

Grammar

1 Rewrite the underlined text in the story with a present or past participle.

(1) (As she arrived) at the bookshop, Nicola felt a little anxious. (2) (She had wanted) to write a book all her life, now she was going to participate in her first book-signing event. She saw a table with her name on it and a pile of copies of her first novel. (3) (After she had taken) her seat, she looked around nervously, expectantly. Who would be the first person to buy her book? Finally, a man approached her table. 'Excuse me, could you tell me where the Travel section is?' he asked. 'I'm sorry, I don't know,' she replied. The man wandered off leaving Nicola alone with her unsold books. (4) (When she had waited) five hours, she decided that she was going to go home. She picked up her bag, (5) (she felt) completely dejected. Suddenly a man ran up to her. 'Are you Nicola Thornberry?' 'Yes.' 'I'm sorry, we made a mistake in our advert. You should be on the third floor. There are hundreds of people waiting for you. Come quickly.'

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2 Choose the correct alternatives to complete the text.

My best friend Maria and I both love shopping but we have completely different tastes in clothes. I love going to high street stores because they are much (1) fewer/less/more expensive and there are (2) greater/far/a deal more clothes to choose from. Maria, on the other hand, spends (3) considerable/significantly/as far more money than me so she prefers smaller boutiques with designer labels. These shops have (4) less/fewer/not as much clothes to choose from and are way more expensive! Despite this, we still love shopping together! The more time we spend together, the (5) happier/happy/happiest we feel!

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3 Complete the text with these words. There are three extra words.

and • as • by • for • same • the
than • with

If I compare my life now to how it used to be, there are a number of notable differences. Generally speaking, (1) older you get, the more tired you feel, but I have more energy now than ever. Since retiring last June, I definitely have less money (2) when I was working, but that said, I'm a lot happier now. Everyone says that when you retire, you start thinking that the price of things is high, but the cost of living isn't (3) expensive as I thought it perhaps might be. Especially now that I'm living in the countryside. I'm living in a town called Diss and it's (4) far the friendliest place I've been to. The town doesn't offer the (5) excitement as London but the people and the fresh air make up for that.

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Total / 15

Vocabulary

4 Choose the correct alternatives to complete the text.

The last two films I have seen at the cinema couldn't have been more different. The first was a breathtaking natural disaster movie about a tsunami. We sat in the front row and the (1) ear-splitting/hair-raising sound of the crashing waves practically deafened us. Watching the buildings being swept away by vast amounts of water and seeing the helicopter rescue of the main characters was quite (2) nail-biting/heart-warming. I was literally on the edge of my seat. The other film was a romantic comedy, called *She's the One*. The opening scene was a bicycle chase between two twin sisters; they are racing at (3) hair-raising/breakneck speed through the streets, when one of them is knocked over by another cyclist. For one (4) heart-stopping/soul-destroying moment we think she may have been badly hurt. However, she isn't injured at all, and in fact becomes close friends with the other cyclist. I won't tell you any more but as you can guess it's a really (5) heart-stopping/heart-warming story.

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5 Complete the story with one word in each gap. Each word is used twice, in the gaps with the same numbers.

When Zane and Seth set off to take photographs for their college project it was a beautiful (1) summer's day. 'Let's head for that (2) at the top of the hill,' said Zane. 'There is a building there. It looks like a good place to stop take some photos.' 'OK,' Seth agreed. They were about three-quarters of the way there when the wind (3) up and Zane felt a (4) of rain on his face. 'Let's move faster. It's going to rain and the cameras will get wet. We've still got quite a lot of ground to (5) before we reach shelter.' Zane (3) up the pace while Seth tried to (5) his face to protect himself from the wind. The rain started pouring down and it was (1) that they were going to get soaking wet. After twenty minutes Seth was on the

(2) of giving up. Then Zane cried out, 'Look! The building.' They hurried inside. It was a perfect (4) to get out of the rain, dry off a little and take some interesting photos.

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6 Complete the dialogue with the correct answer, A, B or C.

Mum: What's the matter, Alex?
Alex: I'm feeling a bit (1)
Mum: Why? What happened?
Alex: Well I was hoping to play the lead in the school play. When they read out the names, my heart (2) Tania got the part I wanted. So she is over the (3) and that's why I'm down in the (4)
Mum: Well, here's something to lift your (5)
Alex: What is it, Mum?
Mum: Well, you know Jordi bought me a new phone. Well, I thought that you could have my old one on account of your marks at school being so good.
Alex: Really, Mum. Thanks! I feel much better now! Can I call Tania to tell her?

