



Movember (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are moustaches fashionable in your country at present?
2. Do you like them? Why (not)?
3. Does anyone you know have a moustache?
4. How many famous historical figures can you think of who had moustaches?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. Moustaches were fashionable at different times in the 20th century.
2. The return of the moustache began as a result of the initiative of two friends in 2003.
3. They were at the barber's when they decided to grow a moustache to raise money.
4. Till now, Movember has raised nearly 500 million euros.
5. The men who participate are allowed to grow a beard at the same time.
6. They can choose any style of moustache they like.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions..

1. Why did the main characters in Hollywood films often use to have moustaches?
2. How did some people react in the early years of the 21st century when a man grew a moustache?
3. What gave Travis Garone and Luke Slattery the idea of raising funds for prostate cancer?
4. How many people took part the first time?
5. What happened two years later?
6. Which health issues does the Movember Foundation raise funds for, besides prostate cancer?
7. What rule do participants have to follow at the start of the challenge?
8. How does having a moustache help them to collect money?

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.)

1. What are you _____ to the party tomorrow night?
2. The food in that café on the Brighton road is good. In fact, lots of _____ stop and eat there.
3. I didn't recognise you at first. You've _____ a beard!
4. We're going to the park. Why don't you _____ us when you've finished your homework?
5. The policeman received a medal for _____ after he faced the robber and disarmed him.
6. James likes to follow fashion. He always wears _____ clothes.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4))

Choose the best word for each space.

One of the most famous moustaches in English fiction is 1_____ (one/that/which) of Agatha Christie's detective hero, Hercule Poirot. In her first Poirot novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, Christie describes it 2_____ (as/like/so) "very stiff and military". However, as time passes, it becomes 3_____ (always/yet/more and) more magnificent. Poirot is extremely proud of it and spends a lot of time taking 4_____ (well/cure/care) of it. Other characters frequently comment on the moustache. One character even says he's sure "the funny little man" 5_____ (must/could/should) be a retired hairdresser. Whatever people think of it, it's definitely the first thing they 6_____ (find/notice/look) about him.

F – Check your pronunciation

One of the four words in each group has a different vowel sound. Which one?

1. plenty leading health breast
2. beer beard spread year
3. cause fallen support world
4. power growing allowed about
5. movement slogan scope joked

G – Write about it

Write a physical description of a famous historical person. Mention:

- height and build;
 - colour of eyes and hair;
 - other features.
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The Qwerty Keyboard (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you normally type with two fingers or with ten?
2. Are you a fast typist? If so, are you accurate?
3. Can you type without looking at the keys?
4. Have you ever wondered why the letters on a keyboard are placed as they are?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. The Qwerty keyboard is the standard keyboard for the _____ alphabet typewriter.
2. Primitive typewriters appeared in the _____ century.
3. Christopher Latham Sholes invented a practical typewriter in _____.
4. On Sholes's typewriter the keys were in _____ order.
5. In _____, Sholes patented a new Qwerty keyboard.
6. Some experts think that keyboards and _____ will soon disappear.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How did the Qwerty keyboard get its name?
2. What often happened when fast typists used a sequence of keys that were placed close together?
3. What did the Remington company make besides typewriters?
4. What was different about the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard of 1932?
5. What reasons are given for the failure of the Dvorak keyboard?
6. What will keyboards probably be replaced by in the future?

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. This cupboard needs repairing. Sometimes it _____ and I can't open it.
2. The _____ of the house is rather unusual. The bathroom is a long way from the bedrooms.
3. Unfortunately, our team _____ to qualify for the football tournament.
4. It's best to put medicines on the _____ shelf so that small children can't reach them.
5. Amy asked her parents to buy her a scooter, but they _____.
6. I can't find the fault in this system. I need more _____ from users.

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

Write one word only in each space.

