

ABOUT THE TASK

- In Reading and Use of English Part 7, you read one long text which is divided into different sections, or up to six shorter texts all on the same topic.
- There are ten questions to answer. These state information or ideas taken from the text or texts. You have to match each question or statement to the correct section of the long text, or the relevant short text.
- Questions can be about detailed information in the text, or about the writer's attitude or opinion. Remember, the information or opinions will be phrased in different ways in the questions and the text.
- Each question is worth one mark.

Practice task

- 1 Read the first two parts of an article about organising surprises for people. For questions 1-4, choose from the sections (A or B). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Which writer

- 1 was accused of breaking the law? _____
- 2 failed to persuade a family member to do things differently? _____
- 3 wishes she had been more forceful in expressing her concerns? _____
- 4 felt happier after revealing the secret? _____

SURPRISE!

Some people love surprises, but keeping a surprise secret isn't always easy. Two people tell us about their experiences.

A KATYA

It was my sister-in-law Tara's birthday, and my brother was keen to organise a surprise party for her. I tried to discourage him, on the grounds that most people actually prefer to know about these things in advance, but he refused to change his mind. So I was allocated the task of keeping Tara busy in town, while friends and family members prepared food and decorated the house. I thought it would be pretty straightforward, but Tara is a police officer and knows when people aren't telling the truth. After three hours of listening to excuse after excuse about why we should visit yet another shoe shop, she finally confronted me with: 'What's going on?' To my huge relief, I was forced to tell the truth. Once we'd had a good laugh, we thoroughly enjoyed the rest of the day, and I think she was secretly relieved not to have a party sprung on her out of the blue.

B HELEN

Everyone in my family loves surprises, including me. But things went horribly wrong when we tried to organise a surprise weekend in Paris to celebrate my cousin Jenna's graduation. My aunt had organised everything – someone would take Jenna to the airport, pretending that they were meeting a friend who was flying in. All I had to do was go into her flat, pick up her passport and pack a few suitable clothes, then join the others at the airport. It sounded simple, but I was uneasy at the idea of going into my cousin's flat when no one was there. I should have spoken up, because it turned out I was right to be worried. A neighbour spotted me searching through my cousin's wardrobe and reported what she thought was a break-in. Two hours later, I was finally released, but by this time we had all missed the flight. Luckily, everyone saw the funny side, and we had a big family meal together instead!

How did you do?

- 2 Check your answers.
- 3a Look at the two extracts (a and b) from Katya's story. Match each extract with an option (2 or 4) in Ex 1.

KATYA

- a** I tried to discourage him, on the grounds that most people actually prefer to know about these things in advance, but he refused to change his mind.
- b** To my huge relief, I was forced to tell the truth. Once we'd had a good laugh, we thoroughly enjoyed the rest of the day, and ...

- 3b Check the answers to Ex 3a, then choose the correct words to complete sentences 1-3.
 - 1 The extracts **use / don't use** the same words as the options.
 - 2 The correct meaning is given in **a few words / a whole chunk** of the text.
 - 3 You sometimes have to guess from **your own knowledge / the context** that the option matches.
- 4a Look at Helen's story again. Find the parts that match options 1 and 3 in Ex 1.
- 4b Check your answers to Ex 4a, then answer the questions (1-3).
 - 1 Do the answers occur in the text in the same order as the options?
 - 2 How do we know Helen 'wishes she had been more forceful'? What were her concerns?
 - 3 What parts of the story suggest that she was accused of breaking the law?

Strategies and skills

Reading for specific information

To do this task, you don't need to read the whole text first. Read each option in turn and scan all the sections of the text to find a part that might match. Then read carefully to find the specific information you need.

TIP: Practise scanning texts for particular words or ideas so you can find the part of a text that you need quickly.

1 Scan each text (1-3) quickly and find the specific information.

- 1 Read about preparing for sports events. Find a mention of a **mistake**.

I've always been a fairly active person, so when a friend challenged me to enter a marathon with him, I decided to give it a go. I set about my preparations with great enthusiasm, drawing up schedules of training runs to increase my fitness and speed. I had done quite a bit of research on the physical and mental preparation necessary. But I forgot the most important rule: don't overtrain too early on. I picked up an injury on only my third week of training, and had to drop out, much to my disappointment.

