

LEVEL B (B1 & B2)

2024 B

MODULE 1 Reading comprehension and language awareness


PART A - CHOICE ITEMS

ACTIVITY 1

1.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1a-2a.

- 1a. The text below is probably from
A. a self-help article. B. an academic paper. C. a news report.
- 2a. The text is about the
A. importance of having very good friends. B. value of understanding and appreciating yourself. C. challenges of forming deep connections with others.

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Have you ever wondered, in this hasty race of life, who is that one person who would stick by your side till you make it out of the dark tunnel? Whom can you rely on for as many times as possible without worrying about being judged or going unheard? Before you start stressing yourself over finding someone to do all this for you, why not give yourself a chance to be your own best friend? Here are three easy-to-follow steps to get you started on your journey of becoming the best friend to yourself that you've been wishing for:

1. **Spend a good amount of time getting to know yourself:** What are your likes and dislikes? Be curious. Ask yourself questions like, "What is it that makes my day?" "What is it that bothers me?" Just as you understand where someone comes from and their likes and dislikes before you can become their friend, follow the same procedure for yourself.

2. **Walk out of your comfort zone:** Jump as high and as far as possible from whatever it is that limits you from doing what you love. Feeling shy about discovering a new café that has opened in your locality? Grab your wallet and go out on a hunt for the best delicacies there. Give yourself the best, and you will get nothing but joy in return.

3. **Praise yourself a little too often:** There is no harm in giving yourself a pat on your back every now and then. Keep on expressing what it is that you love the most about yourself and keep repeating it again and again. Instead of trying to fit your choices and decisions into what someone else defines as successful or powerful, look within yourself and accept that you have value and meaning in the world.

Now that we have covered all the basics of learning how to become your best buddy, you can treat this as your own tiny survival guide to swear by every time you feel puzzled, uncertain or in need of a boost. Let this guide remind you that you have the power to support, uplift, and believe in yourself, no matter the challenges you face.




1.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 3a-6a.

- 3a. According to the text, we often tend to
A. make fun of others. B. depend on others. C. ignore other people's feelings.
- 4a. When you give yourself the best, you feel more
A. lonely. B. stressed. C. satisfied.
- 5a. The text encourages us to
A. take pride in ourselves. B. seek acceptance from others. C. aim for personal perfection.
- 6a. The advice in this article can be of help to people who
A. need to learn new skills. B. cannot deal with change. C. question themselves.

ATTENTION

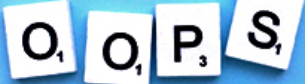
- Try to answer all the questions.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide ONE answer for each item.
- You have **85 minutes** to complete this exam.

Read the text below and match the meaning of each underlined word (7a-11a) with options A-F. There is one option you do not need.



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Embarrassing Grammar Mistakes Even Smart People Make



When someone uses grammar incorrectly do you make an assumption about his or her intelligence or education? Like it or not, words, spelling, and punctuation are powerful and can leave a lasting **(7a) impression** on others. But even the most educated people often unknowingly make common writing and speaking flubs. Check out this list of commonplace grammar mistakes.

First-come, first-serve: It should actually be "served". Without the *d*, the phrase above suggests that the first **(8a) individual** who arrives will be the one who serves everyone, which is not the idiom's meaning.

I could care less: Think about this one for a **(9a) minute**. The way it's written shows that you still care about the situation. Saying "I couldn't care less" is correct because it means "I don't care anymore."

"I" as the last word in a sentence: This mistake is very **(10a) common**, yet a correct example would be "Karlee talked with Brandon and me." The trick to getting this one straight is to take the other person's name out of the sentence and see if your personal pronoun choice still sounds right. "Karlee talked with I" is awkward and incorrect.

All the sudden: It's correct whether you say "all of a sudden" or "all of the sudden", but you must **(11a) include** the word "of" in both cases. But if you're really trying to say "suddenly" just say so.

Read the text below and for each gap (12a-16a) choose the best option (A-F). Use each option only once. There is one option you do not need.

The sport allowed many **(13a)** _____ techniques, including punches, kicks, and holds, but biting and gouging the eyes were not allowed. The goal of pankration was to make your opponent surrender by using various moves. Athletes trained very hard to be strong and **(14a)** _____. Pankration matches had no time limit, so the fight continued until one athlete gave up or could not fight anymore. Pankration was a **(15a)** _____ sport because there were few rules, and fighters could get seriously injured. However, it was highly respected, and the best pankration athletes were considered heroes in the Greek society. Today, modern mixed martial arts (MMA) are somewhat **(16a)** _____ to pankration, as they also combine techniques.

