

**GRAMMAR**

**Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Then, circle the correct option on the following page.**

Although one of the loneliest moments of my life **(1)** \_\_\_\_ more than 15 years ago, I still remember its painful sting. I **(2)** \_\_\_\_ back home from a study abroad semester in Italy. During my stay in Florence, my Italian had advanced to the point **(3)** \_\_\_\_ I was dreaming in the language. I left my semester abroad feeling as many students likely do: changed not only intellectually but emotionally.

After that semester, I returned home to a small town in New Jersey. The home was my boyfriend's parents' house. Both parents had left to live elsewhere and allowed me to stay there **(4)** \_\_\_\_ my boyfriend, his sister, and her boyfriend during college breaks. While on break from school, I spent most of my time with these roommates and a few of my dearest childhood friends.

When I returned from Italy, there was so much I wanted to share with them. But I **(5)** \_\_\_\_ connect with others in ways that met my new needs, and I also felt unrecognised for who I had become since I left. I felt painfully lonely. This experience is common for study-abroad students. Even when one has caring and loving relationships, one **(6)** \_\_\_\_ experience 'reverse culture shock' with typical feelings of loneliness.

But many other familiar life experiences **(7)** \_\_\_\_ to feelings of loneliness, even if the individuals have loving friends and family: the student who comes home to his family and friends after a first year at college, or the woman who is the first in her group of friends to become a parent. It **(8)** \_\_\_\_ even have to take a life-changing event to provoke feelings of loneliness. As time **(9)** \_\_\_\_, it often happens that friends and family who used to understand us quite well eventually fail to understand us as they once did, failing to see us as they used to. This, too, will cause feelings of loneliness.

In his recent book *Life Is Hard* (2022), the philosopher Kieran Setiya defines loneliness as **(10)** \_\_\_\_ 'pain of social disconnection'. He mentions that loneliness is not just a matter of **(11)** \_\_\_\_ completely isolated from others since one can be lonely even in a room full of people. Additionally, he notes that effectively fighting loneliness requires us to identify **(12)** \_\_\_\_.

Setiya says that we are 'social animals with social needs' that include needs to be loved and to have our basic worth recognised. When we fail to have these basic needs met, as we do when we are apart from our friends, we suffer loneliness. Without the presence of friends to assure us that we matter, we **(13)** \_\_\_\_ the painful sensation of loneliness.

We see this, especially in the middle of or after life-changing events. As a result of going through such experiences, we often develop new values, needs, and desires. In other words, after experiencing something life-changing, we become different people **(14)** \_\_\_\_ we were before. If our friends cannot meet our newly developed needs or recognise our new values and desires, we **(15)** \_\_\_\_ loneliness.

(Adapted from Creasy, K.: Loved, yet lonely. In: *AEON*, November 9, 2023. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://aeon.co/essays/how-is-it-possible-to-be-loved-and-yet-to-feel-deeply-lonely>)

**G R A M M A R – continued**

- |                                |                           |                            |                        |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A) had happened             | B) has happened           | C) happened                | D) have happened       |
| 2. A) has just arrived         | B) had just arrived       | C) have just arrived       | D) was just arriving   |
| 3. A) who                      | B) when                   | C) where                   | D) which               |
| 4. A) by                       | B) at                     | C) in                      | D) with                |
| 5. A) cannot                   | B) could not              | C) can                     | D) could               |
| 6. A) will often               | B) often                  | C) has often               | D) often has           |
| 7. A) leads                    | B) lead                   | C) led                     | D) leading             |
| 8. A) do not                   | B) did not                | C) is not                  | D) does not            |
| 9. A) passed                   | B) pass                   | C) passes                  | D) passing             |
| 10. A) a                       | B) the                    | C) an                      | D) <i>no article</i>   |
| 11. A) being                   | B) be                     | C) to be                   | D) been                |
| 12. A) where does it come from | B) where it had come from | C) where it will come from | D) where it comes from |
| 13. A) experienced             | B) have experienced       | C) experience              | D) are experiencing    |
| 14. A) than                    | B) then                   | C) from                    | D) as                  |
| 15. A) have suffered           | B) will suffer            | C) suffered                | D) suffering           |

**1 point/correct answer****Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 15 pts**

**V O C A B U L A R Y**

**Read the text entitled *This 1,200-Year-Old Artifact Is Stunning—but Nobody Knows What It Is* and complete the sentences with the correct form of the word written in brackets.**

Metal detectorists have discovered a tiny piece of jewellery covered in beautiful designs in Norfolk, England. The 1,200-year-old gilded silver artefact was likely created by (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (**SKILL**) workers, but its purpose remains a mystery.

