

ESOL Skills for Life

Level 1 – Reading

Practice paper 1



Time allowed: 60 minutes

- ▶ Please answer **all** questions.
- ▶ Circle your answers in pen, **not** pencil, **on the separate answer sheet**.
- ▶ You may **not** use dictionaries.
- ▶ You may **not** use correction fluid.

Task 1

Questions 1-6 test your ability to read a text quickly for the general idea, and to scan it for key words and phrases. You are advised to read the questions **before** you read the text.

Questions 1-4

The text on page 3 has six paragraphs. Each paragraph has a purpose. Choose the letter of the paragraph that best matches the purposes below. Circle the letter **on your answer sheet**.

You do not need to use all of the paragraphs.

Example: *to introduce the topic* A

1. to compare a ukulele to another musical instrument
2. to encourage the reader to try the instrument for themselves
3. to highlight the advantages to young learners
4. to explain the connection between recent technology and the ukulele

Questions 5-6

Choose the letter of the best answer and circle it **on your answer sheet**.

5. According to the text, the ukulele
 - A can help young people to improve other skills
 - B is a heavy and unpopular instrument
 - C is only available in specialist music stores
6. According to the text, the majority of people buying ukuleles are
 - A rock stars
 - B beginners
 - C teachers

The nation's favourite instrument?

Paragraph A

Sales of musical instruments are at an all-time low. It has therefore come as a surprise that the ukulele, which was considered unfashionable for over fifty years, is enjoying an incredible growth in popularity. Sales have doubled to £250,000 a year in the UK alone since 2010. So what are the reasons for its success?

Paragraph B

Originally from Hawaii, the ukulele or 'uke' as it is sometimes called, looks very similar to a guitar. However, since it has four strings, unlike a guitar which has six, it is easier to play. What's more, it is smaller, lighter and more portable. Therefore, taking up a ukulele is not as terrifying a challenge to a beginner.

Paragraph C

Modern media has helped it gain popularity. Famous actors, politicians and rock stars have appeared on the internet playing the ukulele. Many people are teaching themselves how to play by watching videos of tutorials which other players have shared online.

Paragraph D

Contrary to the belief that skilled musicians are the only ones purchasing the ukulele, Matt Reynolds, a UK distributor, reported that over half of his products were sold to people who had never played a musical instrument before. Mr Reynolds said that one reason for the current popularity with the general public was its accessibility.

Paragraph E

The ukulele has also become a popular choice in primary schools for group music classes. Teachers have claimed that children can learn creativity, listening skills and the ability to play a range of musical styles together. What is more, children can sing and play at the same time, which leads to better coordination.

Paragraph F

With groups forming around the country, the ukulele looks like it's here to stay. So why not visit your local music shop or department store, where they are selling for as little as £25, and give it a go?

Turn over page

Task 2

Questions 7-10

Five sentences are missing from the text on page 5. Look at the following sentences and decide which one best fits each gap. Circle the letter of your answer **on your answer sheet**. There is an example (A). There is one sentence you do not need.

- A *(Example) Graffiti is found on public walls or property and is sometimes illegal.*
- B Style and technique have changed but graffiti continues to be popular with young people.
- C It is impossible to know who has painted a piece of graffiti.
- D The first graffiti artist was recognised by his unique signature.
- E Graffiti has a long history and is thought to be many centuries old.
- F The purpose of graffiti and the messages written have also changed.

Questions 11-13

Choose the letter of the best answer and circle it **on your answer sheet**.

- 11. According to paragraph six,
 - A modern graffiti is connected to particular music styles
 - B graffiti artists are changing their style due to technology
 - C graffiti is affecting music and technology nowadays
- 12. According to paragraph seven, in some countries
 - A people are now more frustrated by graffiti
 - B graffiti used to have a more positive message
 - C graffiti is considered a tool to motivate people
- 13. According to paragraph eight,
 - A police are taking new measures to prevent graffiti
 - B it is predicted that there will be no more graffiti in the future
 - C people have generally changed their opinion about graffiti

Questions 14-16

Choose the letter of the answer that best matches the meaning of each word as it is used in the text. Circle the letter **on your answer sheet**.

