

Objective Writing for First Certificate:

100 tips for Italian learners

informed by the Cambridge Learner Corpus

Answer key

**1**

↓

1	a	c	c	o	m	m	o	d	a	t	i	o	n
		2	f	u	r	n	i	t	u	r	e		
3	t	o	u	r	i	s	t						
4	c	o	m	p	e	t	i	t	i	o	n		
5	t	e	c	h	n	o	l	o	g	y			
		6	e	x	a	m	p	l	e				
		7	m	o	v	e	m	e	n	t			
8	e	n	t	e	r	t	a	i	n	m	e	n	t
		9	w	i	s	h	e	s					

**6**

O	C	A	L	M	L	Y	K	T	A	H	W
S	T	R	A	N	G	E	L	Y	F	E	O
U	T	P	U	R	E	L	Y	N	O	A	N
D	R	R	M	X	I	O	F	G	R	V	D
D	H	O	R	R	I	B	L	Y	T	I	E
E	Q	U	I	C	K	L	Y	T	U	L	R
N	F	D	S	R	W	E	L	L	N	Y	F
L	R	L	O	E	T	O	H	F	A	N	U
Y	O	Y	R	A	O	O	T	F	T	A	L
D	E	E	P	L	Y	M	I	D	E	G	L
X	O	N	I	L	E	A	S	I	L	Y	Y
T	R	U	L	Y	S	A	D	L	Y	P	N

**2**  
 1 but 2 or 3 and 4 whether 5 when

**3**

*past continuous*      *past perfect simple*

*past simple*      *passive*

I will never forget the day the electricity stopped. I had just come back from the supermarket, and was carrying two heavy bags. Since I lived on the 6th floor, I decided to use the elevator. As the elevator reached the 1st floor, the electricity suddenly stopped. There were three other people with me in that elevator: Mrs Williams, an old lady living on the 8th floor, Doctor Holmes, who was going to visit a patient, and an unknown man, who was dressed like a carpenter. When we realised we were trapped in the elevator, Mrs Williams suddenly started shouting, since she was afraid of dying in there. The carpenter turned out to be asthmatic and therefore sat down on the floor breathing badly. In addition, the doctor, whom I thought to be the one who would have helped us, suffered from claustrophobia and fainted after a few seconds. I spent three hours in an elevator with a shouting old woman, an asthmatic carpenter and a claustrophobic doctor. It was a terrible nightmare.

*future perfect simple*

- 1 really / fortunately
- 2 suddenly / really / quickly / fortunately / truly / sadly / strangely
- 3 heavily / suddenly
- 4 horribly / suddenly / sadly
- 5 purely / truly / really
- 6 wonderfully / fortunately / strangely / really
- 7 Strangely / Fortunately / Sadly
- 8 proudly / suddenly / quickly / calmly

**7**  
 No answer necessary.

- 8**
- 1 He was absolutely crazy about her.
  - 2 Be careful about / with your diet.
  - 3 I guess you are very excited about your holiday.
  - 4 We do not pay attention to what we eat.
  - 5 After their visit to the museum, they could enjoy the superb view of the sea.
  - 6 I think the show could be done in the open air next year.
  - 7 It was a gloomy day in November.
  - 8 (Correct)
  - 9 I'm writing to apply for the job advertised in TNT magazine.
  - 10 (Correct)

- 4**
- 1 had come
  - 2 was carrying
  - 3 stopped
  - 4 were trapped
  - 5 sat
  - 6 spent
  - 7 turned out
  - 8 thought

**5**  
 Check individual answers.



9

- 1 historic 2 historical 3 classical  
4 classic 5 musical 6 educational

10

- 1 I listen to the **news** about what has happened around the world on my car radio.  
2 Everything was brilliant and I had a **wonderful** time there!  
3 If the **show** had been good, I would have been quite happy to wait.  
4 I prefer to **be** with my friends all day.  
5 I speak **fluent** English and French, and a little German.  
6 When I have to **check** my bank account, I use the internet.  
7 The last page of the **novel** is truly surprising.  
8 My evening at your theatre wasn't as perfect as you **advertised** it would be.

