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Exercise 1

Read the article about an annual book festival, and then answer the following questions.

GoodRead book festival

By Luke Digsby

This summer, our town held the third annual GoodRead book festival – five fantastic days of all things book related. I had attended a few events at the previous two festivals, but this year I was there from start to finish, as a volunteer. I'd signed up to receive regular updates about the festival by email, so I knew the dates and what some of the planned events were, but it wasn't until I saw an advert in the local paper that I realised helpers were needed. I didn't hesitate to apply!

As a volunteer, I worked for about four or five hours each day. My main reason for getting involved was to have free entry to all the events. What I didn't realise, until I arrived on the first day, is that we also got discounts at the festival bookshop. Being a keen reader, I made the most of that! We were all given a badge to wear, so that people would recognise us. However, I felt it might be better to make the volunteers stand out more, as the badges weren't that obvious from a distance.

Events took place all over town, in a range of locations including the theatre and the science museum, with the majority being held in the library. Many of the events were talks by writers – some well-known, others less so. I found out that 36 writers had been invited, of which 19 turned up to speak. That's quite an impressive number for a relatively new and small festival. Each event focused on a specific type of literature, and writers spoke for 30 minutes about their work. One thing I'd say is that the talks could be longer. Travel writing is my passion, and the tickets quickly sold out for that session, though not as fast as they did for the crime writing one – demand for that was the highest. A few people mentioned that it would be good to include a poetry event, which I think is a great suggestion for the future.

There were also several social things arranged, like a quiz on the final night, as well as a film show on another evening. One of my favourite events was a tour, which hadn't been held before. Did you know that the novel *The Last Tree* was set in and around this town? The tour explored various locations from this novel, and a guide talked about why they were significant, as well as what happened in each place. We set off from the market square, which is central to this story, before visiting the castle, and ended up outside the police station. It occurred to me that it would be a great idea if actors could read extracts in each place – that seemed to be a missed opportunity, but perhaps something to look forward to at the next festival.

If you'd like to get involved in the festival next year, I thoroughly recommend the experience. Volunteers are needed for a wide range of tasks, from giving directions, which I did a lot of, to selling tickets. What I spent most of my time doing was welcoming the speakers, while other people were preparing the stage for them. You could also help out beforehand, for example by trying to get more financial support from local businesses. If we can do that, the next festival will be even better.

Personally, I can't wait until next year!

- 1 How did Luke find out about the chance to volunteer at the festival?
..... [1]
- 2 What benefit of volunteering was Luke unaware of when he applied?
..... [1]
- 3 What was the main venue in the town for the festival?
..... [1]
- 4 How many authors gave talks?
..... [1]
- 5 What type of writing was the focus of the most popular event?
..... [1]
- 6 What event was held on the last evening?
..... [1]
- 7 Where did the guided tour start?
..... [1]
- 8 What were Luke's main duties as a volunteer? Give **two** details.
.....
..... [2]
- 9 How does Luke think that the festival could be improved? Give **four** details.
.....
.....
.....
..... [4]

[Total: 13]

Exercise 2

Read sections **A–E** of a magazine article about the history of punctuation marks and other symbols used in writing. Then answer Question **10(a)–(j)**.

Did you know... ?**A**

In the nineteenth-century, an author whose book had just been published, was desperate to know whether it was a success. According to one source, he sent his publisher a note which simply read '?'. The publisher, pleased that the book had sold more than 6000 copies in the first few days and was due to be reprinted, replied '!'. This story shows how much meaning can be expressed simply and effectively without using words. In fact, imagine what this paragraph would look like if all the punctuation was removed – you would be presented with an unbroken series of letters and numbers which you would have to work your way through. The comma, for example, separates parts of a sentence. Its original purpose was to indicate when a speaker should take a breath while reading to an audience.

B

Despite their obvious importance, it seems that some punctuation marks are considered to be rather annoying. To give an example, a popular grammar book states that a writer should avoid including exclamation marks too frequently. Otherwise, the impression given is that the writer lacks skill or is trying to make something appear more exciting or interesting than it actually is. The symbol itself is thought to have come from religious texts hundreds of years ago, in which writers wanted to create a message of joy. In the Latin language, the word for joy is 'io', which was written with a capital 'i' above an 'o'. Over time, this gradually turned into the exclamation mark that we recognise today.

