

## True/False

1 In a long reading text, words like *this*, *that*, *there*, *it* and *they* ...

- a aren't very common.
- b refer to people, things or ideas mentioned in a previous sentence.
- c refer to people, things or ideas mentioned in the next sentence.

2 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

bulletin • events • forecast • headlines • press • topics

- 1 News of the closure was covered in the national ..... the following day.
- 2 Trending ..... on Twitter are often linked to the entertainment industry.
- 3 If he hadn't made the ..... years ago, he wouldn't be well-known today.
- 4 Mum and Dad didn't miss the important news ..... did they?
- 5 The family were going to the beach the next day despite the terrible weather .....
- 6 In a strange turn of ....., the two people discovered they were related.

✓ Exam tip

When reading a long text, pay attention to reference words like *this*, *that*, *there*, *it* and *they*. These words refer to people, things and ideas that have already been mentioned in the text, so look back to find out what they refer to. This will help you to understand a text.

3 You are going to read a text about unusual things people have found in their homes. Are the statements True (T) or False (F)? Justify your answers with words from the text or use your own words.

- 1 Not many people are likely to find things of interest in their homes. T / F
- 2 The couple from Arizona found the code when they were doing up their kitchen. T / F
- 3 Treasure hunters followed clues to find a vast sum of money in Mesa. T / F
- 4 The plumber in the second story went on to become rich because of his discovery. T / F
- 5 The couple in Nova Scotia found some maps that were worth a significant amount. T / F
- 6 The family in Palermo removed a wall to reveal more of the mosque. T / F

### Doing up your house could be worth more than you think!

Most people find little more than flowery wallpaper and vintage flooring when they decide to make improvements to their house. However, a few lucky individuals end up making the headlines because of unusual things that appear while renovating their home.

Take one couple from Arizona in the USA. Soon after moving into their new house, they found a code in one of their kitchen cabinets, which would lead to a strange turn of events. Later, when they started doing up their kitchen, they found a safe. After inputting the code, the couple discovered \$50,000 inside! The safe also contained clues to find even more money: numbers circled on a bingo card, letters circled in a book and an 'x' on the town of Mesa in Arizona have attracted 30,000 eager treasure hunters. Until this day, not one of them has been successful.

A plumber from Calgary in Canada was also lucky enough to strike gold ... quite literally! While he was fitting a new bathroom, something shiny sparked his interest as he was moving some bricks. It was a large gold bar which was worth \$50,000! Instead of being tempted to put it in his bag, the worker informed the homeowners. If he hadn't, he would be a wealthy man now!



On to another interesting find, also in Canada. A couple from Nova Scotia were surprised to find some maps when they were replacing their floorboards. Probing further, they discovered that they had been created by James Imray, a well-known cartographer, more than 100 years before. In spite of the fact that they don't appear to indicate hidden treasure, the maps themselves are considered to be of value: some estimate \$6,000. That should cover the cost of their home improvements at least!



The last story is definitely something you would never dream of finding in your home. It happened when a family from Palermo, Italy, were carrying out renovations in their apartment. While knocking down a wall in order to enlarge a room, they uncovered some Arabic writing. Upon further examination, they found the same kind of beautiful gold and silver writing on all four walls. The room had once been a mosque!

This just goes to show that you never know what lies within your walls. When you start work on your house, who knows what you might find? Your story could be the next front-page news.

4 Write an antonym for the below words from the text.

- 1 discovered (paragraph 2) .....
- 2 shiny (paragraph 3) .....
- 3 well-known (paragraph 4) .....
- 4 knocking down (paragraph 5) .....
- 5 enlarge (paragraph 5) .....

## B2 First Part 3

1 In activities where you have to change words to fit the text, you will sometimes need to ...

- a add a negative prefix or suffix to the word provided.
- b write more than one word.
- c know if the register of the text is formal or informal.

2 Match the words (1–8) to the definitions (a–h).

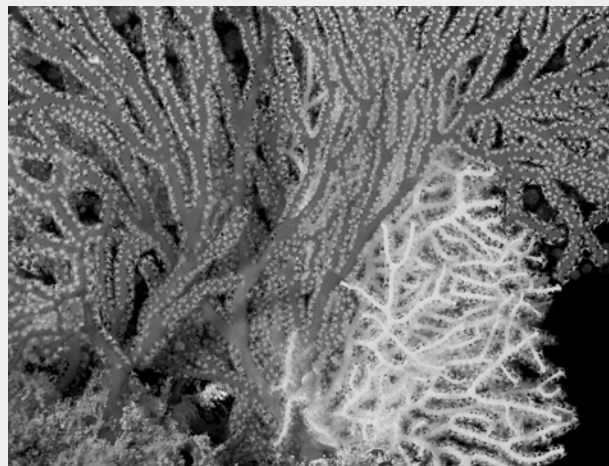
- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1 a riddle .....             | a problems in the natural world caused by humans |
| 2 key .....                  | b stop/leave                                     |
| 3 news item .....            | c important                                      |
| 4 environmental issues ..... | d explosion                                      |
| 5 quit .....                 | e long newspaper article                         |
| 6 feature .....              | f story in the media                             |
| 7 gossip .....               | g puzzle   |
| 8 blast .....                | h rumour   |

✓ Exam tip

In activities where you have to change words to fit the text, sometimes the missing word will need to be in a negative form. Read the words before and after the gap carefully to help you decide if you need to add a negative prefix or suffix to the word.

3 For questions 1–8, read the text below. Write the correct form of the words given. There is an example at the beginning (0).

### *The riddle of the sea 'rope'*



National Park Service (NPS) guide, Rebekah Claussen, is well aware of (0) *environmental* (environment) issues. That's why she thought the 'rope' she saw on a Texan beach was rubbish left by (1) ..... (care) people. She was about to clear it up when she realised it was actually a (2) ..... (colour) sea whip, a type of coral. NPS posted her photo on social media and it quickly became a news item.

To Claussen's (3) ..... (know), the reason sea whips are found on beaches is because they have (4) ..... (break) off rocks and are dead. In fact, she is (5) ..... (aware) of how you can tell if they are still alive as there is no (6) ..... (differ) in their appearance. Her (7) ..... (recommend): if you find one, leave it. That way it will decompose (8) ..... (natural).

If Claussen hadn't been there, the sea whip would probably be in a bin somewhere now!