11

My **ideal** pet. Try to guess! What is cute and fluffy, has four legs and **big** ears, but no tail like his closest relatives? It's the hamster **of course!** You can keep it in a small cage that you should clean up once a week to avoid a **"weird"** smell through the house. It's very simple to feed: only crunchy bread, nuts, biscuits and fresh fruit. It doesn't bite so you can **handle** it in your hands and maybe let it **"stroll"** around your room a bit. You can **watch** it while it's eating: standing up on its back legs and holding the nut with its front legs, then putting all of it, **in one bite**, into one of its two "sacks" on either side of its mouth. But remember that **it can cause** some damage to your room if you don't keep an eye on it! When it's free to run, **it could decide** to "taste" your door for example, **scratching off** the paint from it with its long teeth. Finally there's **another** very important thing to remember when you decide to buy a hamster: make sure you don't have a cat at home! **Trust** me, a hamster can be a great, **easy** pet to **have** and to look after.

## ADJECTIVES

enormous	perfect	strange	uncomplicated
big	ideal	weird	easy

## VERBS

believe	carry	gaze	gnaw	own	wander
trust	handle	watch	scratch	have	stroll

12

- 1 more 2 every 3 other 4 several 5 What 6 much  
7 much

13

No answer necessary.

2

14

A

Dear Tom  
I just **received** your letter and I'm very glad that you are **planning** to come to my area to take photographs.

B

Dear Mrs Ryan  
I **received** your letter yesterday and it was great to **hear** from you. I'm very happy **about** the prize and I'm looking forward to going to Camp California.

C

Dear Sir  
I have just **received** your letter and I **thank** you for your invitation. **With regard to** the information you requested from me, I have to say I can **only travel in July** because of my job.

Letter **C** is the most formal in style.

15

1 F 2 I 3 I 4 I 5 F

16

- 1 I'm asking you **for** my money back.  
2 So I paid **for** the ticket.  
3 I hope to hear **from** you soon.  
4 Our grandparents had neither much money nor a great variety of food to choose **from**.  
5 I don't entirely approve **of** your suggestions for the trip.  
6 After the talk, I would be pleased to invite you **to** the Locanda restaurant.  
7 I am looking forward **to** your reply.  
8 Everybody has dreamt **of** being rich and famous.

17

All collocate except '8 line' and '10 way'.

18

No answer necessary.

19

✓ = 1 attractive, 2 delightful, 4 gorgeous, 5 lovely,  
6 magnificent, 8 splendid, 9 stunning  
X = 3 funny, 7 plain, 10 ugly

20

I read The Old Man and the Sea in a very peculiar moment of my life, for I **had** just graduated and I was deciding what to do with my life. This made me identify myself with Santiago, the main character, although he is an old **fisherman** and I'm a young lawyer. Because of this I really wanted to read the end of the novel for it could teach me something in a confused moment of my life, for his end was also my end.

This is the point: a story is a good story if it teaches something to the reader, but to do this it must have an **ending**. The **ending** is what gives sense to a story, it is what **MAKES** a story. So in this case we can suppose that instead of carrying his fish home all eaten, Santiago brought the marlin **to the docks whole**. This would change the spirit of the whole book...

21

(Suggested answers:)

Paragraph 2

- stories must have endings
- different ending = different spirit of book

Paragraph 3

- read whole story for message
- good story has interesting message

22

- 1 We **lay** on the sand under the sun.
- 2 The vase **fell** from the table and broke.
- 3 Recently I have **read** a short story by Agatha Christie.
- 4 Have you ever **bought** something very expensive?
- 5 The other activity I have **chosen** is swimming.
- 6 We **spent** all day building the stage and putting the speakers in the correct position.
- 7 (Correct)
- 8 Museums allow you to learn how the Romans **fought**.

23

- 1 Portuguese 2 Brazilian 3 French
- 4 Swedish 5 Japanese

24

- 1 If **we get** tired it will be impossible to reach the hotel.
- 2 I **would be** very pleased if you considered my application.
- 3 Unless you dress smartly, you **will not** be allowed to enter.
- 4 (Correct)
- 5 The owner of the supermarket will contact me if someone **finds** my precious ring.
- 6 (Correct)
- 7 If I were you, **I'd** go shopping instead.
- 8 Don't join a gym unless you **are** really serious about getting fit.

