

Reading (Matching headings; Sentence completion)

> COURSEBOOK pages 8–9 and 18–19

Before you read

1 a Look at the title of the passage on page 7, and the photo. Answer the questions.

- 1 In what kinds of situation do you use gestures instead of your voice?
- 2 How successful do you find the use of gestures to communicate?

b Read the first paragraph (A), and answer the questions.

- 1 Can you use sign language?
- 2 Do you know anyone else who can use sign language?
- 3 What might the sign in the picture mean?

Identify topic sentences

2 Look quickly through paragraphs A and B. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is paragraph A mainly about? Choose one.
A the large numbers of deaf people in Britain
B the nature of sign language
C a comparison between sign language and speech
- 2 Which is the topic sentence in paragraph A?
- 3 Which is the topic sentence in paragraph B?
- 4 Which other phrases in paragraph B relate to 'misunderstanding'?

TEST STRATEGY

In a 'Matching headings' task, the heading should be similar in content to the topic sentence, as they both reflect the overall topic of a paragraph.

Identify paragraph topics

3 a Look at the following headings, and then read paragraph B again.

- a A rise in the numbers of people using American Sign Language
- b The international use of British Sign Language
- c Two mistaken beliefs about sign language

b Only one of the headings is suitable for paragraph B.

- 1 Which one contains information that is factually incorrect?
- 2 Which one contains information that is not mentioned in the paragraph?
- 3 Which one contains information that summarises the main topic of the paragraph?

Test practice

4 Complete the Test practice task.

The reading passage has seven paragraphs, A–G.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

List of Headings

- i Uncertainties concerning the origins of signing
- ii The groups who make use of sign language
- iii Several decades of decline for BSL
- iv Changes occurring in the spoken language
- v Two mistaken beliefs about sign language
- vi The introduction of formal lessons for signing
- vii An alternative system of manual communication
- viii Variation in the forms of BSL is reduced
- ix The difficulties involved in learning BSL

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Paragraph A _____ | 5 Paragraph E _____ |
| 2 Paragraph B _____ | 6 Paragraph F _____ |
| 3 Paragraph C _____ | 7 Paragraph G _____ |
| 4 Paragraph D _____ | |

EXPERT LANGUAGE

The prefix *mis-* generally means *bad* or *wrong*.

Sentence completion

5 a Look at the sentence. What kind of word is missing (noun/verb/adjective, etc.)?

Apart from people who are deaf or dumb, sign language is used by family members and _____.

b Read paragraph A and find the missing word.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE – Communicating without the use of the voice



- A** More than 900,000 people in Britain are severely deaf, and an unknown number are dumb, that is to say they lack the ability to speak. For these people, an alternative system of communication is available which requires neither hearing ability nor speech. It is a system based on the use of signs. The signs are made using movements of the body, in particular of the hands, as well as facial expressions. Sign language is used mainly by the deaf and those who are unable to speak. However it is also used by those who communicate on a daily basis with them, such as family members, or by interpreters who are employed to help the deaf communicate with people in the wider world.
- B** The deaf sign language is surrounded by misunderstanding. For example, a lot of people think that signing is simply a way of conveying ordinary speech through gesture, but there is very little connection between spoken language and sign language. Sign language is a separate communication system, though it is just as complex as spoken language. Another common misconception about sign language is that it can be understood everywhere. This is not the case. For instance, there is a considerable difference between the sign languages of Britain and the United States; they have only about one third of their signs in common. Speakers of British English and American English can communicate much more easily than deaf people from the two countries.
- C** Another method of using the hands to communicate is finger spelling, where each letter of the conventional alphabet has a corresponding finger sign. However, finger spelling does not represent an alternative to signing. There are only two situations in which the finger-spelling alphabet is used in sign language. Firstly, it can be used to spell out the names of people and places for which no sign exists. Secondly, finger spelling can be used to spell words for which the signer does not know the sign. Nevertheless, finger spelling is a very lengthy and laborious substitute for sign language.
- D** Little is known about the way in which British Sign Language (BSL) developed, as it has no written form. The few written records that do exist concerning the historical use of sign language in the country were mainly produced by hearing people, and this calls into question their reliability. What is known is that people in Britain were signing by the 16th century. Many scholars think that signing systems were used prior to this, although there is no firm evidence to support that.
- E** Like all other natural languages, BSL changes over time. It is thought that modern BSL developed during the 18th century, when there was a mass movement of people from the countryside to the expanding cities in search of work. As deaf individuals came into contact with larger numbers of other deaf people in these growing cities, they formed communities, and their system of communication became more standardised. This trend was further strengthened with the development of formal education.
- F** The first school in Britain to include sign language in its curriculum is generally thought to be the 'Academy for the Deaf and Dumb', which opened in 1760. The school's owner, Thomas Braidwood, introduced a system of sign language known as the combined system, which is believed to have been the basis for BSL. Unfortunately, only children of wealthy parents could afford to attend the school, and it was not until the late 18th century that Joseph Watson, a relative who was trained by Braidwood, opened the first state-funded school for deaf children in Britain. This was called the 'London Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb'.
- G** Since that time, BSL has encountered various setbacks by comparison with spoken language. For example, during the 19th century few deaf children had the opportunity to learn BSL at school; most had to learn it informally. Then for much of the 20th century there was increasing opposition to sign language. During this time deaf children were encouraged or forced to adapt to mainstream forms of communication. They had to understand others by lip reading, and to 'speak' using finger spelling. Eventually it was recognised that this approach was unsuccessful, and that BSL was a complex and full method of communication. People became more tolerant towards it and finally, in 2003, it was given the official status of a language.

