

# FCE Reading – Test 1

## Part One: Multiple Matching

### Instructions:

You are going to read a selection of letters from a problem page in an International English Language magazine. Choose the most suitable heading from the lists in the bottom screen for each letter (1-7). There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning.

### This Month's Letters

See this month's problems and questions submitted to us by learners of English:

Ex. I

I study English for 6 hours per week in secondary school. For 1 hour each week we have conversation classes with a native speaker of English where we talk about topics such as drugs, politics and culture. I know it's a really good opportunity to practise my spoken English, but I never made a contribution to the discussion. It's not that I don't have an opinion, or that I'm shy, but more that I don't have the vocabulary to express my views. I feel really frustrated at the end of the lesson. Nobody else in the group seems to have the same problem. Katalin

1

I'm a 24-year-old business student from Malaysia and I've been attending English classes at night school for the past 5 years. Up to now I've considered myself to be a good student. Last month I went to Britain to visit my relatives over there and it was awful. Nobody could understand my pronunciation and I couldn't understand them either. What went wrong? My English teacher's very good and I always score the highest in grammar tests. Fazlinda

2

I'm writing to ask your opinion on a matter which is really annoying me. My English teacher never corrects my mistakes when I am speaking. Isn't that her job? How am I going to improve otherwise? Also she's always telling me that now I'm an advanced student, I should forget all the rules of grammar that I learnt when I was younger. Gunther

3

Can you help me? I really want to speak English the right way, with the correct accent. Do you have any good ideas? I have a particular problem with sounds like 's'. I plan to work in the UK in the future and nobody will take me seriously if my English pronunciation is anything short of excellent. Jose

4

I am working as an au pair in London looking after 2 small children. I love my job but the way that English people speak is a little puzzling. For example, I often hear them say things like 'more friendlier', whereas I thought it should be 'more friendly'. It also seems to be common for them to say 'we was' instead of 'we were'. Can you explain this? Would it be impolite of me to correct them? Lana

5

I am an intermediate student of English (I have been studying it for 3 years). I'm quite good at reading and writing but listening is very difficult for me. My teacher suggested that I listen to the BBC World Service every day in order to improve my listening. The problem is that it's hard for me to understand every word. Do you have any ideas about how to make listening to the radio less difficult? I like to keep up with the current news in particular. Yuki

6

I have studied English for 5 years at school but for the past 6 months I have been doing self-study using the Internet and books to improve. There are lots of materials to choose but I'm not sure what is best for me and how I should use them. I really would like to take the FCE examination but don't know how to study on my own. Should I take a course in my local school - which is a little expensive for me now - or is it possible to prepare for the exam doing self-study? Paula

7

Could you please give me some advice on a problem I have at the moment with my English studies. I decided to go to the UK to improve my English but the college I am studying in at present is full of people from my own country. Although the teachers tell us we should only try to speak in English with each other, it is very difficult to do this, especially in our free time when we go out together. I am worried that my speaking will not improve. Maria

- A) Trouble with teaching methods**
- B) Make it easier to comprehend**
- C) Join a class or learn alone**
- D) Communication breakdown**
- E) Should I point out mistakes**
- F) Awful grammar**
- G) Aiming for perfection**
- H) Surrounded by my own language**
- I) Unable to express myself**

## Part Two: Multiple Choice

### Instructions:

**You are going to read a magazine article about crime prevention. For Questions 1-8, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.**

A recent survey of crime statistics shows that we are all more likely to be burgled now than 20 years ago and the police advise everyone to take a few simple precautions to protect their homes.

The first fact is that burglars and other intruders prefer easy opportunities, like a house which is very obviously empty. This is much less of a challenge than an occupied house, and one which is well-protected. A burglar will wonder if it is worth the bother.

There are some general tips on how to avoid your home becoming another crime statistic. Avoid leaving signs that your house is empty. When you have to go out, leave at least one light on as well as a radio or television, and do not leave any curtains wide open. The sight of your latest music centre or computer is enough to tempt any burglar.

Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place. The first place a burglar will look is under the doormat or in a flower pot and even somewhere more 'imaginative' could soon be uncovered by the intruder. It is much safer to leave a key with a neighbour you can trust. But if your house is in a quiet, desolate area be aware that this will be a burglar's dream, so deter any potential criminal from approaching your house by fitting security lights to the outside of your house.

