



The Quakers (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What is the largest religion in your country?
2. What religious minorities are there?
3. Do you know if there are any Quakers?
4. What do you know about the Quakers?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. Another name for the Quakers is the Religious _____ of Friends.
2. The history of the movement goes back to the _____ century.
3. In America, the Quakers played an important role in the _____ of _____.
4. There are about _____ society members in the world today.
5. They are present in over _____ different countries.
6. The country with the largest number is _____.
7. Quakers are active in _____ movements.
8. They refuse to take part in _____.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Where did the Quaker movement originate?
2. Who was it founded by? Why?
3. What is the Quakers' attitude to women's rights?
4. How is Quaker worship different from that of other religions?
5. How are decisions made?
6. How do today's Quakers dress?

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 plural to singular.)

1. The new medicine didn't improve Sam's condition. Instead it _____ it.
2. Look at the time! _____ we hurry, we'll miss our train.
3. Amy's a scientist, so her _____ in the supernatural is rather surprising.
4. It was difficult to remove the tree because it had very deep _____.
5. That boy's a bully. He enjoys _____ smaller students if they disagree with him.
6. The government's main _____ at present is the high rate of inflation.

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

Choose the best word for each space.

Quakers get together in a meetinghouse for their worship, not in a church. There is no altar and no priest. Therefore, the chairs are ¹_____ (arranged/disposed/ordered) in a circle or a square so that everyone can see each ²_____ (another/else/other).

At the beginning, members sit in silence for about an hour. ³_____ (After/Afterwards/At last) they may talk about their thoughts. When their worship is over, members will usually chat

together. More often ⁴ _____ (as/of/than) not, there's coffee and tea with biscuits and cakes.

Visitors are welcome at the meetings. If you go to one, don't be surprised if members come up and introduce ⁵ _____ (themselves/them/theirs) to you. They may even ask you what made you come to the meeting and how you found the experience.

You don't have to dress up to attend a meeting. Some members will be in their office clothes, others will be in jeans, so just ⁶ _____ (dress/put/wear) what you're comfortable in.

F – Check your pronunciation

Underline the stressed syllable in each of these words.

society concern significant issues beliefs
individual unless reject (verb) emphasise endured

G – Write about it

Write about a minority religion in your country. Mention:

- approximately how many members it has;
- when/where/how it originated;
- where its members worship;
- what its main beliefs are.

Shakespeare and Company (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do people in your country read a lot of books?
2. If so, do most people still buy paper books or do they download them as e-books?
3. Are there many bookshops in your town?
4. What other things do several bookshops do besides selling books?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. George Whitman, an American, opened a bookshop near the River Seine in Paris in 1951.
2. He had just arrived in Paris at the time.
3. Silvia Beach was an Englishwoman living in Paris, who visited the bookshop.
4. She had owned an English bookshop called Shakespeare and Company.
5. In the 1920s, Shakespeare and Company had been a meeting place for American writers.
6. Shakespeare and Company closed down just before World War II.
7. Silvia Beach became a regular visitor to Le Mistral in 1962.
8. Aspiring writers were allowed to sleep in the shop if they did some work.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why wasn't George Whitman able to sell his books from a boat?
2. How did he manage to buy his bookshop?
3. What had brought Silvia Beach to Paris?
4. What did her bookshop do besides selling books?
5. Why was Shakespeare and Company popular with French as well as American readers?
6. Whose book was printed there for the first time?
7. Why had it been rejected by other publishers?
8. Why did Whitman rename his bookshop?

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 shop used to be a _____ . My grandmother bought most of her food here.
2. The area is very green. There are woods along both _____ of the river.
3. Let's go to a different café for lunch. The one near the school is always _____ - _____.
4. Joe is British but he's spent most of his working life living in Europe as an _____.
5. The cottage was lovely in summer, but very cold and _____ in winter.
6. The company wanted Judy to work in their sales department but she _____ their offer.

