



ESAME FINALE DI LIVELLO

COGNOME _____ NOME _____ GRUPPO DOTTORANDI _____

Text Completion

Knowing how to write emails in English has become essential. Complete the email below by thinking of an appropriate word for each of the blank spaces. Write your answers in the right-hand column.

Dear Mr and Mrs Hecht

I'm ___1___ happy to accept your offer of accommodation. I'm excited 1. _____

about coming to New York to ___2___ an English course. 2. _____

I am a PhD ___3___ at the University of Calabria where I am doing 3. _____

research on cellular biology. It is ___4___ for me to improve 4. _____

my English because I ___5___ to read a lot of articles in English. I also 5. _____

go to international conferences once or ___6___ a year. 6. _____

As I ___7___ in my last email, my course starts on 15th June but I'm arriving 7. _____

a week before so that I have time to recover from jetlag. My ___8___ arrives 8. _____

at JFK airport on the 8th at 2.30 pm. Can you ___9___ me if there is public 9. _____

transport to ___10___ to your house? 10. _____

I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,

Carolina

Dialogue

The following dialogue reflects a real-life situation. Put the jumbled sentences into the correct order by writing the letters into the correct place. There is an example at the beginning.

Jack: Hi Sandy. How's it going?

Sandy: _____ A

Jack: Are you busy with exams? I thought the exam session was over.

Sandy: _____

Jack: Erasmus? That's great. Where are you going?

Sandy: _____

Jack: So, have you refreshed your English?

Sandy: _____

Jack: Why not? Studying English should be your priority.

Sandy: _____

Jack: Don't worry, I'm sure you will. When are you leaving?

Sandy: _____

Jack: So you'll be in England for Christmas. Are you going with anybody?

Sandy: _____

Jack: I'm sure you'll meet interesting people. Have you found a place to stay?

Sandy: _____

Jack: Which subjects are you going to take in Reading?

Sandy: _____

Jack: I'm so happy for you. Can I come and visit you?

Sandy: _____

Jack: Thanks. We'll be in touch. Have a safe trip.

Sandy: _____

- A. Hi Jack. Fine, but I've been really busy.
- B. Unfortunately, no. I'm going alone.
- C. No, it's not exams. I'm preparing all the documents for my Erasmus trip.
- D. I'm taking Chemistry and Maths for sure, maybe Physics, and English of course.
- E. In two weeks.
- F. Yes, I'm staying on campus. They gave me a bedroom in a guest house.
- G. Thank you. See you in England.
- H. Of course. It'll be great to have you there.
- I. Well, I'm attending an English course, but I'm not studying a lot.
- J. I'm going to England, Reading to be precise.
- K. I know, but there's so much to do. I hope I can get everything done before I leave.

Text flow

The correct use of discourse markers is very important in academic writing. Complete the following text by using some of the words in the box to create a coherent and cohesive text. Write your choice in the right-hand column.

Bhutan’s Achievements

Bhutan is a tiny kingdom, a little larger than Switzerland with a population of just over two million, ___1___ is located to the east of the Himalayas. 1. _____

___2___ its location, the country was extremely isolated from the rest of the world until the early 1960s, but there have been a large number of changes since then. Improvements are due to several reasons. 2. _____

___3___, over the last few years, the government has concentrated on education, providing free education for all the population. ___4___, the percentage of children in primary schools has increased to 72%, up from 12% in 1980. The government has also encouraged education for girls, who now account for 45% of primary school children. 3. _____
4. _____

___5___, health conditions have also improved steadily over the last few decades and some good results have been achieved. For ___6___, the infant mortality rate fell from 102 per 1,000 births in the 1980s to 71 in the 1990s. ___7___ the fertility rate, the number of children per couple has also fallen slightly, from an average of nearly 6 in the 1980s to 4 now. This could partly be a result of the changes in the role of women, who are beginning to work more outside of the home. 5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

