

Reading and Use of English Part 1

Overview: A lesson designed to improve awareness of and performance in lexical testing, with dictation activities and concrete examples.

General relevance:

- Lexical knowledge
- Topic of travel

Part of exam: Reading and Use of English Part 1

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per person, access to dictionaries (optional)

Time: 60–80 minutes

Teacher's notes

- Students may be able to think of the correct words at this stage but it's a tall order.

Dictate the options to them.

Question options for Exercise 1b (to be given as class dictation):

- 1 A arriving; B starting; C entering
- 2 A lacking; B devoid; C wanting
- 3 A find; B happen; C come
- 4 A fact; B existence; C manner

Allow sufficient time for students to discuss their answers in Exercise 1c and then go through the key with them.

Procedure

1. Establish the topic with a warmer based on travel (this could be simply asking students to talk about places they have been to / would like to go to, etc). Also check what they know about Reading and Use of English Part 1 (multiple-choice cloze). Outline its requirements and explain that you are going to do some in-depth practice for this part of the test, including dictation.

2. Give out the worksheet and ask students to do Exercise 1a. Pairs work together to identify the four wrong words.

When they have finished, or if they get stuck, check the answers.

KEY

When you sit around doing nothing you are often **accessing** into the genuine experience of being somewhere, particularly if it is **vacant** of any interest. So you **chance** yourself at an airport or bus station or some such place – a place whose **duration** is entirely based on the fact that people who come there are unable to get away immediately, as they would like to.

KEY

- 1 C
- 2 B
- 3 A
- 4 B

4. Ask students to look at Exercise 2 and remind them what a collocation is. Point out that fixed phrases and collocations are often tested in Part 1 of the exam. Pairs should decide which words from the box match each group of words.

Check their answers.

KEY

- 1 a book
- 2 to communicate
- 3 your mind
- 4 away
- 5 yourself (as)
- 6 time

5. Now they should refer to the collocations / fixed phrases in Exercise 2 to complete Exercise 3.

Reading and Use of English Part 1

KEY

- 1 count
- 2 spent
- 3 exchange
- 4 clears
- 5 urge
- 6 typing

6. Get the students ready for the dictation in Exercise 4a. Do this in whatever way you think is most appropriate for your students. One way would be to read the extract through, saying 'gap' and the corresponding number where there is a gap, at natural speed, to give them an overview. Then go through it a number of times at slower speeds. They write the complete text as below (with gaps) on the Worksheet.

Text for Exercise 4 (to be given as class dictation):

They say it is better to travel than to arrive. But what do you do with all that 'dead' time you have on your (1) _____ when you are travelling? Read a book? Listen to a podcast? Take the (2) _____ to practise the language of the country you're visiting? You'll need something to (3) _____ your thoughts because it often takes a long time to get from one place to another, but you are in (4) _____ for relatively little of that total time. A lot of the time is spent waiting – for (5) _____, for visas, for luggage and so on. Learning to travel is (6) _____ about learning to wait. And the more remote the place you want to get to, the more waiting there will be. However, (7) _____, the more remote this place is, the more your waiting takes on the (8) _____ of meditation.

They should check what they have written in pairs, and you should let them ask questions. Finally, you should check what each pair has written yourself.

Alternatively, you could copy the text on the board for students to check their own against.

- 7. Now they should talk in pairs, trying to think of words which might go in the gaps. You might want to make dictionaries available for this task.
- 8. Dictate the question options to them. Take care not to give the answers away by saying them differently.

Question options for Exercise 4 (to be given as class dictation):

- 1 A fingers; B hands; C shoulders; D feet
- 2 A opportunity; B opposition; C excuse; D possibility
- 3 A help; B save; C work; D occupy
- 4 A course; B progress; C motion; D current
- 5 A unions; B connections; C links; D intersections
- 6 A largely; B deeply; C highly; D greatly
- 7 A precisely; B identically; C comparably; D equally
- 8 A property; B quality; C accent; D element

The pairs should now discuss the answers in 4b. When they have finished, check the key with them.

KEY

1 B; 2 A; 3 D; 4 C; 5 B; 6 A; 7 D; 8 B

- 9. Pairs should now read the complete text through aloud to each other, to fully understand it.
- 10. Conclusion: you have looked together in depth at the sorts of words that are tested in this part of the exam. Students should come to understand that they need to read whole sentences in order to decide which word is correct for each gap.

Reading and Use of English Part 1

Exercise 1

a Which words are wrongly used here?

When you sit around doing nothing you are often accessing into the genuine experience of being somewhere, particularly if it is vacant of any interest. So you chance yourself in an airport or bus station or some such place – a place whose duration is entirely based on the fact that people who come there are unable to get away immediately, as they would like to.

b Listen to your teacher and write down the words you in hear in the spaces below.

- | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| 1. A _____ | B _____ | C _____ |
| 2. A _____ | B _____ | C _____ |
| 3. A _____ | B _____ | C _____ |
| 4. A _____ | B _____ | C _____ |

c Choose from the words in Exercise 1b to correct the four mistakes in Exercise 1a.

Exercise 2

Match each word/phrase in the box with the group of words it collocates with.

a book away time to communicate your mind yourself (as)

- 1 borrow exchange lend
- 2 ability need urge
- 3 change clear search
- 4 chatting going typing
- 5 be count help
- 6 make spend waste

Exercise 3

Complete the text with the correct form of the words from Exercise 2.

You can't (1) _____ yourself as a real traveller until you've (2) _____ far longer in one of these places than you would have believed possible when you first got there. Travellers read a lot. They pack books, they (3) _____ these books with travellers they meet, they even buy books in airport shops. Reading (unless it's a guidebook) (4) _____ their minds of all thoughts of work or travel. Then they get the (5) _____ to communicate, and there they all are in the internet café, (6) _____ away like fury, looking like office workers who miss the office.

