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ENTERTAINMENT

GRAMMAR Habits

1 Read the answers to the question *Do you ... much?* What are the people talking about? Match the answers (1-6) to the questions (a-f).



1 Hardly ever nowadays. We used to get away about twice a year but it's just too expensive now. We've got a tent so we go camping along the local coast whenever we can.

2 Not as much as I used to. To be honest, I got really overdrawn at one point and so I had to stop. Now I'll pick up a bargain in the sales but only if I really need it.



3 Not if I can avoid it! The local service is never on time and it's always packed. I tend to cycle everywhere but I'll take the tube if it's pouring down.

4 All the time. I think they're a brilliant local resource. Most of them are free and you can learn such a lot. Even my kids enjoy the interactive exhibitions.



5 Whenever I get the chance. My sister lives abroad so we use the internet a lot for email and stuff. But I also like to chat, so I end up with a huge phone bill!

6 Not as much as I'd like to. I really enjoy having a day off from cooking but it works out quite pricey. As a rule, it's usually to celebrate someone's birthday.



Do you ... much?

- a use public transport
- b visit museums and galleries
- c go out to dinner
- d keep in touch with family and friends
- e travel abroad
- f go shopping

2 There is one missing word in each sentence. Add the word in the correct place.

- 1 As a rule, I go out once a week, usually on Saturday evenings.
- 2 I don't read for pleasure as much as I like to.
- 3 I tend to see my family just on birthdays and at Christmas.
- 4 We used to go to the cinema about once a week before they put the prices up.
- 5 I check the BBC website all the time, I rarely use any other sites.
- 6 She must be really busy. She never comes to the badminton club anymore.
- 7 I enjoy going to the theatre but we only go once a while.
- 8 We used to go walking every weekend. We get up early and be out on the hills to see the sunrise.

Language note *used to* and past simple

You can use the past simple or *used to* to talk about habits in the past. For single actions in the past, use the past simple.

*I used to go / I went for a run every day when I was in my 20s.
I went for a run yesterday.*

VOCABULARY

Describing films, music and books

3 Choose the correct words.

- 1 I could listen to it all day. The music is so inspiring, just so *uplifting / weird*.
- 2 I saw it twice. The plot was really exciting, just really *gripping / disturbing*.
- 3 Why is this play so popular? I thought it was terrible, absolutely *catchy / awful*.
- 4 I can't stand her acting. She's just too much, always so *dull / over-the-top*.
- 5 It all sounds the same to me. It's only produced to make money, just very *hilarious / commercial*.

4 Complete these sentences using the adjectives that weren't the answers in Exercise 3.

- 1 I couldn't stop laughing. The show was so funny, absolutely
- 2 The second half was so boring, just very
- 3 I wouldn't take your kids to see it. The special effects are quite upsetting, really quite
- 4 I didn't get it at all. The dialogue was really strange, just really
- 5 I can't stop singing it. It's so easy to remember, really quite

DEVELOPING CONVERSATIONS Disagreeing politely

5 Add the words in brackets in the correct place.

- A: I'm really into heavy metal.
B: Oh, right. I find it loud and scary, to be honest. It's the kind of thing my teenage son listens to. (a bit)
Oh, right. I find it a bit loud and scary, to be honest.
- A: Wasn't that a brilliant film?
B: Did you think so? It didn't do anything for me, I'm afraid. (really)
- A: Do you listen to jazz much?
B: Er, I'm not keen on jazz. I prefer something lighter, a bit more commercial. (that)
- A: Do you fancy coming to see a musical at the theatre tonight?
B: Thanks, but I'm not very keen on musicals. I prefer something more serious, more realistic. (a bit)
- A: Have you read the latest Philip Roth novel?
B: To be honest, I'm not interested in fiction. I tend to read about politics and current affairs. (really)
- A: I've seen all the Bond movies at least twice.
B: Really? I'm not fond of action movies. I'm more into romantic comedies, to be honest. (that)

LISTENING

6 1.1 You are going to hear people talking in six different situations.

Choose the correct answer, a, b, or c.

