

B1 Preliminary Part 4

1 Read the sentences and put the steps to complete a gapped text task (a–e) in the correct order (1–5).

- a Read the eight missing sentence options. ☐
- b Put five of the missing sentences in the most likely place. ☐
- c Read the text quickly to get the general idea. ☐
- d Decide what each of the missing sentences is about. ☐
- e Find the section of the text that corresponds to the information in a sentence. ☐

2 Read the definitions and write the words.

- 1 the ability to speak a foreign language well
- 2 change words into another language
- 3 something you have not done correctly
- 4 correct or true
- 5 repeat an activity regularly so you become good at it

✓ Exam tip

Read the text quickly to get the general idea. Read the sentences that go in the text. What does each one talk about? Find the section of the text that corresponds to the information in each sentence and read that section again slowly. Put five of the sentences in the most likely places.

3 For each question, choose the correct answer.

- A They use north, south, east and west to talk about where things are.
- B Surprisingly, not every language has numbers.
- C Most languages have words that foreign people find fascinating.
- D That's because some languages don't have words that most people use every day.
- E In their language, you use comparisons or descriptions instead.
- F This language is surprising because it doesn't have any articles like *a* or *the*.
- G This is because they don't want people from other countries understanding them.
- H Thai also has no direct translation for these words.

There's no word for that!

When you are learning a language, translating words from your own language can help. But sometimes the simple words you need in another language don't exist. **(1)**

A few languages do not have words for *yes* or *no*.

To answer questions in the Celtic languages of Irish Gaelic, Scots Gaelic and Welsh you use 'echo response'. You reply using the verb in the question. For example, to say *no* to the question 'Did you sleep well?', you say 'Did not'. To say *yes*, you say 'Did'. **(2)** The way people speaking this language respond positively or negatively depends on the situation and how polite they want to be.

In some languages the words for *right* and *left* don't exist. One such language is Guugu Yimithirr, an Australian language spoken by around 780 people. **(3)** The advantage of this is that these directions do not change, unlike *right* and *left*, which depend on the speaker's position. If you want to describe where something is to someone in English, you have to say which way you are facing as well. This kind of confusion is impossible in Guugu Yimithirr.

Some languages also don't have words for colours. There are over 100 words in English for colours, although people generally only use eleven basic ones. Tsimané, a language from Bolivia, has just three words for colour that everyone can use: black, white and red. The Pirahã people from the Amazon only have words for *light* or *dark* but not for any individual colours. **(4)** To say something is blue, you can say it is 'sky-like', or something green is 'leaf-like'.

(5) The Mundurucu, another people from the Amazon, and the Pirahã both describe quantities using terms like 'several' or 'a few', rather than saying *one, two, three, five, ten, fifty*, and so on.



B1 Preliminary Part 5

1 Choose the correct alternative.

Read the text quickly to get the **(a)** *general idea/specific information*. Read the sentences with gaps **(b)** *quickly/carefully* again. Think about the general **(c)** *meaning/answer* of the missing word.

2 Complete the sentences with the opposite of the words in the box. Use the correct prefix.

correct • formal • legal • official • possible • responsible

- 1 I had too many answers in my test so I failed.
- 2 It's for humans to breathe underwater without help.

3 For each question, choose the correct answer.

- 3 When you speak, you usually use more language that's relaxed and friendly.
- 4 Sam is very sometimes. He does things without thinking and it can cause problems.
- 5 13% of the population of the USA speak Spanish. It's the second language.
- 6 Vandalism is against the law. It's

✓ Exam tip

Read the text quickly to get the general idea. Read the sentences with gaps carefully again and look at the words that come before and after the gaps. Think about the general meaning of the word you need to help you choose the correct answer.

Talking teen



Many young people are **(1)** in slang. Slang is a type of informal language **(2)** only a particular group of people use. A **(3)** examples of teen slang in English include 'basic' (boring or unoriginal), 'fam' (your group of friends) and 'lit' (amazing, cool or exciting). For teenagers, slang can be an important part of life because the teenage years are the time **(4)** they are growing up and spending more time with friends. Having their own **(5)** shared language is a way for teenagers to feel more independent from adults and closer to each other. Slang **(6)** also changing all the time and these changes are becoming faster with technology, so it's becoming harder for adults to keep up.

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|-------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 A accurate | B mistakes | C fluent | D translate |
| 2 A who | B which | C where | D when |
| 3 A little | B several | C some | D few |
| 4 A when | B where | C why | D that |
| 5 A irresponsible | B unofficial | C illegal | D impossible |
| 6 A was | B is | C are | D were |