

ABOUT THE TASK

- In Reading and Use of English Part 6, you read one long text with six gaps.
- The missing sentences that fill these gaps are written below the text, but not in the correct order.
- There is also a seventh sentence which does not fit any of the gaps in the text - this is called a distractor.
- You have to decide which of the seven sentences fits each of the six gaps.
- To do the task, you need to understand the flow of a text, and understand how sentences refer back to earlier ideas in the paragraph or the text and forward to the next ideas.
- Each question is worth two marks.

Practice task

- 1 Read part of an article about education outdoors. Two sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-C the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

How did you do?

- 2 Check your answers.
- 3 Look at the article again with the missing sentences added. Match the bold parts of the highlighted sentences to words and ideas they refer back to in the previous sentence.

Getting out of the classroom

A group of excited children run along the beach, enthusiastically collecting pieces of wood and other rubbish. But this isn't the summer holidays, and the adults accompanying them aren't their parents, but their teachers. The kids are attending a beach school. (1) _____ Children learn about the beach environment and also do a range of fun activities like building fires and producing art from whatever the tide has washed onto the shore.

The idea of outdoor learning is not new. Forest schools have been popular since they were first introduced in the 1990s. And outdoor learning is about a lot more than just having fun in the fresh air. Parents and teachers have observed that children who learn outdoors become more confident and independent. (2) _____ Forest and beach schools are so far limited to primary-age children. But there are many opportunities for teenagers to enjoy similar experiences and benefits at summer camps.

A group of excited children run along the beach, enthusiastically collecting pieces of wood and other rubbish. But this isn't the summer holidays, and the adults accompanying them aren't their parents, but their teachers. The kids are attending a beach school. **This new kind of outdoor teaching establishment** started recently in some parts of the UK and is already proving popular. Children learn about the beach environment and also do a range of fun activities like building fires and producing art from whatever the tide has washed onto the shore.

The idea of outdoor learning is not new. Forest schools have been popular since they were first introduced in the 1990s. And outdoor learning is about a lot more than just having fun in the fresh air. Parents and teachers have observed that children who learn outdoors become more confident and independent. **They are also** more likely to pay attention and achieve good results academically. Forest and beach schools are so far limited to primary-age children. But there are many opportunities for teenagers to enjoy similar experiences and benefits at summer camps.

- A They are also more likely to pay attention and achieve good results academically.
- B There are, however, some disadvantages to attempting to conduct classes outside.
- C This new kind of outdoor teaching establishment started recently in some parts of the UK and is already proving popular.



Strategies and skills

Understanding reference devices

To decide whether a sentence fits a gap, you need to understand pronouns and other words that refer back to words or ideas earlier in the text.

- 1 Look at the bold words in the extracts. Match them to the words or ideas they refer back to in the previous sentence.

TIP: Some pronouns and reference words can refer back to a whole idea, not just a single word.

1 The population of urban foxes in London is now estimated to have reached over 30,000. Although **they** are a familiar sight in all parts of the city centre, not everyone feels comfortable with their presence.



2 In 1768, Captain Cook set off on his first voyage of exploration, to the South Pacific island of Tahiti. It was **here** that he carried out observations on the stars, designed to help calculate the distance of the Sun from the Earth.

3 There are many popular myths concerning diet and exercise. **One of the most widely believed** is that limiting food intake to the first half of the day only will help with faster weight loss.

4 One useful tip for travellers is to keep your money, valuables and documents in different places. **Doing so** means that you reduce your risk of losing all of them at the same time.

5 By this time, there were hundreds of tons of crude oil covering the beach and the race was on to clear it all up. **This** was far too challenging a task for the small coastal community alone.