25

No answer necessary.

26

(Suggested order:)

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 modern          | 7 previous   |
| 2 challenging     | 8 convenient |
| 3 above-mentioned | 9 practical  |
| 4 negative        | 10 spacious  |
| 5 different       | 11 important |
| 6 beautiful       | 12 suitable  |

27

- 1 I would like to have more **information** about your hotel.
- 2 This progress has caused some **damage** to the community.
- 3 At Lampton Castle I saw the famous pictures and **furniture**.
- 4 You could also include a map of the city showing all the **parking** available.
- 5 I was doing my **homework** when I heard an explosion.
- 6 (Correct)
- 7 If you follow **this** simple **advice**, you will become fit and healthy.
- 8 Enjoy your holiday and bring me back lots of **gossip** from New York.

28

No answer necessary.

29

*Dear Sir*

*I recently stayed at your hotel for two nights and had a very unsatisfactory time there. My room was **kind of small** and it had no windows at all. Well, this is completely unacceptable! Surely you would agree that it is essential to have natural light, even in a hotel room.*

*Furthermore, the hotel breakfast was **really disgusting**. The coffee wasn't warm enough to drink and it tasted awful. On top of that, there was no fresh fruit and the bread rolls were **so old they were like bricks**.*

*On paying the final bill, I found I had been charged more than the quoted rate for the room. However, when I queried this, your staff refused to alter the bill. Your hotel **messed up big time** and I am therefore writing to you to request a partial refund.*

*I look forward to hearing from you without delay.*

Love

Archibald Grimethorpe

30

Check individual answers.

31

- 1 whether 2 Even though 3 and
- 4 if 5 or 6 despite

32

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 disadvantage | 6 unsuccessful  |
| 2 inexpensive  | 7 irregularly   |
| 3 infrequently | 8 irresponsible |
| 4 dishonest    | 9 unfortunately |
| 5 impatient    | 10 disagree     |

33

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1 exaggerate     | 5 beginning    |
| 2 representation | 6 writer       |
| 3 embarrassed    | 7 opportunity  |
| 4 (Correct)      | 8 professional |

34

No answer necessary.

35

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| 1 attend | 7 described |
| 2 made   | 8 make      |
| 3 take   | 9 see       |
| 4 wear   | 10 make     |
| 5 go     | 11 learn    |
| 6 taken  | 12 take     |

Check individual answers for re-written letter.

36

- 1 C e                    2 E b                    3 B d  
 4 A c                    5 D a

37

No answer necessary.

38

Check individual answers.

39

- I would like to know what **the price is** and how **I can** order it.
- (Correct)
- I need to know where **the camp is** and how close **the accommodation is to it**.
- How has **our life changed** because of the computer?
- When **will it** be possible to speak to someone on the phone about this?
- Please could you inform me what **the total cost of the trip will be?**
- Have you ever been to Australia and if so, why **did you** go there?
- Then could you tell me how long **this job will** last?

40

No answer necessary.

41

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 twenty women      | 4 stay with families |
| 2 my future studies | 5 favourite hobbies  |
| 3 under her feet    | 6 cheese sandwiches  |

42

This report shows which lessons and activities are **best** to film in order to make a short video about daily life at our school. It is based on interviews taken from over 80% of my classmates.

First of all, according to the majority of them, **Latin** and **Greek** lessons should be filmed. In fact they find it difficult to take them in and, in their opinion, these lessons are the most important so as to show their daily life at school.

On the other hand, about 3% of students suggest that **also** chemistry lessons should **also** be filmed, because they often take place in the laboratory that the school has **recently** built; in fact some experiments might be filmed.

Furthermore, some students would like to film the football school team, because football is the most popular activity among the students.

To sum up, it is clear that not only **should** the film **should** be about the subjects they study, but it should concern their **sports** activities as well.