- 2 Read about an experience of travelling. Find a mention of an **outdoor activity**.

Spending three months travelling around Italy was an amazing experience. From the sleepy hilltop villages to the famous cities like Florence and Venice, everything had an unbelievable charm. I can honestly say I enjoyed every minute, from exploring the ancient ruins of Rome to spending three days hiking in the beautiful Tuscan landscape. And everywhere I went, the day would end with a delicious meal and an interesting conversation.

- 3 Read a story about performing in public. Find a mention of a **negative experience**.

The curtain rose and the show got off to an excellent start. The opening songs went down well with the audience and no one put a foot wrong in the tricky dance routines. The applause encouraged us all, and we were beginning to lose our pre-show nerves. Disaster struck when it came to my first solo number and the words completely went out of my head. Of course, everyone was very supportive, but I must say the memory of that put me off acting for months. Luckily, the audience didn't seem to mind.

- 2 Scan three extracts about popular cities to visit. Find the information 1-6 quickly.**

TIP: The information you are looking for does not necessarily occur in order in the texts.

Which text mentions

- 1 places to eat? _____
- 2 cultural activities? _____
- 3 an attraction outside the city? _____
- 4 a pleasant smell? _____
- 5 public transport? _____
- 6 taking photos? _____

A Paris is beautiful at all times of year, whether a sunny spring morning or a dull November afternoon. It's a city which just invites you to wander around, taking in the sights and sounds around you. And you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing somewhere to sit outside in the sunshine and enjoy a delicious lunch. Or, if you're looking for somewhere a bit quieter, why not try the Jardin des Plantes. If you're lucky enough to visit in June, you can take in the glorious scent of the roses.

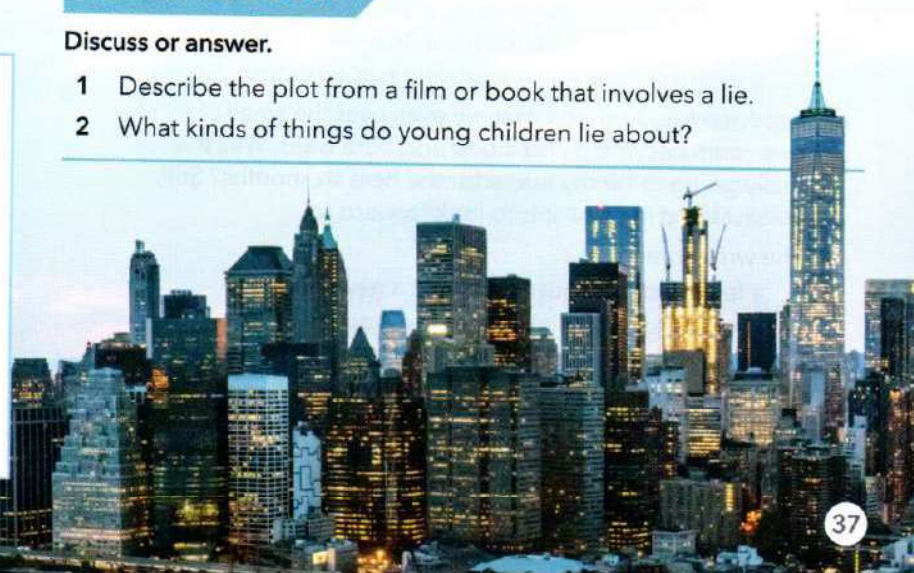
B There are so many wonderful things to see in Barcelona that it's hard to know where to start. Of course, the amazing buildings are at the top of most visitors' lists, and rightly so. Make sure you take advantage of the excellent metro system to get around the city quickly. The other big attraction, especially in the summer, is the fact that Barcelona is on the coast. It's definitely worth considering a trip beyond the city limits for a day, to find some outstanding beaches.

