

[Turn over

Exercise 1

Read the article about a singing competition called the World Choir Games, and then answer the following questions.

Singing together brings nations together

Most people are familiar with the Olympic Games, the sporting competition that aims to promote international understanding. Far fewer people have heard of the World Choir Games, but the aims of this competition are equally as important: to connect people through the power of singing and give inspiration to choirs from around the world.

The World Choir Games are the biggest international choir competition, with over 70 countries and around 27 000 singers taking part. It's held in a different country every two years and lasts for 11 days. The World Choir Games were originally the idea of Günter Titsch, a passionate choir singer from Germany with business contacts across Europe. With their support, he arranged his first singing event in Hungary in 1988. His idea for a singing competition similar to the Olympic Games came a few years later in 2000, however. This was when the 'Choir Olympics', as the World Choir Games were originally called, took place in Austria, with the Austrian president in the audience.

The World Choir Games, which are judged by a team of international experts, are open to choirs of all abilities and offer two separate categories. The Champions Competition is for those who already have significant competitive experience; the Open Competition is for choirs with little or no experience. Choirs can choose which category to apply for. However, applications are reviewed and approved by the Artistic Committee, and not all choirs get into their preferred category. If a choir disagrees with the Committee's decision, it has the chance to perform in a qualification concert, where five independent judges make the final decision.

Like the Olympic Games, the highlight of the World Choir Games is its spectacular opening ceremony where a diverse range of cultures are on show. During the ceremony, a peace bell is rung to call countries to sing and celebrate together. It is rung five times, as a symbol of the five continents. In contrast to the Olympic Games, however, where only the best competitors take part, the World Choir Games involve all levels of ability. Many choirs find that giving a great performance is a way to get much-needed financial support back in their own country.

Although competing is important, the World Choir Games are about so much more than just winning. Choirs can receive expert training from some of the world's most famous musical instructors, many of whom enjoy returning year after year. The city comes alive with exciting parades, venues in the open air are packed with free friendship concerts (weather permitting), and concert halls hold other performances. Joining in is as important as competing, and many choirs develop relationships with other choirs that continue for years afterwards.

With over 300 000 visitors attending the World Choir Games, the potential to develop the economy of the host city is obvious, and many cities have already benefitted from this. It's also a way to show the city's own cultural life to the world, so it goes without saying that many places are keen to apply to become the next host. There's a year-long application process that involves filling in questionnaires, visiting potential venues and discussing contracts, although to begin with all that's required is for interested cities to submit an online form, which is relatively straightforward.

It's well known that singing in a choir is good for your mind and body. Anyone who's been in a choir also knows that it can be great fun and singing really does bring people together.

- 1 Who helped Günter Titsch with his initial idea?
..... [1]
- 2 When were the first World Choir Games held?
..... [1]
- 3 Who decides which category of competition a choir can join? Give **two** details.
.....
..... [2]
- 4 What does the ringing of the peace bell at the opening ceremony represent?
..... [1]
- 5 Where do 'friendship concerts' typically take place?
..... [1]
- 6 What opportunities does holding the World Choir Games give to a city? Give **two** details.
.....
..... [2]
- 7 What is the first thing that cities have to complete in order to hold the World Choir Games?
..... [1]

[Total: 9]

Exercise 2

Read the article about four people (A–D) who are doing a job they love. Then answer Question 8(a)–(h).

I've found my dream job!**A Samuel, Voice actor**

In every school report, my teachers always said I talked too much. Now, as a successful voice actor, I get paid to talk! Of course, there's more to it than that – I'm very artistic and love using my voice in different ways, whether that's recording a radio advert or working on an animation film. The first time I went into a recording studio, I felt completely at home and that feeling's never gone away. Because I'm self-employed, there's always paperwork to complete unfortunately, but I'd never do any other job. I've learned a lot over the years and seen some changes. Voice acting used to be seen as second best to the world of movie acting, but now even Hollywood actors realise what a great job it is and want to get involved.

B Raymond, Racing car driving instructor

When I was at high school, I helped out at my local race track every weekend. I'd do anything – wash cars, tidy tools – just to be around cars. For me, everything was a chance to learn. You see, because I didn't come from a wealthy family, I knew that if I wanted something I needed to make it happen. The job of racing car driving instructor didn't use to exist a decade ago, but it's quite popular now. I teach all kinds of customers, from young people looking to become professional to experienced drivers wanting to change their bad driving habits. The best part of working here is that I can practise for free every day and follow my dream to become a professional racing driver myself.

