Cheating: reading tasks

1 In what ways can the following people cheat?
a taxi drivers    d scientists
b shop assistants  e game show contestants
c police officers      f doctors

2 Read the text and decide which is the best summary:
a Exams are not a good way of testing children.
b Children are natural cheats.
c If adults cheat, children will cheat too.

3 Read the text again and fill in the table about who cheats, how they do it, and why they do it. If the information isn’t in the text then guess the answer. Then compare your answers with another student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>How?</th>
<th>Why?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Footballers</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Italian football clubs</td>
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<td>Cyclists</td>
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<td>Enron</td>
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<td>Sellers of counterfeit goods</td>
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<td>Pupils taking exams</td>
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4 There is a lot of vocabulary to do with cheating. Find the following 4 idioms in the text (paragraphs 1, 2 and 5):
to play the game
to bend the rules
(take) a short cut
to turn a blind eye (to sth)

Remember that an idiom is an expression whose meaning is different from the meaning of the individual words. For example, ‘to have your feet on the ground’ is an idiom meaning ‘to be sensible’. (Macmillan Essential Dictionary)
Look how the idioms are used and then choose an idiom for each of the sentences below:

a The bosses of Enron didn’t _______.
b The final’s on really late tonight - can you _______ if we’re not in at 9am?
c There aren’t any _______ to learning English; it’s all hard work!
d There’s a holiday tomorrow - can you _______ and not give us any homework?

There are also some idiomatic phrasal verbs too. See how they are used in paragraph 3 and then match the verb with a definition.

a to put it on              to escape without getting caught  
b to take sb in (often passive)  to pretend (to be hurt etc)  
c to get away with sth      to deceive sb in order to get what you want

Now choose a verb, and correct tense, for each of the following sentences:

d He looked so kind, I was completely _______ - and now he’s got my money!
e The police can’t help, so he _______!
f I really thought he needed help, but he _______.

Read the text and either find four adjectives or find four nouns which are connected with cheating. Use a dictionary to find the meanings of the words. Then write a sentence in the table for each word so that the meaning is clear. Then share your four sentences with another student to complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>1</th>
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<table>
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<th>noun</th>
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Do you agree or disagree with these statements from the reading?

a Everybody cheats.
b The World Cup was rife with cheating.
c Football suffers from unsportsmanship.
d It’s success, money and power that rule professional sport.
e It has become socially acceptable to buy illegal copies of films.
f It’s not surprising that pupils cheat when taking exams.

Write a letter to a sports magazine. Depending on your view you can either complain because so many sportsmen and women cheat nowadays, or stand up against the criticisms made in the reading about cheating in sport. Write about 150 words. Try and use as many new words and phrases from the reading.