

A



## We are not NERDS!

Scan the text for **words or phrases** that mean the same as 1 - 8

Chen and Vicky try to work hard at their design business, as well as spend time with their two young daughters. As games lovers themselves, the couple has found a way to make the most of their time at home. 'We always appreciate playing games as a family,' said Vicky, briefly interrupting an exciting but tense game of Monopoly. 'The children Wu, 5 and Lee, 9 - really like games such as *Connect4* and *Guess Who*, which involve working out problems. Because these are games of chance, the cleverest people don't always win - and the children love beating us!'

The children both have computer games, but Vicky believes they find board games more fun. 'We try to limit how often they play on the computer because there's no social interaction. When they do play they get bored easily, but if we suggest a game of something like *Connect4* they are always keen. To me, computer games are a bit of cop out - something to plonk your child in front of while you go and do something else.'

Wu agreed. 'With computer games you play them on your own and they get really boring. I much prefer playing board games.'

1. enjoy .....
2. finding solutions .....
3. luck .....
4. eager .....
5. dull .....
6. admire .....
7. game enthusiasts .....
8. restrict .....

B

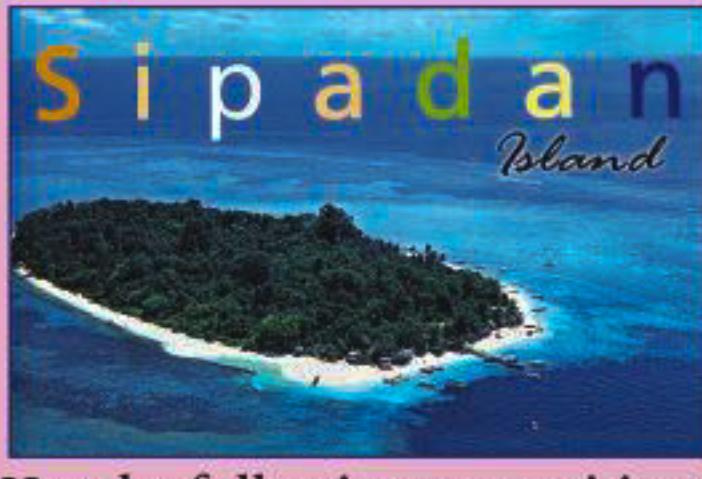
Use suitable verbs from this list in their correct forms to complete the letter. Sometimes, a verb can be used more than once.

Dear Maya,

How are you ? I (1) ..... you are working hard for your exam at the moment. I (2) ..... I am ! Although I normally (3) ..... doing things in the evenings, this week the books are out every night ! It's not easy to study though. My little brother James (4) ..... annoying me. He (5) ..... I have to study but he (6) ..... to be quiet. I (7) ..... it most when he plays with his computer games. He (8) ..... to turn up the volume and it (9) ..... appalling ! When I ask him to turn it down he never (10) ..... why. Honestly, sometimes, I almost (11) ..... he wasn't my brother.

forget hate keep know like realize  
sound suppose understand wish

C



Use the following prepositions to complete the story:

into, along, except, on, in, across, through

Fill in each space in the story with a suitable **preposition** of the location given:

This has got to be Sipadan, a coral island (1) ..... the east coast of Borneo. I stayed (2) ..... a little room with a bed and a wardrobe, nothing (3) ..... the walls or the floor. It was very simple - everyone ate together (4) ..... the terrace (5) ..... the front of the building. Just (6) ..... the road from the hotel is the beach, which is beautiful. You can walk (7) ..... the island in about half an hour, although there are very strict rules about walking (8) ..... certain parts of the beach at night because the turtles lay their eggs (9) ..... the sand. Sipadan has some of the most amazing diving (10) ..... the world. You can walk (11) ..... the sea and after 200 metres you come (12) ..... a coral walk which drops a kilometer straight down (13) ..... the ocean floor.

There is a lot to do and see in the capital. Come and see!