C

In Ancient Egypt, shapes and objects were used to represent ideas in written communication, and a question was indicated by the shape of a curious cat's tail. Some experts believe this is where the question mark that we use today comes from. Others are of the opinion that the question mark developed from Latin. In this language, writers would use a shortened version of the word 'question' at the end of a sentence to indicate that it was actually a question. This word was further shortened until it eventually turned into the question mark. However, a lack of accurate historical records means that we are never likely to be sure which of these stories is correct, or indeed if either of them is.

D

Some symbols have progressed quickly from their invention to common use. One such symbol is the one used to express the idea 'is equal to' in mathematics. Several hundred years ago, mathematical calculations would be written in word form. In 1557, a Welsh mathematician proposed using a pair of short lines, equal in length and one above the other, in order to avoid what he described as the annoying repetition of having to write the word 'equals'. One punctuation mark has a shorter history than this. It looked like a question mark drawn the other way round, as if the symbol was being reflected in a mirror. In English, it was meant to represent a particular type of question known as a rhetorical question, but gradually disappeared from use.

E

Early records show that the symbol for the pound, the British currency, was created from the letter L. This had a line drawn through it, meaning that this was short for 'libra' (a pound – a unit of weight in ancient Rome). The same system explains the symbol for the Japanese yen – the letter Y with two lines through it, and the euro, an E with two lines through it. So why is the symbol for the dollar a line through an S and not a D? Historians believe that the symbol comes from the Spanish peso, originally drawn as a P, but later changed to an S. And then there's the hashtag: #. It began to be used in the 1960s when it was included on early telephone keypads. It had no real function then, but today is used widely in social media.

10 For each question write the correct letter A, B, C, D or E on the line.

Which section includes the following information?

- (a) the suggestion that a symbol was created to reduce the feeling of frustration among writers [1]
- (b) how the shape of a punctuation mark developed from two letters [1]
- (c) the suggestion that it would be difficult to understand text without punctuation [1]
- (d) an example of a punctuation mark which failed to become popular [1]
- (e) theories which can't be proved about the origin of a punctuation mark [1]
- (f) an example of messages that consisted only of punctuation [1]
- (g) a symbol which became well known despite having no clear purpose [1]
- (h) the opinion that using a particular punctuation mark too much creates poor writing [1]
- (i) an example of an exception to a rule [1]
- (j) a punctuation mark which was developed to help people read texts aloud [1]

[Total: 10]

Exercise 3

Read the article about Kilian Jornet, a mountain runner who completed a difficult challenge called the Bob Graham Round, and then complete the notes.

Running the Bob Graham Round

Kilian Jornet is no stranger to mountains. His father was a mountain guide, and he grew up in the Pyrenees, the mountains on the border between France and Spain. In 2017, he climbed Mount Everest twice in a week, and he is able to run up and down Mont Blanc in under five hours. He is becoming one of the stars in the fast-growing world of adventure sports.

In 2018, Kilian attempted to run what is known as the Bob Graham Round, a challenge which takes place in the Lake District, a popular tourist area in the northwest of England. The route is 66 miles (106 kilometres) long, which is one of the reasons why so few people are able to finish it, and it involves climbing and descending 42 peaks. If you think that sounds impossible, another rule is that it must be completed within 24 hours. About 2000 individuals have successfully completed the challenge, which is named after a local man called Bob Graham, who first ran the route in under 24 hours in 1932. When Kilian did it, he also made history with his 12-hour, 52-minute run, which cut the previous record by just over an hour.

When asked about the experience, Kilian admitted that it had been really tough. He carried some energy drink with him, and spectators gave him water along the way. He also found some rivers in the mountains where he could quickly refill his bottle. He pointed out that there are no official route markings to show you the way. Instead, local people guided him, which enabled him to get around the route without any unnecessary delay. One of the rules of the challenge is that someone must accompany you to the top of each of the peaks. This is to prove that you have been there, and this person also keeps an accurate record of the time that you arrive at each one. Luckily for Kilian, some previous winners ran with him. A tradition of the challenge is that successful runners return to help other people who want to have a go at it. Will he do the same? 'Yes! For sure!' he says. 'I have friends who want to do it. I hope they try soon – and can go faster than me!'

