping others? It's free! It only costs you a smile and as they say in Clonakilty, the (7) _____ spread.

Extracts

Answers

Example: 0 ___ C ___

A. actually good for your mental health

B. ...for the sole purpose of

1 _____

C. ... well as that some people

2 _____

D. ...will multiply and spread throughout

3 _____

E. ...positivity can multiply and

4 _____

F. ... doing odd jobs to

5 _____

G. ...to think positively and feel

6 _____

H. ...volunteering is more likely to

7 _____

I. ...new like-minded people

TASK 3: MATCHING. SOURCE: Adapted from © e-Bay Inc

Read the following texts (1-7) and match them to the most suitable heading from the list supplied (A-J). Each heading can only be used ONCE. There are three headings you will not need.

eBay tips for selling successfully



Text 1 _____

Getting that first bid is critical, as buyers are more likely to jump in if there are already bids on auction. Buyers may lose interest if they assume an item is overpriced. Many successful sellers set a low opening bid to jumpstart bidding and increase their final selling price.

Text 2 _____

Specifying reasonable shipping and handling costs in your listing is essential for smart selling. eBay's free Shipping Calculator provides real-time shipping costs to buyers all over the world, so you can increase your chances of success. Remember that a long wait can be both boring and frustrating for customers.

Text 3 _____

Maximizing your item title is a must if you want to sell your product. Be sure to include key words that buyers will search for, such as unique or descriptive attributes, and always check your spelling. Your item title is critical in helping users find your items, so use each character wisely.

Text 4 _____

A good description is concise, well organized, and easy to read. Create bold section headlines, bulleted lists, and be sure to include item style/type, brand, condition, and other attributes. Think about your listing from the buyer's perspective – the more information you provide, the more likely buyers are to place a bid.

Text 5 _____

A picture really is worth more than a thousand words! Use clear, well-lit photos from a variety of angles to accurately showcase your item. Use good lighting and an uncluttered background to get the most out of your photo. Add additional photos to showcase details and unique features of your item.

Text 6 _____

Always respond quickly to any buyer questions. Include extras or a handwritten note in the box to really surprise and delight your customers. Make sure to leave feedback for your buyer so they'll do the same for you. Successful communication is one of the keys to successful business.

Text 7 _____

After the sale make sure that you pay for shipping, print labels on your home printer, and schedule free carrier pick-up-all online and at no additional charge – so you can save money, time, and a trip to the post office! We make it easy for you, so please make it easy for us.

- A. A modest start is more intelligent
- B. A well-planned explanation can attract buyers
- C. Attractive and correct descriptions are essential
- D. Delivery prices can help you sell
- E. Exchanging messages will help you sell
- F. Once you sell a product follow the procedures
- G. Put your photographs in the background
- H. Request your buyers' opinion
- I. Reserving a product can be difficult
- J. Show what it looks like

ANSWER KEY

TASK 1

1A, 2A, 3D, 4C, 5B, 6B,

TASK 2

1A, 2D, 3B, 4C, 5J, 6E, 7F

TASK 3

1D, 2A, 3H, 4G, 5B, 6I, 7E