Nowadays, people are increasingly using their laptops and phones to write with and writing 1_____ hand is becoming less common. However, handwriting is 2_____ to disappear completely, since there are a large 3_____ of situations in which it's 4_____ needed; for instance, when writing an essay during a class test, or when 5_____ gap-filling exercises in a school textbook. Besides, studies have 6_____ that handwriting is good for your brain, as it improves your memory and helps you to organise your thoughts.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. What kinds of texts do you usually write by hand?
 2. What kinds do you usually type out on a computer keyboard?
 3. Do you find it easier to remember things if you write them down? If so, why do you think this is?.
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Liz Truss (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are there many political parties in your country?
2. Which party has the most seats in your country's parliament?
3. Are many of the members of parliament women?
4. What do you know about British politics?
5. Can you name the main political parties in Britain?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. So far, all the female Prime Ministers of the UK have been Conservatives.
2. Liz Truss became Prime Minister after 57 per cent of the UK population voted for her.
3. She became a Conservative when she started studying at Oxford University.
4. She held several government positions before becoming Prime Minister.
5. After the Brexit referendum, she changed her mind about leaving the EU.
6. She has always praised British workers.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and the information box and answer the questions.

1. How long has Liz Truss been a Member of the Westminster Parliament?
2. Who was her opponent in the contest to become Prime Minister?

3. Which of the two did most Members of Parliament prefer?
4. Did she agree or disagree with the political ideas of her parents?
5. What was the first step in her political career?
6. What post did she hold at the time of entering the contest to become Prime Minister?
7. How did Dominic Cummings think she would compare to her predecessor Boris Johnson?
8. What do the political polls say about the two main parties at present?

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.)

1. This orange juice is rather _____. Shall we add some sugar to it?
2. My grandfather uses a very _____ phone. He refuses to buy a smart phone.
3. Last night, a car went off the road and _____ into a tree. Luckily the driver was unhurt.
4. Nowadays a lot of singers become famous through appearing in TV talent _____.
5. That little boy keeps screaming. I wish his parents would _____ him _____.
6. Mum will have to drive to the office tomorrow because there's a bus _____.

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: Two women have occupied the position of PM before Liz Truss.

THIRD Liz Truss is the third woman to occupy the position of PM.

1. Truss and rival Rishi Sunak were engaged in a bitter contest to become PM.

PART Truss _____ a bitter contest with rival Rishi Sunak.

2. In one poll, 88 per cent thought she would be a bad PM.

EXPECTED In one poll, only _____ to be a good PM.

3. As a Liberal Democrat, she wanted to abolish the monarchy.

FAVOUR As a Liberal democrat, she was _____ the monarchy.

4. A scandal involving an affair did not prevent her from entering Westminster.

ENTERED She _____ a scandal involving an affair.

5. There is no agreement among political commentators regarding Truss's character.

DIVIDED Political commentators _____ Truss's character.

6. According to one MP, previous prime ministers gave Truss jobs just to shut her up.

WAS One MP thinks Liz Truss _____ just to shut her up.

F – Write about it

Write about a controversial politician of your country. Include:

- some biographical information;
- his/her political party;
- the posts he/she has held;
- why he/she is controversial.

James Ellroy (C1 - Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like reading novels?
2. If so, what kind? Have you got a favourite writer?
3. Have any best-selling novels been set in your home town or region? Which ones?
4. Have you read any novels by James Ellroy?
5. If so, what did you think of them?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. Ellroy grew up in _____.
2. His childhood was troubled because his mother _____ when he was ten.
3. Between 1987 and 1992, he published a set of four novels entitled L.A. _____.
4. His novels have revealed the dark side of many _____ of the 1940s and 1950s.
5. He says that the key to understanding his novels lies in his own _____.
6. He compares the way he writes to the way _____ composed.
7. Two authors who inspired him are _____ and Dashiell Hammett.
8. He says he's 74 and _____ and intends to carry on writing.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why wasn't Ellroy's father an ideal parent for a boy who had lost his mother at an early age?
2. In what way was Ellroy's life unsettled when he was a young adult?
3. What does the article say about the vocabulary Ellroy uses in his novels?
4. In what way does he mix fact and fiction in his stories?
5. How did he find out the guilty secrets of many film stars?
6. Why does Ellroy think Los Angeles is worse today than the city described in his books?
7. Why is his attitude to Donald Trump lenient?
8. How does he see the future?

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.)