___8___, in the agricultural sector, export crops have been increasing in importance in recent years. The industrial sector, ___9___, has been declining steadily, although the electricity industry has recently increased exports to India. 8. _____
9. _____

___10___ all of these changes have occurred with relatively few negative effects on Bhutan’s environment or traditional culture, the government deserves much credit for the achievements made. 10. _____

And	As a result	As regards	Because of	Example
First of all	However	Secondly	Since	Thirdly

Reading comprehension

The following article illustrates a current issue. After you read it, decide if the sentences below are **True (T)**, **False (F)** or if the information is **Not Given (NG)**. Circle the correct answer.

China believed to be behind cyber spy network

1. TORONTO - A cyber spy network based mainly in China infiltrated into classified documents from government and private organizations in 103 countries, including the computers of Tibetan exiles, Canadian researchers said Saturday.
2. The work of the Information Warfare Monitor initially focused on allegations of Chinese cyber espionage against the Tibetan community in exile, and eventually led to a much wider network of compromised machines, the Internet-based research group said. "We uncovered real-time evidence of spyware that had penetrated Tibetan computer systems, extracting sensitive documents from the private office of the Dalai Lama". The research group said that while its analysis points to China as the main source of the network, it has not conclusively been able to detect the exact identity or motivation of the hackers.
3. Bhutla Karpoche, 'For a Free Tibet' activist, said she was not surprised about the possibility that China could be behind the network: "Our computers have been hacked into numerous times over the past 4 to 5 years and especially in the past year". She said she often gets e-mails that end up containing viruses that crash the group's computers.
4. The IWM is composed of researchers from Ottawa-based experts and the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies. The group's initial findings led to a 10-month investigation that has been summarized in the report that will be released online Sunday.
5. The researchers detected a cyber espionage network involving over 1,295 compromised computers from the ministries of foreign affairs of Iran, Bangladesh, Latvia, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Barbados and Bhutan. They also discovered hacked systems in the embassies of India, South Korea, Indonesia, Romania, Cyprus, Malta, Thailand, Taiwan, Portugal, Germany and Pakistan.
6. Once the hackers infiltrated the systems, they gained control using spyware — software they install on the compromised computers — and sent and received data from them, the researchers said.
7. Two researchers at Cambridge University in Britain who worked on the part of the investigation related to the Tibetans are also releasing their own report Sunday. They say prevention against such attacks will be difficult since traditional defense against social spyware in government agencies involves expensive and intrusive measures that range from mandatory access controls to tedious operational security procedures.

1. Canadian researchers infiltrated the computers of Tibetan exiles	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
2. Information Warfare Monitor is an Internet-based research group.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
3. Investigations proved that the hackers were only from China.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
4. Bhutla Karpoche takes no interest in issues regarding Tibet.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
5. Bhutla Karpoche reports that her computer has been infected mainly in the last year.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
6. Bhutla Karpoche lives in Canada.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
7. Hackers found it impossible to infiltrate computers in the Canadian embassy.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
8. Researchers say that hackers cannot infiltrate computers.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
9. The IWM report and the Cambridge University report will be published on the same day.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>
10. The Cambridge University report will be released online.	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>NG</i>

Synonyms

Read paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 again and find synonyms for the following words. Do not write more than one alternative.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1. originally | 1. _____ |
| 2. larger | 2. _____ |
| 3. discovered | 3. _____ |
| 4. taking out | 4. _____ |
| 5. principal | 5. _____ |
| 6. categorically | 6. _____ |
| 7. militant | 7. _____ |
| 8. particularly | 8. _____ |
| 9. break down | 9. _____ |
| 10. made up of | 10. _____ |