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

Write one word only in each space.

George Whitman ¹_____ born in New Jersey in 1913 and he ²_____ up in Massachusetts, but he lived in France for most of his life. He first went to Paris in 1946 ³_____ work in a camp for orphans of World War II and later enrolled at the Sorbonne, ⁴_____ he studied French Civilisation. ⁵_____ was there that he started collecting books. Whitman ⁶_____ in 2011, at the age of 98, in the flat above his Paris bookshop. Now his daughter Sylvia runs the shop.

F – Write about it

Write about a well-known bookshop in your town or region. Mention:

- where it's located;
- how long it's been there;
- whether it's independent or belongs to a chain;
- what kind of books it sells;
- what other activities take place there (e.g. talks, book-signings, exhibitions, etc.)

The National Gallery (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like visiting museums and art galleries? Why (not)?
2. Do you have a favourite painter or artist? If so, who is it?
3. Which is your country's most famous art gallery?

B – Listen and answer

Listen to the introductory article (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The bicentenary celebrations for London's National Gallery will begin on
a) 24th May 2024. b) 12th May 2025. c) 10th May 2024.
2. The celebrations will go on for
a) a year. b) a week. c) a month.
3. The original collection of 38 paintings was first exhibited in
a) a smaller art gallery in Pall Mall. b) a private house. c) an insurance agency.
4. More paintings were acquired when Sir George Beaumont ... his collection to the nation.
a) displayed b) sold c) donated
5. A new National Gallery building was constructed in Trafalgar Square because the site was
a) cheap to buy. b) convenient to get to. c) beautiful.
6. The new director of the National Gallery, Charles Eastlake,
a) bought a lot of Italian paintings. b) travelled all over the world. c) Both of these.
7. The National Gallery now has ... works.
a) around 245 b) nearly 3,000 c) more than 2,300
8. Some of the best-known paintings will be shown in ... during the bicentenary.
a) different cities. b) different parts of London. c) different countries.

C – Read and answer

Read the introductory article and answer the questions.

1. What are the bicentenary celebrations to be called?
2. What style was the National Gallery built in?
3. How was it possible to view John Julius Angerstein's paintings before 1823?
4. How was his collection acquired by the National Gallery?
5. How were visits to the National Gallery restricted when it was in Pall Mall?
6. How many people worked for the gallery in that period?
7. What kinds of paintings did Charles Eastlake buy for the National Gallery, at first?
8. Which two paintings will soon leave the National Gallery for the first time since being acquired?

D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

N.B. This interview is graded as C1, so don't be discouraged if you find it difficult. Try to understand the main points.

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

1. The National gallery archive was started in the late 19th century.
2. Every year, thousands of people go to the archive to do research.
3. Nick Smith has worked there for fifteen years.
4. The archive organises courses for schools.
5. The archive contains pieces of a stolen portrait by Thomas Gainsborough.
6. The portrait disappeared for 25 years before being recovered by a British detective agency.
7. The thief was the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes's enemy, Professor Moriarty.
8. The gallery sometimes chooses unusual venues to display its paintings in.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

Listen to the interview while reading the text. (If you did Exercise D, check your answers while reading.)

F – 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 plural to singular.)

1. My grandmother went to work as a _____ before starting her office-cleaning company.
2. Thieves stole all the school's computers, but the _____ were never caught.
3. My wardrobe's in a mess. I have a lot of clothes I don't wear any more. They need _____.
4. Where is the concert taking place? Is it at the same _____ as last year?
5. The chairs we ordered online came in a cardboard box. We had to _____ them ourselves.
6. The dishwasher broke down, so Ryan had to _____ his sleeves and wash the dishes.

G – Ready for the 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: NG200 also aims to show what the gallery's style will be in the future.

TONE The aim of NG200 is also to set the tone for the gallery's future.

