EOI Ávila - Cloze tests

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for a hundred years. It is
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ended by mystery and
en (3) _______ about

Intermediate level
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Cloze: Hazardous History

Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. The first one has been done as an example. There are 4 words that you don't need (distracters). 20 x 0.5 = 10 marks

Three centuries (0)________, people had much shorter lives. In 1700, insurance companies put the (1)________ life expectancy of a new-born baby at only fourteen years! The average life expectancy in the world (2)________ is sixty-six years, and in some (3)________ it is much higher: in Japan or France, for (4)________, the average is more than eighty. This is mainly because of better diet, better hygiene and better healthcare. Even in the olden days though, it is (5)________ that if people survived to be an adult they often (6)________ to be sixty or seventy.

Having children was much more dangerous in (7)________ days: one in every nine women died in childbirth. Even so, women (8)________ to have many more children than they do today: in 1800 the average (9)________ family had seven children - today the average is (10)________ than two. Perhaps the reason for this was that so many babies died: even a hundred years ago, 20% of children died (11)________ they were five.

One reason that there were so many diseases was that people (12)________ much less about hygiene: even rich people didn't use to wash much - many people thought that it was (13)________ to take a bath, so they often bathed only once or twice (14)________ year. Instead they used perfume to cover (15)________ odours. Poor people didn't even have toilets or clean water and most had lice in (16)________ hair, bodies, clothes and beds.

There was no toothpaste in those days (17)________ and only rich people used toothbrushes. Of course, toothache was very (18)________, but there were no professional dentists until the (19)________ of the nineteenth century. Before that, if you had a toothache, you had to go to the barber's. He not only cut hair, but also used to take out (20)________ and perform other small operations.

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Cloze: The Truth about the Titanic - Part 1

This text is full of the third conditional. Example: If he had come sooner, he would have saved the situation. Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. There are 4 words that you don't need (distracters). 20 x 0.5 = 10 marks

The (0)________ of the Titanic on its first voyage has (1)________ people all over the world for a hundred years. It is a story surrounded by mystery and (2)________. Here we answer the questions most often (3)________ about the most famous of ships.

Why weren't there enough lifeboats?

The regulations controlling the number of lifeboats that a ship (4)________ carry were terribly out of date. The Titanic only had to have 16 lifeboats, (5)________ for 962 people. Nobody would have died on April 14th 1912 if the Titanic had had enough lifeboats for (6)________ the passengers.

Was there another ship which could have helped the Titanic?

A small ship (7)________ the Californian was only 20 kilometres away from the Titanic. It had (8)________ for the night because of the icebergs. It was (9)________ near that the two ships could see each other's (10)________. The radio operator had just gone so he didn't hear the Titanic's S.O.S. message. Later sailors saw the Titanic's eight white rockets in the sky. They (11)________ up their captain but he didn't do anything as he didn't think the rockets were (12)________. If the Californian had known the Titanic was sinking, it would have rescued everybody. The captain of the Californian was later blamed for (13)________ going to help the Titanic and his reputation was destroyed.

Was captain Smith to blame?

Although they had received (14)________ warnings of icebergs from other ships in the (15)________, the Titanic was (16)________ at top speed. The captain of the Titanic, like other captains, was under great commercial pressure to make the Atlantic crossing as (17)________ as possible. Also Bruce Ismay, the director of the White Star Line which owned the Titanic, was on board and he wanted his ship to beat the company (18)________ for the fastest crossing. Another criticism of captain Smith is that he was not on the bridge at the (19)________ of the collision. Perhaps if he had been there, his ship would not have (20)________ the iceberg. Captain Smith and the ship's designer Thomas Andrews both drowned.

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Cloze: The Truth about the Titanic - Part 2

This text is full of the third conditional. Example: If he had come sooner, he would have saved the situation. Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. There are 4 words that you don’t need (distracters). 20 x 0.5 = 10 marks

Why didn't the lifeboats go to rescue survivors?
In the confusion of the evacuation, many lifeboats left the Titanic empty. This was partly because Captain Smith and his crew found it to persuade people to leave the 'unsinkable' Titanic. Many were terrified at the of being lowered down onto the sea in a lifeboat. When the Titanic finally sank, some of the passengers in the lifeboats wanted to go back and rescue some of the people in the freezing water. If they had gone back, many more people have been saved. But other people in the lifeboats that they had to put their own lives first and that if too many people in the water tried to get into the lifeboats, would overturn and everybody would drown. Finally, only one of the sixteen lifeboats went back to pick up survivors. They only to rescue five people. Everyone else was dead.