- 2 Look at the bold words in Ex 1 again. Which ones refer to

- 1 a place? _____
- 2 an idea? _____
- 3 people or animals? _____
- 4 an action? _____

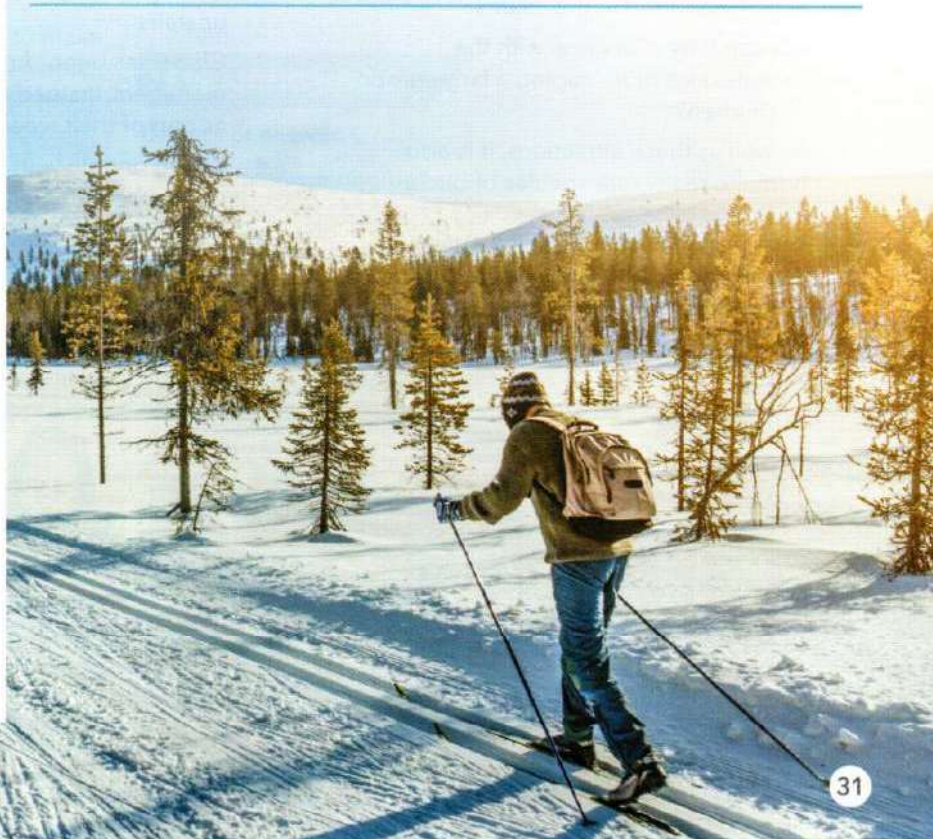
- 3 Look at the pronouns and reference words in sentences A and B. Decide which one can follow on from each extract (1-4). Why is the other sentence incorrect?

- 1 Two commonly held beliefs about sleep were that it was more important for the body than the mind, and that people could train themselves to need less sleep.
- A Both of these turned out to be wrong.
 - B Their ideas didn't stand up to scientific investigation, however.
- 2 It is thought that ice cream was first made by the ancient Persians in about 500 BCE, when ice was combined with flavours to produce a sweet treat.
- A This one was very popular in Europe in the 1500s.
 - B It first reached Europe in the 1500s.
- 3 One strategy for finding wild mushrooms is to identify suitable places through the summer, when the weather is fine.
- A You can go back there in the autumn, when mushrooms are likely to appear.
 - B This is the perfect place to find them once autumn comes around.
- 4 Cross-country skiing has the advantage that you see a lot more of the mountains, rather than being confined to a few well-worn ski runs.
- A Here, you can enjoy skiing for less money, and without the dangers.
 - B It is also easier and cheaper, and there is less risk of accidents.

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- 1 How do you improve your mood when you feel a bit down?
- 2 In what ways does social media make us happy and unhappy?



Text structure and cohesion

A sentence that fits a gap often adds more information to something that has been mentioned before, or may introduce a new idea which is mentioned again in the following sentence.

4 Match each second sentence (a-f) to the sentence it follows (1-6).

TIP: The correct sentence for a gap often adds a similar or contrasting idea to the previous sentence.

- 1 His talent for acting has propelled him to fame and made him a household name.
 - 2 June is a great time to visit because the sea is warm and the weather is generally settled.
 - 3 The downstairs rooms had been completely modernised and redecorated.
 - 4 Robots can certainly help children with learning in the classroom.
 - 5 The island is dotted with a number of fascinating ancient sites.
 - 6 From a distance, the rock looks completely bare.
- a September is equally beautiful, and a little less crowded, too.
 - b However, upstairs, much of the original décor was still intact.
 - c It has also won him ten awards.
 - d Yet on closer inspection, you can see it is actually covered in tiny plants.
 - e But can they ever cope with the complexities of managing a large group of children?
 - f As well as these attractions, it is also home to many rare species of birds.

