Getting to know you

Reading
1 Read about an unusual person and her passion. Choose which paragraphs (A–E) fit the gaps (1–5).

Ginni Little loves bats so much that she happily keeps them in her home.
Judging by their loud purring, Natalie and Rupert are enjoying their evening. While Ginni Little sits propped up in bed watching TV, Natalie, a natterer's bat, and Rupert, a one-winged pipistrelle, are happily snuggled next to each other, occasionally looking up to receive a few loving words.

1 In her village, Mrs Little is known as ‘Batwoman.’ As a nature-loving five-year-old, she became fascinated by bats and their built-in radar systems, ‘which I now know to be echo location.’

2 ‘That was Batty,’ she says about her first patient. ‘She was bald and covered in scabs. It took several months to help her get well,’ she explains, telling me how she put blankets on the floor to protect Batty from her first crash landings.

3 They come from several sources – animal protection societies, wildlife organisations, local bat groups and members of the public.

4 The survival rate is impressive. Around half recover to be released back into the wild. Others, like Rupert and Natalie, whose wings are irreparably damaged, spend their days as treasured pets, ‘hopping and gliding’ among tropical plants in Mrs Little’s spare bedrooms.

5 Caring for these sickest bats is an exhausting, full-time commitment. Because they are nocturnal creatures, Mrs Little can often be found in the early hours of the morning hand-feeding her patients with vitamins – bits of raw liver and water on the tip of a paintbrush. Others are fed live worms or the occasional cricket.
A The majority of patients – there are 35 in the house at the moment – have been attacked by cats. Others have been injured by cars or poisoned by pesticides. Abandoned babies are also common.

B Since Batty’s arrival, Mrs Little has been foster-mother to hundreds of sick, injured and abandoned bats. Most of the tiny creatures which arrive at her Bat Hospital (set up in two spare bedrooms of her small home) are pipistrelles, a small and common type of bat.

C ‘Bats are such social creatures, they thrive on the warmth and companionship of humans,’ says Mrs Little, ‘the comfort of the heartbeat makes an ideal nesting place. I’ve also had bats which loved to nestle in my hair and others that would hang on to my earrings while I went about my work.’

D The sickest patients live in small glass cages. The more robust hang from bamboo screens or behind pictures, an occasional scuffling sound being the only hint of their presence during daylight hours. At night, the flyers emerge to circle and swoop around the room, building up their strength before being released.

E Eleven years ago, her love affair with bats began in earnest when she found a large family in an old building while on a camping holiday. On her return home, she contacted a local bat group and was given an abandoned baby bat to nurse back to health.

2 Find descriptive words and phrases from the article to write in the table. If you find collocations, write the whole phrase rather than just an individual word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bats</th>
<th>comfort, care and attention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>loud purring</td>
<td>happily snuggled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the fact that bats have been given protection status in many countries, many are still an endangered (1) _____________. Populations have (2) ____________ considerably in recent years because of the use of chemicals and pesticides. In addition, their natural (3) ____________ are under (4) ____________ as old barns are converted, forests cut down and mines closed. These gentle, (5) ____________ creatures are often (6) ____________ with hatred or suspicion. It seems that many people still have an (7) ____________ fear of them. ‘I can understand people’s prejudices,’ says Mrs Little. ‘It’s probably a (8) ____________ fear. Bats are mysterious, suddenly swooping out of the dark and disappearing just as quickly. That can be scary.’ Yet, Mrs Little believes it is a tragedy that the creatures remain misunderstood, and some species are (9) ____________ extinction. ‘They are like us in many ways. They’re (10) ____________ -blooded, make wonderful mothers, have one baby at a time and suckle their young.’ She also claims that, far from being fearful creatures of the night, the animals can be a (11) ____________ for good. One pipistrelle can eat 3,000 insects in a night. In one area of Mexico, bats have even been used to (12) ____________ malaria.
**Conditionals**

