

**GRAMMAR**

**Read the text and for each question 1–15, write ONE word in the space provided.**

**Want to write a bestseller?**

It is the sort of thing that usually only happens (0) in fiction. A young bank worker buys a home computer and (1) \_\_\_\_\_ fill his spare time, he writes a first novel. A few months later (2) \_\_\_\_\_ book has been sold here and abroad in deals worth £750,000.

For those (3) \_\_\_\_\_ us who still haven't found a legal, decent, and honest way (4) \_\_\_\_\_ getting rich, such stories get us excited. But the trouble with trying to pen (5) \_\_\_\_\_ small literary masterpiece is that everyone else is, too. Writing unsaleable bestsellers is one of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ popular hobbies in Britain. According (7) \_\_\_\_\_ one estimate, 20,000 – 30,000 manuscripts of proposed books (8) \_\_\_\_\_ lying in British publishers' in-trays at any one time. That suggests (9) \_\_\_\_\_ must be several hundred thousand people out there nightly peering (10) \_\_\_\_\_ word-processor screens and seeking inspiration. Blake Friedmann, Mr Ridpath's literary agent, receives 20 to 30 manuscripts a day sent (11) \_\_\_\_\_ by hopeful writers, but the company has only seen two writers published (12) \_\_\_\_\_ this so-called 'slush pile' in the last decade. Any (13) \_\_\_\_\_ London literary agent or publisher will tell you the chances are the same. The sad truth is that (14) \_\_\_\_\_ 99.9 per cent of authors, all their masterworks will ever earn is a string of rejection letters, and some praise from Auntie Doris if she can be persuaded to read (15) \_\_\_\_\_ thing.

0 \_\_\_\_\_ *in* \_\_\_\_\_

8 \_\_\_\_\_

1 \_\_\_\_\_

9 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

10 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

11 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

12 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

13 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

14 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \_\_\_\_/15pts**

John Bungey, 'How to write a Best Seller' in *Midweek, First Certificate Tests*, 2001, text adapted.

## VOCABULARY

**I. Complete each sentence by providing the second half of the correct compound noun. Look for the right word in the box below. There are two extra words you will not need.**

0. He ate so much that he's got a stomach...*ache*... now.
1. We got soaked to the skin in a sudden cloud..... .
2. The floor of the workshop was covered in saw..... and shavings of wood.
3. The children made a poster in the shape of a snow..... .
4. The average theatre..... will find this play absolutely amazing.
5. Could you buy me a tube of tooth..... at the supermarket?
6. Don't forget to tell everyone about the meeting before..... .
7. Roosters begin making noises just before day..... .
8. The United Nations tried to arrange a cease..... but without success.
9. St Mark's Piazza is one of the famous land..... of Venice.
10. The house was severely damaged by an earth..... .
11. I woke up screaming after having a terrible night..... .
12. There was a long post..... at the end of the letter.

fire	<del>ache</del>	quake	hand	burst	card	break
script	flake	goer	friend	dust	marks	mare paste

**Total \_\_\_/6 pts**

**II. Complete each sentence by providing the second half of the correct compound noun. The number of letters is given for each word.**

0. There's a RABBIT H Q L E in the corner of this field.
1. You look awful. Why don't you get a new HAIR \_\_?
2. There were so many mice. We had to buy a MOUSE \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I could hear the sound of GUN \_\_\_ coming from the forest.
4. Nobody can read the doctor's HAND \_\_\_\_\_.

**Total \_\_\_/4 pts**

## READING COMPREHENSION

**Read the text and answer the questions below the text. Do not use more than 3 words in each answer.**

**Westbury White Horse**

The Wiltshire countryside is famous for more than just its rolling hills. Isn't it time you hopped off the train and had a look? It's not every day you see a white horse carved out of a chalk hillside – unless you live in Wiltshire, in which case you probably come across them at every turn. These ancient images create a surprising sight in the landscape and if you're travelling near Westbury, we strongly recommend you stop off and have a look at the Westbury Horse. It's only a three-mile walk from Westbury station.

Altogether nine white horse images can be found on the Wiltshire Downs but only seven are still visible to the naked eye. The exact origins of the Westbury Horse are unclear, though some people believe the original carving depicted King Alfred's horse, Swallow, and commemorated the king's victory over the Danes. Others think it represents an early form of horse worship, since the horse was thought of as a kind of god in prehistoric times and was highly respected by the Celts, Romans, and Saxons.

The horse you can see today was cut out of the chalk hillside in 1778 – on the site of a much older white horse – by the landowner at the time, Mr Gee. It is said that Gee destroyed the original image as it was a bad picture of a real horse. Major repairs were made to the horse in 1873 and again in the 1950s, when concrete was poured over the image to preserve its clear new-looking, white shape. Hardly in keeping with tradition – though it does mean the horse looks good for its age.

Measuring 55 metres long and 33 metres high, with an eye circumference of 7.6 metres, the White Horse overlooks a magnificent panorama. There's plenty of scope for riding and hiking up the trails around it and the land above it is a natural kite-flying spot, with more than a few paragliders flying on the warm air currents.

Many folktales about Wiltshire's white horses have developed through the ages. The Westbury Horse has its own story, too. Local legend says that when the nearby village church clock strikes midnight, the horse goes down to drink at a small stream. There are even some locals who claim to have seen this with their own eyes.

*International English for Speakers of Other Languages, Communicator, Bridget Bloom, adapted*

**READING COMPREHENSION**  
**(continued)**

- 1 / How many times has the Westbury Horse been changed altogether? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2/ When did Mr Gee make a new horse image at Westbury? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3/ How many theories are mentioned about the origin of the Westbury Horse? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4/ Where can you find a lot of white horses carved on hillsides? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5/ What is the present Westbury Horse made of? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6/ When did horses have religious importance? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7/ When is the horse supposed to go down to the streams to drink? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8/ Name one activity which people do near the Westbury Horse. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9/ How far is the Westbury Horse from Westbury station? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10/ How tall is the Westbury Horse? \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \_\_\_/10**

## LISTENING

*You will hear three short conversations. Listen and choose the best answer, a, b, c, or d, to complete the sentence.*

**Conversation 1**

0. The woman and the man are  
a/ on holiday.  
b/ at home.  
c/ at a travel agency.  
 d/ at work.
1. After an argument, the woman is feeling  
a/ angry.  
b/ happy.  
c/ sorry.  
d/ upset.

**Conversation 2**

2. The man and the woman are  
a/ strangers.  
b/ housemates.  
c/ neighbours.  
d/ friends.
3. The woman is  
a/ grateful.  
b/ afraid.  
c/ helpful.  
d/ kind.

**Conversation 3**

4. The man and the woman are  
a/ at a party.  
b/ at home.  
c/ at a bus stop.  
d/ in a taxi.
5. The woman is feeling  
a/ patient.  
b/ happy.  
c/ amused.  
d/ angry.

Total \_\_\_/5

Autorka: Mgr. Edita Mareková

Recenzentka: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – okresné kolo 2024/2025

Vydal: NIVaM – Národný inštitút vzdelávania a mládeže, Bratislava 2025