



Unit 6: Test strategies

Reading tasks in tests, test strategies, most frequent reading tasks at Language Centres of MU

1) Fill in the gaps.

This type of reading tasks is used quite often. Students have to decide which word is missing in the given text. They fill in various words – correct tenses, prepositions, or linking words, etc. Missing words are written either in the list above the text, or as options below the text (multiple choice).

a) Circle the correct option. (tenses)

The University of Bologna is the oldest university in the world. It **1** _____ a university since 1088. (The oldest university in England, Oxford University, **2** _____ in 1167.) Bologna, in the north of Italy, **3** _____ , a beautiful town and many tourists **4** _____ the university each year to understand its history and traditions. The first students at Bologna only **5** _____ law but now the university **6** _____ over a hundred different types of courses, from agriculture to zoology. Many famous people **7** _____ from Bologna, especially in law and science. Perhaps the most important scientist is Copernicus (1473 – 1543). Copernicus was an astronomer (someone who studies the planets and stars). He **8** _____ that the earth went round the sun at a time when everyone **9** _____ that the earth was the centre of the universe. Since 2000, Bologna **10** _____ 'Alma Mater Studiorum', which means 'Dear mother of studies' in Latin.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 a was | b is | c has been | d have been |
| 2 a started | b starts | c has started | d have started |
| 3 a was | b is | c has been | d have been |
| 4 a visited | b visit | c has visited | d have visited |
| 5 a studied | b study | c has studied | d have studied |
| 6 a taught | b teaches | c has taught | d have taught |
| 7 a graduated | b graduates | c has graduated | d have graduated |
| 8 a thought | b thinks | c has thought | d have thought |
| 9 a believed | b believes | c has believed | d have believed |
| 10 a was called | b is | c has been called | d have been called |

- Find the information in the text without reading the whole text again (scanning):

11. When was Oxford university established?
12. Why do many tourists visit the University of Bologna each year?
13. What did the first students at Bologna study?
14. What did everyone except Copernicus think about the Earth?
15. Since when is Bologna called Alma Mater Studiorum?

- b) B Underline the correct preposition in this police officer's report. (prepositions)

1. _____
"It's usually quiet **1** *at / on* the motorway **2** *at/in* four **3** *during / in* the morning. But not today. A gang had stolen money from a truck parked **4** *at the side / at the back* of the motorway.

2. _____
Now they were going north. We waited **5** *in / at* junction 14 **6** *during / for* the minutes. When we saw the car, we immediately followed it. The gang knew we were **7** *between / behind* them.

3. _____
More police cars joined the chase and the gang began to get frightened. They threw the bag of money **8** *off/ out* of the window. They were now driving very fast and moving from one side of the motorway **9** *to / until* the other. One of the police cars managed to get **10** *in front of / opposite* the gang, and soon there were police cars all **11** *around / outside* them.

4. _____
As the car slowed down, one member of the gang escaped and ran away. He was running **12** *in / into* a small wood **13** *from / on* our left. We ran after him with the police dog and soon caught him. We asked him to lie **14** *on / at* the ground.

5. _____
It was a successful chase. Nobody was hurt and nobody got away. Some other officers found the bag of money **15** *by / at* the motorway. There was about £20,000 **16** *in / into* the bag."

- Match headlines to paragraphs:

A Final part of the chase

B The outcomes of the intervention

C The initial event

D Situation turning around

E Starting the intervention

- c) Read the following text and choose the correct word for each gap from the list below. There are TWO WORDS you will NOT need.

ASK, AVOID, CALM, CONFIDENT, CONSCIOUS, INTERESTED, **OVERWHELMED**, PICTURE, POSITIVE, WRITE AWAY, WRITE DOWN

Steps to feeling happier!

Start to build up a new **1** _____ of yourself. Make a list of your **2** _____ **attributes** – words like *kind, generous, attentive*. Then list your skills – things like *playing the piano, great cook* etc. Then say them out **loud** to yourself. **3** _____ your most trusted friend for some encouraging statements about yourself. Keep a journal and **4** _____ all the good things that happen to you and good things that people say to you. Make a **5** _____ decisions to **rid** yourself of negative thoughts and to **6** _____ too much self-criticism. **This** * will help you become more **7** _____ and positive. When you feel **8** _____ by events, don't panic. If you can keep **9** _____, you have a better chance of getting through difficult times.

- What word classes do these words in bold belong to (use the context)?

attributes

rid

attentive

overwhelmed

loud

- What is the subject of this sentence?

_____ *your most trusted friend for some encouraging statements about yourself.*

- What does this * refer to (highlight in the text)?

- d) Complete the text with a verb from the list below in the correct form.

FORGET, HAVE, INCLUDE, MAKE

When I was a child, I remember 1 _____ an **imaginary** friend. Her name was Jill. My parents tell me that they needed 2 _____ her when they were discussing plans with me such as where we were going on holiday. My sister used to tease me about Jill, but she was very important for me. When I changed school, I tried 3 _____ about her, but she **remained** part of my life until I was about ten. My sister now has children of her own, and says she regrets 4 _____ fun of me all those years ago.

- What word class does "imaginary" refer to? Write at least two related nouns:
- Find a synonym to "make fun" in the text:
- Which word can be exchanged for "remain" to keep the same meaning: *waited, stayed, stopped to be, continued*

2) True and false statements

- e) Read the article and decide whether statements 1 – 7 are true or false according to the text. Write **T** or **F** next to each statement.

Happiness

Whatever anyone says, there doesn't appear to be any universal **blueprint** for happiness. While it is encouraging that happy people seem to have characteristics in common, the fact remains that one person's definition of heaven might be another's idea of hell.