1 Match the sentence beginnings (1–10) with the endings (a–j).

1. If you go to Sydney,
2. If the red light is flashing on the camera,
3. If you could change your career,
4. If only you'd got here earlier,
5. If I were you,
6. If the red light had been flashing on my camera,
7. Should these symptoms persist,
8. Unless we get up at 5 am
9. Let's take the underground,
10. Provided you've got a map,

   a. I would have changed the batteries.
b. change the batteries.
c. otherwise we'll get stuck in traffic.
d. I'd buy the bigger suitcase.
e. you would have seen the most amazing thing.
f. we'll get stuck in traffic.
g. you'll love the harbour and the Opera House.
h. you shouldn't get lost.
i. go and see your doctor.
j. what would you do?

2. The Cambridge English Corpus shows that advanced learners often make mistakes with conditional structures. Correct these sentences written by exam candidates.

1. It would be better whether these are fully equipped tours.

2. We would like to know if or not you will be ready on the wedding day.

3. I also would like to say that the bus was late.

4. It should be advisable to arrive earlier next time.

5. I hope such errors never will appear in your newspaper again.

6. I imagine she will be always successful in her career.

7. It might be even possible to borrow the books from him.

8. If it will to make you feel better, I will close the window.

9. It might be even possible to borrow the books from him.

10. Provided you've got a map,

   a. I would have changed the batteries.
b. change the batteries.
c. otherwise we'll get stuck in traffic.
d. I'd buy the bigger suitcase.
e. you would have seen the most amazing thing.
f. we'll get stuck in traffic.
g. you'll love the harbour and the Opera House.
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3 Write conditional sentences from the prompts. More than one answer may be possible.

not / for Jack's proposal / we not get / the contract.

If it wasn't for Jack's proposal, we wouldn't have got the contract.

If it hadn't been for Jack's proposal, we wouldn't have got the contract.

a. you / require / any further information / please / hesitate / contact me

b. you / turn / page ten of the report / you / find / a summary of the proposal

c. / it / not / for the marketing manager / the company / in difficulties now

d. Open the window / if / it / make / you / feel / cooler.

e. I / see / Jane tonight / unless / she / busy.

**Writing**

1 Write a description of yourself.

a. Think of something interesting or unusual that you would like to do. Think about how you would describe this, using conditional structures.

b. How can your description be divided into different vocabulary areas (think about Reading exercise 2)? Make two or three headings and write words or phrases to go under each heading.

c. Decide how many paragraphs you need for your description to be about 250 words long. What will you put in each paragraph? Make a plan.

d. Write your first draft.

e. Check it through or give it to someone else to check.

f. Write your final draft.
Writing

1 The underlined parts of this email are written in inappropriate language. Rewrite them using appropriate informal language.

(1) Dear Anna,
   It was (2) a great pleasure to meet you while I was on holiday. It was lucky that we were staying in the same guesthouse in the same village. I (3) truly hope that the weather (4) continued to be fine after I left. I remember you had another week’s holiday, didn’t you? Did you manage to (5) purchase those books, (6) as was your intention?

Do you remember the day we rented a car and drove into the countryside? (7) It is my opinion that the further west you go, the more beautiful it is. Those small towns we saw were gorgeous.

(8) Please find attached some of the photos we took. I hope you like them.

Now that I (9) have returned to my employment I am very busy and do not have a lot of free time. I try to study a little English every day and do some exercises but sometimes (10) I do not return from work until late.

I (11) would be delighted to hear from you. It would be lovely to keep in touch and who knows, perhaps we will meet again on another holiday.

I (12) look forward to your prompt reply.
Barbara.
Listening

1 Listen to two students discussing social-networking sites. Choose the best answer (A, B or C).

1 Maria believes that, on social-networking sites, people spell words differently because …
   A they want to sound as if they are speaking.
   B they are not sure how to spell correctly.
   C they want to type as quickly as possible.