- What did the woman think about the film?
a The main character was too complicated.
b They changed a lot of the original story from the book.
c It wasn't very exciting.
- What does the man think about modern forms of entertainment?
a There's too much choice.
b You need too much technology to enjoy them.
c It's made people less sociable.
- Why doesn't the man go to the theatre very much anymore?
a He doesn't have much time.
b The shows are too dull.
c It's too expensive.
- What does the woman say about the facilities in her town?
a She prefers to go out in the bigger cities nearby.
b She doesn't approve of the number of pubs.
c There needs to be more provided for young people.
- Why does the woman criticise her son?
a He watches TV in his bedroom.
b He doesn't have a range of hobbies.
c He's always asking for money.
- What was the problem with the exhibition?
a Not many artists contributed their work.
b It wasn't very well attended.
c The standard of the art was disappointing.

PRONUNCIATION

Strong and weak forms

Language note strong and weak forms

Many function words (such as prepositions, determiners, conjunctions, pronouns and auxiliaries) can have two pronunciations:

- the weak form, which is unstressed and contains a schwa /ə/. This is the most common pronunciation.
- the strong form, which is stressed.

He's frm the north of Italy.

Where are they frm?

7 1.2 Listen to the sentences. Choose the correct symbol for each underlined sound.

- /ə/ /æ/
I wish they wouldn't do tht.
I just think tht they should be true to the original story.
- /u:/ /ə/
People used to go out to have fun.
People don't socialise like they used to.
- /ə/ /u:/
You used to be a really keen theatre-goer.
Not as much as I'd like to.
- /ɔ:/ /ə/
It's the teenagers I feel sorry for.
I mean, there really isn't much for them to do.
- /ə/ /u:/
I'm not asking you, I'm telling you.
I don't want you to watch any more TV.

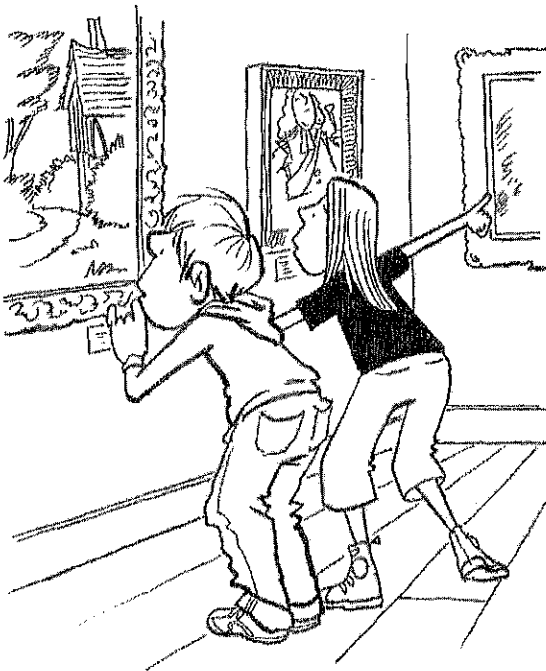
- 8 Choose the correct words. Then practise saying the sentences.
When the function word is at the *beginning* / *end* of a sentence, the pronunciation is usually *weak* / *strong*.

VOCABULARY Talking about pictures

1 Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the words in brackets.

There are nearly as many opinions on art as there are paintings themselves. Describing a painting is always open to ¹..... (interpret). What appears ²..... (atmosphere) or ³..... (drama) to one person may seem dull or ⁴..... (convention) to another. Abstract art is perhaps the style that is most difficult to appreciate because its meaning is often ⁵..... (ambiguity).

2 Complete the conversation with the words in the box.



realistic intimate subtle abstract bold

A: Can we skip the modern art section? It's all a bit too ¹..... for me. I like to know what I'm looking at.
 B: Yeah, sure. ... Look, this one is very ²..... You feel you could almost pick up the fruit and eat it.
 A: You're right. It must be difficult to get in all that detail. And what do you think of this one?
 B: Oh, it's very dramatic, isn't it? The colours are very ³.....
 A: Yeah ... but this one is different. These ⁴..... colours are very soft and relaxing.
 B: Hmm. I find it a bit disturbing to look at a private moment like this, though. It's too ⁵..... to share with other people, really.

