

Exercise 1

Read the article about a woman who discovered an old message inside a bottle, and then answer the following questions.

A message from the past



The idea of throwing a message in a bottle into the sea and hoping someone far away will read it one day is exciting. Where will it land? Who will find it? When? One Australian family found the answers to these questions while on a day out on a remote beach near the city of Perth.

Tonya Illman and her family had all been swimming. While her husband was packing the car, she was picking up some rubbish when she saw an old bottle sticking out of the sand. She thought it would look nice on her bookshelf so she showed it to her son, who commented that it looked like one they had in their living room. They noticed something inside that looked like an old cigarette. Tonya shook it out and realised it was a rolled-up piece of paper, tied with string for protection. Although not much water had got in, the paper was still damp. Tonya was tempted to unroll it and let it dry in the hot sun, but decided to take it home and put it in a cool oven instead.

Later, when she opened up the paper, Tonya was astonished to see that it was a form printed in German. The bottle's thick glass meant the form had avoided exposure to the weather. She was really excited when she saw the date that had been filled in – 12 June 1886! The family looked online and found that the oldest message in a bottle dated from 1906 and was found in 2015. Tonya's message was 20 years older, which was a new world record!

The information on the form stated that the bottle had been thrown from a ship called *Paula* that was originally from Germany. It was heading from Wales to its destination in Indonesia. The form requested that anyone finding the bottle should contact the nearest German embassy with details of their discovery. Tonya's family weren't sure whether the form was genuine so they decided to take the bottle and its contents to the Western Australian Museum.

After carefully examining the form, the museum staff told the family that it was in good condition for its age. They believed it had been buried in the sand for over a century, which had kept it safe, until a huge storm had most likely uncovered it.

The museum contacted experts in Germany, who were able to check the captain's diary from the ship *Paula*. The diary described the ship's location when the bottle was thrown into the sea. Amazingly, this corresponded exactly with the location given on the form from the bottle! The diary had been handwritten by the captain, who gave his name as Captain O. Diekmann. Even more exciting was the fact that although there was no name given, the captain's handwriting in the diary was identical to the handwriting on the form. This was final proof that the message in the bottle was indeed genuine.

The museum explained that in the nineteenth century, German ships were conducting tests to study the movement of ocean currents. In order to do this, hundreds of bottles were thrown into the ocean. Each bottle contained a form with the ship's name, the date, and the place where the bottle was dropped, with the hope that someone would report where it was found. The experiment lasted 69 years, and 662 bottles have been returned so far. Tonya's bottle is the oldest – at least until the next one is discovered...

- 1 What was Tonya Illman doing when she found the bottle?
..... [1]

- 2 Where did Tonya plan to display the bottle when she got home?
..... [1]

- 3 How did Tonya dry the piece of paper?
..... [1]

- 4 What year was written on the form?
..... [1]

- 5 Where was the ship travelling to?
..... [1]

- 6 What was the person who found the form asked to do?
..... [1]

- 7 Which **two** details in the ship's diary matched those on the form?
.....
..... [2]

- 8 What was the purpose of the German experiment?
..... [1]

- 9 Why was the form so well preserved? Give **four** reasons.
.....
.....
.....
..... [4]

[Total: 13]

Exercise 2

Read the article about four people (A–D) who live in very different environments. Then answer Question 10 (a)–(j).

WHAT'S IT LIKE WHERE YOU LIVE?

A Suraya

Everyone in my city knows the problems that the rainy season brings, like being trapped at school by floods or falling over in heavy rain. At times like these, I wouldn't recommend driving and I tend to use trains instead. They might be late and crowded, but at least you're safer with other people around. Plus, you can usually find shelter at stations if you have to phone your family or wait for the rain to stop. Another problem that bothers me is mosquitoes, which are everywhere in the rainy season! It's definitely advisable to cover up your arms to avoid being bitten when you go outside. Hot, humid weather can also easily upset your stomach so I try to stick to light food and keep away from anything that's too oily. To be honest, I don't like the rainy season but I know other people see the positives, like the dramatic colours of storm clouds.

B Vincent

Where I live, I've noticed that the fierce desert heat does sometimes get people down. You can't do anything about it, so for a happy life it's essential to change your attitude towards it. Instead of seeing the heat as your enemy, try to appreciate the things it can offer like the beautiful wild landscapes and the strange-looking desert plants. Yes, it's true that life here can be difficult, but you soon learn ways to cope. For example, it might look a bit odd, but I now always keep a towel inside my car so I can use it to hold the steering wheel when it becomes too hot to touch. And before any long car journey, I always check that my mobile phone is fully charged as the battery runs out quickly inside a hot car. I must admit though, one thing I never do is wear long-sleeved shirts to keep the sun off my skin. They're far too hot! I'd rather stay in the shade instead.