4

43

(Suggested answers:)

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 In their view | 4 In addition   |
| 2 In contrast   | 5 In conclusion |
| 3 Happen/Occur  |                 |

44

- We would have had dinner at the theatre restaurant if it had not **already been** closed.
- Rebecca knew that she **would soon** be dead.
- Finally I do think** it would be fair to give the audience their money back.
- We'll **only have to work** for five hours a day.
- I am **also interested in** finding a job for 3-4 months.
- Moreover I like **working hard** and I am definitely reliable.
- I think that if there is **enough money**, it would be better to have more movies.
- I **also think** there are some things that could be changed.

45

- a precious Chinese vase
- the big old house
- the number 50 bus
- the mountain roads
- the starting time

46

- We would **enjoy visiting** your classes.
- I was responsible for **looking** after the children.
- Would you mind **sending** me a free copy?
- Try to suggest **taking** a bus to the centre.
- (Correct)
- (Correct)
- You will not regret **living** in a big house.
- You cannot miss **having** a picnic near the river.

47

No answer necessary.

48

- 1 on 2 in 3 at 4 in 5 at 6 in 7 at 8 on

49

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 two <b>kinds</b> of journalists | 6 (Correct)                       |
| 2 a couple of <b>months</b>       | 7 one of the best <b>places</b>   |
| 3 a very useful <b>discount</b>   | 8 at least twenty <b>times</b>    |
| 4 every <b>detail</b>             | 9 millions of other <b>things</b> |
| 5 both <b>films</b>               | 10 full of <b>guests</b>          |

50

No answer necessary.

51

- 1 faithfully 2 together 3 strength 4 with
- 5 through 6 athletics

52

No answer necessary.

53

- 1 It's quite similar to the one you bought last year.
- 2 On the last day we are going to have three hours' free time.
- 3 That's the woman of my life, he thought.
- 4 If one is famous, one has to accept these disadvantages.
- 5 Children, for example, spend most of the day playing videogames.
- 6 As regards the rooms, I would like to know if there is a shower.
- 7 Now I am able to speak Italian, English and French.
- 8 I am a twenty-two-year-old student.

54

B	R	U	S	H	U	P	O	N	A	G	E
C	U	T	D	O	W	N	L	Y	F	E	P
A	N	P	B	R	E	A	K	U	P	T	U
T	O	R	U	X	I	O	F	S	R	O	T
C	U	O	T	R	I	B	L	E	T	N	U
H	T	U	T	C	H	L	E	T	U	W	P
U	O	D	I	H	A	N	G	O	N	I	W
P	F	I	N	I	S	H	O	F	F	T	I
O	O	T	R	A	N	O	T	F	T	H	T
N	E	E	G	O	T	H	R	O	U	G	H
X	G	E	T	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R
T	B	A	C	K	D	O	W	N	E	P	N

- 1 get on with
- 2 put up with
- 3 finish off
- 4 set off
- 5 catch up on
- 6 go through
- 7 butt in
- 8 run out of
- 9 get together
- 10 back down
- 11 cut down
- 12 break up
- 13 hang on

55

Dear Mrs Ashby

I am writing to apply for the job as a waitress in the "Green Pepper Café". I am a twenty-year-old student and I go to university. This job would be useful for me to earn some extra money.

Firstly, in your advertisement you say you are looking for "an enthusiastic English-speaking person". I was born in Italy but I have lived in England for ten years, and I also speak French fluently.

Concerning my ability at dealing with people, I have a cheerful personality and I enjoy knowing / meeting other people. In addition to this I have travelled a lot during my whole life and food is one of my main interests. I am also good at cooking a big variety of dishes.

Moreover, as you can see in my c.v., I have already worked as a waitress. In particular, last summer I spent a month in Scotland working in a big touristy restaurant, where I used to start working at five pm and to finish always after midnight.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

56

- 1 it/that
- 2 it/that
- 3 it
- 4 that
- 5 which/that
- 6 you
- 7 it
- 8 it

57

No answer necessary.

58

The missing article for all the sentences is 'a'.

59

No answer necessary.