2 What is Darius worried about?
   A having to write formal letters in his new job
   B getting into bad writing habits
   C his language skills being criticised

2 Now listen to a man talking about changes in language. Choose the best answer (A, B or C).

1 What has he just done?
   A completed a journalism course
   B written a language guide
   C found several grammatical errors in a book

2 How does he feel about the increased use of lower-case letters?
   A It is not a trend that he believes will last.
   B It makes text look unattractive and complex.
   C It can lead to misunderstandings when he reads.

3 Complete the sentences with these phrases from the recordings.

make out  get your message across  in mind
set of rules  get into  maintain standards

a He’s worked hard to ___________________ in the hospital, even though they were short of money.
b Since the teacher and his class agreed on a ___________________, discipline has been a lot better.
c I’d like to improve my German. With this ___________________, I’ve joined an online class.
d I tried talking with them using the webcam, but I couldn’t ___________________ what they were saying and I gave up. I need a better internet connection.
e Once you ___________________ the habit of exercising every day, it becomes easier, and you really feel the benefits.
f It is important to ___________________ clearly and politely when complaining.

Vocabulary

1 In the first listening extract, you heard the phrasal verb look down on. Match the verbs (1–7) to their meanings (a–g).

1 look down on someone
2 look up to someone
3 get on with someone
4 fall out with someone
5 take to someone
6 get your own back on someone
7 stand up for someone

a get revenge on someone
b defend someone
c consider someone inferior
d begin to like someone
e admire someone
f have a good relationship with someone
g stop being friends with someone
The Cambridge English Corpus shows that advanced learners often use the wrong prepositions. Correct the prepositions in bold in these sentences written by exam candidates.

1. In that day, no one works and everyone goes to the country with his family or friends.

2. The majority of people who come in Greece for holidays come in order to party.

3. It would be best of our company if we can rectify those mistakes as soon as possible.

4. Finally, the water of the pool should be cleaned frequently, as sometimes it is dirty.

5. You would be surprised of how many people are nervous before the test.

6. It held great fascination to me, so I decided to take this trip.

7. Please send us proof that you have had no car accidents for the last two years.

8. There wasn’t a social programme, so I had to spend a lot of time by my own.

Advanced learners also miss out prepositions. Add one preposition to each of these sentences written by exam candidates.

1. I am writing to inform you about some problems your service.

2. There are many people who take part sports.

3. We stayed in the hotel five days.

4. Apart from that, we had to pay breakfast, lunch and other costs.

5. They have a good variety of food as well good quality.

6. Therefore, I would like to ask a refund from your company.

7. I would like to draw your attention the areas which need to be improved.

8. The reason this meeting is to collect money for poor children.
3 In the public eye

Reading
1 You are going to read about Maria, a trainee solicitor. Read her replies and write the interviewer’s questions (1–6).

Working lives

1 I have wanted to be a lawyer for a long, long time, but I didn’t always think I would want to be a solicitor. Until my first year in university, I wanted to be a barrister, but even then I could see it is a very financially insecure occupation. As a solicitor, you are more stable because you’re someone’s employee.

2 I get in at about 9.15 in the morning, but there isn’t really a typical pattern after that. I work in employment law. I can never plan or structure my day because I’m at the beck and call of people in the department.

3 I do enjoy my job. It changes every day and there is a great deal of interaction with the rest of the team – which is another good reason not to be a barrister. When our work involves employees who are subject to disciplinary action because of their conduct, things can get quite high profile too.

4 As a trainee, you don’t have complete control over specific cases and files. I have lots of responsibility, though – drafting letters and amending contracts. There’s a lot of attending meetings, too. As a trainee you don’t contribute all that much at these but you do take word-for-word attendance notes, which can be a bit boring and is a nightmare because you can never get everything down.

5 The money is enough to live on. I’m lucky, mind you, because I live at home and so I don’t have to pay rent. I have one major holiday a year and a few weekends away as well.

