

File Test 5 Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation **AB**

GRAMMAR

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

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Example: Would they rather we cancelled (cancel) the meeting?

- 1 I wish you _____ (know) the answer to my question.
- 2 Wow, those mountains look stunning. If only I _____ (not forget) to bring my camera!
- 3 I'm tired of working. I think it's time we _____ (take) a break?
- 4 I'd rather you _____ (not call) until after I've finished work. I'm very busy at the moment.
- 5 I wish I _____ (able to) find a flat closer to work. Then I wouldn't have to commute so far.
- 6 Don't you think it's time Martin _____ (find) his own place to live?
- 7 If only Agnes _____ (be) a bit more reliable, then we wouldn't have to wonder if her job is being done correctly.

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2 Is the sentence right or wrong? Write C (correct) or I (incorrect). Correct the incorrect sentences by writing them below.

Example: I'd rather we not tell anyone about the project yet. I

I'd rather we didn't tell anyone about the project yet.

- 1 If only Sergei is more careful with money, we would have fewer arguments. _____

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- 2 I'd rather you not wear your shoes in the house. _____

- 3 It is said that the standard of living is now lower than it was five years ago. _____

- 4 There are thought being several ways to achieve a good work-life balance. _____

- 5 According to scientific studies, walking is as effective for relieving stress as jogging.

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3 Underline the correct word(s).

Example: Police believe the thieves might be / *may have* working as part of a network.

- 1 *Apparently* / *According* to this article, the economy is coming out of recession.
- 2 The missing woman is *understood to* / *understood* have used her credit card earlier today.
- 3 There are *appears to be* / *thought to be* millions of species of insect in the world.
- 4 It would *seems* / *seem* that we have made a mistake.
- 5 *It appears* / *It's appear* that the takeaway is closed today.
- 6 There is *thought to be* / *to have been* undiscovered gold in the region.
- 7 The treatment *appears that* / *claims to be* effective for treating anxiety.
- 8 It's *been announced* / *announced* that taxes will rise again this year.

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Grammar total	20
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VOCABULARY

4 Complete the words in the sentences.

Example: I can't lend you any money – I'm completely broke myself!

- 1 Ana's paying the first i _____ for her car today – she couldn't afford to pay for it all at once.
- 2 Once the will is sorted out, each of Flora's children will receive a l _____ sum.
- 3 Zach he had to pay a f _____ last week. He got caught going through a red traffic light.
- 4 Since we moved to the countryside, our st _____ of living has improved greatly.
- 5 Petra has received an education g _____ to study medicine at Edinburgh University!
- 6 I love getting bargains – these trainers only cost me twenty q _____ in the sales!
- 7 It would take Rebecca years to spend all her money. She's absolutely l _____!
- 8 The charity's spokesperson announced that they are grateful for every single d _____.

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5 Complete the time expressions in the sentences using one or two words.

Example: Will everyone please stop writing now? Time's up!

- 1 Stop giving her such a _____ time! It's not her fault.
- 2 I can only do _____ thing _____ a time! Wait a minute, please.

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- 3 I had a couple of hours till my train was due to leave so I went to the café in the British Museum to _____ time.
- 4 I know you're _____ time this evening, so I'll make dinner for everyone.
- 5 It's only a _____ time before the country is plunged into recession.
- 6 I needn't have worried about getting to the airport on time. In fact, I had time _____.

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6 Complete each expression with a preposition.

Example: We get together with Sara and Fredo from time to time. We always have such a laugh!

- 1 Jamie will never be able to afford that – he's already _____ debt!
- 2 It's a waste _____ time. If I were you, I wouldn't bother doing it.
- 3 Come on! The concert's going to have started _____ the time we get there.
- 4 Why don't you ask Yuko to help? She's got some time _____ her hands at the moment.
- 5 Alex couldn't afford to buy the car on his own. He had to take _____ a loan.
- 6 I don't want to take _____ too much of your time but I just have one last question ...

6

Vocabulary total 20

Vocabulary total 20

PRONUNCIATION

7 Underline the stressed syllable.

Example: sur|vive

- 1 ex|change
- 2 con|sidered
- 3 in|flation
- 4 punc|tual
- 5 al|ter|na|tive

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8 Match the words to the same sound.

loan _ waste afford borrow fee
opportunity _ loan

Example: means fee

- 1 quote _____, _____

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- 2 mortgage _____
3 deluge _____
4 inflation _____

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Pronunciation total 10

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READING

Read the article about 'busyness'. Five sentences have been removed. Which sentence (A–F) fits each gap (1–5)? There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

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Time-poor or just 'busy'?

I've been thinking recently about 'busyness'. Busy is something I just always seem to be, and I know I'm not the only one. There are so many 'busy' terms these days: time-starved, time-poor, time pressure, overworked, overscheduled. (---- 1 ----) But the irony is that nothing has changed – there are still 24 hours in a day. Given the modern conveniences and flexible working practices we now have, we should actually be saving time, shouldn't we? What exactly is going on?