## E Horror in the City.....



Read the article. Complete the sentences with the correct form (past simple or past continuous) of the verbs in the brackets.

It was a lovely morning. When I left the house the sun (1) ..... (shine) and I (2) ..... (feel) happy. But the feeling didn't last long. When I (3) ..... (arrive) at the station, lots of people were waiting to buy a ticket. The man (4) ..... (close) his ticket window just as I got there. 'Sorry, it's my tea break,' he said.

The train was leaving when I (5) ..... (get) to the platform. The next train was packed. I (6) ..... (stand) all the way, while some children sat comfortably. No one (7) ..... (offer) me a seat. Children are so impolite these days ! A woman was standing next to me. She (8) ..... (read) her paper when a child put his hand in her bag. 'Thief', I shouted. 'That boy is taking your purse !' But the boy was the woman's son. Well, I (9) ..... (try) only to help. When I left the station, it (10) ..... (rain). People were pushing and running. When I got to the office, I certainly (11) ..... (not smile) anymore.

## G Are you GOOD at Spelling?

Correct the **15** spelling mistakes in this report on the dangers of swimming near Whitehall Beach.

### Introduction

I have been asked to investigate the dangers to swimmers who use Whitehall Beach. There have been several incidents recently, due to increased use of the sea by jet skis and speedboats.

### The Dangers

Jet skis, whose top speeds are in excess of 100kph, come in far to close to the shore. As people who swim have their faces under water, they do not necessarily see or hear them approaching. Children's lives are especially endangered, as they are less easy to see. Until jet skis are banned, people will continue to be put at risk.

I was also informed of an accident involving a windsurfer, whose board was hit by a motorboat 200 metres out to sea. Fortunately, there was no injury to the people involved, but if the motorboat had been going at full speed, the situation would have been much worse.

### Recommendation

I believe Whitehall council should take urgent action about this. In the short term, notices warning people of the dangers should be placed at the bottom ends of the beach. Of equally high priority, councillors must introduce a new policy to limit the use of jet skis and other pleasure craft to a safe distance from the beach.

## J Pushed to the limit



students can cope with the relentless demands on them. While the students' performances look good on paper, the report does not show the emotional impact of high-pressured education. South Korea has the fastest-rising suicide rate in the world. Eight out of every 100,000 fifteen - to nineteen - year olds killed themselves in 2003. The stakes\* are high.

Students are raised in a society where it is considered their patriotic duty to study. Sinje's school principal says the success of the Korean system is 'dependent on our ethical character and enthusiasm for education. We've had a hard time in South Korea, but we now have a zeal and enthusiasm for learning.' In a country with few natural resources, human capital is recognized as the key importance for economic growth. Sooji, 17, nods\* as her principal speaks. She recently returned after studying in the US for two years and was fearful of returning to a *overly\** strict system. She has noticed improvements to the school's regime. Before she left, female students were forced to cut their hair short, so they would take less time getting ready in the morning. Sooji now has long hair tied back in a pony tail. And she was surprised to find that mobile phones are no longer *confiscated\**. But some haven't changed. 'People in school want to hang around with the smart kids. All I want is to be smarter.'

UN - United Nations

GCSE - General Certificate of Secondary Education, U.K

stake - a share or interest in a business or situation

nod - lower and raise one's head slightly to show agreement or a signal

overly - excessively

confiscate - take or seize property with authority

### How well did you understand ?

1. Which fact tells us that Sinje Hun's day is long and tiring ?
2. What makes Sinje Hun happy in spite of her hard work ?
3. Explain the bad effects the state education has on students.
4. Why do you think so many teenagers commit suicide in South Korea ?
5. How does the fact that South Korea has few natural resources affect its education system ?
6. Name two changes which Sooji thinks has changed whilst she was away in America.