C Mina, Cruise ship director

It's hard to describe my job as it's different every day, but essentially I have to ensure my passengers have fun. Eight months a year, I work on cruise ships. It's hard work but I love it! I do everything from arranging parties to preparing daily newsletters and filling in forms, or meeting the captain to get the latest safety rules. As they're always changing, it's sometimes a battle to make sure I'm following the correct regulations, but it is essential. I'm always being stopped by passengers asking questions and I love to talk to as many of them as possible. They often want recommendations for things to do on shore, and I'm not afraid to give my honest opinion if it means they enjoy themselves on a tour or at a local restaurant.

D Tamir, Toy inventor

I've been inventing toys for about 15 years, selling my ideas to major toy manufacturers. I feel real pride knowing that my creations are bringing joy to children around the world. My friends think my job just involves playing all day, but that's certainly not true! Whilst I do enjoy the freedom of coming up with fantastic new ideas, the best thing for me is the challenge of then making them work. The hardest thing is having a big toy company reject an idea. This doesn't mean it's bad – perhaps the timing just isn't right, so it's important not to doubt yourself. I usually take what I can from their comments to keep adapting and improving the design.

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

Which person ...

- (a) sees negative feedback as an opportunity to learn? [1]
- (b) sees their job as a way to achieve their ambition? [1]
- (c) believes it's sometimes necessary to be critical of other businesses? [1]
- (d) feels their industry is more respected than it used to be? [1]
- (e) admits it can be a challenge to keep their professional knowledge up to date? [1]
- (f) has always felt comfortable in their workplace? [1]
- (g) realised early on that they would have to work hard to succeed? [1]
- (h) gets satisfaction from the pleasure that their work gives people? [1]

[Total: 8]

Exercise 3

Read the article about a visitor centre that has a huge collection of children's books, and then complete the notes.

The National Centre for Children's Books – a story of success

The National Centre for Children's Books has just won an award for Best UK Visitor Attraction of the Year – it has certainly come a long way since its opening in 2002! The centre was originally the idea of two authors, who had noticed that children's books were becoming popular with private collectors. They decided that what was needed to protect the country's literary treasure was a centre devoted to children's literature. The National Centre for Children's Books was born!

From the very beginning, the centre has worked to build up its book collection, which now contains many thousands of books. There are works by over 250 authors, some of whom make regular donations to the centre. As its reputation grew, people started to give the centre their childhood books rather than throw them away, and some of these have proved to be very rare indeed. By 2010, the collection had become so large that a new location was needed. Rather than move to a modern building in the heart of the city, the centre chose a site in an industrial part of town. Their intention was to give local children free access to books, something it remains very proud of today.

Since the move, the centre has continued to expand. It now occupies all five floors of a factory building that used to manufacture toys. 'This building is so appropriate for us', says the centre manager. 'Fifty years ago, the country's favourite children's toys were being made here, and it's still a place that's all about children. That's not to say that adults aren't important too. We welcome help from anyone who wants to become a volunteer. In return, the volunteers often gain useful skills and get to feel part of their local community.'

The centre has also built up successful links with schools. According to the centre manager, one of their key ambitions right from the start was to deliver reading workshops in as many schools as possible. 'It's a really important part of our work', she says, 'and something that our staff love doing. We work closely with teachers in schools all around the country, and they often raise money for us through school book sales. And of course, the children love what we do.'

As the centre has expanded, so the cost of running it has increased and it has therefore had to come up with original ways of financing itself. For a small annual fee, anyone can become a 'Friend of the Centre' and get regular newsletters and free entry to certain exhibitions and VIP events. The centre now has over two hundred 'Friends'. Local business owners play their part too, and can sponsor exhibitions at the centre, in return for which their staff get discounted tickets for centre events.

With such loyal involvement, the centre's future looks bright. Its mission has always been to encourage children to develop a love of books, but it seems that with its continuing success, it has the potential to achieve so much more.

You are going to give a talk about The National Centre for Children's Books to your class at school. Prepare some notes to use as the basis for your talk.

Make short notes under each heading.

