

LISTENING COMPREHENSION TEST

David is alone

It was a cold night, so I could not sit down to rest. Instead, I walked up and down on the beach, trying to keep warm. There was no sound except the crash of the waves. I felt very lonely and afraid.

In the morning I climbed a hill, and looked out over the sea, but there was nothing at all on the water. And around me on the island, I could not see any houses or people. I did not like to think what had happened to my friend Alan and the others, and I did not want to look at his emptiness any longer. So I climbed down again, and walked eastwards. I was hoping to find a house, where I could dry my clothes, and get something to eat.

I soon discovered that nobody lived on Earraid. It was too far to swim to Mull, which I could see across the water. I thought perhaps I could wade across, but when I tried it, the water was too deep, and I had to turn back. By now it had started to rain, and I felt very miserable.

I do not want to remember the time I spent on Earraid. I had nothing with me except my uncle's gold and Alan's silver button, and as I had never lived by the sea, I did not know what to eat or how to fish. In fact, I found some shellfish among the rocks on the coast, and ate them, but I was very sick afterwards. That was the only food that I could find, so I was always hungry on Earraid. All day and all night it rained heavily, but there was no roof or tree on the island, and my clothes were cold and wet on my body.

I chose to spend most of my time in the north of Earraid, on a little hill. From here I could see the old church on the island of Iona, not far away to the west, and smoke from people's houses on Mull to the east. I used to watch this smoke, and think of the people there, and their comfortable lives. This gave me a little hope, in my lonely life among the rocks and the rain and the cold sea.

(Taken from "Kidnapped" by Robert Luis Stevenson)

LISTENING COMPREHENSION-“David is alone”

(Circle the most appropriate option)**1. David found himself:**

- a) in an unknown land
- b) on an unknown island
- c) in an unusual country
- d) on an uninhabited island

2. He felt lonely and afraid in the night because:

- a) of the strange sounds around himself
- b) he could only hear the sea against the seashore
- c) he was hopelessly waiting for his friends
- d) it was very cold

3. The next day he tried:

- a) to get to Mull (the island)
- b) to swim to Mull
- c) to find a boat to Mull
- d) to walk eastwards to Mull

4. In his life, David had never:

- a) left his uncle's gold
- b) left his house before
- c) lost his friends
- d) lived by the sea

5. The food on Earraid:

- a) was scarce and uneatable
- b) was scarce and uneatable without fire
- c) was hidden among the rocks
- d) could not be found anywhere

6. For David, the place was too depressive because:

- a) of the awful rainy weather
- b) he was hungry most of the time
- c) there was no shelter or a soul to help him
- d) there was nothing to occupy his mind

7. Most of his time David spent:

- a) sending smoke signals from a little hill
- b) sitting among the rocks on the cold beach
- c) looking at a little village on an island to the west
- d) looking out to the sea, hoping to see a boat on the horizon

READING COMPREHENSION TEST

A fiction writer is a person who invents stories.

But how does one start out a job like this? How does one become a full-time professional fiction writer?

Charles Dickens found it easy. At the age of twenty-four, he simply sat down and wrote *Pickwick Papers*, which became an immediate best-seller. But Dickens was a genius, and geniuses are different from the rest of us.

In this century (it was not always so in the last one), just about every single writer who has finally become successful in the world of fiction has started out in some other job - a schoolteacher, perhaps, or a doctor or a journalist or a lawyer. (*Alice in Wonderland* was written by a mathematician, and *The Wind in the Willows* by a civil servant.) The first attempts at writing have therefore always had to be done in spare time, usually at night.

The reason for this is obvious. 'When you are adult, it is necessary to earn living. To earn a living, you must get a job. You must if possible get a job that guarantees you so much money a week. But however much you may want to take up fiction writing as a career, it would be pointless to go along to a publisher and say, "I want a job as a fiction writer." If you did that, he would tell you to buzz off and write the book first. And even if you brought a finished book to him and he liked it well enough to publish it, he still wouldn't give you a job. He would give you an advance of perhaps five hundred pounds, which he would get back again later by deducting it from your royalties. (A royalty, by the way, is the money that a writer gets from the publisher for each copy of his book that is sold. The average royalty a writer gets is ten per cent of the price of the book itself in the book shop. Thus, for a book selling at four pounds, the writer would get forty pence. For a paperback selling at fifty pence, he would get five pence.)

It is very common for a hopeful fiction writer to spend two years of his spare time writing a book which no publisher will publish. For that he gets nothing at all except a sense of frustration.

If he is fortunate enough to have a book accepted by a publisher, the odds are that as a first novel it will in the end sell only about three thousand copies. That will earn him maybe a thousand pounds. Most novels take at least one year to write, and one thousand pounds a year is not enough to live on these days. So you can see why a budding fiction writer invariably has to start out in another job first of all. If he doesn't, he will almost certainly starve.