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1 A black | B down | C up |
| 2 A sang | B sank | C split |
| 3 A clouds | B world | C moon |
| 4 A ground | B dumps | C floor |
| 5 A spirits | B attitude | C happiness |

/ 5

Total / 15

Reading

7 Read the article on how to get the most out of life. Choose the best answers, A, B, C or D.

LIFE – Love, Interests, Fun, Enthusiasm

Every day people find themselves incessantly rushing from one place to another or hurrying from one thing to get to the next. There's the need to make the school bus or the pressure of a homework deadline. Nevertheless, it is well-known that rushing causes varying levels of stress. Why then, do we not stop and decide to live our lives at a slower pace?

Is it really because we have a list of things to do as long as our arm, as some say, or the desire to pass all our exams or to be the best tennis player that drives this crazy life style, or do we just accept that this is life?

But perhaps these people have lost sight of the real meaning of what it means to live. If we look at the letters that make up the word, we can take the word 'life' to be an acronym of a collection of very significant words. These words are: Love, Interests, Fun and Enthusiasm.

In life we need 'love' – the love of our friends and family. The feeling of love can be heart-warming and can aid motivation. 'Interests' are needed so that we can put away and forget about that never-ending 'to do' list. Interests are hobbies that guarantee life does not become overly monotonous. So often people see life as a process or as a cycle, and to some degree they're right, but everyone gets stuck on the conveyor belt and, at times, they need to step off and take a look at the bigger picture. That's where 'fun' comes into it. Doing something fun enables people to relax and value life. Remember, 'all work and no play' can have a negative effect on us. Last but by no means least, we need 'enthusiasm'. Enthusiasm for what we do and what we believe in.

For those wanting to make the most out of 'life', here are four quick and easy life-changing steps that you could be doing: Make contact in person if possible, or if not, via email, phone or text, with at least one family member and friend each day. Those friends you keep saying you need to contact, contact! Love comes from relationships that have been built, not from those that are hanging by a thread. Some people may say that they don't have time for that but there are ways to make time. 'I don't have time for that'. Well, make time!

We all need hobbies to do in our free time. Perhaps parents or older siblings sometimes say, 'free time, we don't have that, our lives are too busy'. If that is the case, you need to organise your time more efficiently. Try to carry out something that you enjoy doing at least once a week. Your interests may include: cycling, painting, photography ... the list is endless. If you don't like doing things alone, get a friend or family member to join you.

Understandably, each person has their idea of what constitutes 'fun'. It could be closely tied up with your interests or it could be something you do less frequently, like meeting up with friends, dancing, going on holiday or dining out. We all need fun. Without it, life would be boring.

Enthusiasm gives people energy. You have to ask yourself, if you're not enthusiastic about doing something, why are you doing it? Often people say 'I can't be bothered to ...' or 'I don't see the point in doing ...'. Why moan about something? Set a time limit for the tasks you don't enjoy so much and make sure you schedule enough time for those you do enjoy.

If you've read these very simple suggestions, then it's not too late to do something to adjust things for the better.

- 1 According to the writer, people are always in a hurry because ...
 - A nowadays they have a vast amount of work to do.
 - B they want to get a promotion at work.
 - C they accept that life is intended to be this way.
 - D they feel the pressure from external sources.
- 2 In the article, the writer claims 'everyone gets stuck on the conveyor belt'. What is meant by this?
 - A People accept life to be a continual process and therefore don't do anything to change things.
 - B People believe they can't change anything in their life and that everything is set in stone.
 - C People question the meaning of life but don't do anything to change things.
 - D People want to get off the conveyor belt but they are unsure how.
- 3 In the first life-changing step, the writer ...
 - A believes that people should try harder to find time for existing relationships.
 - B suggests people repair broken relationships.
 - C recommends people make contact with their best friend every day.
 - D thinks that love means making new friends regularly.

- 4 In the second life-changing step, people are meant to ...
- A carry out as many hobbies as possible in a seven-day period.
 - B attempt a minimum of one activity that makes them happy every week.
 - C organise their time more efficiently so they can spend more time with friends and family.
 - D make an endless list of activities to do with friends.
- 5 In the fourth life-changing step, the writer suggests people ...
- A ensure they have more energy when they carry out activities.
 - B stop moaning about things and concentrate on enjoying them.
 - C change their attitude so that they are more enthusiastic when they do things they don't enjoy.
 - D change their approach to doing things they don't particularly want to do or worst case, stop doing them.
- 6 The writer's main purpose in the article is to ...
- A explain why people are not getting the most out of life.
 - B motivate people into changing certain things to get the most out of life.
 - C argue the case for being more enthusiastic about doing things.
 - D tell people off for the way they live their lives.