- 14. **grotesque** (paragraph one)
 - A interesting
 - B disgusting
 - C attractive
- 15. **deteriorating** (paragraph four)
 - A worsening
 - B happening
 - C improving
- 16. **appreciated** (paragraph eight)
 - A useful
 - B expensive
 - C valued

Graffiti

Paragraph one

Graffiti is a controversial topic. For some people, it is an art form, an expression of individuality and creativity and involves a great deal of skill. For others, it is considered as vandalism as it is mostly done on public walls and is sometimes even viewed as **grotesque** damage to buildings and property.

Paragraph two

 A (Example) . This form of art is created using ink or spray-can paint and artists have become increasingly imaginative with their designs.

Paragraph three

 7. . It was first found in ancient cities such as Rome and Pompeii and the word graffiti comes from the Greek word for 'writing'. However, graffiti as we know it, using paint and spray cans, is now more commonly associated with urban communities. This started in New York in the 1960s on subway trains.

Paragraph four

Many people believe that graffiti started because of the **deteriorating** economic and social situation in New York in the 1960s. People felt that they had no future. They felt angry about the legislation imposed on them by the government and they used graffiti as a way of expressing their frustration.

Paragraph five

 8. . A 'tag' is a name and often a street number, in this case, TAKI 183, which identifies the writer and gets attention. TAKI 183's work gained in popularity and soon other graffiti artists appeared and competed with each other.

Paragraph six

 9. . Their work is often influenced by the hip-hop and rap music they listen to. Modern graffiti is exciting and new techniques are being developed. Technology such as the internet and mobile phones has helped spread graffiti around the world.

Paragraph seven

 10. . Graffiti is still used to express anger or frustration but it can also provide a positive message. Graffiti in some parts of the world is used to encourage and inspire people, or to bring communities together. Even large companies have tried to use graffiti as a form of advertising.

Paragraph eight

Graffiti is now largely tolerated in some areas by the public and the police. Although laws still exist which are aimed at stopping graffiti, it has now become a more **appreciated** and respected art form. Graffiti artists and their work have become famous so it is unlikely that we will stop seeing graffiti in our cities any time soon.

Turn over page

Task 3

Texts A-E on pages 8-10 are all related to each other. You need to use all five texts to answer the following questions.

Questions 17-19

There are five texts, A-E. Decide which text matches each of the purposes below and circle the letter of the text **on your answer sheet**. One of the texts does not have a purpose listed below.

Example: to make a complaint about a difficult situation A

17. to discuss a possible alternative course of action

18. to report on the views of an organisation about the lifts

19. to give some advice to travellers

Questions 20-21

Choose the letter of the best answer and circle it **on your answer sheet**.

20. Text A uses formal language because the writer

A wants members of the public to read her letter

B has met the person she is writing the letter to

C wants the company to take her ideas seriously

21. Bullet points are used in text B to show that

A going by bus is better than other methods

B there are different options for travelling by bus

C this information is part of a longer timetable

Questions 22-27

Look through all of the texts to find the answer to the questions below. Choose the letter of the best answer and circle it **on your answer sheet**.

22. Which text suggests that travelling by public transport is better than by car?

A text A

B text B

C text D

23. In paragraph 2 of text A, Almira

A gives details of the problems she experienced

B outlines the general situation at Widford Station

C expresses disappointment with the lack of lifts at Widford

24. John Baine says that he

A has just mentioned the problem to head office

B has received several complaints about the lack of lifts

C believes that the company will take action about the lifts

- 25.** In text D the company spokesperson says that the company
- A is planning to replace the footbridge at Widford
 - B has a definite date in mind when the work will start
 - C will carry out work in more than one part of the country
- 26.** There are images of plants in text E because they
- A show how Pierre feels about the plan
 - B are the symbol of an organisation
 - C illustrate Pierre's message
- 27.** Which sentence is correct?
- A Pierre disagrees with Jaime's idea that the company will be slow to start work.
 - B Carolina and Pierre both think that the lifts could be in a different position.
 - C Jaime and Pierre are optimistic that the company will change the position of the lifts.

Questions 28-30

Choose the letter of the best answer and circle it **on your answer sheet**.