5 Look at sentences a-f in Ex 4 again. Which ones add a similar idea, and which add a contrasting idea? Which words tell you this?

6 Read the sentences (1-6) about plastic pollution. Choose the correct similar or contrasting idea (a-f) to follow each one. Use pronouns and reference words to help you.

- 1 For the last 40 years, plastic has been accumulating in the oceans.
 - 2 It is possible to recycle some kinds of plastic.
 - 3 Understanding of the issue of plastic pollution has certainly increased recently.
 - 4 Plastic is widely used in packaging and in everyday items that we buy.
 - 5 Many people now choose reusable drinks bottles rather than disposable ones.
 - 6 Alternatives to plastic are available for manufacturers.
- a However, this awareness has done little to resolve the actual problems.
 - b They increasingly choose to buy from packaging-free shops, too.
 - c It has also begun washing up on our beaches.
 - d But these materials tend to be more expensive and more difficult to work with.
 - e In addition to this, plastic fibres form part of many of the clothes that we wear.
 - f Other kinds, however, cannot be reprocessed into new products.

It is important to recognise how different phrases link ideas in texts.

7 Choose the correct words to link the second sentence to the first.

TIP: The missing sentence may add extra details about something that has been mentioned before, or it may give a reason for something.

- 1 When choosing the best university for you, location and price are obviously extremely important. **Other factors to consider are / The next one is** the range of courses on offer and the number of teaching hours per week.
- 2 The fear of heights is not restricted to a feeling you get when peering over the edge of a very tall building. **This is because / In extreme cases,** it can prevent people from doing simple everyday things like going upstairs.
- 3 Chess has been shown to improve concentration levels in children and teenagers. **Instead of this / This is why** some schools are introducing it as part of their weekly lesson plans.
- 4 Young people with hearing difficulties often find it difficult to hear well in noisy environments such as cafés. **Other problems include / This means that** they can find themselves unable to join in normal social activities.
- 5 It is definitely a good idea to avoid screen time for an hour before you go to bed. **This is because / Doing so means** the blue light that screens give off can interfere with your body's natural urge to sleep.



8 Link the sentences with the phrases from the box.

TIP: Before you decide if a sentence is correct, read it carefully with the sentences that come both before and after. Do the sentences all make sense together?

In some cases My favourite is That is why
This is because What fascinated me more was

- 1 We are far more likely to laugh when we are with other people than when we are alone. _____ laughter is essentially a social activity.
- 2 There are ten main museums in the city. _____ the Museum of Fashion because of the range of clothing and accessories it has on display.
- 3 These spiders can give a very nasty bite. _____, it can even prove fatal.
- 4 I found his reluctance to talk a little odd. _____ his apparent lack of interest in the people around him.
- 5 Dolphins are highly intelligent animals. _____ many people believe it is wrong to keep them in captivity.

Rephrasing, exemplifying and commenting

A sentence that fills a gap sometimes rephrases something that has been said in a previous sentence, or it may add an example or a comment about something that has been mentioned.

TIP: Writers can use adverbs or adjectives to show their attitude. For example, they might use a comment adverb such as **unfortunately**, or they might use a phrase such as **It was unfortunate that ...**

9 Choose the correct phrase to link the second sentence to the first.

- 1 After six months, the business was still struggling to make even a small profit and I was beginning to doubt whether it had a future. **In other words**, / **For example**, I realised it was time to move on.
- 2 I asked Jake many times to come walking with us but he always seemed to have an excuse. **Clearly**, / **Fortunately**, hiking wasn't his thing.
- 3 It is well known that colours can have a profound effect on our mood. **For instance**, / **It is lucky that** blue can make us feel calmer and more relaxed.
- 4 My brother was not at all like me, and our very different personalities often led to conflicts. **To put it simply**, / **Interestingly**, we didn't get on.
- 5 The number of people choosing to cycle to work has been increasing steadily. **For example**, / **Luckily**, in London the number has more than doubled in the last decade.
- 6 We continued our clean-up of the beach over the next few weeks, removing at least twenty bags of rubbish a day. **It was frustrating that** / **To put it another way**, more trash appeared on the beach with each incoming tide, and we felt our job would never be done.

