

SOLUTIONS UPPER-INTERMEDIATE 5

EXAM SKILLS

TRAINER 5

PEGAH BAHOJB GHASEMI

9H

Writing

A letter to a newspaper

I can write a letter about solutions to a problem.

Preparation

A newspaper published an article saying that teenagers with part-time jobs spend the extra money wastefully and also get lower school grades due to their jobs. Write a letter to the editor where you express your opinion and suggest ways that part-time work could be beneficial to teenagers.

- 1 Read the task above and the letter opposite. Answer the questions below. Do you agree with the student's reaction?**
 - 1 What is the student's reaction to the article?
 - 2 What positive reasons are given for part-time jobs?
 - 3 How many suggestions are made for making part-time work beneficial?

Writing Strategy

Use synonyms and paraphrases to avoid repeating the same words too often, for example: *very angry = furious*.

2 Read the Writing Strategy. Then read the words and phrases below and match them with the highlighted words with similar meanings in the letter.

- 1 arrive _____
- 2 belief/view _____
- 3 cut back _____
- 4 claimed that _____
- 5 presenting _____
- 6 keep _____
- 7 refused _____
- 8 put forward _____
- 9 function _____
- 10 in answer to _____
- 11 giving _____
- 12 urgent _____

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing in response to the article about part-time work for teenagers. It stated that working was having a negative effect on teenagers by providing them with too much money and reducing the amount of time they spent studying.

I'd like to say that I cannot agree with the assumption that all teenagers who work are very materialistic and are failing at school. I feel that the article is projecting an unbalanced view of teenagers who work. Personally, I think that working teenagers gain experience of how to operate in the real world. They learn to turn up on time, be responsible, and deal with people. They also learn the value of money. To my mind, these are great benefits. Furthermore, many teenagers are saving for worthwhile things like hobbies or university, rather than wasting their earnings.

However, I am sure it is true that those who work very long hours have less study time, which cannot be good. So, I would like to suggest some ways that part-time work may benefit teenagers without affecting their studies. Firstly, they need to limit the hours they work and not work on too many school evenings. Secondly, they could look for casual jobs like babysitting or dog walking, which can be turned down if schoolwork is pressing. Finally, teenagers could work in the holidays rather than school time.

I believe that these suggestions would help teenagers retain the benefits of extra money from working, without putting their studies at risk.

Yours faithfully

Sophie Bennett

Writing Guide

A newspaper recently published an article about teenagers spending all their money on unnecessary consumer goods, blaming their obsession with the latest technology. Write a letter to the editor where you express your opinion about this, and suggest ways that teenagers can be helped to really think about their needs and to buy wisely.

3 Read the task above. Make notes.

Your reaction _____

Your reasons _____

Your suggestions _____

4 Write your letter to the newspapers using your notes from exercise 3.

CHECK YOUR WORK



Have you ...

- covered both elements of the task in your letter?
- started and finished your letter correctly?
- used synonyms to avoid repetition where possible?



**STOP SPENDING A
LOT OF MONEY ON
THE USELESS
THINGS! MAKE A
SPENDING PLAN.**



**STOP
OVERSPENDING
ON THE USELESS
THINGS! BUDGET.**




-Why is your hair wet?

-Because I ... (take)
shower.




-Why is your hair wet?

-Because I've been taking shower.



**YOU BORROWED
MY BOOKS.**



**YOU BORROWED
MY BOOK.**

**IT WAS MY BOOK
THAT YOU
BORROWED.**



DIRT CHEAP



Reading

Strategy

In a true, false, not given task the information in the text appears in the same order as the statements. Read the text and find the part that matches each statement. If the information you need to answer a question is not in the right place in the text, you know the answer to that statement is 'not given' (NG).



VENDING MACHINE



- 1** Read the Strategy above and the first paragraph of the text in exercise 2. Which of the statements a–c contains information that is not given (NG)? Are the other two statements true or false?
 - a The day of the experiment was chosen carefully.
 - b The products on sale were quite pricey.
 - c A wide range of different coloured T-shirts were available.

2 Read the whole text and the statements below. Are the statements true, false or not given? Write T, F or NG.

Consumers with a conscience

Who wouldn't jump at the chance of purchasing a T-shirt for €2? That is exactly what a recent social experiment set out to discover on the annual Fashion Revolution Day. But there was more to the research than that. Would knowing how the garment was produced make a difference to the buyer's decision?

The venue was Alexanderplatz, a busy square in Berlin frequented daily by thousands of shoppers. The T-shirts were dispensed by a turquoise vending machine strategically placed in the middle of the square. When customers inserted their money, they were first asked to specify the size of the T-shirt – nothing new there. But right after that, a video flashed onto the screen documenting the conditions endured by the workers who made the clothes. It finished by asking if the potential buyer still wanted the T-shirt and offered them two options to choose from: to buy or to donate.

The shoppers were not expecting the images that appeared in the video. It started with the words: 'Meet Manisha, one of millions making our cheap clothing for as little as thirteen cents an hour each day for sixteen hours.' The camera then went on to zoom in on Manisha herself, a woman hunched over a sewing machine, like countless others, sitting in lines in front of her, behind and to either side. Their workplace was a huge, badly-lit room with filthy windows and a cracked ceiling, a textile factory not unlike many others in Asia. The factory resembled those on the upper floors of the Rana Plaza, a building in Bangladesh that collapsed in 2013, killing over a thousand workers who were trapped inside. Small wonder then, the shocked looks on the faces of those who were glued to the screen.