1. The gallery aims to give all kinds of people an opportunity to discover art.

WALKS The gallery aims to bring art into contact with people of _____ life.

2. The first home of the collection was a less stately building in Pall Mall.

MODEST The collection was originally _____ premises in Pall Mall.

3. It was soon necessary to find a more suitable space for the collection.

HAD A more suitable space soon _____ for the collection.

4. Eastlake travelled throughout Europe for ten years to purchase works of art.

SPENT Eastlake _____ throughout Europe to purchase works of art.

5. There are around 245 employees at the gallery and it gets millions of visitors a year.

STAFF The gallery _____ and welcomes millions of visitors a year.

6. Simultaneous events and exhibitions are to be held in each of the partner venues.
WILL Each of the partner venues _____ simultaneous events and exhibitions.

H – Write about it

Write about a world-famous public art gallery in your country. Mention:

- where it's located;
 - what style it's in;
 - when it was opened;
 - what kind of art is exhibited there;
 - where its collections came from;
 - some of its best-known works of art.
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Manhattan or Pulau Rhun? In 1667, Nutmeg Made the Choice a No-Brainer (C2 - Proficiency)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like spicy food?
2. Which spices do you and your family use most when cooking?
3. Do you know where these spices come from?
4. What do you know about the history of the spice trade?

B – Listen and answer

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

1. The island of Pulau Rhun has no roads and no motor vehicles.
2. It was once the only place with a forest of nutmeg trees.
3. Rhun and eleven other small isles make up the Banda Islands.
4. Rhun has an area of about two square miles.
5. Most of the islanders know something about the treaty between the British and the Dutch.
6. The islanders can only recharge their cell phones during the day.
7. Nutmeg is still important for the island's economy.
8. A mature nutmeg tree can produce around 3,000 fruits a year.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What does Pulau Rhun have in place of roads?
2. Why did the Netherlands readily swap New Amsterdam for Pulau Rhun and its nutmeg forest?
3. What percentage of today's islanders descend from the native Bandanese inhabitants? Why?
4. Why is the journey to Pulau Rhun an uncomfortable one?
5. How do many of the islanders feel when comparing their island to Manhattan?
6. What do you think would make life on Pulau Rhun uncomfortable for most westerners?

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. During the ferry trip, the sea was very _____ and many people suffered from sea sickness.
2. Rhubarb leaves aren't _____. In fact they're toxic to both humans and animals.
3. The job interview was rather _____. They asked some questions that I wasn't prepared for.
4. In the street, there are separate bins for paper, plastic, glass and food _____.
5. Dad accidentally _____ the antique vase off the shelf and it fell to the floor and smashed.
6. Sarah's the youngest daughter, but she works hard and is the _____ of her family.

E – Ready for Cambridge C2 PROFICIENCY? (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 3 and 8 words including the word given.

Example: The Netherlands gave Manhattan to the British and got Pulau Rhun in return.

SWAPPED The Netherlands swapped Manhattan for Pulau Rhun.

1. It would be difficult to find two islands that are more distant.
HARDLY The two islands _____ apart.
2. Formerly, nutmeg grew in only one place: the Banda Islands.
WHERE The Banda Islands _____ grew.
3. European colonisers called the two island groups the Spice Islands.
KNOWN The two island groups _____ the Spice Islands.
4. Today few remember Rhun.
LITTLE Rhun _____ today.
5. Most students know of the treaty and the high value once set on nutmeg.
PRIZED Most students know that _____ and have heard of the treaty.
6. A nutmeg fruit and a large apricot measure about the same.
SIZE A nutmeg fruit is similar _____ a large apricot.

F – Write about it

Write about a spice or herb used frequently in your country's cuisine. Mention:

- what it looks and tastes like;
- what dishes it's used in;
- where it comes from;
- whether it's expensive;
- whether you like it.

The Quakers (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. Society
2. 17th
3. abolition – slavery
4. 370,000
5. 80
6. Kenya
7. civil rights
8. wars

C – Read and answer

1. It originated in England. 2. It was founded by George Fox because he wanted to go back to the roots of Christianity and to Jesus' teachings of non-violence, simple living and concern for those in need. 3. They are in favour of women's rights and were among their earliest advocates. 4. It's simple and it takes place in silence. 5. They're made collectively without a designated leader. 6. They dress like other people, but they prefer simplicity and avoid excess.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. worsened
2. Unless
3. belief
4. roots
5. beating up
6. concern

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. arranged
2. other
3. Afterwards
4. than
5. themselves
6. wear

F – Check your pronunciation

society concern significant issues beliefs
individual unless reject (verb) emphasise endured

Answers: Shakespeare and Company (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. T
2. F – He had arrived in Paris in 1946.
3. F – She was an American.
4. T
5. T
6. F – It closed down during World War II, when the Nazis occupied Paris.
7. F – She was already a regular visitor to the bookshop by 1959.
8. T

C – Read and answer

1. Because they got damp. 2. He bought it with a \$500 inheritance. 3. She had come as a volunteer with the American Red Cross during World War I. 4. It was also a lending library./It also lent books. 5. Because among French readers there was a growing interest in American literature. 6. James Joyce's *Ulysses*. 7. Because they considered it obscene. 8. He was flattered when Silvia Beach said *Le Mistral* was a "spiritual successor" to her shop, so he renamed it in her honour.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. grocery store 2. banks 3. jam-packed 4. expat 5. damp 6. rejected

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. was 2. grew 3. to 4. where 5. It 6. died

Answers: The National Gallery (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

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

C – Read and answer

1. They're to be called NG200. 2. It was built in the Neo-Renaissance style. 3. It was necessary to make an appointment to view them. 4. It was bought by the state for £57,000. 5. The gallery was open only five days a week and only 200 visitors were allowed in at a time. 6. Five. 7. He bought Italian masters. 8. *The Wilton Diptych* and *Botticelli's Venus and Mars*.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

1. F – It was started in the early 19th century./in 1824. 2. T 3. F – He's worked there for 5 years./since April 2019. 4. T 5. T 6. F – It was recovered by an American detective agency. 7. T 8. T

F – Learn it! Use it!

1. housemaid 2. culprits 3. sorting 4. venue 5. assemble 6. roll up

G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English?

1. all walks of 2. housed in more modest 3. had to be found 4. spent ten years travelling
5. employs/has around 245 staff 6. will hold/will be holding

Answers: Manhattan or Pulau Rhun? In 1667, Nutmeg Made the Choice a No-Brainer (C2 - Advanced)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – It has no roads but there are a few motorbikes. 2. T 3. F – Rhun and ten other small isles make up the Banda Islands. 4. F – It has an area of about one square mile (2 miles x 0.5 miles). 5. T 6. F – There's electricity only at night. 7. T 8. T

C – Read and answer

1. It has paved footpaths and steep stairways. 2. Because at that time nutmeg was worth its weight in gold. 3. None of them do, because the native inhabitants were killed or enslaved by the Dutch. 4. Because the ferry to Banda Neira is crowded and infested with cockroaches and the motorboat from there to Rhun can take hours in rough seas and, on arrival, may have to wait for the tide to rise. 5. They think their island compares favourably. They are happy to have the sea and the forest and are unimpressed by the skyscrapers of Manhattan. 6. Probably the heat, as well as the lack of running water, daytime electricity and air conditioning. They would probably also dislike the poor cell-phone service and the garbage dumped in the sea and forest and on the beach.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. rough 2. edible 3. daunting 4. waste 5. knocked 6. mainstay

E – Ready for Cambridge C2 PROFICIENCY?

1. could hardly be farther 2. were formerly the only place where nutmeg 3. were known to European colonisers as 4. is little remembered 5. nutmeg was once highly prized 6. in size to

SpeakUp