We all have time-saving machines and gadgets around the house (who washes the dishes or cleans their clothes by hand these days?). (---- 2 ----) Indeed, current employment law allows for more holidays, sick days, and parental leave for early-years childcare. Surely with all this, we should have more time, not less. But then I got to wondering: do we really have control over how we spend that time, or is time simply running away with us? I did some reading about it, and here are some of my theories of why we are – or why we *feel* – busy:

Busyness has become a status symbol

Our cultures are becoming increasingly individualistic, which means we as individuals are all competing to prove our value in society. The majority of us these days live in and around cities, and commute to our workplaces alongside millions of other people. In this seemingly hectic, competitive environment, personal achievement and financial reward are the ultimate goals. (---- 3 ----) What's the most common first question asked at a party? 'What do you do?' It's so commonplace, that it's completely acceptable for strangers to ask it. And we're almost always happy to share. Because if we have a job, we are 'productive', and that means we can feel a sense of self-worth and importance – we have a role to play. We have status.

Busyness shows loyalty

Any social system needs to maintain itself on a perpetual loop – get people to work hard – make money – demonstrate success. In this goal-orientated model, we just don't have time for conversations, hobbies, or pastimes. Why? Because they aren't quantifiable in the same way as you can count up hours or money. And if money is the goal, you need employment. (---- 4 ----) According to research, employers see people at their desks as a sign of productivity and loyalty. In reality though, we all know we're merging work and leisure. After all, your workplace is likely to have good Wi-Fi ... and that brings me to my next theory.

Busyness is a by-product of the digital age

We now expect to be able to connect to the internet 24/7, and this 'connected culture' is blurring the line between life and work more and more. Work no longer starts and finishes at the office. We might use social media on our work computers (go on, admit it!) but, conversely, we respond to work emails in our leisure time. While on the one hand, flexibility can be convenient. On the other, there's just no escape from our work commitments, nor from the expectations of others.

File Test 5 Reading and Writing **AB**

In theory, technology should save us time, not waste it. But along with all the excitement of superfast broadband, and the endless entertainment and social media opportunities it facilitates, comes the stress and anxiety of being permanently contactable. We're constantly multi-tasking and never truly 'switching off'. We expect people to answer our texts immediately; reply to an e-mail within an hour; update their status several times daily, and at the same time, they expect the same of us too. (----- 5 -----) We always have something to check on or respond to and, as a result, our work never quite feels done. So, in effect, we're neither using our time to work effectively nor to relax sufficiently. It all sounds pretty scary, but don't worry – I'll cover some suggestions for dealing with that in my next post.

- A As a result, we're beginning to see our time in terms of money and status.
- B Just managing the constant demands of a connected life involves switching tasks multiple times a day.
- C And work-wise, the average amount of scheduled time we are obliged to spend working each week hasn't increased for decades.
- D We say things like, 'Sorry, I'm pushed for time', 'There's never enough time in the day', and that we are 'running out of time' because we've 'got a deadline!'
- E Some enlightened employers even allow their workers a certain number of 'mental-health' days a year that they can just take to recharge their batteries.
- F Proving that productivity to your employer is essential, and most people do this by looking busy – putting in desk time.

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Reading total		10
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WRITING

Write an article of approximately 250 words for an English-language magazine about how one of the areas below has changed in the last 20 years in your country and say whether you think the changes are positive or negative.

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- 1 People's work-life balance
- 2 Food businesses such as cafés and restaurants
- 3 Family life

Writing total		10
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Reading and Writing total		20
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File Test 5 Listening and Speaking **AB**

LISTENING

1 Listen to five people talking about innovative businesses they have started up. Match the speakers (1–5) to the descriptions of their businesses (A–H).

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- Speaker 1 ☐
Speaker 2 ☐
Speaker 3 ☐
Speaker 4 ☐
Speaker 5 ☐

- A a pop-up café
B a new local product
C a social charity enterprise
D a recycled product
E a food delivery service
F a business which is run by volunteers
G a family business
H a business which promotes environmentally friendly practices

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2 Listen to two friends talking about the zero-waste lifestyle. Tick (✓) A, B, or C.

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- 1 What point does Emile make?
A That food keeps longer in plastic packaging. ☐
B That you can't rely on information on the label to say if the packaging can be recycled. ☐
C That his local recycling facilities are not very extensive. ☐
- 2 In Clara's opinion, _____.
A people should only buy second-hand items ☐
B companies deliberately use misleading recycling information ☐
C friends should be honest about their views on giving presents ☐
- 3 According to Emile, businesses should _____.
A embrace anti-capitalism ☐
B operate a business model which does not create waste ☐
C produce items using a linear system ☐
- 4 The reason that Clara makes her own beauty products is _____.
A it cuts down on the number of containers she has to buy ☐
B she feels that artificial ingredients harm the environment ☐
C she can't afford conventional brands ☐

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- 5 Clara believes that _____ a positive impact on the planet.
- A there is little an individual can do to have ☐
- B humans have mostly had ☐
- C making changes to your lifestyle over time will have ☐

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Listening total		10
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SPEAKING

1 Ask your partner these questions.

- Do you support any small or local businesses? Why / Why not?
- Why is it important to keep a budget?
- Is there anything about modern life that you can't accept? Why?
- What kind of multitasking do you do? How easy do you find it?
- What is the general attitude towards money in your country?

2 Now answer your partner's questions.

3 Talk about one of these statements, saying if you agree or disagree. Give reasons.

- 'In order to have an exciting life you should be prepared to live beyond your means.'
- 'Today, young people are encouraged to be too materialistic.'
- 'Technology has had a negative effect on communication between people.'

4 Now listen to your partner. Do you agree with him / her?

Speaking total		20
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Listening and Speaking total		30
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