Reading Comprehension – Test 5

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 20

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Read each text carefully and choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Information text

Read the information about a museum event and answer questions 1-7.

Sleepover at the Museum – Information for Families

On Saturday 14 March, the City Natural History Museum is opening its doors after dark for a special family sleepover. This is the first time we have held an event like this, and places are limited to 40 families.

The evening begins at 6.30 p.m. with a torch-light tour of the dinosaur hall, led by one of our scientists. After that, children can take part in a fossil workshop, where they will make a copy of a real fossil to take home. A light supper of soup, sandwiches and fruit will be served at 8 p.m. in the Ocean Gallery, under our famous whale skeleton.

At 9.30 p.m. there will be a quiet story time, and lights go out at 10.30 p.m. Families will sleep on the floor of the Ocean Gallery, so please bring sleeping bags, pillows and anything else you need to feel comfortable. Camping beds are not allowed because of the lack of space. Breakfast is included, and the event ends at 9 a.m. on Sunday.

The sleepover is suitable for children aged 6 to 12. Every child must be accompanied by at least one adult, and each adult can bring a maximum of three children. Tickets cost £35 per person, and museum members receive a 20% discount.

Please note that the museum building can get cold at night, even with the heating on, so warm clothes are strongly recommended. If your child has any allergies, let us know when you book so that our kitchen team can prepare a suitable meal.

Tickets can be booked online from 1 February. We expect them to sell out quickly.

1. Why has the museum published this text?
   A To ask families to help organise a new event
   B To give families information about a special night-time event
   C To explain why the museum will be closed in March
   D To advertise a new dinosaur exhibition

2. What will children do in the fossil workshop?
   A Look for real fossils in the dinosaur hall
   B Listen to a scientist talk about fossils
   C Make a copy of a fossil that they can keep
   D Buy a fossil to take home

3. What will families do in the Ocean Gallery?
   A Have supper and sleep there
   B Take a torch-light tour
   C Have breakfast only
   D Take part in the fossil workshop

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4. Why are camping beds not allowed?

   A They are uncomfortable for children
   B There is not enough room for them
   C They can damage the museum floor
   D The museum provides beds for everyone

5. In paragraph 4, 'Every child must be accompanied by at least one adult' means that children _____.

   A can only come if an adult comes with them
   B must be older than twelve
   C need to bring a letter from an adult
   D will be looked after by museum staff all night

6. The museum notice says: "Workshop tickets: £35 per person (adults and children). Museum members get 20% off every ticket in their booking." Noor is a museum member. She books tickets for herself and her two children. How much will she pay in total?

   A £105 **B** £98 **C** £70 **D** £84

7. What does the museum mean by 'We expect them to sell out quickly'?

   A Tickets will be cheaper after 1 February
   B The museum may add more places later
   C Families should book early if they want to go
   D Only members can buy tickets

Part 2: Magazine article

Read the article about an unusual club and answer questions 8-14.

The Club Where Nobody Talks

Every Thursday evening, about twenty people gather in a small café in the centre of town. They order drinks, find a comfortable seat and then do something unusual: they stop talking. For the next hour, the only sounds are cups touching saucers and pages being turned.

This is the Quiet Hour Reading Club, started two years ago by Adebayo Mensah, a nurse who works long shifts. 'I used to love reading, but I had stopped completely,' he explains. 'At home there was always something else to do – washing, emails, my phone. I thought if I went somewhere just to read, I might actually manage it.'

He put up a poster in the café, expecting perhaps three or four people to come. Fourteen arrived on the first night. Now the club meets weekly, and there is sometimes a waiting list for seats.

The rules are simple. Members can read anything they like – novels, magazines, even cookbooks – but phones must stay in bags. When the hour is over, people are free to chat, and many stay to talk about what they have been reading. 'That's the part I didn't plan,' says Adebayo. 'People who were strangers have become good friends.'

Kim Larsen, a student who joined last year, admits she was nervous at first. 'I thought sitting in silence with strangers would feel awkward. In fact, it was really relaxing. I've read eleven books since I started, more than in the previous five years.'

Similar clubs have now started in two other cities, and Adebayo has been asked for advice. His answer is always the same: 'Keep it simple. Just bring a book.'

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8. Which sentence best describes the Quiet Hour Reading Club?
   A A group that discusses one book together every week
   B A group that reads in silence for an hour and can chat afterwards
   C A class that teaches people how to read faster
   D A café that lends books to its customers

9. Why did Adebayo start the club?
   A His job as a nurse gave him too much free time
   B He wanted to sell more drinks at the café
   C He found it difficult to read at home because of other distractions
   D He wanted to write a book about reading

10. What do we learn from paragraph 3?
    A More people came to the first meeting than Adebayo expected
    B Only three or four people came to the first meeting
    C The club meets once a month
    D Anyone can join without waiting

11. Which of these are members NOT allowed to do during the Quiet Hour?
    A Read a cookbook **B** Have a drink **C** Read a magazine **D** Use their phones

12. When Adebayo says 'That's the part I didn't plan', he is talking about _____.
    A the rule about phones
    B members becoming friends after talking together
    C the waiting list for seats
    D choosing a café in the town centre

13. In paragraph 5, 'awkward' is closest in meaning to _____.
    A boring **B** dangerous **C** uncomfortable **D** tiring

14. What does Adebayo's advice 'Keep it simple. Just bring a book.' suggest?
    A New clubs need a lot of money to start
    B People should only read short books
    C Clubs should have more rules than his
    D A club like this does not need complicated organisation

Part 3: Short story

Read the story and answer questions 15-20.