Did the orchestra really play until the end?
After the collision, the little group of musicians started playing in the first-class to keep the passengers, but later they moved up onto the deck. Some survivors in the lifeboats said they could still the musicians playing a waltz called Autumn until just before the ship finally sank. If they hadn't continued playing until the, there would have been much more panic on the ship. Not one of the orchestra.

What happened to Bruce Ismay after the disaster?
The public were extremely about any of the 58 men who survived the disaster, especially about 150 women and children died (mostly from second and third class). But Bruce Ismay the most criticism. When his beautiful ship sank, Ismay, in one of the lifeboats, his head so as not to see it. Later, numerous articles were written in newspapers attacking him saving his own life. Nobody was ever allowed to mention the Titanic in his.

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Cloze: Let it be

Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. The first one has been done as an example. There are 4 words that you don't need (distracters). 20 x 0.5 = 10 marks

Sir Paul McCartney is probably (0)____ most famous pop musician of the 20th century. (1)____ with John Lennon he formed the Beatles, and since their break-up has had a long solo career. Altogether he has (2)____ over 500 songs including Yesterday, the most played song of (3)____ time. He has recently also written a classical piece called Standing Stone which was premièred in 1997. His wife Linda died of cancer in 1998. He has four children.

When did you and John Lennon meet? 'In 1957 when I was 15 and he was 16 and we were both still at school. We had a lot in common, we were both (4)____ about music and we both lost our mothers when we were teenagers. My mother had died of cancer the year before and John's mum was run over by a (5)____ a year after we'd met. So there was always that special bond (6)____ us.'

When did you and John begin to write songs together? '(7)____ was when I was still at school and John was at art college. We (8)____ to write at my house in the afternoon when my dad was working. We had about three hours before my dad (9)____ home. John had a second-hand guitar and I played a bit (10)____ the piano. We had an old school notebook and I used to write at the top of the page A Lennon and McCartney original. We always said to each other that we'd be the (11)____ songwriting team in the world, which is funny (12)____ that's exactly what we became. We (13)____ the Beatles in 1960.'

Are any of your lyrics about real people and events? 'Usually the Beatles' songs which were my (14)____ weren't personal, but there were some (15)____: for instance, I wrote Let it be about my mother, (16)____ name was Mary. One night, when the Beatles were breaking up and I was feeling very depressed, I had a (17)____ where I saw my mum, who had died when I was fourteen. It was great to see her again and in the dream she said, 'Don't worry. Everything will be (18)____.' It was such a nice dream I woke up and I felt much (19)____ and I started to write Let it be. Afterwards, thousands of people wrote to me saying that the song had helped them in (20)____ times. Later, after the Beatles had broken up, I formed Wings and I wrote a lot of songs to my wife Linda, like Silly Love songs and The Lovely Linda.'

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Cloze: Woody Allen

Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. The first one has been done as an example. There are 4 words that you don't need (distracters). 20 x 0.5 = 10 marks

Woody Allen, whose (0)________ name is Allen Konigsberg, was born in 1035. He is an actor and director, and (1)________ in adult comedies set in New York. Among his best known films are Annie Hall (1977), The Purple Rose of Cairo (1985) and Mighty Aphrodite (1995). (2)________ from his films and his sense of humour, he's (3)________ for his glasses and his marriage in 1997 to Soon Yi, the adopted daughter of Mia Farrow, his ex-partner. When he isn't making films, he plays the clarinet in a New York jazz club.

Most people are (4)________ that the characters that Woody Allen plays, which tend to be very similar, are (5)________ on his own personality. He has always denied this, but there is some (6)________ to the contrary. Like many of the characters he plays, he is (7)________ shy. 'For me the real pleasure is writing. Making the movie is this: you're out there in the cold and rain, you're freezing, the clock is ticking, you're spending thousands of dollars, and people (8)________ saying, "Hurry up". The nicest feeling I know is that the film is opening in Chicago and that I'm not there - I'm in bed, relaxing, reading, playing my clarinet. All my life I've enjoyed not being at the opening night. I used to have a joke: "I don't mind (9)________, but I don't want to be there when it happens." That really is about me. When I am invited to parties, I almost (10)________ go. Sometimes I get to the door and I just can't go in. It's nothing to (11)________ with being famous, I was like that before. Not being there, but knowing people like the film - that's perfect for me.' He stays (12)________ from Hollywood, its romances and its glamorous lifestyle. 'I hate all that. I just want to make the film and go home.'