But what could happen if, in spite of the aforementioned precautions, a burglar or intruder has decided to target your home. Windows are usually the first point of entry for many intruders. Downstairs windows provide easy access while upstairs windows can be reached with a ladder or by climbing up the drainpipe. Before going to bed you should double-check that all windows and shutters are locked. No matter how small your windows may be, it is surprising what a narrow gap a determined burglar can manage to get through. For extra security, fit window locks to the inside of the window.

What about entry via doors? Your back door and patio doors, which are easily forced open, should have top quality security locks fitted. Even though this is expensive it will be money well spent. Install a burglar alarm if you can afford it as another line of defence against intruders.

A sobering fact is that not all intruders have to break and enter into a property. Why go to the trouble of breaking in if you can just knock and be invited in? Beware of bogus officials or workmen and, particularly if you are elderly, fit a chain and an eye hole so you can scrutinise callers at your leisure. When you do have callers never let anybody into your home unless you are absolutely sure they are genuine. Ask to see an identity card, for example.

If you are in the frightening position of waking in the middle of the night and think you can hear an intruder, then on no account should you approach the intruder. Far better to telephone the police and wait for help.

**1 A well-protected house:**

- A is less likely to be burgled.
- B is regarded as a challenge by most criminals.
- C is a lot of bother to maintain.
- D is very unlikely to be burgled.

**2 According to the writer, we should:**

- A avoid leaving our house empty.
- B only go out when we have to.
- C always keep the curtains closed.
- D give the impression that our house is occupied when we go out.

**3 The writer thinks that hiding a key under a doormat or flower pot:**

- A is a predictable place to hide it.
- B is a useful place to hide it.
- C is imaginative.
- D is where you always find a spare key.

**4 The 'aforementioned precautions' refer to steps that:**

- A will tell a burglar if your house is empty or not.
- B are the most important precautions to take to make your home safe.
- C will stop a potential burglar.
- D will not stop an intruder if he has decided to try and enter your home.

**5 Gaining entry to a house through a small window:**

- A is surprisingly difficult.
- B is not as difficult as people think.
- C is less likely to happen than gaining entry through a door.
- D is tried only by very determined burglars.

**6 According to the writer, window locks, security locks and burglar alarms:**

- A cost a lot of money but are worth it.
- B are good value for money.
- C are luxury items.
- D are absolutely essential items.

**7 The writer argues that fitting a chain and an eye hole:**

- A will prevent your home being burgled.
- B avoids you having to invite people into your home.
- C is only necessary for elderly people.
- D gives you time to check if the visitor is genuine.

**8 The best title for the text is:**

- A Increasing household crime.
- B Protecting your home from intruders
- C What to do if a burglar breaks into your home.
- D Burglary statistics.

## Part Three: Gapped Text

### Instructions:

**You are going to read a magazine article about John Prince, a dancer, dance teacher and choreographer. Seven sentences have been removed from the article on the left. Choose the most suitable sentence from the list A-H on the right for each part (1-6) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning.**

### Career success in the arts

**John Prince, famous dancer and choreographer, gives advice on how to succeed in a career in the arts.**

I asked John how he got started and what requirements there are. "Well, to be a professional dancer it's useful to have had acting lessons or some background in drama. If you want to succeed in musical theatre you have to have a good singing voice as well. When you approach an agent you should take a portfolio with your CV, your statistics sheet and some good photos and reviews of past performances. You'll need dance clothes, ballet shoes, tap shoes, and even roller skates depending on what kind of show you are going to go for."

0 H

"Of course, you need to be extremely fit if you want to be a professional dancer. I dance or move about for about six hours a day. There are great health benefits to being a dancer. I can eat a lot of pasta without gaining weight because dancing increases your metabolism so much."

1

John has a very busy schedule in the next few months. He took time out to speak to me today from the making of a pop video to promote N-ergy's latest record. "I choreographed the dance routine for the boys and they only had 2 days in which to learn it! I am going to be working on a video for another well known band - but that's top secret. Next month I'll be touring Spain in a production of a musical that was written by a friend of mine, Michaela Evans.

2

As for the future, I've come to realise that I would never be content to be just a chorus dancer - I'm too much of an individual for that. Like all artists I'd love to become a household name by writing and choreographing my own musicals."

John was born in Jamaica to a Jamaican father and a Scottish mother but the family emigrated to England 20 years ago. "I have a little sister I adore, who is also training to be a dancer." How does it feel to have someone else following in your footsteps?

3

Has he much more to learn, I wondered. "I've spent an incredible amount of my life training to get where I am. I went to college for two years in England, I trained for six months in Paris and about eight months in America. But you never really stop training or learning your art."