The strange object is about two centimetres in diameter. Found near the village of Langham, it looks like a small cap. It's adorned with patterns and the image of a horse-like animal.

The artefact captivated (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (**HISTORY**) Helen Geake, reports BBC News. "It's so tiny, and yet it was created just as (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (**CARE**) as something like a Bible or piece of jewellery," says Geake, who has also appeared as an expert on the archaeology television show *Time Team*. Based on the object's (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (**COMPLICATE**) design, Geake concludes that its (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (**MAKE**) was "multi-talented and doing lots of different things".

The newly discovered artefact dates to the late eighth or early ninth century. Its (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (**DOMINATE**) motif, the animal carved and painted on its top, could be a horse with its head turned backwards, says Geake. Outlined by gold, the horse is dark brown, with dark lines drawn through its body. Its face is shown in profile, with one eye visible.

"I love its colour," she tells BBC News. "A lot of the time, we don't see the colours of the past because clothes don't survive, and enamels drop out of settings."

The expensive materials and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (**HIGH**) detailed artisanship suggest the object was treasured, perhaps serving a personal or (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (**RELIGION**) purpose. One possibility, Geake suggests, is that it was once a decorative cap on the end of a staff.

Though many (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (**CURIOSITY**) objects have been discovered in Norfolk, Geake says the gilded cap is "completely unlike" any other find. BBC News reports that it has been declared a treasure, and the local museum expressed interest in buying it despite its unknown purpose.

"It's a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (**MYSTERY**) object, and you can't say what kind of thing it is at all," Geake adds. "But it was made by someone with a real eye for loveliness."

(Adapted from Anderson, S.: *This 1,200-Year-Old Artifact Is Stunning—but Nobody Knows What It Is*. In: *Smithsonian Magazine*, January 4, 2024. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/this-lovely-anglo-saxon-artifact-has-baffled-experts-180983536/>)

**1 point/correct answer****Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts**

**READING COMPREHENSION**

Widely recognised as Ireland's top female travel writer, Dervla Murphy took many risks throughout a career that lasted seven decades and took her to thirty countries. Among many others, her adventures include fighting off a pack of wolves in Bulgaria and narrowly escaping with her life after a robbery in Ethiopia.

**(1)** \_\_\_\_ She travelled even though it meant leaving her own wheelchair-bound mother behind, and later, as a mother herself, she brought her young daughter along on her journeys.

Murphy was born in Lismore in 1931, after her parents moved there from Dublin when her father took up the position of the county librarian. **(2)** \_\_\_\_ By the time Murphy was fourteen years old, she had been pulled out of school to act as nurse to her mother and manage their old family home.

Although they were close, the hours spent inside weighed heavily on the adventure-loving teenager. Her mother gave ten-year-old Murphy an atlas and bicycle. **(3)** \_\_\_\_ Her mother also encouraged her to take month-long cycling trips on continental Europe, which resulted in a series of articles in the *Irish Independent* and *Hibernia* magazine.

However, after an infection, her mother's mental health got worse, and she became increasingly tyrannical. In her autobiography, *Wheels within Wheels*, Murphy remembers the difficult period in her twenties when she was chain smoking and drinking heavily. When her mother died in 1962, Murphy leapt on her bicycle and cycled for India through Europe, Persia (Iran), Afghanistan, and over the Himalayas to Pakistan.

**(4)** \_\_\_\_ In an interview with the Irish Independent, Murphy said she'd known for most of her life that marriage wasn't for her.

Interestingly, though, she did want to be a mother, which was unusual in Catholic Ireland, where unmarried women were often looked down on in the 1960s. When she was thirty-seven, she had a daughter, Rachel.