Woody Allen is also very insecure about his films. 'The idea in my (13)________ is always superb, but by the (14)________ the film's made, it's never exactly as I wanted it. I always want to say to people, "you don't realize what a great film I (15)________ made here." In fact, he was (16)________ disappointed with Manhattan that he tried to buy the movie back from United Artists, and promised that he would make (17)________ film for free if they destroyed it for him or threw it away. They refused, and the film (18)________ nominated for an Oscar.

The big question is, is he happy? 'What does that mean? My basic position is pessimism. Some people are naturally cheerful, (19)________ aren't. I naturally expect the worst. It's just the (20)________ I am.'
The euro was introduced in 12 countries on January 1st, 2002. The United Kingdom was not one of them. The UK opted out of the part of the Maastricht Treaty that required it to adopt the euro. Ten years on, the Euro zone includes 17 nations, but it is unlikely that the UK will adopt the euro. In 2010, the coalition government pledged to join the euro for its lifetime. In fact, does the UK want to remain in the European Union (EU) at all?

Conservative Party rebels want a national referendum on UK membership. Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron says no. However, Cameron opted to recuperate constitutional powers from the European Parliament. The socialist Labour Party is pro-Europe, but decided not to adopt the euro. The Liberal Democrats are the major party that believes the euro is the future for the UK.

The anti-Europe movement in Britain has a long history. The extreme right-wing and racist - British National Front is more popular. Another new party wants Britain to leave Europe: the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP). The UKIP's Nigel Farage, says: "We don't want the European flag. We don't want the anthem. And we don't want the euro." Ironically, the only major elections the British National Party and UKIP have been are the European Parliament. Europe's proportional representation gives small parties power. The EU also offers them the chance to form influential groups with similar parties across Europe.

What do the British people think about Europe? There is an old joke that demonstrates the traditional attitude: "Heavy fog over the English Channel, Continent isolated." So Britain isn't isolated of Europe. Has Britain's attitude to Europe changed in recent years? No! European Commission research tells only 22 per cent of the British public wants to remain in the EU. 76 per cent do not want to remain in the European Parliament. And 54 per cent say Britain has not benefitted from the membership.

But another survey reveals Britain is the worst place to live in Europe. One in 10 UK citizens would like to emigrate. What reasons do they give? The weather, the high cost of living and social problems. Where do they want to live? The EU's Spain, France and Italy are destinations.
CLoze: Do we really need to sleep?

Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. The first one has been done as an example. There are 4 words that you don't need (distracters). \( 20 \times 0.5 = 10 \) marks

Tonight between eleven o'clock and one o'clock (0)_____ of people will start yawning. Very soon, they will (1)_____ undressed, lie down, and close their eyes. A few minutes later, they will be (2)_____.

Sleep is a powerful (3)_____ on all our lives, and a 60-year-old person has (4)_____ almost twenty years asleep. The traditional theory about sleep is that our brain needs to (5)_____ for several hours to refresh itself and to 'file' in our memory everything that has happened to us (6)_____ the day. We can put off sleeping for a limited period, for instance if we go to an (7)_____ party, but sooner or later we have to sleep. If we are not allowed to sleep, we suffer hallucinations, and (8)_____ die.

However, Ray Meddis, a scientist at the Sleep Research Unit at Loughborough University, has a (9)_____ new theory. He suggests that we don't really (10)_____ to sleep at all. We sleep only (11)_____ our brain is 'programmed' to make us do so. He believes that the sleep instinct originates from prehistoric times; primitive man was 'programmed' to sleep to protect (12)_____ from the darkness with its many dangers. Animals appear to (13)_____ been similarly programmed. The number of hours that they sleep does not depend (14)_____ physical activity, but on how much time they need to eat. Horses, cows, sheep and elephants for example, which spend many (15)_____ eating, sleep only 2-3 hours. Cats, on the other hand, who have a lot of (16)_____ time, sleep for 14 hours a day, more than half of their lives.

According to Dr Meddis, the 'tiredness' we feel at the end of the day is (17)_____ by a chemical mechanism in the brain which makes us sleep. We are 'programmed' to feel 'tired' or 'sleepy' at midnight even if we have spent the day relaxing on the beach or (18)_____ nothing. He believes that if scientists could locate and 'turn off' the sleep mechanism in our brain that produces tiredness, we (19)_____ live completely normal and healthy lives without sleeping.

So is sleeping a waste of time? Well, even Dr Meddis does not (20)_____ the great psychological value of sleep, and he asks us, 'if scientists invented a pill which, if you took it, would keep you awake for ever, would you take it?'