4

So, would you say it's been plain sailing? "I feel I've been lucky to a degree; many people hit problems breaking into the arts. It can be a vicious circle really. You can't become a member of Equity, which is the actors' and dancers' union, without good contracts and you can't get good contracts without being a member of Equity. My advice to people who want to get into the arts would be to go out into the world, and try everything else first.

5

What has a dance career done for you as a person? "Thanks to dancing, I've visited and performed in 23 countries so far. This has opened my eyes to the world, and I've been able to understand issues like racism and inequality from a wider perspective.

6

"So all in all I'm really happy to be a dancer!"

- A** It's fine, but I try not to give out too much advice as it gets irritating!
- B** And if nothing you like comes out of it, then come back and be an actor or dancer.
- C** Without a strict daily timetable like this you find yourself wasting too much time.
- D** After that it's back to England to start a new term of dance classes.
- E** Hopefully this has enabled me to become a better and more tolerant person as a result.
- F** When it comes to coping with stress, I find that exercise helps me to cope with my problems, so I stay in good shape mentally as well.
- G** Like any profession where you're always travelling, you tend to acquire something new almost every day.
- H** Being fully equipped with all this stuff beforehand makes it easier when you go for auditions.

## Part Four: Multiple Matching

### Instructions

**You are going to read a magazine article about various local campaigns. For Questions 1-13, choose from the groups of people (A-D).**

#### **A Homes For All**

Organisations that help the homeless are warning that people will face even greater hardship this winter unless urgent action is taken to offer shelter to those without a home. This warning follows publication of figures showing an increase in the number of homeless people. Susan Evans of the organisation 'Homes for All' said: "With a shortage of accommodation, more people than ever before - young and old - are having to sleep rough. A cold winter is predicted this year which means that these people will have to put up with sub-zero temperatures. Action must be taken urgently to offer these people shelter." A nationwide demonstration to raise awareness of the problem will take place this weekend. Supporters welcome.

#### **B Village Protest**

Residents of local village, Shilden, are preparing for a night of protest to save their village from Government planners. Proposals for a new motorway to be built that will run within 2 kilometres of Shilden have caused uproar amongst residents. They claim that they were given insufficient time to respond to the proposal. Tony Fellows, spokesperson for the 'Village Protest' campaign explains: "The planned route cuts across some of the most picturesque countryside in the region. Shilden welcomes thousands of tourists each year. Many of the shopkeepers depend on this trade and would almost certainly face ruin if tourists were put off coming by the damage this road is likely to cause". The all-night protest will take place in the fields where the building work is likely to begin.

#### **C New Youth Club**

Youngsters in the city-centre will lose out on a much-loved project if substantial funds are not found this year. The 'New Youth Club', which is open to young people from the ages of 10 to 17, is being threatened with closure by Health and Safety officials who claim the building is unsafe. The club, built 30 years ago, was badly damaged by heavy storms last year and city engineers estimate that one hundred thousand pounds is needed to repair structural damage. With only limited funds at their disposal, managers fear the club will have to close. Youngsters from the club have organised an Open Day on Tuesday in an effort to raise some of the money needed to enable the repairs to be undertaken. "This alone won't be enough, however" warned Adam Ross, Youth Leader.

#### **D Save lea Valley**

A rare species of butterfly and many native plants face extinction if the 'Lea Valley office complex' project goes ahead. This is the claim made by local environmentalists involved in the 'Save Lea Valley' campaign. They argue that the proposed development, to be built on the site of woodland dating back hundreds of years, will rob the country of several rare species of wildlife. 'Local people would be horrified if they knew of the consequences of this project,' claimed environmentalist Ian Wilson yesterday. "We need to instigate a local campaign to alert everyone to the dangers. We are starting by writing letters to everyone in the area asking for their support. The office complex developers must not be allowed to do this."

1. Local businesses could be badly affected.
2. People in the area are not aware of the problem.
3. There are plans to build a brand new building.
4. The campaign do not have to meet together.
5. The problem affects all age groups.
6. The problem was caused by bad weather.
7. If the plan goes ahead it will spoil the look of the area.
8. The campaign cannot raise enough money on its own.
9. The problem was announced shortly after a report was published.
10. Young people are in danger.
11. Local people are very angry.
12. A meeting will inform people of the problem.
13. People did not have the opportunity to argue against the plan.

**A: Homes For All**

**B: Village Protest**

**C: New Youth Club**

**D: Save Lea Valley**