60

- 1 which
- 2 buy
- 3 allowed
- 4 read
- 5 too

61

No answer necessary.

62

(Suggested answers:)

- 1 excellent, wonderful, fantastic
- 2 consider, believe, imagine
- 3 also, in addition, too
- 4 beast, creature, monster
- 5 describe, outline, summarise
- 6 awful, terrible, ghastly
- 7 immediately, without delay, straightaway
- 8 build, construct, produce

63

No answer necessary.

64

- 1 I **would like to** ask you if your special offer is available in September.
- 2 I'm sure an animal **would** suffer in a small flat.
- 3 Firstly, I **would like to / want to** tell you something about myself.
- 4 I **would** suggest wearing a very smart dress or a suit.
- 5 (Correct)
- 6 Secondly, I **would like to** know if there are any sports facilities in the hotel.

65

- ✓ = 1 sincerely, 4 normally,  
 9 necessarily, 10 favourably

(Corrected answers:)

- 2 really
- 3 unfortunately
- 5 sincerely
- 6 actually
- 7 particularly
- 8 faithfully
- 11 sincerely
- 12 immediately

66

- 1 Moreover, reading **improves** your knowledge of the language.
- 2 In my opinion, we should apply for a job in Lilley's Bookshop because the wages **are** very good.
- 3 The Trinity Boat Trips **depart** now from King's Bridge.
- 4 Some information **has** been changed.
- 5 Everyone **has** to use modern technology carefully.
- 6 I am writing to thank you for the interesting programme that you **have** organised.
- 7 It **takes** place in Lampton Castle, which is famous for its paintings and furniture.
- 8 I think that 80 kilometres **is** too much for me to cycle in one day.

67

Dear Kim

*In your last letter you asked me about the concert... oh, it was fantastic! I've always loved music so working at a concert was great. You can't imagine how many people are involved in the organisation of a concert, apart from the musicians and the singers, there are people who work with lights, who organise the security service ... it was so exciting!*

*My work consisted in checking the tickets and taking people to their seats. It was also very tiring because all the people arrived at the same time and they didn't want to wait for my help; so they went around the theatre, looking for their seats and making so much noise. Sometimes I think that people never grow up, if. If they had been a class of children, they would have made less noise!!*

*Anyway it was a great experience in spite of these little problems. Now I have to go. Write soon and let me know what you have been doing.*

*Lots of love, Alessia*

68

No answer necessary.

69

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1 artist    | 4 physicist |
| 2 pianist   | 5 biologist |
| 3 scientist | 6 chemist   |

70

- 1 Nowadays we can see that **the** eating habits are changing.
- 2 I believe that **the** life is too short.
- 3 (Correct)
- 4 We are forgetting the most important thing: **the** health.
- 5 (Correct)
- 6 I think **the** younger people's brains need to be stimulated.
- 7 Please let me know if **the** Camp California accepts credit cards.
- 8 I like to live in contact with **the** nature.
- 9 Think about travelling in **the** space: how did we do it?
- 10 A friend of mine went to see it **the** last May.

71

1 in 2 by 3 at 4 about/of 5 for 6 of

72

- 1 We can eat in a peaceful place that I like **very** much.
- 2 However, Paul isn't **very honest / honest either** because he had a scheme involving a large amount of money.
- 3 I'm **very / so** happy because in a week we will be together again.
- 4 Drink a lot of water and avoid **very** fatty food.
- 5 Nowadays this issue has become **very / so** fashionable.
- 6 I always managed to smile even if I was **very** tired.

73

No answer necessary.

74

No answer necessary.

75

*Laura took a deep breath and counted to 10: she was **very nervous** about **this** interview. **It** was one of the most important occasions of her career, but her fear of failing it could have wasted this opportunity. She was so lucky: despite her age and the fact that she **had** still **had** no experience in that field, her letter of application had been chosen among thousands of them. Maybe because her love for languages, for meeting new people and for the culture of her country had been revealed even in a few words. She couldn't stand waiting so long! As a matter of fact, she had been waiting for ten minutes only, but they were the longest in her life! Suddenly the door was opened, a woman came out: now it was her turn: all her fears disappeared and unexpectedly she felt calm and relaxed.*

Check individual answers for story continuation.