C Exploring the well-known landmarks of New York can give first-time visitors the feeling of being on a movie set. So many of the squares, buildings and parks have featured in famous movies that it almost feels as if you already know the city. Make sure you get a few selfies to impress your friends! You also need to find time for the New York shopping experience, and, of course, there's no better city for an exciting evening out watching a play or a musical. I guarantee a long weekend will leave you feeling you must come back!

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- 1 Describe the plot from a film or book that involves a lie.
- 2 What kinds of things do young children lie about?



Understanding implication

Sometimes, an exact meaning is not stated openly in the text: it is implied. However, you can infer the meaning (work out what is meant) from what the text says.

3 Look at the extracts (1-6) and choose the one thing (A-C) for each that you can infer from what the writer says.

1 I'd always loved sailing, so when I saw an advert asking for volunteers to work on a large yacht during the summer vacation, I jumped at the chance to apply.

The writer ...

- A had no difficulty in getting a summer job.
- B found a summer job which suited her perfectly.
- C had always wanted to work on a yacht.

2 My website wasn't getting many hits, so I contacted a friend who was into film-making and asked if he'd help me make a few short videos to upload to it.

The writer ...

- A was interested in film-making.
- B was very disappointed in the website.
- C made a decision to improve the website.

3 Preparing for a six-month backpacking trip requires some hard decisions, wherever you're planning to go. You have to look at everything you'd like to take with you and ask yourself: 'Do I really need this?'

The writer mentions ...

- A the need to travel light when backpacking.
- B the importance of planning a route carefully.
- C the need for good decision-making when travelling.

4 A lot of my friends at university came from wealthy backgrounds, so had as much financial help as they needed. They could afford a decent place to live and expensive nights out whenever they wanted. It wasn't quite that simple for me.

The writer ...

- A was extremely unhappy at university.
- B had some money worries as a student.
- C spent too much money socialising at university.

5 I realised I had just given up a steady job with a good income in order to throw myself into the world of acting, with all its uncertainties. What was I thinking?

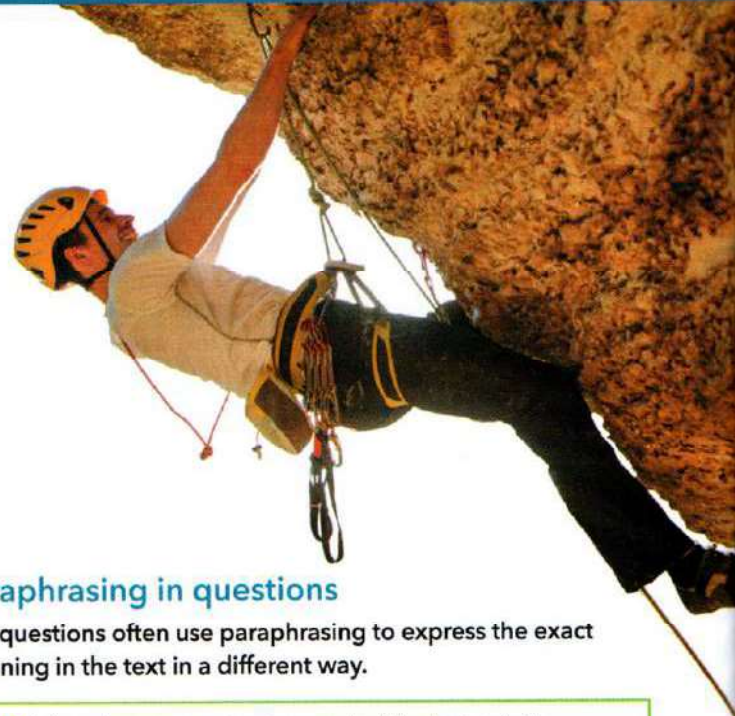
The writer ...

- A is confident of success as an actor.
- B has doubts about her decision to leave her job.
- C is aware of her lack of experience as an actor.

6 I opened the door and cast my eyes over the small, one-room flat with its hard bed and bare walls. Was this really going to be my home for the next six months? Still, at least I had my new job to look forward to.

The writer mentions ...

- A a feeling of nervousness about a new job.
- B a feeling of disbelief about a new opportunity.
- C a feeling of disappointment about accommodation.