/ 6

8 Read the article again and complete the sentences with between one and three consecutive words taken from the text.

- 1 The writer claims that hurrying all the time creates different degrees
- 2 The writer concedes that people who view life may be correct.
- 3 The writer places less value on relationships that are in danger than those which
- 4 One argument that the writer hears repeatedly is that people are for free time activities.
- 5 The writer can't understand people who complain that activities lack purpose or who simply can't be to do things.
- 6 The writer hopes that anyone reading the article will take action because it is

/ 6

Total / 12

Use of English

9 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using the word given. Use between two and six words.

- 1 This mobile is faster than my last one.
SLOW
This mobile my last one.
- 2 Jenny didn't understand why the clothes needed to be ironed.
POINT
Jenny couldn't the clothes.
- 3 Having finished eating, she cleared the table.
HAD
She cleared the table eating.
- 4 If you train harder, you will become fitter.
THE
The you become.
- 5 Suzy is easily the best student in the class.
LONG

Suzy is the best student in the class
..... way.

- 6 Anita weighs 50kg. Josh weighs 100kg.

TWICE

Josh is as Anita.

- 7 Compared with walking and cycling, taking the train takes much less time.

DEAL

Taking the train is than walking and cycling.

- 8 Needing something to eat, Abby looked for a supermarket.

BECAUSE

Abby looked for a supermarket something to eat.

/ 8

Listening

- 10 Listen to an interview with a retired accountant. Complete the summary with no more than two words in each gap.

David Francis is 61 years old. He's married and has three children. He has retired from his 60 hour a week accountant's job. He admits he was (1) by work and didn't spend much time with his family or friends.

One day he saw a film that changed his life. The film made him realise that he wasn't getting any younger and that life isn't something you should take

(2), as people get ill or pass away unexpectedly. After watching the film, he wrote his bucket list, which listed many things he wanted to do before he died.

He immediately retired and went on

(3) in South Africa, where he saw elephants, tigers and zebras. He learned how to fly and also (4) in the South American rainforest.

He still has many other things that he wants to do, for example, swim with dolphins, snorkel in the Great Barrier Reef, etc. He advises people not to take life too seriously, write a (5) and enjoy doing each thing on it.

/ 5

- 11 Listen again. Are these statements True (T) or False (F)?

- Listeners to the radio show thought David's competition entry was the best. T/F
- The interviewer suggests that many listeners might not be finding David's background and history interesting. T/F
- David was nervous about taking early retirement because he couldn't imagine having so much free time. T/F
- A 'bucket list' is list of things that someone has to do before they die. T/F
- Dave's original bucket list and his current bucket list both involve learning something and travelling abroad. T/F

/ 5

Total / 10

Writing

12 In your English class you have been discussing what is important in life. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay on the statement below. Write your essay giving your own opinion and supporting your ideas with examples, where possible.

'It is important to develop a career before starting a family'.

Suggested paragraph plan

Paragraph 1: Introduction, including your opinion

Paragraph 2: Main points in support of your opinion

Paragraph 3: Additional points in support of your opinion

Paragraph 4: Points in support of a different opinion and your counter arguments

Paragraph 5: Conclusion, restating and possibly expanding your main point

Remember to:

- use sequencing linkers such as *Firstly, in addition, furthermore*
- use a formal style without contractions

Write 250–275 words.

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Speaking

13 Work with a partner. Read the task and look at the photos below. Do the task together and decide which would be the most enjoyable activity. You do not have to agree with your partner but you should give reasons for your opinions.

A friend of yours is not feeling very happy and you want to lift their spirits. You have thought of the three activities in the photos.

- Discuss why each of the activities might be enjoyable.
- Choose the activity that you think your friend would enjoy most.
- Explain why you have rejected the other two.

Student A: When you have finished your discussion, answer these two questions.

Do you like going to theme parks? Why/Why not? Which of these activities would you least like to try? Why/Why not?

Student B: When your partner has answered their two questions, answer these two questions.

Why do some people not enjoy theme parks? Do you like spending time in the countryside? Why/Why not?

You should:

- introduce your opinions in different ways
- give reasons for your opinions
- use comparative structures when evaluating options
- ask your partner for their opinions
- agree, or disagree and explain why
- make a decision by negotiating together
- use superlatives to describe the activity you have chosen



/ 10

Total

/ 80