Test practice

6 Complete the Test practice task.

TEST STRATEGY

Don't change the word in any way. Copy it exactly from the passage.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each sentence.

- The finger-spelling method of signing is based on the traditional _____.
- The existence of a sign language in the 16th century is supported by reliable _____.
- The development of modern BSL is probably connected to an increase in the size of _____.
- From the beginning of the 20th century to the 1970s there was _____ towards BSL.
- In _____, BSL was recognised by the British government as a language.

Task analysis

- 7 Check your answers to Exercise 6 and answer the questions.**
- Have you written one word/number only for each sentence?
 - Have you copied the word/number exactly as it is written in the passage?

EXPERT LANGUAGE

neither line 4

Which word always comes soon after this one?

Which word means the opposite of this one?

Vocabulary

> COURSEBOOK page 10

Collocations

1a Look at the list of words. Circle the best word to use with the one which is underlined.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 common | <u>social</u> | communal | <u>media</u> |
| 2 clean | clear | plain | <u>relationship</u> |
| 3 physical | real | bodily | <u>appearance</u> |
| 4 technological | tool | equipment | <u>developments</u> |
| 5 become | get | turn | <u>aware</u> |
| 6 divide | share | part | <u>information</u> |

b Complete the sentences using two-word phrases from Exercise 1a.

- In the next few decades _____ will lead to new medical procedures.
- A person's character will tell you more about someone than his or her _____.
- The police departments of different countries often _____ concerning individuals they are trying to find.
- The study found that there was a _____ between the amount of time spent watching TV and levels of fitness.
- Individuals and organisations are increasingly using _____ to communicate their views.
- Children generally _____ of other people's feelings between the ages of two and four.

Phrasal verbs

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of one of the verbs in the box.

back up bring up get across leave out pick up on
point out spell out

- The presenter is a very good communicator. She always manages to _____ her point in language that is easy to understand.
- While I had the chance, I _____ the subject of our earlier disagreement.
- The sales assistant _____ that the phone I had chosen was more expensive at other stores.
- The editor asked the journalist to _____ some of the details in her report, as it was too long.
- Although the actor was very nervous, the audience didn't seem to _____ it.
- It is the duty of manufacturers to _____ the risks involved with any of their products very plainly.
- When I made a complaint about poor service, other people _____ me _____.

EXPERT LANGUAGE

All the verb phrases in the box can be separated by a noun or pronoun, except for one. Which one is it?

Words with more than one meaning

3 Choose the correct words in *italics* to complete the text.

Summer camps

The USA has an extensive range of summer camps. These are supervised outdoor programmes for children or teenagers, conducted during the summer months. The **1** *lesson / point* of the summer camps is to get children to explore their surroundings freely and mix with others of a similar age.

Experts **2** *argue / mean* that, in general, children nowadays have too little opportunity to play outside. According to one **3** *story / account*, many children spend up to three hours a day watching TV or using a computer. The effects are not well understood, and more research needs to be done in this

4 *place / area*. In the meantime, summer camps offer physical activities in a safe environment.