76

No answer necessary.

77

1 work 2 job 3 work 4 job 5 job

78

No answer necessary.

79

Check individual answers.

80

No answer necessary.

81

No answer necessary.

82

No answer necessary.

83

No answer necessary.

84

- 1 The hole wasn't very large, but the little **kid** could easily enter it. (**child**)
- 2 I really hope that you are **gonna** consider our request. (**going to**)
- 3 **About** the cost of the ticket, I think it is too expensive. (**Regarding**)
- 4 **Thus**, if you agree with my idea, please let me know as soon as possible. (**So**)
- 5 The restaurant was closed '**cause** of illness. (**because**)

85

1 could 2 can 3 could 4 can 5 might 6 would

86

1 claim 2 had been 3 is 4 as

87

No answer necessary.

88

No answer necessary.

89

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
happy	happier	happiest
big	bigger	biggest
interesting	more interesting	most interesting

90

- 1 It was time to tell him the **truth**, but it was so difficult.
- 2 I have some **advice** to give you.
- 3 You should try **windsurfing**, because it's amazing.
- 4 I work at an elementary school as a **gymnastics** teacher.
- 5 Nowadays we have a wide range of **options** to choose from.
- 6 We must bring forward our **departure** because of the train times.

91

No answer necessary.

92

No answer necessary.

93

1 work 2 playing 3 walking 4 compete 5 talk 6 getting

94

1 compact 2 sad 3 cloudy 4 interesting 5 safe

95

- I am looking **forward** to hearing from you.
- Visiting museums is a very interesting activity, but not many people do it, especially **not** young people.
- We could spend the night in this comfortable place and also have all our meals **there**.
- I picked **up** the microphone and handed it to the singer.
- This is the reason **why** I have bought a bicycle.
- I can't listen to loud music at home or invite my friends **over** for a party.
- That's the most difficult thing to face **up** to.
- I would prefer to have a tent **rather** than a log cabin.

96

No answer necessary.

97

W	H	A	T	I	S	M	O	R	E	N	F
I	U	S	D	O	N	E	L	E	F	E	I
F	N	W	T	O	S	U	M	U	P	E	R
N	D	E	S	P	I	T	E	T	H	I	S
O	U	L	T	R	I	B	L	E	T	N	T
T	T	L	T	C	H	L	E	T	U	S	O
I	N	A	D	D	I	T	I	O	N	H	F
P	A	S	R	E	G	A	R	D	S	O	A
O	N	T	H	E	W	H	O	L	E	R	L
N	E	H	A	N	N	O	N	T	O	T	L
X	G	A	B	O	V	E	A	L	L	T	R
O	N	T	H	E	O	N	E	H	A	N	D

- ADDING INFORMATION**  
*What is more, As well as that, In addition*
- COMPARING OR CONTRASTING**  
*If not, Despite this, On the one hand*
- CONCLUDING OR SUMMARISING**  
*To sum up, In short, On the whole*
- REFERRING TO SOMETHING**  
*As regards*
- ORDERING INFORMATION**  
*First of all, Above all*

98

- Will the offer **still be** available in September?
- I **already have** some experience of camping.
- I don't understand why the newspapers **always seem** ready to put down a musical event.
- Right now we **just have to** think about how much they will pay us.
- I realised I had to run away, but I **still had** her letter.
- I don't need to look at how science and technology affect the lives of others, I **only have** to see how they have changed my life.

99

- Sometimes I **just** watch movies (OR) I watch movies **just** to relax and have a break.
- Her brother George had **just** passed his last exam at the university.
- I can show the children how to find the campsite **just** in case they don't know where to go...
- I have **just** seen the advertisement in Traveller magazine.
- At the entrance I was really disappointed because a horrible modern building was being built **just** in front of it.
- It was opened **just** six months ago and it is in a very central location.
- With email, I can write to friends in foreign countries in the morning and receive their answer in the evening, or even **just** a minute after writing.
- I **just** want to thank you for letting me stay in your flat last week.

100

No answer necessary.

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