So, what of the experiment? How many T-shirts were sold? Far fewer than you might suppose. The vending machine managed to get nine out of every ten shoppers to donate their money instead of buying the T-shirt, revealing how little people know about who makes their clothes and in what conditions. On a more positive note, the experiment resulted in the potential buyers becoming more responsible shoppers. What is more, the findings show that more efforts like this could help improve textile workers' working conditions all over the world.

- 1 The aim of the experiment was simply to find out how many people would buy the T-shirts. ____
- 2 The vending machine in Alexanderplatz was clearly visible to the public. ____
- 3 Customers were not allowed to purchase a T-shirt after the video had been shown. ____
- 4 The woman featured on the video said a few words to the camera. ____
- 5 There was a serious accident at a factory like the one shown in the video. ____
- 6 Customers who saw the video reacted with indifference. ____
- 7 The organisers were pleased with the results of the social experiment. ____
- 8 According to the writer, the experiment was a complete failure. ____

Listening

Strategy


In multiple-choice questions, the options can mention something similar to what you hear in the recording. Sometimes the option suggests something happens all the time whereas the recording states that it only occurs occasionally or often.

3 Read the Strategy above. Then read the short extract and the question below it. Which option is correct? Why is option B wrong?

My friend Suzanne always seems to be wearing something new – anyone would think she went shopping all the time! The truth is that she's extremely resourceful and she makes a lot of her clothes herself. She has been known to borrow things from her sisters too. The only time she buys clothes is when there's a wedding or something.

The speaker's friend ...

- A** spends a lot of money on clothes.
- B** always makes her own clothes.
- C** usually wears her sisters' clothes.
- D** is good at sewing.

4  4.09 You will hear an interview with Gina Hansom about the future of shopping. Choose the correct option, A, B, C or D.

- 1 Gina Hansom predicts that the malls of the future will have more
 - A places to eat out.
 - B areas open to the sky.
 - C free-time facilities.
 - D shopping opportunities.
- 2 Gina suggests that the main reason that shoppers are turning to malls is because they
 - A want to avoid unpredictable situations.
 - B prefer spending time inside than outside.
 - C can go there with all of the family.
 - D can do all sorts of different activities there.
- 3 According to Gina, handcrafted products will
 - A probably take over from factory-produced goods.
 - B occupy a significant, but small segment of the market.
 - C only be available on the internet in the future.
 - D not be popular forever.
- 4 Clothes shopping will be different in the future because shoppers will
 - A no longer be able to take items back to the shop.
 - B be guided around stores by interactive robots.
 - C have a wider variety of garments to choose from.
 - D no longer have to check that clothes fit.
- 5 Gina states that the main benefit of shopping by smartphone is
 - A speed.
 - B convenience.
 - C price.
 - D choice.



DISHONESTLY PAY SOMEONE TO PREVENT THEM DOING SOMETHING AGAINST ONE'S INTERESTS.



BUY OFF



Use of English

Strategy

A banked cloze task can test your knowledge of phrasal verbs. Always record new phrasal verbs with a definition and example sentence in your vocabulary notebook to help you remember the meaning.

5 Read the Strategy above. Then match the phrasal verbs 1–5 with the definitions a–e.

1 pick up

2 splash out

3 squeeze in

4 step down

5 think up

a make time for someone

b resign from a post

c spend a lot of money

d invent a plan

e buy something cheaply

6 Complete the text with eight of the phrases below.

campaign get ahead hard up help out knock down
make ends meet petition rolling in it set up snap up

Supermarkets in most countries tend to ¹ _____ the price of food nearing its sell-by date, making it possible for customers to ² _____ a bargain. Even so, a lot of food is thrown away at the end of the day. Thanks to a ³ _____ against food waste in France, the country has become the first in the world to ban supermarkets from throwing away unsold food. The movement was led by councillor Arash Derambarsh, who succeeded in persuading 200,000 people to sign a ⁴ _____ to send to parliament. The movement started when Derambarsh decided to ⁵ _____ in his own district by collecting unwanted food from his local supermarket and distributing it to people who were ⁶ _____. Most of the people who benefit from the scheme he ⁷ _____ are old, unemployed or homeless. Now, Derambarsh is hoping to persuade the EU to pass a similar law to help people in other member states who are finding it hard to ⁸ _____.





REASON AND RESULT







CONTRAST



Speaking

Strategy

In a picture comparison and discussion task, you are expected to use a range of cohesive devices to link your ideas together. These are words or phrases which indicate things such as **contrast**, **purpose**, **reason** and **result**.

7 Read the Strategy above. Use one of the categories to label the words and phrases 1–4.

1 _____: as a result, consequently, so, therefore

2 _____: as, because, because of, due to, owing to, since

3 _____: in case, in order to, so as to, so that, to

4 _____: although, but, despite, however, in spite of,
though

8 Compare and contrast the photos which show difficult weather conditions. Include the following points:

- where these conditions often occur
- what difficulties the conditions can cause
- how people can deal with these difficulties



9 In pairs, discuss questions 1 and 2 below. Use evidence from the photos in your discussion, if possible.

- 1 To what extent do you think human activity is responsible for the increase in extreme weather conditions?
- 2 How do you think these conditions can be prevented?

10 Read the Strategy above. Number the subtitles in the order they should appear in a report.

___ Current situation

___ Recommendations

___ Introduction

___ Factors affecting people

11 Read the task below and write your report.

The head teacher of your school is concerned that none of the students seem to be using the library. You agree to write a report describing the existing situation, including factors which discourage people from using the library and recommending ways of attracting more students.

ASSIGNMENT: VRTC

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY