

Reading and Use of English Part 2

Overview: A set of activities designed to raise awareness of and improve performance in open cloze tasks by testing grammatical accuracy.

General relevance:

- Grammatical knowledge
- Syntactic accuracy
- Topics of leisure, outdoor activities, caving

Part of exam: Reading and Use of English Part 2

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per person

Time: 30–70 minutes

Procedure

1. Establish the topic by asking students if they have ever been caving, what outdoor activities they enjoy and so on.

Establish what students know about this part of the exam and say that you are going to practise for it by engaging closely with an example task, based on a text about caving.

2. It is recommended that students work in pairs throughout these exercises in order to discuss their answers together. They can practise reading aloud to each other as well. You could also suggest that they answer the answers together as a collaborative task, as in the speaking test. (You could also, if relevant for your students, provide them with a list of useful phrases for this, such as, *I think that the answer to this one is probably X – would you agree with that?*, etc.)
3. Give out the worksheet. Tell students it is important to read the text extract through as a whole first to get the general idea, before they try to complete the task. Tell them to ignore the gaps for now. In pairs, they answer the questions about the text.

Check the answers with them.

KEY

- 1 in the Peak District
- 2 They have been trained to national safety standards.
- 3 fossils and rock formations
- 4 No. There are so many different routes that courses can be tailored to any requirements.

4. Tell students to complete Exercise 1b by coming up with two more questions about the text and asking their partner their questions.

Point out that by the end of these two exercises, students should have a good understanding of the topic of the text.

5. Students can complete Exercise 2 in pairs. Check answers as a whole class.

KEY

- 1 preposition; 2 pronoun; 3 preposition;
- 4 adverb; 5 pronoun; 6 pronoun;
- 7 pronoun; 8 preposition

6. Students can now complete Exercise 3 with one word in each gap. Do not go through the answers yet.
7. Have students swap their worksheet with another student and compare answers. They should compare and discuss any differences. Then tell them to read through their own text again to make sure the answers they have written make sense, both grammatically and lexically.

Check answers as a whole class.

KEY

- 1 from; 2 whom; 3 at; 4 back;
- 5 itself; 6 One; 7 any; 8 to

Reading and Use of English Part 2

Exercise 1

a Read the article below, ignoring the gaps. Then answer the questions 1–4.

- 1 Where are the caves located?
- 2 What qualifications do the instructors have?
- 3 What decorative elements can be found in the caves?
- 4 Is there an age limit for would-be cavers? Why / Why not?

Unwind underground

Leave your stress and worries above ground with a trip into the Peak District's caves. Increasingly, people are enjoying caving to get away (1) _____ the pressures of life. On a caving course in the Peak District, the instructors – all of (2) _____ have been trained to national safety standards – will make you crawl through long winding tunnels, squeeze through narrow gaps and climb smooth rock. And it's all beautiful to look (3) _____. The caves are decorated with fossils dating (4) _____ millions of years and there are rock formations that look like fabulous sculptures. For many people, just seeing this natural art is worth the trip in (5) _____.

(6) _____ of the best things about caving is that it can be enjoyed by people of pretty much (7) _____ age or ability. Because there are so many possible routes down different caves, the courses can be tailored (8) _____ participants' requirements and preferences. So what are you waiting for?

b Think of two more questions about the text. Work in pairs to ask and answer your questions.

Exercise 2

Look at the article in Exercise 1a again. What part of speech is missing in each gap (i.e. verb, adjective, noun, pronoun, preposition, etc)

Exercise 3

Complete the text in Exercise 1a with one word in each gap.