C Harmony

Average winter temperatures here are around minus 10 degrees Celsius but it can get as cold as minus 30 some days, so I guess everyday life is a bit different to that in other countries. One difference is that teenagers in other countries seem to text or take photos outside with their friends every five minutes. We definitely don't do that here – your fingers would freeze and your phone would probably stop working! I've also noticed that people here generally worry less about the latest trends – that's certainly the case for me. People here have come up with lots of ways to cope with the cold. For example, every Saturday morning I get together with my neighbours to help clear the snow from the pavement in our street. It's quite hard work but it really warms me up.

D Aki

My city is at high altitude. Tourists coming here on holiday often rush into energetic mountain activities before they've had time to get used to being so high up, but then find themselves feeling sick and exhausted. Eating particular foods can help you feel better, but the most important thing is to adjust slowly. It's not only people that feel worn out though: your mechanic will have to keep adjusting your car's engine, but it will still lack power. Things just work differently at altitude – it's a fact of life here. Unfortunately though, this rule also applies in the kitchen. Food reacts differently when you're cooking, so beans seem to take ages to cook, cakes tend to sink and bread falls apart. I've tried to get used to it, but these problems constantly annoy me.

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

Which person ...

- (a) warns against using a mobile phone outdoors? [1]
- (b) recommends wearing long sleeves for protection? [1]
- (c) mentions a way for people to benefit both themselves and their local community? [1]
- (d) accepts that regular vehicle maintenance is necessary? [1]
- (e) avoids eating certain things because of the effect on their body? [1]
- (f) suggests that the way they use a common object could seem surprising? [1]
- (g) feels irritated by an everyday activity? [1]
- (h) explains their reasons for using a certain type of transport? [1]
- (i) is unconcerned about keeping up with fashion? [1]
- (j) believes that it's important to think positively? [1]

[Total: 10]

Exercise 3

Read the article about an event called Free Comic Book Day, and then complete the notes.

The best things in life are free

For comic book fans everywhere, the first Saturday in May is one of the most important dates in the calendar. That's Free Comic Book Day, when comic book shops around the world give away free comic books to anyone walking into the store. Getting things for free sounds too good to be true, but for these shops, it's a way to attract new customers.

Free Comic Book Day is an annual event that was established in 2002 and since then, over 12 million comic books have been given away. Every year, increasing numbers of shops take part and the day now includes a variety of activities from free writing workshops to book signings by famous writers. One shop that has been involved since the beginning is Champion Comics. The owner, Abeke Griffith, is a big comic book fan and is convinced that these books offer more than just a fun way to relax. 'When I was a kid I thought reading was difficult and boring, but one day I picked up a comic book. I was fascinated by the pictures and finished it straightaway. That was it – I was hooked! I definitely think comics can help struggling readers learn to love reading.'

According to Abeke, being involved in Free Comic Book Day is great publicity for the range of comic books available in her shop. 'Many people think comics are only about fights between evil criminals and heroes, but there's so much more to them than that.' Not all the comic books in the store are given away, but there are usually around 50 free ones to choose from. On the day, Abeke also holds unique sales promotions, as do many other comic book shops.

Abeke believes that giving away free comic books actually makes good sense. 'Every year, it creates a new generation of young comic book fans. In return, we make sure there are plenty of interesting things for them to do on Free Comic Book Day. Last year, we even organised a careers presentation given by a successful young artist working in the comic book industry. That was really popular so we'll be doing it again.' Abeke is also involved in the national committee that organises Free Comic Book Day, and sees it as a great opportunity to pick up business ideas from other shop owners across the country.

Comic books aren't just attracting the attention of the business world, however. Teachers and psychologists are just some of the professionals that are starting to see the potential of comic books, which enable readers young and old to explore serious themes in a straightforward way. Recent research was carried out to examine what happens in the brain when people have to process pictures and text at the same time. One finding was that reading comic books actually improves people's ability to understand complex information.

So with all these fantastic things available for free, when the first Saturday in May next comes around, why not check out what's happening in your nearest comic book shop?

You are going to give a talk about Free Comic Book Day to your class at school.

