



Coal Drops Yard (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you think it's a good idea to restore old and disused industrial buildings? Why (not)?
2. Are there any in your town or region that have been restored?
3. If so, where? How have they been transformed?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and complete them.

1. Coal Drops Yard is near London's _____ Cross Station.
2. It was built in the 18_____ and consists of two buildings.
3. Coal arrived here by train from South _____.
4. Later, the coal drops were used as warehouses and stables for as many as _____ horses.
5. The restoration of Coal Drops Yard cost £_____.
6. The architect created a covered area by extending the _____.
7. At the weekend there's a _____ under the canopy.
8. There's also an open-air _____ on the banks of the canal.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What do people go to Coal Drops Yard for?
2. How was coal unloaded from the wagons of the trains that arrived in the yard?
3. What happened to the coal after that?
4. Why were the buildings abandoned?
5. What did the architect add to the buildings?
6. Why does the author describe Coal Drops Yard as a place 'where commerce meets conscience'?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural or vice versa.)

1. When we moved here, the garden was a terrible mess. The previous owners had _____ it.
2. That nice clothes shop in York Street isn't there any more. It was probably a _____ - _____.
3. That's strange! A truck's just stopped outside our house and _____ a pile of sand in the road!
4. Dad can never have an afternoon sleep because of the noise of children playing in the _____.
5. The market stalls all had bright green _____ over them to protect them from the sun and rain.
6. The two men began to shout at each other and soon a large crowd _____ around them.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

The main use of coal is as fuel. 1_____ it has been used for thousands of years, it was only with the Industrial Revolution and the invention of the steam engine 2_____ its consumption increased massively.

However, one of the results of burning fossil fuels 3_____ coal is the release of carbon dioxide, which causes global 4_____. In spite of this, many countries still 5_____ on coal to produce much of their electricity. Coal is used to transform water into the high-pressure steam needed 6_____ drive a turbine and generate electricity. In 2020, over a third of the world's electricity was supplied by coal.

F – Write about it

Write about a fashionable shopping centre in your town or area. Mention:

- where it's located;
 - when it was built;
 - how big it is;
 - what you can do there, besides shopping;
 - what you and other people like/dislike about it.
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The American Song Contest (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Did you watch the recent Eurovision Song Contest?
2. If so, which country's song did you like best?
3. Do you think it's easy to write a song? Why (not)?
4. Have you ever tried?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The first edition of the Eurovision Song Contest took place in
a) 1965. b) 1956 c) Neither of these.
2. The American Song Contest is based on the Eurovision Song Contest.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.
3. The minimum age for participating artists is
a) eighteen. b) seventeen. c) sixteen.
4. Each state is represented by an artist who grew up in it.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.
5. The American Song Contest Final was held ... the Eurovision Final.
a) on the same night as b) after c) before
6. A Netflix film about the Eurovision Song Contest
a) did very badly. b) did extremely well. c) was moderately successful.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and the Information Box and answer the questions.

1. What characteristics do songs participating in song contests have to have?
2. When did preparations for the American Song Contest start?
3. How did artists have to apply?
4. Why were there more participants than the number of states?
5. Who were the members of the jury?
6. How many artists took part in the final?
7. How did the Eurovision Song Contest become popular in the US?
8. What's the title of the first song to win the American Song Contest?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change verb tense or change from singular to plural.)

1. Anyone interested in the Art course should _____ in person to the college secretary.
2. Susan was able to study at that private school because they _____ her a scholarship.
3. Where is Joe's party going to be _____?
4. We'll _____ meet again soon. We have so many friends in common.
5. Isn't that the actor that _____ with Lady Gaga in the film that came out in 2018?
6. I've taken part in dozens of contests but I've only won two _____.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

AleXa, whose real name is Alexandra Christine Schneiderman, was born in a tiny 1_____ (city/country/village/borough) in the state of Oklahoma, to a Russian American father and a Korean American mother who was adopted from a Korean orphanage at the age of 5 2_____ (from/by/of/for) an American couple. When AleXa was 11, she 3_____ (became/got/felt/fell) in love with K-pop, short for Korean popular music, and decided to become a singer.

Her parents wanted 4_____ (that she was/that she got/her to be/her being) a doctor, but they changed their 5_____ (minds/heads/thoughts/feelings) when they saw she was getting a lot of support on her social media accounts. AleXa says another reason she 6_____ (choice/chose/choose/chased) Korean music was to help her mother find her long lost brother in Korea.

