

## B2 First Part 5

## 1 In multiple-choice reading activities, what should you do first?

- a Read the whole text for the general meaning.
- b Read all the questions and multiple-choice options.
- c Read the text and underline key words.

## 2 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

assistant • introverted • live wire • loyal • psychologist • wallflower

- 1 As an educator and a ....., he had a good understanding of human behaviour.
- 2 She was an ..... person who liked spending time alone.
- 3 Her ..... was in charge of booking meetings and responding to emails.
- 4 He's a ..... with loads of energy, but his sister is the complete opposite.
- 5 At big events, he was a ..... and generally stood by himself.
- 6 The staff were ..... to the boss and wouldn't say a word against him.

☒ **Exam tip**

In multiple-choice activities for a long text, read the whole text first to understand the topic and general meaning. Then identify which section(s) of the text relate to each question.

3 You are going to read a text about whether opposites attract. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

### Do opposites attract?

This is a question that has long attracted the attention of psychologists, for obvious reasons; we all want to meet that special person or close friend who we can relate to and have a meaningful and enjoyable relationship with. However, as I've come to conclude from all my research, the answer is far from simple. With this in mind, I thought I'd draw upon the relationships in my own life in the hope they can shed some new light.

The first thing I looked at was my own friendship circle. Previously, I thought I chose like-minded people: cheerful, talkative types. You know, the kind of people who are shyer of silence than they are of empty noise. When I looked more closely, however, I realised that my own belief was inaccurate. While it's true that the majority of my friends share those characteristics with me, several have the opposite traits: introverted, calm and less outgoing. And I realised that I go to those people for different reasons; I'll call on them for advice and serious conversation. They kind of balance me out. I mean, how much of a pain in the neck would we be if we were all the same?

Could the same be true for intimate relationships? Now, on this one, I believed that I would go for people unlike myself. We've all heard people say that their partner completes them: the *ying-yang* idea. However, studies provide a different view and it's complicated. We appear to be more attracted to people who are similar to us. It's not entirely black and white though. What matters is if we *regard ourselves as similar*, whether this is the case or not. In research carried out by Nathan Hudson and Chris Fraley, people who believed they had more in common had more satisfying relationships. Despite my initial thought, I can't deny that I've always searched for similarities, however different a partner might actually be.

The real challenge is finding a partner or a friend who is both alike and different in equal measures. That seems to be the recipe for a relationship that stands the test of time. And let's not forget that people change. Couples who get together in their teens may find, in their fifties, that things are getting better and better. This is because they have been able to travel along the same life path successfully. Conversely, the opposite can be true: their ambitions and life goals may have moved in different directions. One person's connection to certain things they find important may become the other person's sense of boredom, which may result in them looking for freedom and ultimately leaving.

Personally speaking, there are ways I've changed throughout my life. Different experiences have caused this and I think that, had I not travelled so much, my personality may not have changed to the extent it has. It's true that, fundamentally, I'm still the same person I was at eighteen, but I've become a more rounded individual. I'm less likely to judge others than I once was and more willing to give people a chance: the wallflower who appears anti-social or the bright spark who seems to know everything. In short, maybe I've become more flexible and open to other personalities.

Whether this means the people I choose to be around or socialise with has changed over the years isn't clear. What is clear is that, whether opposites attract or not, I need to feel at ease with the people I'm around, regardless of our differences or similarities. If someone is constantly dramatic, tactless or narrow-minded, I'm less likely to waste my time waiting for them to change. There are plenty of others I'd rather spend my time with!



## B2 First Part 5 (continued)

- 1 What is the writer's opinion in the first paragraph?
  - A Focusing on personal experience isn't a good idea.
  - B Not everyone has the same goal regarding close relationships.
  - C Research hasn't provided clear answers about the rules of attraction.
  - D We can make certain generalisations about relationships.
- 2 What is true of the writer's own friendship circle?
  - A They are a group of similar personalities.
  - B Many of the group can be reserved at times.
  - C Most of the group are very different from each other.
  - D A small number of the group have a different personality.
- 3 What conclusion does the writer come to regarding her own intimate relationships?
  - A Finding things in common with the other person is key.
  - B All relationships are complex in their own way.
  - C People who think they are similar get on better.
  - D Difference is an attractive feature of any relationship.
- 4 What does the writer suggest about successful long-term relationships?
  - A Each person stays the same over time.
  - B Each person moves in the same direction.
  - C A sense of freedom is important for both people.
  - D It's natural to get bored with each other at times.
- 5 What does the writer mean when she says she's become a 'more rounded individual'? (paragraph 5)
  - A She's more confident in herself.
  - B She's more grateful to others.
  - C She has stronger opinions about people.
  - D She's more balanced.
- 6 What is the writer's main message in the last paragraph?
  - A She wants to have a sense of comfort in her relationships.
  - B She believes it's worth giving everyone a chance to change.
  - C She has more patience with other character traits these days.
  - D The types of people she has friendships with now is different.

## B2 First Part 2

1 In activities where you think of words to complete a text, what can help you decide each missing word?

- a Reading the part of the sentence before the gap.
- b Reading the whole text in detail.
- c Reading the whole sentence around the gap.

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

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 boredom .....            | a not talking about your own achievements       |
| 2 modest .....             | b not careful about saying something upsetting  |
| 3 concentration .....      | c someone who is entertaining                   |
| 4 a social butterfly ..... | d shy and quiet                                 |
| 5 tactless .....           | e someone who studies the past                  |
| 6 introverted .....        | f the ability to focus on something             |
| 7 a great laugh .....      | g having nothing to do                          |
| 8 historian .....          | h someone who talks to lots of people at events |

✓ Exam tip

In an open cloze, first read the whole text quickly to get a general understanding. Before you complete each gap, make sure you read along 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).

### How speaking a different language can change your personality



Have you ever thought about what impact speaking different languages has (0) ..... our personality? Do we behave differently in (1) ..... foreign language compared to in our mother tongue?

People who are shy in their first language can feel less introverted when they speak a foreign language. Code switching is one reason; we tend (2) ..... speak differently with friends than we do with parents. And it seems we (3) ..... able to do this with different languages too.

Then there's (4) ..... link between culture and language: for example, (5) ..... it's common for people to greet strangers in one French-speaking African country, in a nearby English-speaking country, (6) ..... behaviour would be odd as they're more reserved. As a visitor to such places, we imitate the locals' behaviour. Therefore, the reason (7) ..... someone is a social butterfly in one situation but (8) ..... outgoing in another could be cultural.