Around 100 people attempt the Bob Graham Round each year, but barely one third manage to finish. Although Kilian is a very experienced and fast runner, he admitted that the amount of climbing involved is huge, and that this made it one of the toughest runs of his career. Some sections are also very steep, so he was grateful that supporters turned out to encourage him. Was there one particularly hard moment? 'It was more like the last four hours!', he says. 'What is so hard is that your legs get very tired, but you just have to keep going.' But for Kilian, the beautiful scenery and good weather on the day helped to make the experience one to remember.

You are going to give a talk to your class at school about Kilian Jornet's challenge. Prepare some notes to use as the basis for your talk.

Make short notes under each heading.

11 Why the Bob Graham Round is a particularly difficult challenge:

-
-
-
-
-
- [6]

12 How people helped Kilian Jornet to complete the Bob Graham Round:

-
-
- [3]

[Total: 9]

Exercise 4

13 Read the article about interior design.

Write a summary about ways to make your home a happy and healthy space to live in.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 8 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Home is where the heart is

Many of us have busy, often demanding lifestyles, so we can't deny that coming home at the end of a long day should make us feel better. But what can we do to make our homes happier places to spend time in?

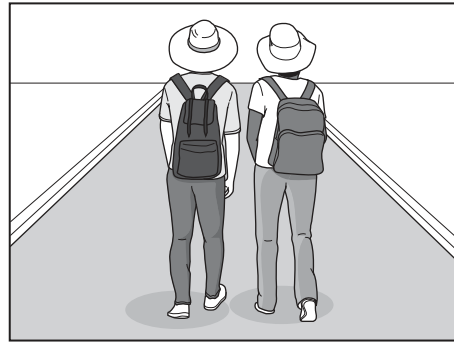
I decided to speak to Rina Perez, interior designer and author of *Healthy Happy Home*. 'People tend to focus on eating healthy food and getting enough exercise,' she says. 'But we shouldn't forget that happiness is just as important as our physical health – and our home is somewhere that should make us feel good. So it shouldn't just be a place that you leave in the morning and come back to at night.' She pointed out that one thing we can all do is to get rid of any unnecessary belongings. This can help you to see your space more clearly, and decide what else you would like to change.

Rina explained that many people feel nervous about interior design, because there are so many choices to make, and we see so many images in the media of what are considered to be perfect homes. 'However, you should choose what you like, rather than what's trendy,' she says. I asked her if it is just a question of personal choice, or if there is any scientific proof about interior design making us feel better. 'There certainly is,' she replied. 'We all know that nature and green spaces are good for us, so we should have plenty of plants indoors too. That's been proved to lower blood pressure, for example. It's also now recognised that when we look at the shapes that are found in nature, like leaves and flowers, this has a calming effect on us. The answer is to use these shapes indoors, for example on material or wallpaper.'

Rina has recently been working with architect Ben Vincent, whose latest project is to design homes that improve our well-being. He stresses the importance of having plenty of space to interact with other people indoors. However, people need to have their own personal space too, so his homes are designed to include both. He is also aware that the materials used to build a house can affect us both physically and mentally. Choosing natural materials, like wood, has a huge effect – studies have shown that the smell of wood causes your heart rate to come down. And we should let daylight in as much as possible too.

And what about colour? Apparently, there is less scientific evidence that colour has an impact on our well-being, but some people believe that, for example, blue makes us feel cold, and yellow is inspiring. So again, choosing a colour that makes you feel good is the approach to take. Rina also told me about some studies that environmental psychologists have done, which show that people feel strongly about places that remind them of happy times. If we personalise our homes with objects from these places, this can increase our feeling of happiness. I immediately thought about an example in my own home – a shell on my table, which I picked up from a beach last summer. Happy memories followed instantly.

Exercise 5



- 14** Your friend from another country is coming to stay with you and your family for a week, for the first time.

Write an email to this friend about the visit.

In your email, you should:

- explain where you would like to take your friend
- describe who your friend will meet
- say what your friend should bring.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your email, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

Exercise 6

- 15** This year, you have been a member of the after-school music club. Your head teacher has asked you to write a report about the club. In your report, say what you like about the club, **and** suggest how it could be improved in the future.

Here are two comments from other members of the club:

I'd like to meet more than once a month.

Taking part in a concert was fun!

Write a report for your head teacher, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your report should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 8 marks for the content of your report, and up to 8 marks for the language used.

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