F – Write about it

Write about a well-known song-writer that you admire. Mention:

- what kind of songs he/she writes;
 - which of his/her songs are most famous;
 - whether any of them have won prizes;
 - why you admire this song-writer.
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J. K. Rowling – From rags to riches (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about J. K. Rowling?
2. Have you read any of her Harry Potter books or seen the films?
3. If so, did you enjoy them? Which one did you like best? Why?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. J. K. Rowling began writing her first Harry Potter book 25 years ago this month.
2. She has sold more books than any other author in the world.
3. She had the idea for the character Harry Potter while she was travelling.
4. She sent Chapter 1 of her book to several publishers.
5. After publishing the last Harry Potter book, Rowling stopped writing children's stories.
6. She donates large sums of money to charity

C – Read and answer

Read the article and the Information Boxes and answer the questions.

1. Where did Rowling do her writing at first? Why?
2. What else has she written about the character Harry Potter, besides novels?

3. Why was life difficult for her when she moved back from Portugal?
4. Who was the first person to think her work was good enough to be published?
5. Why have Rowling's books been so successful, according to the author of the article?
6. Why did she finance the founding of a Regenerative Neurology Clinic at Edinburgh University?
7. Why was Rowling's chair, sold in 2016 for nearly \$400,000, considered special?
8. Why were Rowling's books published with her initials rather than her full name?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. Helen dresses in a very individual way. She often wears _____ clothes in bright colours.
2. We are _____ at finishing the project by next month. Let's hope we manage to do so.
3. The most valuable piece of _____ in the room was a 17th century oak table.
4. The company doesn't advertise. Its reputation has spread by _____.
5. That new TV series is such rubbish that I find it _____ that anyone can sit and watch it!
6. I saw some boys bullying a young child, so I _____ and told them to stop at once.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: Few other authors are as famous and as rich as J. K. Rowling.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| MOST | J. K. Rowling is one of the most famous and richest authors in history. |
| 1. | Rowling was in poverty. As a result, she had to write in cafés. |
| SO | Rowling _____ she had to write in cafés. |
| 2. | She had the idea for the character Harry Potter during a train journey. |
| HER | The idea for the character Harry Potter _____ during a train journey. |
| 3. | She had started writing when she was a child. |
| BEEN | She _____ she was a child. |
| 4. | Through the series, readers can follow the heroes' journey through their young lives. |
| ALLOWS | The series _____ the heroes' journey through their young lives. |
| 5. | After July 2007, Rowling began to write fiction for adults. |
| TURNED | Since July 2007, Rowling _____ fiction for adults. |
| 6. | There's a Harry Potter theme park in the US, as well as in the UK. |
| BOTH | There are Harry Potter theme parks in _____ UK. |

F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's best-known novelists. Mention:

- where he/she is/was from;
 - a few brief biographical details;
 - what kind of novels he/she writes/wrote;
 - the title of his/her best-known work.
 - what it's about;
 - how successful it has been/was.
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Sea Fret (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do sea frets (i.e. coastal fog) occur in your country?
2. If so, where?
3. Can you swim?
4. If so, do you prefer to swim in a swimming pool or in the sea, a lake or a river? Why?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The story takes place in ... weather.
a) cold b) cool c) warm
2. Jamie had created a sculpture for
a) an exhibition. b) an art fair. c) a competition.
3. Having seen where his sculpture had been placed, he was
a) quite satisfied. b) very happy. c) dissatisfied.
4. That morning, there was a sea fret hanging over
a) the town. b) the beach. c) the cliffs.
5. Jamie decided to have a swim
a) although he knew it might be dangerous. b) because he loved taking risks.
c) because he thought there was no danger.
6. He rescued a man who had fallen into the water from
a) some rocks. b) a boat. c) the cliffs.
7. The current carried the two men to
a) the town beach. b) the beach past the harbour. c) the rocks.
8. Jamie sat down to rest and found he was leaning against
a) the harbour wall. b) his own sculpture. c) somebody else's sculpture.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What did Jamie's sculpture represent?
2. Why wasn't he happy with its location?
3. What made him decide to have a swim?
4. What effect did the cold water have on his body at first?
5. Why was he afraid to swim out too far?
6. What made it difficult for Lewis to stay afloat?
7. Who helped Jamie carry Lewis off the beach?
8. Why was the crowd laughing and taking photographs of Jamie and Lewis?

D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

Read these statements. Then listen to the interview with Val Blackburn, without reading, and write T (true) or F (false).