10 Choose the sentence (A or B) which best follows each first sentence (1-5). What phrase helped you decide?

- 1 Coming up to the surface too quickly after a deep-sea dive can be dangerous.
 - A But the most exciting thing is being alone in that underwater world.
 - B In extreme cases, it can lead to death.
- 2 As well as being fun to drive, these compact electric scooters are light and easy to carry.
 - A Other features include a powerful battery which lasts for at least ten hours.
 - B For instance, cities like Paris have actively encouraged their use as a green form of transport.
- 3 I wasn't particularly keen to spend hours walking around the markets of Fez and trying to avoid buying cheap souvenirs.
 - A What interested me more was the idea of visiting its public library, which is over 1,000 years old.
 - B Unfortunately, we didn't get as much time for sightseeing as I would have liked.
- 4 Carl knew that an injury of this type would take at least two or three years to recover from, by which time he would be nearly 30 and unlikely to get back into the team.
 - A Fortunately, treatments for such injuries have improved a lot in recent years.
 - B In other words, he realised that his professional career was over.
- 5 After months of carefully studying maps and deciding on the best routes, we finally set out on our big adventure, armed with a selection of guide books and phrase books, and full of excitement for our round-the-world-trip.
 - A Unfortunately, things didn't go quite according to plan, and the difficulties started as soon as we got to the airport.
 - B For example, we found it incredibly difficult to decide which countries to visit and which to leave off the list.

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- 1 Are films getting better as technology develops? In what ways?
- 2 Talk about an animation film that you like.



EXAM TASK

You are going to read an article about computers and art. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

Can COMPUTERS become ARTISTS?

Machines already perform a lot of tasks that used to be done by humans. They can build our cars and do complex calculations for us, even mark our exam papers. But now it seems that ever more intelligent machines are straying into areas where we never imagined they would go. We have always liked to think of ourselves as having a unique kind of intelligence that machines could never match, one which allows us to think of new ideas and produce creative and artistic works. But it seems that even here, computers are lining up to compete with us.

Of course, machines can easily be trained to do the physical work of producing art. (1) _____ It had been programmed to look at a photographic image and then reproduce this on paper as a painting, using a range of different brush strokes. But now it seems machines are going a step further.

In 2018, the New York auction house Christie's sold a painting for \$432,000. The painting, entitled 'Portrait of Edmond de Belamy', shows a blurred image of a young man, and what made it unusual was that the idea, as well as the image itself, was produced entirely by a computer. There were of course humans giving instructions to the computer.

(2) _____ Their aim was simply to show that computers can be creative.

So, how do you 'teach' a computer to be creative? In the case of art, it seems that the answer is fairly simple. You program it to search for and scan thousands of similar images online.

(3) _____ It can then use this information

to create something similar to, but distinct from, all the others it has scanned.

Some artists are now working with computers to produce a new kind of art. In one project, an artist programmed a computer to search for images of birds of the kinds that he saw regularly around the British coast. The computer, of course, did not know what species it was looking for, but it made a selection and formed these into a single image.

(4) _____ It was then filmed in its natural surroundings, and the result is a work which shows how the real world and the machine world can work side by side.

These computer-generated works are certainly interesting, and they make us think about the limits of what machines can and cannot do.

(5) _____ Some enthusiasts would argue they do, and the collectors willing to pay high prices for these works would suggest that there is definitely a market for computer art. Others, however, would disagree.

Many 'real' artists would claim that art is an expression of human intelligence and human emotions. (6) _____ These things, they argue, are part of being human and can never be produced by a machine. So the 'Portrait of Edmond de Belamy' may look convincing from a distance. But when you get closer, you can see that although it has the shape of a human, the eyes show no human feelings – because only a human can see and represent these.

- A This enables it to build up a store of data about the features the images have in common.
- B But not everyone would accept that they qualify as art.
- C In 2009, a painting robot known as e-David was created at the University of Konstanz in Germany.
- D They were a group of young French artists, who worked together under the collective name Obvious.
- E It is true to say that artists are becoming increasingly interested in working with computers to produce works of art.
- F More importantly, it is about a desire to communicate with other people.
- G This was taken and placed on the mud close to where the living ones feed.