ACTIVITY 4


4.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 17a-18a.

17a. This text might appear in a book about

- A. physical health. B. mental health. C. professional health.

18a. The purpose of this text is to argue

- A. in favour of opening up to others. B. that we should be true to ourselves. C. against keeping secrets from our friends.



Courage to fail

Psychologists have long known that revealing our deeper thoughts and feelings is essential for building strong bonds with others. We feel ashamed of our weaknesses and imperfections, but others will often help us see what we think are weaknesses and imperfections in a different light. Also, they will help us see that revealing our faults is a courageous act.

Dena Gromet and Emily Pronin, two psychologists at Princeton University, asked their university students to imagine picking a few statements that might represent their inner life to a stranger. Some were asked to select from a list of fears and insecurities, such as:

- I get frustrated easily and tend to give up on things before I should.
- I can be extremely impulsive and often regret the decisions I make.

Others were asked to pick a few statements from a list of strengths, such as:

- I am open to new ideas and opinions that are different from mine.
- I don't give up and always try to see things through to the end.

In each case, students were told that these statements would then be shown to another student, and were asked to answer the following question: How much on a scale of 1 (not very much) to 7 (very much) do you think this student would like you? The Princeton students had assumed that admitting to their bad temper, closed-minded thinking and impulsiveness would make others think poorly of them. Their assumption proved to be wrong though. When the two psychologists asked other students to rate how much they liked people who had listed their strengths, the rating was 3.8. On the other hand, they gave a 4.3 rating to those people who had revealed their weaknesses. They felt that these persons were more genuine and this made them like them more.

Multiple psychological experiments have now shown these findings to be true. We believe that if we reveal our shortcoming to others, or when we tell them about a serious mistake we made at work, they will think badly of us. But that's not true. Many people empathize with us and appreciate how brave we are to open up. In fact, employers who disclose a weakness, such as shyness, anxiety about public speaking, or a fear of flying, score more highly on ratings of likeability and support from their workforce.

4.2 Read the text again and decide if statements 19a-25a are True (A), False (B) or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
According to the text,				
19a.	sharing our personal thoughts and feelings can strengthen our relationships with others.			
20a.	the first group of Princeton students who took part in a survey were given half an hour to respond to a questionnaire.			
21a.	the answers of the second group of students who participated in the survey were identical with those of the first group.			
22a.	admitting to our weaknesses makes us appear more honest.			
23a.	it is more common for people to be open about themselves in professional settings.			
24a.	revealing personal flaws is generally seen as a weakness by other people.			
25a.	telling your employees that sometimes you make mistakes could strengthen your relationship with them.			

ACTIVITY 5

5.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 26a-28a.

- 26a. The text is about
 A. how some animals can learn from each other. B. the natural habitats of different animals. C. the development of advanced animal hunting techniques.
- 27a. 'Cumulative cultural evolution' refers to
 A. inventions made by individuals. B. rapid technological advances. C. collective learning over time.
- 28a. Recent studies suggest that
 A. some animals communicate through special sounds. B. some animals can engage in cultural learning. C. some animals act purely on instinct to find food.



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Animals

Chimps and bees can also perform “uniquely human” behaviour



Every day, we benefit from inventions that are far too complicated for any single person to have developed alone. Evidence of this so-called ‘cumulative cultural evolution’ is everywhere – from the cars on our roads to the TVs in our homes.

Our ability to learn from other people is key to this, and it’s been argued that such ‘social learning’ is unique to humans. However, two recent studies on chimps and bumblebees provide strong evidence that other species can, in fact, learn complex, helpful behaviours from others that they wouldn’t have developed on their own.

Edwin Van Leeuwen at Utrecht University led the research on chimps with his team creating what was essentially a peanut vending machine. In order to get the peanuts, a user had to follow a series of steps: pick up a ball, pull open a drawer in the side of the plastic box to reveal a hole, and place the ball inside the hole. This triggered the release of peanuts into a compartment beneath the drawer.

The team put the vending machine device, as well as plenty of suitable balls, into the forested enclosures of two groups of a total of 66 semi-wild chimpanzees, all housed in a center in Zambia. After three months, despite hundreds of attempts by the animals to get at the peanuts, not a single one had managed to crack the steps needed to get the reward.