9 The aims of The National Centre for Children's Books:

-
-
- [3]

10 How people can support The National Centre for Children's Books:

-
-
-
- [4]

[Total: 7]

Exercise 4

11 Read the article about the history of sunglasses.

Write a summary about the different reasons why people have worn sunglasses.

Your summary should be about 80 words long (and no more than 90 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 6 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

The surprising history of sunglasses

It's the beginning of summer, you're feeling good and you're wearing your favourite pair of sunglasses. But have you ever thought about when – or even where – sunglasses were developed? The history of sunglasses reveals some surprising facts.

The earliest examples of 'sunglasses' were made by the Inuit people of North America around 2000 years ago. These were nothing more than flat pieces of wood or bone with holes cut out to enable the Inuit to see in the snow, but recent research has proved that they were actually very effective. The first mention in historical documents of 'sunglasses' is from twelfth-century China, where court judges were described as using flat pieces of coloured quartz over their eyes to hide their expression when interviewing witnesses. However, it wasn't until the mid-eighteenth century that an English optician called James Ayscough started putting coloured glass in glasses frames, in the belief that looking through blue or green glass would cure people's sight problems.

By the 1920s, actors working in Hollywood had started to wear the types of sunglasses we know today, as they needed to shade their eyes from the bright lights on the movie sets of the time. Off-screen, Hollywood celebrities realised that sunglasses were also an effective way to disguise themselves when they were out in public. And of course, once movie stars started to wear sunglasses and advertise them, everyone wanted to follow fashion and the mass production of inexpensive sunglasses really took off.

During the mid-twentieth century, manufacturers started to produce more specific designs for sunglasses. 'Polaroid' glasses were invented in the USA in the 1930s using special glass that changed in different light conditions and helped to make driving safer. And in 1939, the manufacturer Bausch & Lomb developed the famous Ray-Ban sunglasses for pilots. They had a special shape to give better all-round vision whether pilots were looking down at the controls, or out at the sky. These Ray-Ban Aviator sunglasses are still popular today.

Although trends may change every year, sunglasses are now worn by people everywhere. Most of us can't imagine a summer without our favourite pair!

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[Total: 12]

Exercise 5



12 You recently organised an event for your family to celebrate a special occasion.

Write an email to a friend telling them about this event.

In your email, you should:

- say what the special occasion was
- explain what you did to make the event memorable
- describe your family's reactions.

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

Your email should be between 100 and 150 words long.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your email, and up to 6 marks for the language used.

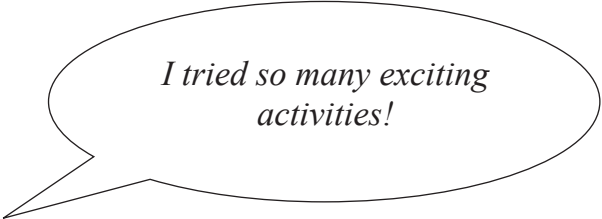
[Total: 12]

Exercise 6


- 13** You and your friends recently visited an amusement park where people can do lots of different outdoor activities.

You have decided to write a review about it for your school magazine.

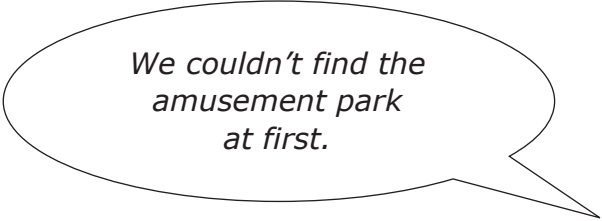
Here are some comments from your friends:



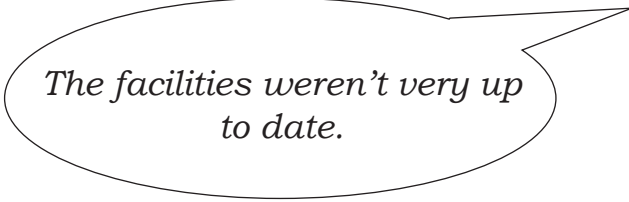
I tried so many exciting activities!



It was really good value for money.



We couldn't find the amusement park at first.



The facilities weren't very up to date.

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

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

Your review should be between 100 and 150 words long.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your review, and up to 6 marks for the language used.

[Total: 12]

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