4a Think about the following opinions. Do you agree or disagree with each one?

- Face-to-face communication with friends is more enjoyable than texting or messaging.
- A lot of people sign agreements without reading the details very carefully.
- Tourism helps to promote understanding between different cultures.
- At a certain age, popularity with their peers is more important to children than the approval of their parents.
- Certain kinds of skill are disappearing because of developments in technology.
- There is a big difference between watching a film at the cinema and watching a film at home.
- Having a discussion with friends usually helps when making a difficult decision.
- A conversation can become boring if one person talks too much.

b For those opinions that you disagree with, rewrite the sentence so that it expresses an opinion you agree with.

Texting friends is sometimes more enjoyable than face-to-face communication.

Language development

► COURSEBOOK page 13, EXPERT GRAMMAR page 173

Present tenses

TEST STRATEGY

For the second task of the Academic and General Training Writing Papers you often have to write about a general situation or problem facing people today. These share certain features, such as the use of present tenses.

1 Choose the correct verb form in *italics* to complete the sentences.

- 1 Every single day millions of people *put* / *are putting* a letter into a letterbox.
- 2 Mail trucks *take* / *are taking* the letters to a processing centre.
- 3 A machine *separates* / *is separating* the large envelopes from the smaller ones.
- 4 A barcode is sprayed onto each envelope so that every single envelope *has* / *is having* its own unique number.
- 5 In general, it now *seems* / *is seeming* that there is a decreasing demand for postal services.
- 6 Nowadays, postal workers find that they *deliver* / *are delivering* more parcels and fewer letters.

2 Choose the correct verb forms in *italics* to complete the text.

3 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

New technology

It 1 _____ (seem) that accurate predictions about technology are difficult to make. These days, most young people 2 _____ (watch) films on an electronic device. However, despite an overall fall in attendance, some new cinemas 3 _____ (now open). In a similar trend, sales of traditional books 4 _____ (rise again), while e-readers 5 _____ (lose) popularity.

► HELP

- 1 Which tense is *seem* usually used with – the present continuous or present simple?

4 Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

- 1 At the moment I _____ (save) money to _____.
- 2 My friends and I usually _____ (go) to the _____ at the weekend.
- 3 Most of my friends _____ (think) that shopping is _____.
- 4 I _____ (prefer) staying at home to _____.
- 5 I _____ (usually listen) to music while I am _____.
- 6 I _____ (need) to get a good score in IELTS so that I can _____.
- 7 Right now I _____ (practise) the present tense in English.

Helping children to communicate in the classroom

The way in which adults 1 *interact* / *interacts* with children has a big effect on how their communication skills develop. Teachers in elementary schools should be aware of typical language development and the strategies that 2 *encourage* / *are encouraging* this. They should try and 3 *adopt* / *adopting* some simple rules. For example, non-verbal information, like lip movements, facial expression and eye contact, helps children to understand what the teacher 4 *says* / *is saying*. And teachers should allow extra thinking time when children 5 *respond* / *are responding* to questions.

In addition, the physical environment 6 *has* / *is having* a huge impact on how well pupils can listen and talk. Can children 7 *hear* / *hearing* the teacher's voice, and if not, what can be done? 8 *Is* / *Are* there any visual distractions in areas where children are expected to concentrate?

9 *Is* / *Are* the lighting good enough for children to see the teacher's face?



Writing (Task 1)