The Voice in the Kitchen

When her neighbour Mr Castillo went to visit his sister for a week, Ines agreed to look after his parrot, Pepe. 'He's no trouble,' Mr Castillo promised, handing her a bag of seeds and a long list of instructions. 'Just don't believe everything he says.'

Ines laughed. She didn't think much about the comment until the second night. She was lying in bed reading when she heard a deep voice from the kitchen: 'Who's there? Who's there?'

She froze. Her heart was beating so loudly she could hear it. Slowly, she picked up her phone, ready to call for help, and crept down the hall. The kitchen light was off. Then the voice came again, followed by a loud whistle.

Ines switched on the light. Pepe was sitting on top of his cage, looking very pleased with himself. Somehow he had opened the little door, and he had knocked a pile of plates onto the floor.

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'That was you?' she said, and the parrot answered, 'Who's there?' in exactly the same deep voice.

The next morning, Ines sent Mr Castillo a message. He replied with three laughing faces. 'Sorry! That's my voice. He learned it from me when I answer the door. I should have warned you he can open the cage. Put a clothes peg on the door.'

For the rest of the week, the peg stayed on, and Pepe stayed inside. When Mr Castillo came home, Ines handed him the cage with a smile. 'He was no trouble,' she said. 'Well, almost.'

15. Why was Ines looking after Pepe?
    A Ines wanted to buy a parrot
    B Mr Castillo was going away for a week
    C Mr Castillo's sister was allergic to birds
    D Pepe was ill and needed special care

16. What did Mr Castillo probably mean by 'Just don't believe everything he says'?
    A Pepe can copy voices, which might confuse her
    B Pepe often tells lies about other people
    C Pepe does not like new people
    D Ines should not follow his list of instructions

17. In paragraph 3, 'crept down the hall' means that Ines _____.
    A ran quickly down the hall
    B walked slowly and quietly down the hall
    C shouted as she went down the hall
    D fell over in the hall

18. What had really happened in the kitchen?
    A A stranger had broken into the flat
    B Mr Castillo had come back early
    C Pepe had got out of his cage and knocked some plates over
    D Ines had left the plates on the edge of the table

19. Why did the voice sound deep, like a man's?
    A Pepe was ill
    B Someone was talking on the radio
    C Ines had been dreaming
    D Pepe was copying Mr Castillo's voice

20. What does Ines's final comment 'Well, almost' suggest?
    A She never wants to look after Pepe again
    B She is angry with Mr Castillo
    C Looking after Pepe was mostly easy, apart from one difficult moment
    D Pepe was ill for most of the week

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Answer key – Reading Comprehension – Test 5

1 B	2 C	3 A	4 B	5 A	6 D	7 C	8 B	9 C	10 A
11 D	12 B	13 C	14 D	15 B	16 A	17 B	18 C	19 D	20 C

Explanations

1. **B** – The text describes the programme, rules and prices of the family sleepover.
2. **C** – The text says children 'will make a copy of a real fossil to take home'.
3. **A** – Supper is served in the Ocean Gallery, and families sleep on its floor.
4. **B** – The text says camping beds are not allowed 'because of the lack of space'.
5. **A** – 'Accompanied by' means that someone goes with you.
6. **D** – Three tickets cost £105, and because the 20% member discount applies to every ticket in the booking, Noor saves £21 and pays £84.
7. **C** – If tickets sell out quickly, families who wait may not get a place.
8. **B** – Members read silently for an hour and are free to chat when the hour is over.
9. **C** – He says that at home 'there was always something else to do'.
10. **A** – He expected three or four people, but fourteen arrived.
11. **D** – The rules say 'phones must stay in bags'.
12. **B** – He did not expect the chats after the hour to turn strangers into friends.
13. **C** – Kim was nervous because she thought the silence would feel uncomfortable.
14. **D** – He means that the idea works without special planning; a book is all you need.
15. **B** – Mr Castillo went to visit his sister for a week.
16. **A** – Later we learn that Pepe copies Mr Castillo's voice, which frightened Ines.
17. **B** – She moved 'slowly' and carefully because she thought someone was there.
18. **C** – Pepe had opened the cage door and knocked a pile of plates onto the floor.
19. **D** – Mr Castillo explains, 'That's my voice. He learned it from me.'
20. **C** – She smiles and jokes, showing the week was fine except for the night-time scare.

Notes for teachers: Give students about 35 minutes and encourage them to read each text once for general meaning before answering. Several questions target common B1 mistakes: choosing an option because it repeats words from the text, misreading conditions (ages, limits, discounts) and ignoring the speaker's tone. As follow-up, ask students to underline the evidence for each answer or to write a short notice or story in a similar style.

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