6 I enjoy working in London – I think you get high-quality clients and I like the after-work socialising mentality, which I don’t think exists everywhere – but I’m pretty sure it would be a struggle to afford to do the things I want to do if I had to pay for my own place to live here.
Wishes and regrets

1 Read what Giacomo says about his work as a nurse. Rewrite each sentence.

'a Most people don't have a healthy diet.'

'I wish _____________________________.

'b I wish I didn't have to work shifts.'

'I'd prefer _____________________________.

'c It's a busy day.'

'If only _____________________________.

'd I should have studied to be a doctor.'

'If only _____________________________.

'e It's time _____________________________.

'It'll be good if my kids find a less stressful job.'

'If only _____________________________.

'f My superiors don't support me.'

'I wish _____________________________.

'g I hope _____________________________.

'I have too many patients to look after.'

'If only _____________________________.

'h I should have moved to a smaller town last year. It's a pity I didn't.'

'I wish _____________________________.

'i I think it's better to go to work by bus because it's less stressful than driving.'

'I'd rather _____________________________.

Vocabulary

1 Choose the correct word in italics.

1 a A job / Work is someone that someone does regularly to earn money.
   b A job / Work is an activity someone does, usually (but not always) for money.

2 a A team / group is a number of people who work together.
   b A team / group is a number of people who are put together as one unit.

3 a An employee / A trainee is someone who is paid to work for someone else.
   b An employee / A trainee is someone who is learning the skills of a job.

4 a A profession / A career is a series of jobs you do during your working life.
   b A profession / A career is something which needs special training or skills, often involving a high level of education.

5 a A client / An employer is a person or organisation that employs people.
   b A client / An employer is a customer who receives services.

2 Maria says I'm at the beck and call of people in the department. There are many phrases with the pattern to be at the … of. Match the phrases (1–6) to the definitions (a–f).

1 to be at the beck and call of someone
2 to be at the mercy of someone
3 to be at the discretion of someone
4 to be at the peak of something
5 to be at the forefront of something
6 to be at the crossroads of something

a someone has complete power over you
b to be at an important and uncertain stage
c to be in a prominent or leading position
d always available to do whatever someone asks
e it depends on someone else's decision
f in the highest, strongest or best position

3 In the interview, you saw the words trainee and employee.

a What does the suffix -ee usually mean?

b Write more examples of words ending with -ee.

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Listening

1. Read Alejandro’s replies to his teacher’s questions. Write the questions you think the teacher asks.

2. Listen and check your answers.

a. I’m from Barcelona in Spain. I was born and brought up there.

b. Well, we live right in the centre so what I really like about living there is the fact that everything is right on my doorstep. If I want to go to a film, meet friends in a café or whatever, it’s easy to get there. Of course, it’s busy, a bit noisy at times, but I like that. I think Barcelona has a very special atmosphere. Some people say it’s the architecture, all those Gaudí buildings, and others say it’s the people.

c. I’ve got a younger brother who’s still at secondary school. Then there’s my mum – she’s a nurse but she only works part time, and my dad works as a lawyer in a big law firm. Everyone in my family is always really busy but I think that’s good. When we do get together, we have lots to talk about because we’ve all been doing very different and interesting things.

d. I graduated from university just a few months ago. I was studying Business Administration. So then I decided to do an English course and to enter for the Advanced exam because I think it’ll be really helpful to have an English-language qualification when I’m job hunting.

e. What I’d really like to do is get a job in an international company. I speak French as well as English and of course Spanish, so my ideal job would be one where I can use all those languages. I don’t want them to go rusty.

f. In my spare time I do as much sport as possible. It’s really important to me that I keep fit. I found, when I was studying a lot, that it was really relaxing to go out and play tennis or go swimming for an hour or so. After that, it sort of cleared my mind and I was refreshed, ready to start revising again for my exams.