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16. 17. 18. 19. 20.
Cloze: Flat-sharing

Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. The first one has been done as an example. There are 4 words that you don't need (distracters). 20 x 0.5 = 10 marks

you've got a problem. You're going to go to university in a different town and you need somewhere to live. Or perhaps you just don't get on with your parents. What can you do? Have you ever thought of sharing a flat?

I know all about it because I've been sharing flats for the past four years, (0)______ I moved to Edinburgh to study. I must admit my first experience was a (1)______ of a disaster. I saw an advert in the newspaper from a girl who had a flat and was (2)______ for a flatmate. When I met her, she seemed really nice, and I (3)______ that she had lots of great CDs I wanted to hear and a big TV. However, I changed my (4)______ about her a few days after I moved in. I came (5)______ from college one day and threw my books and jacket onto the living room sofa. my flatmate looked at them, looked at me and shouted: 'I hope you're not going to leave (6)______ there!' It was then I found (7)______ that she was absolutely obsessive about being tidy. It was obvious that we were incompatible, (8)______ I'm definitely not the world's tidiest person. I moved out after the first month.

I then decided to try sharing a house with several people. I rented a room in a big old house (9)______ I shared with four other girls (two Brazilians, a Russian, and an Italian). It was great because the house was always full of young people from (10)______ over the world and we had lots of parties. However, there were three problems. Firstly, it was impossible (11)______ any work because the house was so noisy. Secondly, there was only one bathroom, and there was always someone in it, (12)______ first thing in the morning when I was already (13)______ for class. But the (14)______ arguments we had were always the day the phone bill arrived!

After a year the foreign girls went home, and I decided to look for a new, (15)______ quieter flat! This (16)______ I decided to share with a friend, somebody I already knew well. We've been living here now for nearly a year and we get on really well - (17)______ for her irritating habits of eating my yoghurts and finishing the coffee! But it's great having someone else to help pay the rent, to share their dinner with you when you're too (18)______ to cook, and who, unlike your parents or your partner, doesn't mind what time you get up or if you've left your bedroom in a (19)_______. And best of all, when you've had a bad day or you've (20)______ up with your boyfriend you know there's always someone to talk to.

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Cloze: Do you speak German?

Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. The first one has been done as an example. There are 4 words that you don’t need (distracters). 20 x 0.5 = 10 marks

After ten years of filing (0)______ typing for the same company, Melanie was bored and depressed. So when a marketing company advertised for trainees, she (1)______. And when they invited her to come for an interview, she was (2)______ thrilled. At last, she thought, a chance to do (3)______ that would be stimulating.

There was one small (4)______ though. Melanie hadn’t been entirely honest in her application, and had told one or two white (5)______ about her present job. Nevertheless, she (6)______ smartly for the interview and hoped they wouldn’t (7)______ the truth. Then halfway through, the interviewer said, 'As the advertisement stated, we are (8)______ for someone who can speak good German.' Melanie’s (9)______ turned. She hadn’t even noticed that part of the advertisement.

'I see you studied German at school,' the interviewer (10)______ on. 'Have you kept it (11)______? 'Oh, yes,' nodded Melanie. 'It’s like a (12)______ language to me.' She suddenly felt her face (13)______, but it was too late now. In fact she had studied German, but she was so awful (14)______ it that her teacher told her to (15)______ it up. One week later Melanie was offered the job. Should she tell the truth and (16)______ losing it? She accepted the job and said nothing.

At first it was fine. There were only three scheduled (17)______ to Germany and other trainees volunteered to go. Meanwhile, Melanie bought some books and tapes and started learning German on her (18)______ in the evenings. It was no use though. She was still hopeless and got everything wrong.

The job itself was everything she had wanted. It was interesting and (19)______ and she got on well with the rest of the team. Then last week, her boss called her into his office and told her she was going to Germany an a very important trip next month. 'Pleased?' he asked. Melanie produced a (20)______ smile. Should she come clean and tell the truth?

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Cloze: Doormen in New York

Fill in the gaps with a word from the box. The first one has been done as an example. There are 4 words that you don't need (distracters).

20 x 0.5 = 10 marks

It may not look like an exciting job, but it's well-paid and generally (0)______. We're talking about doormen, the men in (1)______ uniforms who greet you at the entrances to apartment buildings. They're usually (2)______ with New York, but you also find (3)______ in other major American cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Houston and Austin

Doormen are polite and will (4)_____ "have a nice day" or "have a great night" to all the residents in their building. They will know their (5)______ names and everything about their private lives, but they will (6)_____ professionally and discreetly.