Thus Person A might be happiest when she is stressed at work, dealing with problems and meeting deadlines, **whilst** Person B prefers other activities, spending her leisure time painting and travelling. Just to add to the confusion, happiness tends to be related to a particular situation at a particular time – a career choice, relationship or even an impulse **buy** that makes us happy one day might make us perfectly miserable the next.

Bearing this in mind, maybe it's time to loosen our grip on the fantasy of the perfect life and start concentrating on what we want – and what we've got. Far from being the ultimate goal, happiness might simply be the product of a fulfilled, centred life. Moreover, **outward** achievements are often less important than we think: whilst these achievements may impress other people, they may not make you happy. At the end of the day, how we choose to be happy is how we choose to be ourselves – once you have sorted that out the rest should fall into place.

- 1** There is no agreement on what makes people happy.
- 2** Person A is more contented with her lifestyle than Person B.
- 3** Feelings about important events in our lives can change very quickly.
- 4** We should stop thinking about our own wishes.
- 5** Happiness can occur when you are focusing on other things.
- 6** Other people's high opinion of your work will give you inner satisfaction.
- 7** Happiness is connected with a sense of your own identity.

- What does "blueprint" (par. 1) mean? Which word class is it?
- Which word can be exchanged for "whilst" (par. 2) to keep the same meaning?
- What word class is "buy" (par. 2)?
- What is the subject of this sentence?

Far from being the ultimate goal, happiness might simply be the product of a fulfilled, centred life.

- What word class is "outward" (par. 3)? What does it mean? Find some synonyms:

3) Fill in the gaps in the text with the following words.

loan deposit bank checking standing savings
interest trustworthy debit income job mortgage
bank transactions automated teller machines overdraft
credit real installments

How banks work

A 1) _____ is a financial institution which deals with money 2) _____. In a bank, you can borrow money in the form of a bank 3) _____, or you can put your money in a bank, in other words, 4) _____ money. In both cases, you need to open a 5) _____ account.

There are two main types of bank accounts. They are a checking account and a savings account. You can use the 6) _____ account to pay your everyday bills. The 7) _____ account is used for depositing your extra money to a bank. The percentage that the bank pays you for using your money is called 8) _____.

Once you have opened an account, the bank can issue a 9) _____ card – a personal plastic card with an individual number and your signature on it – with which you can pay for goods and services.

You can also use your debit card to withdraw cash from 10)_____ (ATMs) as well as make online purchases and money transfers. Sometimes banks allow you to withdraw more money than what is available in your account. This is called 11) _____.

If you decide to take a loan from a bank, you will have to show the bank your good financial 12) _____. That is you need to prove that you have a regular 13)_____ or some other reliable source of 14)_____. If the bank considers you a 15)_____ borrower, it will issue a 16)_____ card which you can use to buy things such as a car. If you decide to buy 17)_____ estate, such as a house, you can take a mortgage loan from a bank. 18) _____ means that you pledge your property to the bank as a security for the loan. If you fail to pay the 19)_____, the bank may confiscate your real estate in compensation for damages.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) "ISSUE" belongs to 2 word classes. Which are they? What are the meanings for each word class? Which word class is used in the text? | b) There are three compound words (words made of smaller words) within the words to fill in the text. Which are they? What words do they consist of? What word classes are they? |
|--|--|

Taken from <https://english-lesson-plan.com/data/upload/files/Money.pdf>

4) Read the text and fulfil the tasks.

Desert art

1) The mysterious desert drawings known as the Nasca lines have puzzled people since they first became widely known in the late 1920s. Before air travel in Peru began, it was impossible to get a clear view of the giant drawings of the spider, monkey and hummingbird. Yet the Nasca people who made these patterns 2,000 years ago couldn't have seen them from above.

2) One of the first formal studies of the lines was by Maria Reiche. She spent half a century working for their conservation and was convinced that the lines must have been part of an astronomical calendar. Other people thought they might have been ancient Inca roads or irrigation systems.

3) This region of Peru is one of the driest places on Earth and yet successful societies, including the Nasca, lived here. Water must have had an incredible significance to these societies, so perhaps the lines were related to this. It has also become clear that there are many huge drawings in the area, not just the ones on the flat desert plain. Many are much older than the Nasca figures themselves, so the same group of people can't have created them. It now seems that the Nasca lines may have been part of a long tradition of ceremonial activities connected to water and religious beliefs.

a) Choose **most appropriate keywords** for part 1 (*think of words that would best and most clearly help you remember the meaning for later!*):

DESERT DRAWINGS AIR TRAVEL MYSTERIOUS PATTERNS
GIANT NASCA CLEAR VIEW

b) Which sentence is the closest to the **gist** (main meaning) of part 3?

Some figures were made by Nasca people and some by other, older people.

There are many huge drawings in the area but they are not connected to Nasca.

Water was very important for Nasca so the figures were probably connected to it.

The Nasca lines are a part of a traditional ceremony but there is no idea about the reason.

c) Answer according to the text:

Why did the Nasca lines become famous in the late 1920s?

Were all the drawings created by the same people?

What do you think "irrigation systems" mean?

d) Find answers for these questions:

1) Choose the correct pronunciation of "**desert**" in part 1:

/dɪ'zɜ:t/ /'dɛzət/ /di:'sɜ:t/

2) Which phrase could substitute for "**puzzled**" in part 1 without a change in meaning?

BROUGHT

BEEN ADORED BY

ATTRACTED

CONFUSED

3) What word class is "**giant**" in part 1? _____

4) Underline the **subject** (2 words) of the following sentence:

Before air travel in Peru began, it was impossible to get a clear view of the giant drawings.

5) What does "**significance**" in part 3 mean and what word class is it (explain/give a synonym in English)? _____

6) What word class is "**ceremonial**" in part 3? _____