

True, False, or Not Given

1 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

False · information · mentioned
· Not Given · opposite

In True/False/Not Given reading tasks, only choose
(a) if the statement says the
(b) idea to what is (c) in
the text. Where there isn't enough (d)
in the text to match it to the statement, choose
(e)

2 Match the words to the definitions.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|---|
| 1 | motive | a | generous with money, time, skills to help poor people |
| 2 | altruistic | b | something to encourage people to do something |
| 3 | incentive | c | a reason to do something |
| 4 | donation | d | a plan to solve a problem or achieve an aim |
| 5 | initiative | e | money given to a person or organisation |
| 6 | philanthropic | f | doing something good for others, even if it's bad for you |

✓ Exam tip

In True/False/Not Given reading tasks, only choose *False* if the statement says the opposite thing to what is stated in the text. Choose *Not Given* where there isn't enough information provided in the text to match it to the statement.

3 Read the article. Decide if the sentences are True (T), False (F) or the information is Not Given (NG). Find evidence in the text to support your answers.

The London Marathon

The London Marathon has been taking place for over 40 years. So, how did it all begin? Having completed the New York marathon in 1979, journalist and Olympic champion, Chris Brasher, wrote



an article for *The Observer* newspaper considering whether there should be a similar event in London. Along with fellow athlete, John Disley, the pair founded the first marathon in the city in 1981. At that time a mere 6,255 runners crossed the finish line. In comparison, almost half a million runners applied to complete the course in 2020. It now holds the title of the most popular running event in the world!

There are a number of reasons why its popularity has sky-rocketed in a relatively short period of time. Initially hesitant about whether London could host an event which would attract people from all over the world, Brasher couldn't have been more wrong! Its international appeal speaks for itself: In 2019, 66,292 people entered the overseas ballot. With a course that winds around the River Thames, beginning in Blackheath and ending on The Mall near Buckingham Palace, it takes in all the famous sights of the capital. For this reason, there's a lot for the international visitor to be rewarded with after months of training.

It also attracts a vast number of amateur runners who equate it to a fun day out! The entire route is lined with live bands, loyal supporters and TV crews who all serve as a welcome distraction from the 26.2-mile distance each competitor has to run. You might even be lucky enough to run through specially-built showers if it's a hot day and be given various energy sweets by onlookers when you're starting to tire. And, as if all this wasn't enough reason to take part, there are no big hills to speak of meaning many runners are able to get a personal best, even if you're in fancy dress!

Just one example is a group of friends who met at Durham University. They were able to record the fastest time for a six-person fancy-dress costume. That in itself should indicate how many categories there must be for people who dress up! Dressed as a caterpillar, the team raised £30,000 for various charities in a time of 4 hours 34 minutes.

People also like to take part because the London Marathon is as much about raising money for charity as it is about achieving a personal challenge. Due to personal loss or health battles, many runners raise money for charities that are close to their hearts, a way of giving something back to the people or organisations that helped them in their hour of need. It is believed that, since 1981, runners have been sponsored £950 million for different charities and currently more than a third of all places are given to competitors by charitable organisations. That makes it the biggest yearly fundraising event in the world according to Guinness World Records.

True, False, or Not Given (continued)

One person who took up the challenge for personal reasons was Lucy Harvey from Dorset in the UK. In 2019, Lucy was rushed to hospital with what was thought to have been appendicitis. As it turned out, the teen had a tumour the size of a grapefruit. A major operation was hastily performed by the skilled surgeons which Lucy credits with saving her life. As well as raising money for the hospital and proving to others that anything is possible, she also set a new record: The youngest runner in the London Marathon at 18 years and one day!

Inclusion is an attraction for many. There's the Elite Men, Elite Women, the long-established Elite Wheelchair races for men and women, the World Para Athletics Marathon Championships Ambulant Athletes (for those who can compete in the event standing) and the mass participation London Marathon. Even in the latter, a wide cross-section of ages and abilities are represented. From 2021, organisers took the initiative and came up with an additional way in which people could compete if they were unable to attend in person: virtual participation was accepted as long as the distance was completed within 24 hours.

Brasher's son Hugh is now the event director of London Marathon Events following his father's death in 2003 and Disley's death in 2016, ensuring that his good work continues for years to come. It just goes to show that it isn't necessary for great things to start with the masses – just one or two people and the vision to turn a good idea into reality can create something really special. Imagine what could happen if there were more people like Brasher and Disley in the world!

- 1 The London Marathon started after Brasher organised the New York Marathon.
- 2 At first, Brasher doubted that the event could be popular on a global scale.
- 3 The course is considered to be the flattest out of all the international races of the same distance.
- 4 The writer suggests that there are a number of fancy-dress records which can be broken during the event.
- 5 The writer thinks that the sole motivation for running the marathon comes from wanting to raise money for charity.
- 6 Lucy's ambition to run the marathon came after she had to undergo an emergency procedure.
- 7 The Wheelchair event has been a category in the London Marathon since it first started.
- 8 The writer implies that it's hard to create an event like the London Marathon with only a few people.

C1 Advanced Part 2

1 Choose the correct alternative.

In tasks where you have to write words in gaps, remember to read the whole **(a) text/sentence** first. This way you can understand the **(b) detailed/general** context and purpose. Before you complete each gap, read the **(c) text/sentence** carefully to check that your answer makes sense.

2 Correct the words in bold in sentences 1–8.

- 1 I said I'd give my friend **the** hand at the soup kitchen this weekend.
- 2 It would be great if that company took **in** board those comments.
- 3 It's good to **take** something back to the town or city you came from.
- 4 We should give Jack the benefit **in** the doubt – it was probably a genuine mistake.
- 5 The Head Teacher **made** it upon herself to organise a trip for the local care home.
- 6 It is often so tempting to take the easy **route** out of a situation.
- 7 I felt sick so I had to give the charity dinner a **skip** unfortunately.
- 8 If Zara has **promised** me her word, I'm sure she won't let us down.

 **Exam tip**

In tasks where you have to write words in gaps, remember to read the text first to understand the context and purpose. Before you complete each gap, make sure you read the whole sentence to check your answer makes sense.

3 For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A day for giving



Since 2012, **(0)** *when* the United Nations first designated the International Day of Charity, it has been celebrated every year on 5th September. The date **(1)** chosen as it marks the anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa, who took it upon herself to spend her life helping some of the world's poorest people. On the day itself, all the member states of the United Nations, as **(2)** as many businesses and organisations, are invited to contribute to charity in whatever way they can. The UN encourages people to donate and take **(3)** in events all around the world.

This day not only reminds us to give something back to society, but it **(4)** spreads awareness about humanitarian crises still going on today.

(5) you are passionate about a certain cause, why not **(6)** the initiative and create your own event for the day? You don't need a lot of money; you just need to give **(7)** a bit of your time and have a few ideas about how to raise some money.

If more people did this, just imagine how

(8) the world could change for the better!