(Taken from "Lucky Break" by Roald Dahl)

READING COMPREHENSION

(CIRCLE THE MOST APPROPRIATE OPTION)

1. A fiction writer is a person who:

- a) makes up stories
- b) writes about inventions
- c) writes about things that have happened in real life
- d) must be a genius

2. According to the author:

- a) to be a fiction writer, you have to find another job as well
- b) all successful writers have another job
- c) skillful writers create their novels at night
- d) writers-beginners have always had to write in their free time

3. According to the author:

- a) Lawyers and journalists write good novels easily
- b) Charles Dickens became a full-time professional fiction writer easily
- c) Charles Dickens, easily collected some papers and made a story
- d) Mathematicians can write stories for children easily

4. Generally speaking, publishers:

- a) rarely give jobs to anyone
- b) dislike new writers
- c) can guarantee the writer some money a week
- d) usually judge a book on the basis of their own opinion

5. Fiction writers can expect:

- a) no money from the publishers at all
- b) the royal family to take some money from them afterwards
- c) their book not to be published after all
- d) to earn some money after all

6. Publishers accept a book by a new writer:

- a) very frequently
- b) if the writer is lucky enough
- c) only if the writer has a large fortune
- d) from time to time

7. With his first novel, a fiction writer:

- a) can rarely earn enough for his living
- b) can earn enough only for one year of living
- c) can earn only ten per cent of the book price
- d) can earn just five hundred pounds

8. Being a budding fiction writer is:

- a) the most stressful job
- b) a job which requires patience, lively imagination and usually another job
- c) a well-paid job of thousands of pounds a year
- d) a frustrating job

GRAMMAR TEST

I Circle the correct option:

(8 points)

1. I prefer swimming _____ skiing.
a) of b) from c) to d) than

2. As soon as she heard the question she _____ her hand.
a) rose b) has risen c) rise d) raised

3. Please, help _____ to the biscuits! I know you all like them.
a) you b) yourself c) yourselves d) yours

4. The charity was raised to help _____ poor in the town.
a) a b) Ø c) an d) the

5. She has _____ chicken for dinner.
a) some b) any c) a d) the

6. _____ you love that kind of music or you hate it.
a) Or b) Either c) Nor d) Neither

7. She has just _____ the table waiting for the guests to arrive.
a) lain b) laid c) lied d) lay

8. There are _____ theatres than cinemas in the city.
a) few b) less c) fewer d) little

II Report the following dialogue:

(4 points)

Emily: "Tim, I need to take your bicycle tomorrow."
Tim: "Why do you need mine?"
Emily: "Do you always ask such silly questions? Mine is out of order."

- Emily tells Tim _____ (1)
Tim wants to know _____ (2)
Emily asks _____ (3)
and then she says _____ (4)

**III Complete the text with the correct form/tense of the verbs given below:
(10 points)**

VISIT, HAVE, COME, LET, SEE, TIDY, STAY, HEAR, SEND, READ

Dear Julie,

Thanks for your letter. I'm pleased (1) _____ that you're having a good time in Kent.

Two months ago, I had a wonderful time in Japan. My friend, Akiko, had invited me (2) _____ with her family in Kyoto. Do you remember her? She's the girl whose postcard you (3) _____ last summer. They have a house on a hill just outside Kyoto. There was a beautiful view of the city from my bedroom window. Akiko's family were incredibly kind and hospitable and (4) _____ me pay for anything. We ate out a lot. I loved (5) _____ the temples and gardens - the autumn colours were quite spectacular. I (6) _____ you some photos when I (7) _____ them developed.

Tomorrow my mother and father (8) _____ to stay for a few days. I must (9) _____ the house before they arrive!

Write again soon and let me know how you're getting on.

Hope (10) _____ you soon!

Love

Claire

IV Rewrite the dialogue using the correct forms of the words in brackets:

(4 points)

Harry: You (go) on holiday at Easter?

Sally: Yes, but we (not book) it yet. What about you?

Harry: We (rent) already a cottage near Edinburgh. I (buy) the train tickets yesterday.

H. _____ ? (1)
S. _____ (2)
H. _____ . (3)
_____ . (4)

V Find one mistake in each of the following sentences and write the correct form on the line in each row:

(4 points)

1. Three goose were crossing the road. _____ (1)
2. No news are good news. _____ (2)
3. She is very interesting in astronomy. _____ (3)
4. He always goes on feet to the centre of the town. _____ (4)

KEY

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

1. d) 2. b) 3. a) 4. d) 5. b) 6. c) 7. c)

READING COMPREHENSION

1. a) 2. d) 3. b) 4. d) 5. c) 6. b) 7. a) 8. b)

GRAMMAR TEST

I) 1. c) 2. d) 3. c) 4. d) 5. a) 6. b) 7. b) 8. c)

II) 1. ...that she needs to take his bicycle the next day. / ...she needs to take his bicycle the next day.
2....why she needs his.
3.. ...if he always asks such silly questions.
4....that hers is out of order. / ...hers is out of order.

III) 1. to hear
2. to stay
3. read
4. wouldn't let / would not let / didn't let / did not let
5. visiting
6. 'll send/ will send
7. 've had/have had/ have
8. are coming
9. tidy
10. to see

IV) 1. Are you going on holiday at Easter?
2. Yes, but we haven't booked it yet. / Yes, but we have not booked it yet.
3. We have already rented a cottage near Edinburgh. /We've already rented a cottage near Edinburgh.
4. I bought the train tickets yesterday.

V) 1. geese
2. is
3. interested
4. on foot