Prepare some notes to use as the basis for your talk.

Make short notes under each heading.

<p>11 Special events that are held in comic book shops as part of Free Comic Book Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>giving away free comic books</i>••• [3] <p>12 What shops gain from taking part in Free Comic Book Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">••• [3] <p>13 How people benefit from reading comic books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">••• [3]

[Total: 9]

Exercise 4

14 Read the article written by a journalist about teaching school children about money.

Write a summary about the financial skills that school children should learn AND the problems of teaching finance in schools.

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.

Are school children learning the right things about money?

Many schools around the world now teach financial education alongside other subjects to prepare young people for the decisions they will need to make later in life. But is this financial education focusing on the right things? How relevant, for example, is it to teach teenagers about tax or pensions? By the time these young people are old enough to have to deal with these things, the regulations will most probably have changed.

Instead, financial education should perhaps concentrate on things like comparing the advantages and disadvantages of different products. Being able to do this effectively is essential nowadays for young consumers, who are faced with increasingly complicated choices of goods in shops. Just as important for modern consumers is the ability to decide whether special offers are worth it, so that they understand what is really being sold. And with more and more shopping being done online, knowing how to do this safely is something that should certainly not be overlooked.

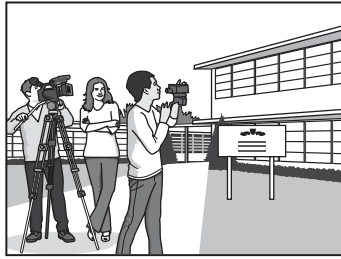
The consequences of young people growing up without an understanding of money can be considerable. If people do not make the right financial decisions, this can have a long-lasting impact on them and on their families as well. So it is no surprise that many countries have introduced financial education into the school curriculum. Unfortunately, however, subjects like this are often not seen as a priority, as schools tend to focus on academic subjects like English and maths instead. In addition, while most other subjects have a head of department, a recent survey showed that the majority of UK schools do not have a member of staff who is responsible for financial education in their school.

Despite these difficulties, there are some simple but effective ways that schools can teach financial education. It is important for children to get into the habit of saving when they have spare money, even if it is just a little, and some schools have started using virtual money games to encourage children to do this. Elsewhere, schools have organised competitions in which teams are given a task and are challenged to save as much money as they can. Activities like games and competitions can make a real difference because they are motivating and fun, and do not need to take up a lot of classroom time.

Another factor that could prevent schools from introducing a new subject like financial education into the curriculum is that there is often little money to buy new teaching resources. However, this should not be an issue as there is plenty of free material available online. Many teachers also say they are not trained to teach financial education. What they do not realise is that there is expert help available to schools from banks and local businesses, often for free.

A good financial education can help young people to make effective career and education choices throughout their lives and successfully participate in modern society. So let's make sure the skills that young people are taught today are the right ones for their future.

Exercise 5



- 15** Your teacher is going to make a video to advertise your school. The teacher needs students to help and there will be a meeting to discuss plans for the video.

Write an email to a friend in another class about this.

In your email, you should:

- explain why you should both take part
- describe what you think should be included in the video
- give your friend some information about the meeting.

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

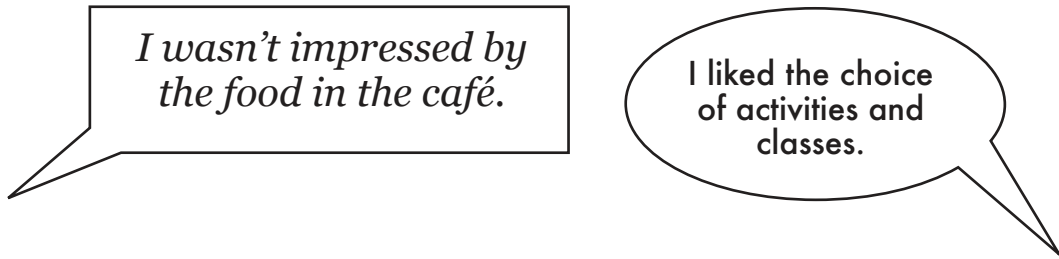
Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

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

Exercise 6

- 16** A new sports centre has recently opened in your town. Last week, you went there with a group of your friends. You have decided to write a review of the sports centre for your school magazine.

Here are two comments from your friends:



Write a review for your school magazine, giving your opinion.

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

Your review should be between 150 and 200 words long.

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

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