Text cohesion

The following headings have been taken from current newspaper articles. Complete each sentence with a phrase from the box below. Write the letter that corresponds to the ending in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Prince Charles has urged world leaders to support an 'emergency package' to save rainforests | 1. ____ |
| 2. Yesterday a spokesperson for the higher education funding body said that universities | 2. ____ |
| 3. World leaders yesterday agreed on a \$1.1 trillion injection of financial aid into the global economy | 3. ____ |
| 4. According to a new study, thousands of people left partially blind by strokes | 4. ____ |
| 5. It is unlikely that the Inca city of Machu Pichu had any military or commercial functions | 5. ____ |
| 6. Sustainable development and sustainability have become important concepts in today's urban planning field | 6. ____ |
| 7. A recent study funded by the Wellcome Trust has investigated the connection between | 7. ____ |
| 8. The 21 st century is already being described as the 'Information Age', not surprisingly, since | 8. ____ |
| 9. Eight parents and teachers have been jailed on state secret charges after using hi-tech communication devices | 9. ____ |
| 10. The term glass ceiling refers to situations where the advancement of a qualified person within an organization | 10. ____ |

- | |
|---|
| A. the use of music and the recovery of patients suffering from a variety of medical conditions. |
| B. to help students cheat in college entrance exams. |
| C. is stopped at a lower level because of some form of discrimination. |
| D. communication and information technologies are widespread in our homes, workplaces, and universities. |
| E. by diverting billions of pounds every year to tropical nations such as Brazil and Indonesia. |
| F. must take public concern over degree standards seriously if they want more investment by the taxpayer. |
| G. because it was so high up and in a fairly inaccessible place. |
| H. could regain some of their sight by doing exercises to retrain their brains. |
| I. in order to speed recovery from the worst recession since 1945. |
| J. since current consumption and living habits may be leading to environmental problems. |

Language in Context

You are going to read a text on air pollution. Select the answer (a, b, c, or d) which completes each sentence. Write your answers in the right hand-column.

AIR POLLUTION

Every day, the (1) person inhales about 20,000 liters of air. Every time we breathe, we risk inhaling dangerous chemicals that have found (2) way into the air. Air pollution includes all contaminants found in the atmosphere. These dangerous substances can be (3) in the form of gases or particles. Air pollution can be found both outdoors and indoors. Pollutants can be trapped inside buildings, causing indoor pollution that (4) for a long time. The sources of air pollution are both natural and human-based. (5) one might expect, humans (6) increasing amounts of pollution as time has progressed, and they now account for the majority of pollutants released into the air.

Air pollution can have serious consequences for the health of human beings, and also severely affects natural ecosystems. (7) it is located in the atmosphere, air pollution is able to travel easily.

(8), air pollution is a global problem and has been the subject of global cooperation and conflict.

Cities with large numbers of automobiles or those that use great quantities of coal often suffer most severely (9) problems of air pollution. In order to curb the various (10) caused by air pollution, governments, scientists and environmentalists are using or testing a variety of methods aimed at reducing pollution.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------|
| 1. | a. normal | b. average | c. medium | d. ordinary | 1.____ |
| 2. | a. the | b. one | c. any | d. their | 2.____ |
| 3. | a. both | b. rather | c. neither | d. either | 3.____ |
| 4. | a. lasts | b. continues | c. exists | d. stays | 4.____ |
| 5. | a. So | b. As | c. Like | d. How | 5.____ |
| 6. | a. is producing | b. produce | c. produced | d. have been producing | 6.____ |
| 7. | a. Although | b. Despite | c. Because | d. While | 7.____ |
| 8. | a. As a result | b. However | c. Nevertheless | d. In addition | 8.____ |
| 9. | a. of | b. at | c. with | d. from | 9.____ |
| 10. | a. effects | b. affects | d. reasons | d. results | 10.____ |

Reading comprehension

Read the following text and choose the answer (a, b, c or d) that best completes each statement. Write the answer in the right-hand column.