Paraphrasing in questions

The questions often use paraphrasing to express the exact meaning in the text in a different way.

TIP: More than one extract or part of the text might mention an idea. Once you have scanned and found the ideas, you need to read those parts of the text carefully to match the exact meaning.

4 Read the pairs of extracts below carefully and answer the questions.

- 1 Read two extracts (A and B) about experiences of exciting sports.
- a Find a dangerous situation in each extract.
 - b Find one dangerous situation which could have been avoided.

A Skiing is already an exciting sport, but getting away from the main ski runs and finding your own way back down the mountain raises the level even more. But you do have to be careful. Last year, I was out on the mountain with some friends when heavy snow started coming down. We were concerned about losing our way and getting stuck on the mountain overnight. This was when I realised I should have checked the weather forecast more carefully before we set out. Fortunately, it ended well and we got back to our base before dark.

B Nothing can beat the thrill of rock climbing – seeing a high cliff in front of you and knowing that you are going to use all your strength and skills to reach the top. It's important to remember the sport has risks. Last month, I was out with a group. We had all the proper safety equipment, and we all knew how to bang the metal pins into the rock to attach our ropes to. But we weren't sure of the best route to climb, and some parts of the rock looked too soft to hold our ropes securely. Luckily, our instructor made the decision to abandon the climb before we got too far up.

- 2 Read two extracts (C and D) about life at university.
- Find a mention of social life in each extract.
 - Find one mention of social events which are less expensive than the person expected.

C I'd heard so many different accounts of university life before I went that I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Some of my friends had complained about the lack of money, while others had found the academic work so challenging that they almost considered giving up. I must admit I found the workload was much heavier than I'd expected. I seemed to have essays to write every week, and there certainly wasn't time for all the nights out that some of my friends had talked about. I doubt I'd have had enough money for that anyway!

D I didn't have any difficulty settling into university life. I'd spent quite a bit of time researching my course before I applied, so I had a good idea of what I was in for. I was slightly concerned that I might feel lonely, leaving my family and school friends behind, but I needn't have worried as my evenings were full in the first few weeks with countless 'meet and greet' get-togethers – all with discounts on the prices, which was a nice surprise. All in all, I soon realised that university life was definitely for me!

- 3 Read two extracts (E and F) about people who work in the world of fashion.
- Find a mention of qualifications in each extract.
 - Find one mention of the fact that qualifications alone won't get you a job.

E Stefan Corelli is a fashion photographer for a leading fashion house in Milan. Although he says the work is hard and involves long hours, it also has quite a few plus sides, like visiting exotic locations to do shoots. Stefan says he had originally intended to be a wildlife photographer, which is why he studied for a degree in photography. However, his final year project involved some fashion photoshoots, and he decided this was the career for him and applied for a post as soon as he left college.

F Ruby Adams works as a fashion designer for a small fashion house in London. Although she admits she would prefer to work for a top-name company, she's very happy to be using her design skills. After graduating from college with a BA in fashion design, she expected to start work quite quickly. However, she soon found that a degree wasn't in itself enough to get her noticed by employers, and she needed to do a few seasons as a volunteer helper at fashion shows before a career opportunity came along.

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- Talk about a time when the weather spoiled your plans.
- British people are known for talking about the weather. Is there an equivalent stereotype of people from your country?

Recognising attitude and opinion

Some questions ask you to identify the writer's attitude or opinion. Look out for words and expressions that express feelings or opinions.

- 5 Look at the extracts (A-F) and match them to the attitudes and opinions (1-6).

Which writer

- expresses a regret? _____
- gives a warning? _____
- expresses an initial doubt? _____
- makes a recommendation? _____
- expresses a criticism? _____
- expresses surprise? _____

A A few years ago, I was invited to trek across the Pyrenees with a couple of friends. Although I'm a very keen hiker, I was slightly cautious about taking on such a challenging walk. However, my friends soon won me round and I agreed.

B I had always got on well with all my colleagues, so I was shocked when my boss called me into her office one day and told me that someone had made a complaint about me.