In the (7)______, doormen work in luxury apartments buildings, but you also find them in more (8)______ ones. In fact you can judge a (9)______ by the number of doormen: (10)_____ more there are, the higher the rent.

Doormen usually (11)_____ a smile on their faces as they take care (12)_____ the deliveries like parcels or flowers. They will call a resident (13)_____ someone shows up to see them. They will also get a (14)_____ for you and they must check that everything in the building is (15)_____ smoothly. As one of the doormen explains, 'Personality' is the (16)_____ job requirement.

All doormen have graduated from high school and some have a (17)_____ education. They are members of a union, the Service Employees International Union, and they have (18)_____ benefits. The salary is pretty good, too, (19)_____ from $35,000 to $50,000 a year. Many doormen hope to "move up the (20)_____" and become a "super" or building supervisor. In this job they can make even more.

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Three centuries ago, people had much shorter lives. In 1700, insurance companies put the average life expectancy of a new-born baby at only fourteen years! The average life expectancy in the world today is sixty-six years, and in some countries it is much higher: in Japan or France, for example, the average is more than eighty. This is mainly because of better diet, better hygiene and better healthcare. Even in the olden days though, it is interesting that if people survived to be an adult they often lived to be sixty or seventy.

Having children was much more dangerous in those days: one in every nine women died in childbirth. Even so, women used to have many more children than they do today: in 1800 the average American family had seven children - today the average is less than two. Perhaps the reason for this was that so many babies died: even a hundred years ago, 20% of children died before they were five.

One reason that there were so many diseases was that people knew much less about hygiene: even rich people didn't use to wash much - many people thought that it was dangerous to take a bath, so they often bathed only once or twice a year. Instead they used perfume to cover body odours. Poor people didn't even have toilets or clean water and most had lice in their hair, bodies, clothes and beds.

There was no toothpaste in those days either and only rich people used toothbrushes. Of course, toothache was very common, but there were no professional dentists until the middle of the nineteenth century. Before that, if you had a toothache, you had to go to the barber's. He not only cut hair, but also used to take out teeth and perform other small operations.

Distracters: rats, often, change, contagious
Key to The Truth about the Titanic - Part 1

The sinking of the Titanic on its first voyage has fascinated people all over the world for a hundred years. It is a story surrounded by mystery and speculation. Here we answer the questions most often asked about the most famous of ships.

**Why weren’t there enough lifeboats?**
The regulations controlling the number of lifeboats that a ship should carry were terribly out of date. The Titanic only had to have 16 lifeboats, enough for 962 people. Nobody would have died on April 14th 1912 if the Titanic had had enough lifeboats for all the passengers.

**Was there another ship which could have helped the Titanic?**
A small ship called the Californian was only 20 kilometres away from the Titanic. It had stopped for the night because of the icebergs. It was so near that the two ships could see each other’s lights. The radio operator had just gone so he didn’t hear the Titanic’s S.O.S. message. Later sailors saw the Titanic’s eight white rockets in the sky. They woke up their captain but he didn’t do anything as he didn’t think the rockets were important. If the Californian had known the Titanic was sinking, it would have rescued everybody. The captain of the Californian was later blamed for not going to help the Titanic and his reputation was destroyed.

**Was captain Smith to blame?**
Although they had received several warnings of icebergs from other ships in the area, the Titanic was going at top speed. The captain of the Titanic, like other captains, was under great commercial pressure to make the Atlantic crossing as quickly as possible. Also Bruce Ismay, the director of the White Star Line which owned the Titanic, was on board and he wanted his ship to beat the company record for the fastest crossing. Another criticism of captain Smith is that he was not on the bridge at the time of the collision. Perhaps if he had been there, his ship would not have hit the iceberg. Captain Smith and the ship’s designer Thomas Andrews both drowned.

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Distracters: cold, icebergs, slowly, weather

To contents
Why didn't the lifeboats go back to rescue survivors?
In the confusion of the evacuation, many lifeboats left the Titanic half empty. This was partly because Captain Smith and his crew found it difficult to persuade people to leave the 'unsinkable' Titanic. Many were terrified at the idea of being lowered down onto the sea in a tiny lifeboat. When the Titanic finally sank, some of the passengers in the lifeboats wanted to go back and rescue some of the people swimming in the freezing water. If they had gone back, many more people might have been saved. But other people in the lifeboats argued that they had to put their own lives first and that if too many people in the water tried to get into the lifeboats, they would overturn and everybody would drown. Finally, only one of the sixteen lifeboats went back to pick up survivors. They only managed to rescue five people. Everyone else was dead.