The researchers then took one mid-to-high-ranking adult female from each group, trained them in how to use the machine (a process that required eight twenty-minute training sessions), and put them back into their groups. The trained animals were quick to put their newly acquired skill into use – and this was not lost on their fellow chimps.

By watching the trained ‘instructor’, a total of 14 other chimps learned how to perform the correct sequence of steps to obtain peanuts. This wasn’t a rapid process. Typically, an observer had watched the machine being used at least nine times before they successfully used the technique themselves. Here, then, is evidence of social learning among chimpanzees.

The second study by Alice D. Bridges at Queen Mary University of London and colleagues recently observed something very similar for bumblebees. This research team created a puzzle box containing a sugary reward. To get access to it, a bee had to push a blue tab on the box away from the path of a red tab, before pushing the red tab in.

The team trained individual bees in how to do it. Next, they paired trained bees with 15 untrained observers, and together, they were given access to the boxes. They found that one third of the observers learned how to open the box. As Bridges notes, these observer bees had never been exposed to any kind of puzzle box before, they had not learned either of the two steps before watching the trained bee perform them, and, “yet they were able to acquire the entire behaviour sequence through social learning”.



5.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 29a-35a.

- 29a.** The study led by Edwin Van Leeuwen involved
A. improving chimpanzees' hunting skills. **B.** training chimpanzees to hold a ball. **C.** watching chimpanzees interacting with a device.
- 30a.** To get the peanuts the chimpanzees had to
A. perform a series of actions. **B.** drop the ball in a basket. **C.** climb up and down trees.
- 31a.** After hundreds of attempts by the chimpanzees _____ managed to get the peanuts.
A. half of them **B.** none of them **C.** all of them
- 32a.** Once their training was complete, the chimpanzees
A. were kept apart from their group. **B.** forgot what they had learned. **C.** passed on their knowledge to the others.
- 33a.** The learning process among the chimps was
A. immediate. **B.** lengthy. **C.** ineffective.
- 34a.** In the study led by Alice D. Bridges, the research team trained
A. one bee at a time. **B.** all the bees at once. **C.** only the observer bees.
- 35a.** The observer bees learned how to open the box
A. by natural instinct. **B.** through trial and error. **C.** by imitating other bees.

ACTIVITY 6

Match descriptions 36a-41a with options A-H. Use each of the options only once. There are two options you do not need.

A.	Amusement park	B.	Magic show	C.	Sporting event	D.	Theatre
E.	Food fair	F.	Concert	G.	Stand-up comedy	H.	Road trip

36a.	Are you a live music enthusiast? Is your favourite band currently performing in town? What do you have to lose? Buy your tickets and make your way to the show. Seeing your favorite band perform live is indeed an experience you should not miss. And even if the band is new to you, it is still one of the best forms of entertainment. When you spend time with your closest friends, there is no chance it will not be enjoyable.	
37a.	This form of entertainment allows you to witness the actors' passion and determination on stage. It paints a much more vivid picture than any film ever could. You can live through the performer's anguish and joy and experience the stage's magic.	
38a.	You're probably aware that there's nothing more exciting or engaging than sitting on the bench and cheering on your favourite team. While watching it on television is enjoyable as well, there is nothing quite like the sound of the crowd and the intensity of a live game.	
39a.	Whether you're eight or eighty, it is certain to put a smile on your face. Bright lights and joyful music fill the air as visitors enjoy games and exciting shows, creating unforgettable memories. It has so many rides that you can't possibly ride them all in a single day.	
40a.	Are you bored with your daily routine and in search of something interesting and fun to do? Are you on the lookout for adventure and entertainment? It is an excellent opportunity to accomplish all of this and more. Meet up with your closest friends, pack your belongings, and drive away.	
41a.	A festival full of tasty smells and different flavors, where people can try dishes from different countries and regions. Stalls offer snacks and desserts, while cooks show how they make their special meals. Visitors enjoy the variety, music, and lively atmosphere, sharing a fun and flavorful experience together.	

ACTIVITY 7

7.1 Read the following text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 42a-43a.

- 42a.** The main purpose of the text is to
A. highlight the beauty of forest landscapes. **B.** encourage a deeper appreciation for trees. **C.** promote tourism in forest areas.
- 43a.** Peter Wohlleben's book focuses on the
A. secrets of tree communication. **B.** relationships between trees and animals. **C.** economic benefits of logging.