3 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 This one is so realistic. It looks as.....
- 2 Come and look at this. The man in the picture.....
- 3 I don't see the attraction. To me all his paintings.....
- 4 She looks furious so they've.....
- 5 The artist was born in Belgium and that could.....
- 6 It all seems very weird. I think it must.....
- 7 It's a celebration and they appear.....
- 8 Looking at this one, I get.....

- a to have just got married.
- b will be his hometown.
- c look really dull.
- d if it's been photographed with a camera.
- e the impression the artist was rather depressed.
- f obviously just been arguing.
- g looks a bit like your brother.
- h show some sort of nightmare.

Language note uses of *look*

They look really dull. (look + adjective)
It looks as if it's been photographed. (look as if + clause)
He looks like your brother. (look like + noun)

GRAMMAR Adjectives and adverbs

4 Find and correct the six sentences that contain mistakes with adjectives or adverbs.

- 1 You look tired. Have you been working hard recently?
- 2 She said it was an absolute dreadful film.
- 3 If you arrive lately for work again, you'll be in real trouble.
- 4 Don't forget to check your work really careful.
- 5 She looks very sadly. Do you think she's been crying?
- 6 Funny enough, I was thinking exactly the same thing.
- 7 We hardly ever go to the cinema nowadays.
- 8 Look direct at the camera and give a big smile!

5 Complete the sentences with one word from box A and one from box B.

A unusually wrongly terribly absolutely completely
 badly

B rebuilt amazing injured chilly sad arrested

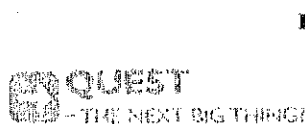
- 1 Both the driver and passenger were..... in the accident.
- 2 The gallery was..... after the fire.
- 3 It was..... to hear the news of his death.
- 4 The gig was..... - the best I've ever been to.
- 5 The man was..... but then was released after new evidence came to light.
- 6 This month has been..... We haven't had such low temperatures for years.

DEVELOPING WRITING A review – making recommendations

Learner tip

When writing a review try to think of an interesting or eye-catching title to get your readers' attention. Remember to keep it short.

- 6 Read the possible headings for a gig review. According to the information in the *Learner tip*, which two would make you want to read the whole article?



Triumphant Quest

return of

A good gig

by David

There are lots of reasons to go and see Quest at the City Hall this month

Friday 12th

- 7 Read the review quickly and choose the correct heading from Exercise 6.

How often do you go along to a gig and see something new? Well, Quest's Friday night gig at the City Hall certainly caught my attention. Having heard one or two tracks online, I was expecting a group of about six musicians. Imagine my surprise when just three young men walked on stage.

It was clear that the band already have a small but loyal following. A group of fans in front of the small stage were singing along to at least half of the songs. And it was easy to see why. Quest have a clever combination of catchy lyrics, an irresistible beat, and very much their own sound. All three of the band members play with great energy and expertise despite their age.

The only downside was when it came to the encores. They ended up repeating some of their material and giving us cover versions of early rock classics. A bit disappointing, but give them time and I'm sure they'll be writing a lot more.

I'm sure we'll be hearing a lot more from Quest. Check them out every Friday at the City Hall until the end of the month. It's well worth it.



- 8 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. There are two words that you don't need.

downside encores irresistible
singing along following expertise
disappointing worth

- One of the best things about the concert was the of the conductor.
- It was amazing to hear the crowd to all the bands hits.
- It's well the price of the concert ticket.
- The biggest was the acoustics in the hall. It was very difficult to hear the singers.
- I can't see why this pianist has such a large To me, she's very dull.
- After playing three, the band finally went off stage leaving the crowd still wanting more.

- 9 Match the collocations.

- give
- play
- develop
- compose
- give
- put on

- an individual style
- a memorable performance
- an exciting light show
- an old cover version
- a two-minute standing ovation
- an inspiring piece of music

- 10 Write a review (150–190 words) of a gig / concert you have been to. Use the language in this section and the following plan to help you:

Include:

- an interesting heading and first sentence. Where and when the concert was, and your expectations.
- positive aspects of the concert.
- negative aspects of the concert.
- your overall view and recommendation.