Did the orchestra really play until the end?
After the collision, the little group of musicians started playing in the first-class lounge to keep the passengers calm, but later they moved up onto the deck. Some survivors in the lifeboats said they could still hear the musicians playing a waltz called Autumn until just before the ship finally sank. If they hadn't continued playing until the end, there would have been much more panic on the ship. Not one of the orchestra survived.

What happened to Bruce Ismay after the disaster?
The public were extremely suspicious about any of the 58 men who survived the disaster, especially as about 150 women and children died (mostly from second and third class). But Bruce Ismay received the most criticism. When his beautiful ship sank, Ismay, in one of the lifeboats, turned his head so as not to see it. Later, numerous articles were written in newspapers attacking him for saving his own life. Nobody was ever allowed to mention the Titanic in his presence.
Key to Let it be
Source: English File Intermediate Student’s book pages 86-87

Sir Paul McCartney is probably the most famous pop musician of the 20th century. Together with John Lennon he formed the Beatles, and since their break-up has had a long solo career. Altogether he has written over 500 songs including yesterday, the most played song of all time. He has recently also written a classical piece called Standing Stone which was premièred in 1997. His wife Linda died of cancer in 1998. He has four children.

When did you and John Lennon meet? 'In 1957 when I was 15 and he was 16 and we were both still at school. We had a lot in common, we were both mad about music and we both lost our mothers when we were teenagers. My mother had died of cancer the year before and John's mum was run over by a car a year after we'd met. So there was always that special bond between us.'

When did you and John begin to write songs together? 'It was when I was still at school and John was at art college. We used to write at my house in the afternoon when my dad was working. We had about three hours before my dad got home. John had a second-hand guitar and I played a bit on the piano. We had an old school notebook and I used to write at the top of the page A Lennon and McCartney original. We always said to each other that we'd be the greatest songwriting team in the world, which is funny because that's exactly what we became. We formed the Beatles in 1960.'

Are any of your lyrics about real people and events? 'Usually the Beatles' songs which were my idea weren't personal, but there were some exceptions: for instance, I wrote Let it be about my mother, whose name was Mary. One night, when the Beatles were breaking up and I was feeling very depressed, I had a dream where I saw my mum, who had died when I was fourteen. It was great to see her again and in the dream she said, 'Don't worry. Everything will be all right.' It was such a nice dream I woke up and I felt much better and I started to write Let it be. Afterwards, thousands of people wrote to me saying that the song had helped them in difficult times. Later, after the Beatles had broken up, I formed Wings and I wrote a lot of songs to my wife Linda, like Silly Love songs and The Lovely Linda.'

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distracters: become, guitar, happy, other

To contents
Key to Woody Allen
Source: English File Intermediate Student's book pages 80-81

Woody Allen, whose **real** name is Allen Konigsberg, was born in 1035. He is an actor and director, and **specializes** in adult comedies set in New York. Among his best known films are Annie Hall (1977), The Purple Rose of Cairo (1985) and Mighty Aphrodite (1995). Apart from his films and his sense of humour, he's **famous** for his glasses and his marriage in 1997 to Soon Yi, the adopted daughter of Mia Farrow, his ex-partner. When he isn't making films, he plays the clarinet in a New York jazz club.

Most people are **convinced** that the characters that Woody Allen plays, which tend to be very similar, are **based** on his own personality. He has always denied this, but there is some **evidence** to the contrary. Like many of the characters he plays, he is **genuinely** shy. 'For me the real pleasure is writing. Making the movie is this: you're out there in the cold and rain, you're freezing, the clock is ticking, you're spending thousands of dollars, and people keep saying, "Hurry up". The nicest feeling I know is that the film is opening in Chicago and that I'm not there - I'm in bed, relaxing, reading, playing my clarinet. All my life I've enjoyed not being at the opening night. I used to have a joke: "I don't mind **dying**, but I don't want to be there when it happens." That really is about me. When I am invited to parties, I almost never go. Sometimes I get to the door and I just can't go in. It's nothing to do with being famous, I was like that before. Not being there, but knowing people like the film - that's perfect for me.' He stays **away** from Hollywood, its romances and its glamorous lifestyle. 'I hate all that. I just want to make the film and go home.'

Woody Allen is also very insecure about his films. 'The idea in my **mind** is always superb, but by the **time** the film's made, it's never exactly as I wanted it. I always want to say to people, "you don't realize what a great film I nearly made here." In fact, he was so disappointed with Manhattan that he tried to buy the movie back from United Artists, and promised that he would make another film for free if they destroyed it for him or threw it away. They refused, and the film was nominated for an Oscar.