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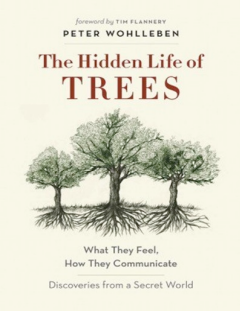
New York Times Best Sellers

Trees dominate the world's oldest living organisms. Since the dawn of our species, they have been our silent companions, permeating our most enduring tales and never ceasing to inspire fantastical cosmogonies. Hermann Hesse called them "the most penetrating of preachers." A forgotten seventeenth-century English gardener wrote of how they "speak to the mind, and tell us many things, and teach us many good lessons".

But trees might be among our lushest metaphors and sense making frameworks for knowledge precisely because the richness of what they say is more than metaphorical — they speak a sophisticated silent language, communicating complex information via smell, taste, and electrical impulses. This fascinating secret world of signals is what German forester Peter Wohlleben explores in "The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate".

Wohlleben chronicles what his own experience of managing a forest in the Eifel mountains in Germany has taught him about the astonishing language of trees and how trailblazing arboreal research from scientists around the world reveals "the role forests play in making our world the kind of place where we want to live". As we're only just beginning to understand nonhuman consciousnesses, what emerges from Wohlleben's revelatory reframing of our oldest companions is an invitation to see anew what we have spent eons taking for granted and, in this act of seeing, to care more deeply about these remarkable beings that make life on this planet not only infinitely more pleasurable, but possible at all.

About twenty years ago, everything changed for Wohlleben when he began organizing survival training and log-cabin tours for tourists in his forest. As they marvelled at the majestic trees, the enchanted curiosity of their gaze reawakened his own, and his childhood love of nature was rekindled. Soon, every day became coloured with wonderment and the thrill of discovery — no longer able to see trees as a currency, he instead saw them as the priceless living wonders that they are.



7.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 44a-47a.

- 44a. The text portrays trees as
 A. ancient companions of human life. B. modern symbols of industrial progress. C. recently valued natural resources.
- 45a. According to the text, trees communicate through
 A. basic physical movements and signals. B. a complex language involving various senses. C. sophisticated verbal sounds and gestures.
- 46a. Wohlleben's experience in the Eifel mountains taught him the
 A. vital role forests play in making the world habitable. B. economic importance of forestry management. C. dangers forests pose to human evolution.
- 47a. Wohlleben's view of trees changed when he
 A. started logging trees to make a profit. B. realized their significance as amazing entities of life. C. moved away from the forest to a city.

7.3 What do the words in *italics* mean? Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 48a-50a.

- 48a. Trees *dominate* the world's oldest living organisms.
 A. ignore B. understand C. control
- 49a. Wohlleben *chronicles* what his own experience of managing a forest in the Eifel mountains in Germany has taught him about the astonishing language of trees.
 A. records B. forgets C. questions
- 50a. Soon, every day became coloured with *wonderment* and the thrill of discovery.
 A. anxiety B. amazement C. fear

PART B - SHORT ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 1

Fill in gaps 1b-5b with the most appropriate word. Use each word only once.

The "Invisible" Test

Tom wanted to play a joke (1b) _____ his classmates. One day, he walked into the class and said, "I'm invisible today, you can't see me!" His friends decided to play (2b) _____, pretending not to see him. Tom sat down at his desk, feeling clever. But then, the teacher looked directly (3b) _____ him and said, "Tom, if you're invisible, why is your test paper floating (4b) _____ the air?"



Tom was holding his test in his hand, and everyone started laughing. He quickly put the paper (5b) _____, realizing his prank didn't work. The teacher smiled and said, "Nice try, but you still have to take the test." Tom learned that even when you're "invisible," schoolwork doesn't disappear!



ACTIVITY 2

Think of ONE word that can go with BOTH sentences (6b-10b) in each set. The first letter of the word is given.

6b.	a) Make sure to write the correct a _____ on the envelope before mailing it.
	b) She stood up to a _____ the class about the upcoming event.
7b.	a) You were r _____ about the movie—it was awesome!
	b) Take a r _____ turn at the next corner to get to the park.
8b.	a) We're having c _____ with potatoes for dinner tonight—my favourite!
	b) Stop being a c _____ and ask her for a date!
9b.	a) We learned a new d _____ in our choreography class.
	b) The lights d _____ across the water, creating a beautiful reflection.
10b.	a) The football m _____ starts at 5 p.m., so don't be late!
	b) Her jacket and shoes m _____ perfectly; they're both bright red.

ΣΑΣ ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΟΤΙ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1
ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