1. Using the internet in some rural areas is _____ because there are no broadband services.
2. When you have to write a composition, it's best to start by making an _____.
3. We can't go on like this. The situation is _____. Something will have to change!
4. Don't go near the park at night. It's dangerous. The area is full of _____.
5. Yesterday our dog found a rabbit hole and ran around it _____ and barking loudly.
6. When you're choosing a car, you have to _____ its fuel consumption.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

James Ellroy was six when his parents 1_____ (became/have/had/got) divorced and he and his mother moved to a suburb of Los Angeles. Four years later his mother was found strangled on a roadside. The crime, 2_____ (though/despite/yet/instead) investigated thoroughly, was never solved. From then 3_____ (off/after/on/forward), Ellroy started to go off the 4_____ (rails/track/path/road). He was expelled from school before graduating and, after a brief spell in the army, ended 5_____ (with/on/up/in) living on the streets of Los Angeles, where he drank heavily, 6_____ (brought/took/had/ate) drugs and spent his time reading crime novels. After 7_____ (been/be/to be/being) jailed for burglary, he started working in a bookshop and later as a golf caddy and gradually 8_____ (could/managed/enabled/succeeded) to turn his life around. In 1981, at the age of 30, he published his first novel, *Brown's Requiem*.

F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's best-selling living novelists. Include information about his/her:

- biography;
- genre;
- best-known works;
- writing style.

Answers (Movember A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. T 3. F – When they decided to do it, they were in a pub. 4. F – It has raised over 500 million euros. 5. No beards are allowed. 6. T

C – Read and answer

1. It represented their virility. 2. They ridiculed him because it had gone out of fashion. 3. A friend's mother was raising funds for breast cancer. 4. Thirty. (Or thirty-two, including the two friends.) 5. The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia became Movember's first official partner. 6. It also raises funds for testicular cancer, mental health and the effects of physical inactivity. 7. They have to be clean-shaven. 8. It helps them to create conversation and talk about the initiative to others and ask for contributions.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. wearing 2. truckers 3. grown 4. join 5. bravery 6. trendy

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. that 2. as 3. more and 4. care 5. must 6. notice

F – Check your pronunciation

1. leading 2. spread 3. world 4. growing 5. movement
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Answers (The Qwerty Keyboard B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. Latin 2. early 19th 3. 1868 4. alphabetical 5. 1878 6. touch screens

C – Read and answer

1. It got its name from the first six letters in the top row of keys. 2. The keys jammed 3. It made guns. 4. The keys for the most common letters were in the middle row of the keyboard. 5. The reasons given are that people are accustomed to the Qwerty keyboard and it has not been shown that other systems produce faster typing. 6. They will probably be replaced by voice input or messages sent to computers directly from our brains.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. jams 2. layout 3. failed 4. top 5. refused 6. input

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. by 2. unlikely 3. number 4. still 5. doing 6. shown/demonstrated/proved
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Answers (Liz Truss B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – Fifty-seven per cent of party members voted for her. 3. At first she was a Liberal Democrat. She became a Conservative in her final year at university. 4. T 5. T 6. F – She once criticised British workers, saying they lacked skill and needed more graft.

C – Read and answer

1. For 12 years./Since 2010. 2. Rishi Sunak. 3. They preferred Rishi Sunak. 4. She disagreed with them. 5. She became a local councillor. 6. She was Foreign Secretary. 7. He thought she would be even worse than him. 8. They say that the Tories (Conservatives) are losing to the Labour Party.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. bitter 2. outdated 3. crashed 4. contests 5. shut (him) up 6. strike

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. took part in 2. 12 per cent expected her 3. in favour of abolishing 4. entered Westminster despite 5. are divided over/on/about 6. was given jobs

Answers (James Ellroy C1 - Advanced)

B – Listen and answer

1. Los Angeles 2. was murdered 3. Quartet 4. Hollywood celebrities 5. biography
6. Beethoven 7. Raymond Chandler 8. healthy

C – Read and answer

1. Because he wasn't a hands-on parent. 2. He drank heavily and became homeless. 3. It says he uses a lot of expletives. 4. He incorporates real-life characters and events, like J. F. Kennedy and his assassination, into his plots. 5. He heard about them from his schoolmates at junior high school. Many of them had parents who worked in the film industry. 6. Because it's uglier, it's overcrowded and it's hard to park there. 7. Because he says America got what it paid for (meaning America elected him) and he didn't do too much damage. 8. He says he's optimistic about it because life goes on.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. troublesome 2. outline 3. untenable 4. dope addicts 5. sniffing 6. bear in mind

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. got 2. though 3. on 4. rails 5. up 6. took 7. being 8. managed