- 28. support** (text B) means
- A information
 - B directions
 - C assistance
- 29. on hand** (text C) means
- A available
 - B limited
 - C complete
- 30. objections** (text E) means
- A statements
 - B complaints
 - C questions

Turn over page

Text A

Fast Rail Ltd
12 Brighton St
Brighton BR40 1PZ

17 Hightown Drive
Hightown
HG4 9JP

24 June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to tell you about what happened to me while I was travelling to London last week. I arrived at Widford Station to find that the trains to London depart from the other side of the railway line to the ticket office. I bought my ticket and then found that passengers have to cross over the footbridge to the correct platform.

I had to struggle up the stairs with shopping bags and a baby in a pushchair. I only caught my train with the help of some very kind teenagers.

I find it difficult to believe that such poor access facilities exist at a busy station, and I am sure this has affected other passengers. I am not at all surprised that people prefer to travel by car.

I would ask you to look at this unacceptable situation and address the matter as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Almira Kahn

Text B

Widford Station

Café, kiosk, toilets



Local bus stops

- numbers 1 and 2 to town – from bus stop A outside the station (every 15 minutes)
- numbers 3 and 4 to Widford Park – from bus stop B opposite the station (every 20 minutes)

Taxis – from the right of the station. It's best to book in advance.

Cycle path to town – to the left of the station.

Cycle responsibly – you should wear a helmet.

Footbridge – ask staff for **support**.

Help protect the environment!
Leave your car at home.

Text C

To: Paola.Rossi@fastrail.org
From: John.Baine@fastrail.org
Subject: Re: Lifts
Time: 12.05pm

Dear Paola

Yes, I know it's a problem and I've been asking head office to do something about this for ages – honestly! Anyway, I've had a couple of messages from head office recently and I think they're beginning to take this seriously – I reckon they've had a number of complaints about it. I'm pretty sure that something's going to happen soon.

I'll let you know what happens.

John
 Station Manager

To: John.Baine@fastrail.org
From: Paola.Rossi@fastrail.org
Subject: Lifts
Time: 11.30am

Dear John

The station staff are becoming more and more concerned about the lack of lift facilities at Widford Station. There seem to be a lot more people who need help crossing the footbridge these days, and we can't always be **on hand** to help. As you know, we see helping passengers as an important part of our job. It's quite embarrassing for us.

Is there anything we can do about this?

Paola
 Platform Assistant

Text D

CONCERN ABOUT NEW LIFT PLAN


by Raja Shabir, Widford Times

Widford Save our Nature have expressed concern about Fast Rail's plans for new lifts at Widford Station. Fast Rail have recently announced that they are planning to install two lifts – one on either side of Widford station to serve platforms 1 and 2. A company spokesperson said, 'This work is part of a major development programme that will improve access in stations nationwide. Work is planned to begin at Widford at some point later in the year. The current footbridge will remain in place.'

Although the installation of lifts has been popular with many, there has also been opposition to the decision. In particular, members of Widford Save our Nature are upset because the building work will destroy the station gardens. The gardens have been in the same location since the beginning of the last century. Grev Bailey of Widford Save our Nature said, 'If the gardens are destroyed, this will be yet another example of nature disappearing in our local area. We must stop it.'

Turn over page

Text E

www.widfordrailusersgroup.com		
home	new chat	reply
	delete	end session
	Jaime:	Crossing to platform 1 has been a problem for years, so I'm glad Fast Rail have plans to solve it. But I wonder when it will actually happen.
	Pierre:	I have doubts about it, too. The company is generally so slow to act.
	Jaime:	Yes, always! It's not just that, but the location of the lifts is problematic, isn't it?
	Pierre:	Yes, it would be a real shame to spoil the gardens. Like me, many people in town are upset about this. I'm not surprised that there have been objections . I support Save our Nature on this issue.
	Jaime:	We don't want protests to hold up the work, though – that would be a pity.
	Carolina:	I wonder if the lifts could go at the other end of the station?
	Pierre:	Yes! There's just some wasteland there.
	Carolina:	How about writing to the company? We could try and persuade Fast Rail.
	Jaime:	Well, we could try, but I fear that the company have already decided.
	Pierre:	Unfortunately, you're probably right. But we should try anyway, for the sake of the 🌱🌱🌱.

End of exam

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Answers

1. B
2. F
3. E
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. E
8. D
9. B
10. F
11. A
12. C
13. C
14. B
15. A
16. C
17. E
18. D
19. B
20. C
21. B
22. B
23. A
24. C
25. C
26. C
27. B
28. C
29. A
30. B