Murphy took five years off from her travels before heading to Baltistan, a remote region in the Himalayas, taking her daughter with her. **(5)** \_\_\_\_

The determined mother-daughter duo went on to visit Nepal, India, Peru, Madagascar, and Cameroon with very little money. In 2005, Rachel's three young daughters, Rose, Clodagh, and Zea, were treated to similar experiences in Cuba. In *The Island That Dared*, Murphy's book about that trip, she writes of days without food and sleeping on the beach.

Murphy lived in Lismore with her pets, swimming in the River Blackwater and writing from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m, until she died aged ninety. She ate only one big meal per day before sunrise, "to save time". We can only imagine how much more brilliant travel writing might exist if more mothers felt as free.

(Adapted from Lepere, I.: Dervla Murphy: The Godmother of Hitting the Road. In: *JSTOR Daily*, November 20, 2023. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://daily.jstor.org/dervla-murphy-the-godmother-of-hitting-the-road/>)

## READING COMPREHENSION – continued

**A. Read the article *Dervla Murphy: The Godmother of Hitting the Road*. Decide which of the sentences (A) – (H) best fits into each of the numbered gaps (1) – (5) in the article. Write the correct letter in the blank chart provided below. There are three extra sentences.**

- a) Despite the challenges she faced, Murphy never regretted her decision to become a writer and often spoke about the joys of her career.
- b) Shortly thereafter, her mother fell ill, suffering from significant pain and the inability to stand.
- c) After surviving fifteen years of feeling trapped, it's not surprising that marriage held so little appeal.
- d) Murphy's decision to travel to India was spurred by a desire to find peace after the years of caring for her mother.
- e) These gifts inspired her first long trip and book, *Full Tilt: Ireland to India with a Bicycle*.
- f) However, her biggest risk was challenging societal expectations about women's duties.
- g) One of Murphy's most memorable experiences was her journey through the Himalayas, where she discovered a deep connection with nature.
- h) There she hired a pony and wandered the valleys of the Indus River in freezing conditions.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

**B. Read the text and for questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer. Circle the correct answer.**

1. Murphy's adventures included:
  - a. sailing around the world solo,
  - b. fighting off a pack of wolves in Bulgaria,
  - c. climbing the highest mountains,
  - d. discovering hidden treasures.
2. Her first long trip and book were inspired by:
  - a. a gift of an atlas and bicycle,
  - b. a school project,
  - c. a family vacation,
  - d. a documentary she'd watched.
3. Murphy's autobiography, *Wheels within Wheels*, details:
  - a. her happiest moments,
  - b. her travels around Ireland,
  - c. her difficult period in her twenties,
  - d. her experience as a librarian.
4. Murphy's decision to travel despite her mother's condition:
  - a. was criticized by many.
  - b. was supported by everyone.
  - c. led to her writing career.
  - d. was acceptable to her charge.
5. Murphy's travels with her daughter included:
  - a. teaching in remote schools,
  - b. writing a joint book,
  - c. exploring remote regions,
  - d. participating in cultural festivals

1 point/correct answer

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts

**LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

You will listen to an article titled '*A Bot Might Have Written This*'. Pay close attention, and for each statement, decide whether it is true (T), false (F), or not stated in the article (NS). Circle the correct answer for each statement. You can score up to five points in this exercise.

1. **T / F / NS** ChatGPT produced a very good essay when given an instruction by the author.
2. **T / F / NS** AI was created mainly for entertainment purposes.
3. **T / F / NS** ChatGPT is unlike other AI applications, for example, Google Maps.
4. **T / F / NS** ChatGPT is available in every country around the world.
5. **T / F / NS** All AI devices and apps are easily recognised as AI by people today.
6. **T / F / NS** Amitai and Oren Etzioni discuss the regulation of AI in their article.
7. **T / F / NS** ChatGPT's coding is simple and easy for humans to understand.
8. **T / F / NS** The research by the Walton Family Foundation was conducted in the 1950s.
9. **T / F / NS** ChatGPT has been banned in some schools.
10. **T / F / NS** OpenAI, the parent company of ChatGPT, is continuing to develop the technology.

**0.5 point/correct answer****Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 5 pts**

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