C It was an amazing trip and I've got lots of wonderful memories, and photos to remind me of them. I spent far too much money, unfortunately, but that's the only thing I would change.

D The northwest of Scotland boasts some beautiful landscapes. If you've got some time on your hands, it's well worth taking the train up to Mallaig, as it's one of the best ways to enjoy the stunning scenery.

E I love watching live football, and there's nothing like the thrill of being part of a huge crowd. But I can't get over the behaviour of the fans. Five minutes into the game and people start shouting and screaming in ways they would never think of doing in other situations.

F The sales can be a great way to save money, as prices are often reduced by fifty percent or more. But make sure you know exactly what you want, or you're likely to end up spending a lot of money on things you never use.

You are going to read an article about people who have attended music festivals. For questions 1-10, choose from the sections (A-D). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Which writer

- | | | |
|---|----|----------------------|
| had not intended to attend the festival? | 1 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions a problem with unsuitable clothing? | 2 | <input type="text"/> |
| is pleased to have chosen more expensive accommodation? | 3 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions a personal need for quiet time? | 4 | <input type="text"/> |
| gives advice on how to prepare for the festival? | 5 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions enjoying the experience of being in a large crowd? | 6 | <input type="text"/> |
| was surprised at the variety of music types? | 7 | <input type="text"/> |
| regrets a lack of planning? | 8 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions a difficulty in choosing which acts to watch? | 9 | <input type="text"/> |
| enjoyed spending relaxed time with friends? | 10 | <input type="text"/> |

FESTIVAL FEVER

It's that time of year again, when music fans are thinking about the festival season. Four people share their festival experiences with us.

A There's definitely something special about Glastonbury, which is why it continues to be so popular. As a first-timer, I found the worst thing was queuing up to get in, for over three hours, in the heat of the day. I was wearing jeans and heavy boots (just in case of rain!) and we had to walk over three kilometres to find our camping space! Seriously, Glastonbury is exhausting, so make sure you get plenty of sleep before you go. The stages are far apart and you'll find yourself on your feet most of the day. But somehow it's all worth it when you see the main headline acts. There's always a great selection. For me, the highlight was the Foo Fighters. The whole place was packed with people, which made for a totally crazy atmosphere – it was amazing to be in the middle of it, and they played brilliantly!

B I happened to be in Madrid this summer with some friends, so we decided at the last minute to check out the Mad Cool Festival. It's quite a new festival, so we didn't know much about it, but the list of big-name performers looked impressive. In fact, this turned out to be both a plus and a minus. Of course, it's amazing to see so many well-known bands, but it led to some tough choices when acts were scheduled at the same time. It also meant there wasn't much time for wandering around the smaller stages and coming across new favourite artists, or just chilling, away from the noise and all the fans. And because the numbers at this year's festival were so much higher than last year, there were long queues at the food and drink tents, which definitely didn't add to the fun!

C Coachella was my first festival experience and it was a real mixture of highs and lows. As well as the amazing music of every kind, the highs were meeting people from all over the world and chilling out with mates in beautiful surroundings – although it's in the desert, the campsite has green grass and palm trees. There are other sleeping options, too, if you're prepared to spend more! The lows were mainly the result of tiredness. Four days is a long time to go with very little sleep. And if you're camping, it's impossible to escape the music and crowds, which I found tough. Although I'd known for months that I wanted to go to Coachella, I wish I'd been more organised and bought my ticket in advance – buying on the day was really stressful. And I'll definitely pack more next time – four outfits is nowhere near enough!

D I'd always wanted to go the Isle of Wight Festival and now that I live closer to it, it seemed a shame not to try it. We decided to abandon camping and treat ourselves to a decent night's sleep in an eco-lodge at a nearby farm. Good decision! We also paid the extra for VIP tickets, which gave us access to better toilets and some of the nicer food and drink tents. I was expecting the acts to be mainly older, established bands, but in fact there was a bit of everything, from electronic to hard rock and rap, and some local talent, too. It's definitely a family-friendly festival, with so many rides that it was in danger of feeling more like a fairground than a festival. But the music was great, and I'd definitely go again.