The big question is, is he happy? 'What does that mean? My basic position is pessimism. Some people are naturally cheerful, some aren't. I naturally expect the worst. It's just the **way** I am.'

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Distracters: clown, good, people, working

[To contents]
The euro was **introduced** in 12 countries on January 1st, 2002. The United Kingdom was not **one** of them. The UK opted out of the part of the Maastricht Treaty that required it to adopt the common **currency**.

Ten years on, the Euro zone includes 17 nations, but **thanks** to the crisis, it is unlikely that the UK will adopt the euro. In 2010, the coalition government pledged **not** to join the euro for its lifetime. In fact, does the UK want to remain in the European Union (EU) at **all**?

Conservative Party rebels want a national referendum on UK membership. Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron says no. However, Cameron **promises** to recuperate constitutional powers from the European Parliament. The socialist Labour Party is pro-Europe, but decided not to adopt the euro. The Liberal Democrats are the **only** major party that believes the euro is the future for the UK.

The anti-Europe movement in Britain has a **long** history. The extreme right-wing - and racist - British National Front **protested** against UK membership in the 1970s. Today the British National Party is more popular. Another new party wants Britain to leave Europe: the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP). The UKIP **leader**, Nigel Farage, says: "We don't want the European flag. We don't want the anthem. And we don't want the euro." Ironically, the only major elections the British National Party and UKIP have **won** are the European Parliament. Europe's proportional representation gives small **parties** power. The EU also offers them the chance to form influential groups with similar parties across Europe.

What do the British people think **about** Europe? There is an old joke that demonstrates the traditional attitude: "Heavy fog over the English Channel, Continent isolated." So Britain isn't **part** of Europe. Has Britain's attitude to Europe **changed** in recent years? No! European Commission research tells us only 22 per cent of the British public wants to remain in the EU. 76 per cent do not **trust** the European Parliament. And 54 per cent say Britain has not benefitted from the membership. But another **survey** reveals Britain is the worst place to live in Europe. One in 10 UK citizens would like to emigrate. What reasons do they give? The **terrible** weather, the high cost of living and social problems. Where do they want to live? The EU's Spain, France and Italy are the **top** destinations.

**Distracters:** *British, for, money, spent*

**To contents**
Key to Do we really need to sleep?

Tonight between eleven o'clock and one o'clock millions of people will start yawning. Very soon, they will get undressed, lie down, and close their eyes. A few minutes later, they will be asleep.

Sleep is a powerful influence on all our lives, and a 60-year-old person has spent almost twenty years asleep. The traditional theory about sleep is that our brain needs to rest for several hours to refresh itself and to 'file' in our memory everything that has happened to us during the day. We can put off sleeping for a limited period, for instance if we go to an all-night party, but sooner or later we have to sleep. If we are not allowed to sleep, we suffer hallucinations, and eventually die.

However, Ray Meddis, a scientist at the Sleep Research Unit at Loughborough University, has a fascinating new theory. He suggests that we don't really need to sleep at all. We sleep only because our brain is 'programmed' to make us do so. He believes that the sleep instinct originates from prehistoric times; primitive man was 'programmed' to sleep to protect himself from the darkness with its many dangers. Animals appear to have been similarly programmed. The number of hours that they sleep does not depend on physical activity, but on how much time they need to eat. Horses, cows, sheep and elephants for example, which spend many hours eating, sleep only 2-3 hours. Cats, on the other hand, who have a lot of spare time, sleep for 14 hours a day, more than half of their lives.

According to Dr Meddis, the 'tiredness' we feel at the end of the day is produced by a chemical mechanism in the brain which makes us sleep. We are 'programmed' to feel 'tired' or 'sleepy' at midnight even if we have spent the day relaxing on the beach or doing nothing. He believes that if scientists could locate and 'turn off' the sleep mechanism in our brain that produces tiredness, we could live completely normal and healthy lives without sleeping.

So is sleeping a waste of time? Well, even Dr Meddis does not deny the great psychological value of sleep, and he asks us, 'if scientists invented a pill which, if you took it, would keep you awake for ever, would you take it?'

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Distracters: bored, dream, must, the,
Key to Flat-sharing
Source: English File intermediate Student's book page 14

you've got a problem. You're going to go to university in a different town and you need somewhere to live. Or perhaps you just don't get on with your parents. What can you do? Have you ever thought of sharing a flat?