> COURSEBOOK page 14, EXPERT WRITING page 192

Introduction and overview

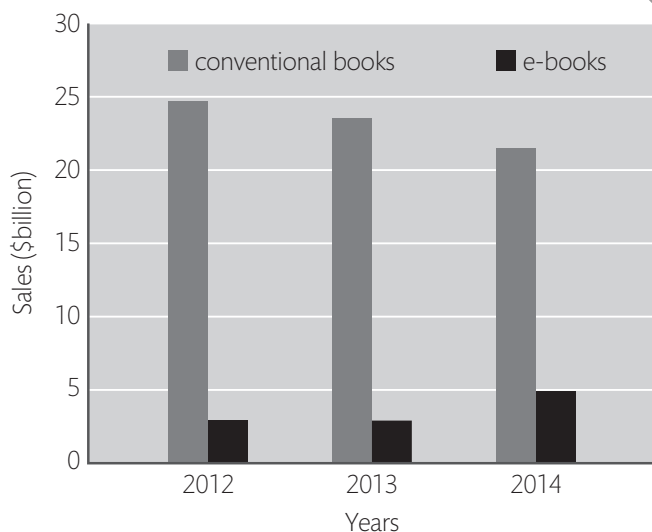
- 1 Look at the sentences. Which ones are introductory sentences, and which ones are overview sentences?
- The graph shows how many books were bought by men and women between 1990 and 2010.
 - The pie charts compare household expenditure in the UK in 1960 and 2010.
 - In general, sales of cinema tickets fell, while sales of DVDs went up.
 - The table shows Brazil's main exports and imports from January to December 2015.
 - It can be seen that, overall, spending on luxury goods by the 20- to 30-year-old group exceeded that of other age groups.

EXPERT LANGUAGE

One word in these sentences means *was greater than*. Which word is it?

- 2a Look at the bar chart below and complete the introductory and overview sentences.

Book sales



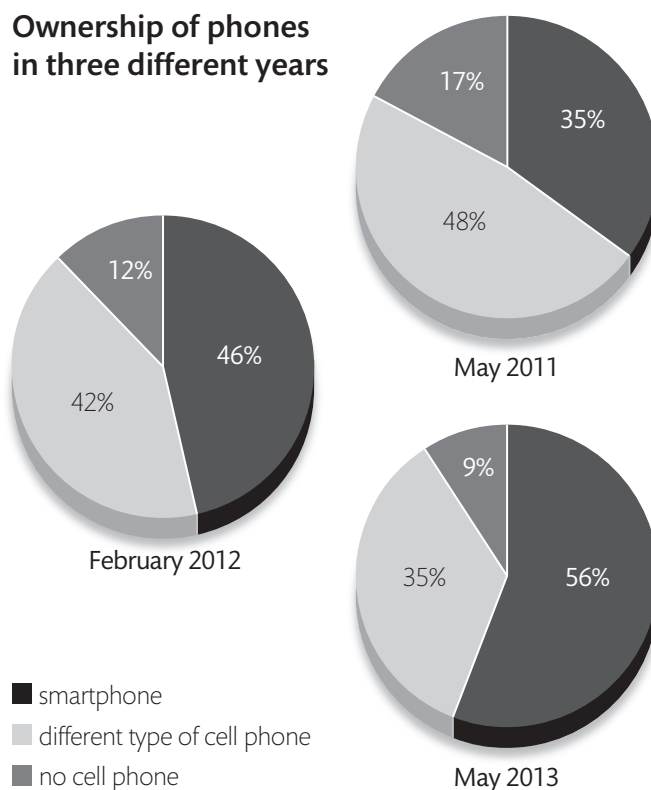
The chart shows how much was spent on 1 _____ and 2 _____ from 3 _____ to 4 _____. The value of e-book sales 5 _____ particularly in 2014, while the value of conventional book sales 6 _____.

- b Answer the questions about the details of the bar chart. Use words as well as numbers.
- How much money was spent on conventional books in 2012?
 - How much money was spent on conventional books in 2014?
 - How much money was spent on e-books in 2012?
 - How much money was spent on e-books in 2014?

Test practice

- 3a Look at the pie charts below and complete the introductory and overview sentences.

Ownership of phones in three different years



The pie charts show the 1 _____ of people owning a smartphone, a different type of cell phone, or no cell phone, from 2 _____ to 3 _____. Over that period, 4 _____ ownership rose considerably, while ownership in both the other groups 5 _____.

- b Answer the questions about the details of the pie charts. Use words and/or numbers.

- What proportion of people owned a smartphone in 2011?
- What proportion of people owned neither a smartphone nor another type of cell phone in 2012?
- What proportion of people owned a different type of cell phone in 2011?
- What proportion of people owned a smartphone in 2013?

EXPERT LANGUAGE

The words *proportion* and *percentage* have similar meanings.

Assess and improve

- 4 Answer the questions.
- Which comes first, the introductory sentence or the overview sentence?
 - Is the introductory sentence exactly the same as the chart title?
 - What is the difference between the main details and the introductory and overview sentences?