It had been a pleasantly warm day, without much wind, and with enough cloud to prevent the heat of the sun becoming too great. Charles had spent a long time studying the level of the water in the boat, and discovered that, by evening it had fallen very slightly. This, it would seem, must mean that the boat was not taking in water, which was fortunate, because any attempt to empty it out suggested greater effort than he felt equal to. One other immediate problem had held his wandering thoughts for a few moments at long intervals. This was the problem of Harcourt. The thing to do, Charles realised, was to put poor Harcourt in the sea. It should be a simple matter and take no more than a few seconds. Charles arranged in his mind exactly how it could most easily be done, but his body did not react to the suggestions of the mind. Charles told himself that it was his hands that were the trouble. It was better, really, not to find out how badly they were burned. There was nothing to be done about them except not use them.

But then, suddenly, almost without knowing how he did it, Charles moved, stood up, bent over the body of poor Harcourt, lifted and let it slip as gently as possible into the sea. Afterwards he stood in the stern of the boat for a long time, watching the colour of the sea deepen and the sky become increasingly farther off with the coming of night. In a curious way he felt strangely happy. The problem of his rescue had not yet begun to trouble him.

After a time Charles's returning interest in living showed itself in the simple form of hunger. With some difficulty, owing to the water in the boat, he explored its stores and found food and water in air-tight tins. He also found a neat package wrapped in green oiled silk. He unwrapped it and found maps. Neat, beautifully designed and printed, spotlessly new, they lay across his knees and he was no longer alone in a world of water. At the moment these clean official maps, correct in every detail, were as comforting as the sound of a human voice, as cheering as a candle in darkness.

1. The day was not too hot because ... 1. _____
 - A the sun wasn't shining.
 - B it was windy.
 - C the sun was completely hidden behind the clouds.
 - D clouds reduced the heat of the sun.

2. In the evening the water in the boat was ... 2. _____
 - A higher than it had been in the morning.
 - B a little less than it was in the morning.
 - C deeper than it had been when he studied it.
 - D the same level as what it had been in the morning.

3. He judged that the boat was ... 3. _____
 - A slowly filling with water.
 - B likely to sink before long.
 - C taking in more and more water.
 - D in no immediate danger of sinking.

4. Charles was worried about Harcourt's body because ... 4. _____
 - A it was unwise to keep it in the boat.
 - B he couldn't bear to get rid of it.
 - C he didn't know what to do with it.
 - D he thought it was too heavy.

5. Charles thought his hands ... **5.**_____
- A would not prevent him from lifting the body.
 - B would help him carry out his plan.
 - C were not so badly burned as he had thought.
 - D might be too badly burned to use.
6. Charles got rid of the body by ... **6.**_____
- A pushing it out of the boat into the sea.
 - B lifting it up and dropping it into the sea.
 - C throwing it into the sea.
 - D raising it and allowing it to slide into the sea.
7. Charles then spent a long while ... **7.**_____
- A looking around into the growing darkness.
 - B looking into the depths of the sea.
 - C sitting in the boat trying to see where the sea and the sky met.
 - D looking angrily at the sky.
8. He was not yet worried about whether ... **8.**_____
- A he would be saved.
 - B he ought to feel as happy as he did.
 - C he ought to have rescued Harcourt.
 - D there was more trouble ahead of him.
9. The first sign of Charles's renewed desire to live was that he ... **9.**_____
- A started to look for food and water.
 - B was able to explore the boat.
 - C found he needed to move about.
 - D began to feel the need for food.
10. The finding of maps cheered him because ... **10.**_____
- A they were spotlessly new.
 - B they reminded him of the world beyond his boat.
 - C he could see at once where he was.
 - D they were carefully wrapped in oiled silk.

Writing

Write a letter to a friend that you haven't seen for a few years. In your letter, you should:

- say you are sorry that you haven't kept in contact
- tell him/her about your post-graduate studies, including what you like and don't like about the program
- tell him /her about your future plans
- ask him/her what he/she is doing
- promise to stay in touch

Write your answer in 120-180 words in an appropriate style.