I know all about it because I've been sharing flats for the past four years, since I moved to Edinburgh to study. I must admit my first experience was a bit of a disaster. I saw an advert in the newspaper from a girl who had a flat and was looking for a flatmate. When I met her, she seemed really nice, and I noticed that she had lots of great CDs I wanted to hear and a big TV. However, I changed my mind about her a few days after I moved in. I came home from college one day and threw my books and jacket onto the living room sofa. My flatmate looked at them, looked at me and shouted: 'I hope you're not going to leave them there!' It was then I found out that she was absolutely obsessive about being tidy. It was obvious that we were incompatible, as I'm definitely not the world's tidiest person. I moved out after the first month.

I then decided to try sharing a house with several people. I rented a room in a big old house which I shared with four other girls (two Brazilians, a Russian, and an Italian). It was great because the house was always full of young people from all over the world and we had lots of parties. However, there were three problems. Firstly, it was impossible to do any work because the house was so noisy. Secondly, there was only one bathroom, and there was always someone in it, especially first thing in the morning when I was already late for class. But the biggest arguments we had were always the day the phone bill arrived!

After a year the foreign girls went home, and I decided to look for a new, preferably quieter flat! This time I decided to share with a friend, somebody I already knew well. We've been living here now for nearly a year and we get on really well - except for her irritating habits of eating my yoghurts and finishing the coffee! But it's great having someone else to help pay the rent, to share their dinner with you when you're too exhausted to cook, and who, unlike your parents or your partner, doesn't mind what time you get up or if you've left your bedroom in a mess. And best of all, when you've had a bad day or you've broken up with your boyfriend you know there's always someone to talk to.

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Distracters: making, hurried, clothes, specific

To contents
Key to Do you speak German?
Source: True to Life Intermediate Class book page 144

After ten years of filing and typing for the same company, Melanie was bored and depressed. So when a marketing company advertised for trainees, she applied. And when they invited her to come for an interview, she was absolutely thrilled. At last, she thought, a chance to do something that would be stimulating.

There was one small problem though. Melanie hadn't been entirely honest in her application, and had told one or two white lies about her present job. Nevertheless, she dressed smartly for the interview and hoped they wouldn't discover the truth. Then halfway through, the interviewer said, 'As the advertisement stated, we are looking for someone who can speak good German.' Melanie's stomach turned. She hadn't even noticed that part of the advertisement.

'I see you studied German at school,' the interviewer went on. 'Have you kept it up?' 'Oh, yes,' nodded Melanie. 'It's like a second language to me.' She suddenly felt her face burning, but it was too late now. In fact she had studied German, but she was so awful at it that her teacher told her to give it up. One week later Melanie was offered the job. Should she tell the truth and risk losing it? She accepted the job and said nothing.

At first it was fine. There were only three scheduled trips to Germany and other trainees volunteered to go. Meanwhile, Melanie bought some books and tapes and started learning German on her own in the evenings. It was no use though. She was still hopeless and got everything wrong.

The job itself was everything she had wanted. It was interesting and challenging and she got on well with the rest of the team. Then last week, her boss called her into his office and told her she was going to Germany an a very important trip next month. 'Pleased?' he asked. Melanie produced a weak smile. Should she come clean and tell the truth?

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Distracters: very, hands, taken, interviews

To contents
Key to Doormen in New York
Source: Speak Up magazine nr 316

It may not look like an exciting job, but it's well-paid and generally appreciated. We're talking about doormen, the men in smart uniforms who greet you at the entrances to apartment buildings. They're usually associated with New York, but you also find them in other major American cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Houston and Austin.

Doormen are polite and will say "have a nice day" or "have a great night" to all the residents in their building. They will know their children's names and everything about their private lives, but they will behave professionally and discreetly.

In the movies, doormen work in luxury apartments buildings, but you also find them in more modest ones. In fact you can judge a building by the number of doormen: the more there are, the higher the rent.

Doormen usually have a smile on their faces as they take care of the deliveries like parcels or flowers. They will call a resident if someone shows up to see them. They will also get a cab for you and they must check that everything in the building is running smoothly. As one of the doormen explains, 'Personality' is the main job requirement.

All doormen have graduated from high school and some have a college education. They are members of a union, the Service Employees International Union, and they have health benefits. The salary is pretty good, too, ranging from $35,000 to $50,000 a year. Many doormen hope to "move up the ladder" and become a "super" or building supervisor. In this job they can make even more.

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Distracters: ending, go, keys, that

To contents