1. That little boy is _____ with cold. He should be wearing a jacket in this weather.
2. The gift parcel was tied up with a shiny red _____.
3. Let's walk down to the _____ at sunset and see the fishing boats coming in.
4. My brother's bedroom is so _____ that there's only room for a bed.
5. We were _____ after the tennis match, so we had a shower to cool off.
6. According to the instructions, the tablets shouldn't be chewed. They should be _____ whole.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

WHAT IS SEA FRET?

Sea fret, a type of coastal fog also 1_____ as 'haar' in Scotland, is a peculiar phenomenon which can ruin a warm summer day at the beach. Sometimes it's 2_____ thick and dark that it seems like smoke.

It might seem contradictory but the fog is caused by warm weather. It's 3_____ more common on the east coast than in 4_____ parts of the UK, because the North Sea is so cold. When a pocket of warm air passes over the cold water, the cold air just above the sea's surface cools the warm air above it until it can 5_____ longer hold its moisture and it condenses 6_____ tiny particles of water.

Sea fret usually occurs in the spring and summer months when conditions begin to warm 7_____ but the sea, which warms more slowly, stays relatively cold. If a fret is very thick and arrives suddenly, it can be dangerous as it often 8_____ disorientation.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Why is it often difficult for a swimmer to rescue someone who is drowning?
 2. Would you know how to revive a person who has nearly drowned and is not breathing? (How?)
 3. Have you ever had a lucky escape from a dangerous situation? If so, when? What happened?
 4. Have you ever saved anyone from danger? If so, how?
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Answers (Coal Drops Yard B1)

B – Listen and answer

1. King's/Kings 2. 50s 3. Yorkshire 4. 1,500 5. 100 million 6. roofs 7. market 8. cinema

C – Read and answer

1. They go there for shopping, dining and entertainment. 2. The floor of the wagons opened and the coal dropped to the floor below. 3. It was loaded onto carriages for transfer to narrowboats on Regents Canal. 4. They were abandoned as a result of the recession. 5. He added a third floor. 6. Because, besides shops and restaurants, the centre has a busy cultural programme and one of the cafés helps young offenders to reintegrate in society by employing them.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. neglected 2. pop-up 3. dropped 4. yard 5. canopies 6. gathered

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. Although/Though 2. that 3. like 4. warming 5. rely 6. to
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Answers (The American Song Contest B1)

B – Listen and answer

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. c 6. b

C – Read and answer

1. They have to be original songs and they have to be performed live. 2. They started last May. 3. They had to apply online. 4. Because, in addition to the fifty states, Washington D. C. and the five US territories were represented. 5. They were music industry professionals. 6. Ten. 7. Because the contest was shown on Netflix and Netflix also released a film about the contest. 8. The title is Wonderland.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. apply 2. awarded 3. held 4. doubtless 5. starred 6. prizes

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. village 2. by 3. fell 4. her to be 5. minds 6. chose

Answers (J. K. Rowling B2)**B – Listen and answer**

1. F – Her first Harry Potter book was published 25 years ago this month. 2. T 3. T 4. F – She sent the first three chapters to several publishers. 5. F – She continued to write stories for young readers. 6. T

C – Read and answer

1. She did it in cafés because she couldn't afford to heat her home. 2. She's written a play. 3. She was poor and a single mother. She lived on welfare benefit and was seriously depressed. 4. The 8-year-old daughter of the head of Bloomsbury publishing. 5. Because they are well-plotted and have loveable heroes, quirky characters and cruel, scary villains. 6. Because her mother died of multiple sclerosis. 7. Because Rowling had sat on it to type out the first two Harry Potter books. 8. Because her publishers thought that boys wouldn't read a book written by a woman.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. quirky 2. aiming 3. furniture 4. word of mouth 5. astonishing 6. stepped in

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. was so poor that 2. came to her 3. had been writing since 4. allows readers to follow 5. has turned to writing 6. both the US and the

Answers (Sherlock Holmes B2)**B – Listen and answer**

1. c 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. b 8. b

C – Read and answer

1. It represented one man rescuing another man by dragging him onto dry land. 2. Because it was some way down the coast and he thought few people would walk that far to see it. 3. The sea fret attracted him because it was strange and beautiful. 4. It burned his skin and took his breath away. 5. Because he thought he might become disorientated. 6. He was fully clothed and he had hurt his leg. 7. Some tourists. 8. Because they were resting against a sculpture that represented a situation similar to theirs.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. shivering 2. ribbon 3. harbour 4. narrow 5. sweating 6. swallowed

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. known 2. so 3. much/far 4. other 5. no 6. into 7. up 8. causes