Sinje Hun wakes up at 6.a.m. to prepare for her day at Seoul Foreign Language High School, a state specialist school. The day begins at 7.40 a.m. and finishes at 10 p.m. Rather than being exhausted by the thought of the fifteen hours of work ahead, Sinje looks pleased. 'To fulfil my dreams of becoming a lawyer at the UN\*, I must take responsibility for my future,' she explains cheerily. And Sinje has much to be excited about. She is being educated by what, at first glance, appears to be the most successful education system in the world. In South Korea, 97% of students achieve the equivalent of five C grade GCSEs\*, or what the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) calls 'the essential baseline qualification for successful entry into the labour market.' In the U.K, the figure is 71%.

When the OECD published its annual paper last week, it placed South Korea at number one in the world for education out of 30 developed countries. Yet, South Korea has only moderate public spending on education and has more pupils per class - 35 on average at lower secondary level - than any other OECD country.

'There is great competition between students, which encourages them to study,' Sinje explains. She is able to bear the stress, but not all

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## D Circle the most suitable option in each sentence. Sometimes more than one option is possible.

1. There are a few details in this agreement *what / that / which* are causing us problem.
2. Professor Smith is an expert for *who / whom / that / which* we all feel the highest regard.
3. Students *whose / who / whom / that* mobile phones are not switched off run the risk of expulsion from the examination room.
4. There are two other matters *what / that / which* we need to discuss.
5. Did you take the name and address of the person *whose / whom / what / that which* car you crashed into ?
6. Helen is the kind of student *whose / what / who / whom* will succeed at the highest level.
7. There was only one college *what / whom / that which* asked me to attend an interview.
8. I'd like to hear from anyone *whose / who / whom / that* flat will be available.

## H Read the text about the Inuit people of North America and complete it with the verbs below. Use *used to + verb* and *present simple* where necessary.

have drive wear  
live take off  
be cook call  
hunt go take  
hate spend



The lives of the Inuit people of North America have changed a lot in 30 years.

First, their name: people (1) ..... (call) them Eskimos, but now they are called Inuits, which means 'the people'. They (2) ..... in igloos in the winter but today, many of them live in houses in small towns. They (3) ..... seals - they ate the meat and made clothes from the fur. Many of the people still (4) ..... seal-skin clothes today because they are very warm. Remember, the weather is extremely cold for many months of the year. 85- year-old Inuit, Mariano Tagalik, told us a little about her early life.

'Our winter igloos were very warm. We (5) ..... inside so sometimes it got too hot. When I was a child I (6) ..... most of my clothes when I was in our igloo. In the short summers we lived in seal-skin tents, but I (7) ..... as much time as possible playing outside.'

To move over the snow, they (8) ..... special snow-shoes on their feet, but today many Inuits (9) ..... snowmobiles. These machines can travel long distances in a short time. In the past it (10) ..... them days or weeks to travel the same distance.

Inuit children never (11) ..... to school - they learn everything from their parents but now, like all North Americans, they (12) ..... about 10 years of school education.

Life is not as hard as it (13) ..... , but many of the older Inuits (14) ..... town life and want to go back to the old days.

## F Can you correct the following sentences?

Correct the mistakes in the sentences. One verb in each sentence is in the wrong tense.

1. She practises the piano when Jack came home.
2. When I was arriving, they were having tea.
3. I was revising for the English exam when you were ringing.
4. While I waited for the bus, there was a road accident.
5. When you saw me last night, I went to the bookshop.

## I The Story of a Bag

Put a, an or the in following gaps:

This is (1) ..... true story. Last year I went to (2) ..... big sports shop because I wanted (3) ..... sports bag. (4) ..... assistant came up to me, and I told him what I wanted. (5) ..... assistant brought me three different bags. I chose (6) ..... smallest one and paid for it. (7) ..... assistant put (8) ..... bag in (9) ..... large plastic bag. I told him one bag was enough, and asked him to take (10) ..... bag out of (11) ..... other bag. He did so, but he looked very unhappy as I walked out of (12) ..... shop.

