



## Matariki – Māori New Year (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

*Answer the questions with a partner.*

1. What do people usually do on 31<sup>st</sup> December in your country?
2. Is it considered an important celebration? Why (not)?
3. What do you know about New Zealand?
4. How much do you know about its indigenous population, the Māori people?

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. Māori New Year is in the middle of New Zealand's winter.
2. All Māori tribes celebrate Matariki in the same way.
3. Matariki will be in the second week of June this year.
4. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the celebration of Matariki declined.
5. As part of the celebrations, Māori enjoy food cooked on an open fire.
6. Matariki is also a time when Māori think of dead friends and relatives.

### C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions..*

1. Why is New Zealand one of the first places to welcome the new year?
2. What is Matariki?
3. When does it appear?
4. What does the date of Matariki depend on?
5. Why was the brightness of the stars considered important?
6. What happens at Matariki festivals?
7. What is the purpose of storytelling?
8. Why do people light fires at dawn and make food offerings to the stars?

### 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. Our flight is at 5.00 in the morning, so we'll have to leave home before \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ian put a pizza in the \_\_\_\_\_ and left it for too long, so it got completely burnt.
3. The sauce was easy to make. I just \_\_\_\_\_ mayonnaise and ketchup and added lemon juice.
4. The light in this room is too \_\_\_\_\_ for reading. Switch on that reading lamp, please.
5. Eggs have gone up in price because there's a \_\_\_\_\_ of them at the moment.
6. Diamond cutting is a skill that is often \_\_\_\_\_ from one generation to the next.

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

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

Matariki appears in the <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (early/first/soon/prime) morning sky in New Zealand during the midwinter months. It is a star cluster that is quite <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (closest/closed/closely/close) to Earth. Therefore it is one of the brightest in the sky. Though it contains <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (hundred/hundreds/a hundred/one hundred) of stars, only nine of them can be <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (saw/seeing/seen/see) by the naked eye.

The star cluster is visible <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (in/at/on/with) different times of the year in countries throughout the world. However, its name changes. In English it is known <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (for/after/in/by) its ancient Greek name, Pleiades. In Japanese it is called Subaru.

## F – Write about it

Write about the New Year celebrations in your city, town or village last year. Mention:

- community celebrations, like fireworks, concerts, parades, etc.
  - any unusual national or regional traditions;
  - how you and your family/friends celebrated New Year last year.
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## Windrush Day (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. For what reasons do people decide to leave their homes and go and live in another country?
2. What are some of the problems migrants have in their adopted country?
3. Would you like to go and live in a different country? Why (not)?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. Windrush Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. On this day in \_\_\_\_\_, the ship Empire Windrush arrived with people from the Caribbean.
3. The Caribbean countries were suffering from chronic \_\_\_\_\_ at that time.
4. After the \_\_\_\_\_ Act, people from the colonies could live and work in the UK.
5. Some of them found life difficult because of low wages and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A government report, published in \_\_\_\_\_, showed that some had been wrongly deported.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How long did it take HMT Empire Windrush to sail from the Caribbean to the United Kingdom?
2. What is meant by the expression "The Windrush Generation"?
3. What event made the situation in Caribbean countries worse?
4. Where did many people from the Caribbean go to look for a job?
5. How soon did most Windrush passengers find employment?
6. What were some of the jobs they got?
7. Why did some of the Windrush Generation find their right to live in the UK denied?
8. What happened as a result of the 2018 government report?

### 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. If you need to buy a sofa, go to that shop in Carlton Street. They have a very \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What time will our ship \_\_\_\_\_ in Sydney Harbour tomorrow?
3. Maisy's boyfriend works for a company that builds bridges. He's a \_\_\_\_\_.

4. When we explained the situation to James, he \_\_\_\_\_ that he had been wrong.
5. This island is the perfect holiday destination for people \_\_\_\_\_ peace and tranquillity.
6. The rail workers are on strike. They are demanding higher \_\_\_\_\_ and shorter working hours.

### **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.*

The hurricane that struck Jamaica on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1944 caused a <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ deal of damage, especially along the north coast. Winds of <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ to 195 km an hour swept over the island. <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ a result, 90 per cent of the country's banana trees and over 40 per cent of its coconut trees were destroyed. The total <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of the damage to Jamaica's crops, infrastructure and homes came <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ many millions of dollars. In <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ to the economic losses, there was also significant loss of life. <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ is estimated that the hurricane caused the death of at <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ 116 people.

### **F – Talk about it**

*In pairs or groups.*

1. Have many people migrated to your country?
  2. If so, when? Where from? For what reasons?
  3. Have most of them found work?
  4. Have they faced discrimination? If so, what kind of discrimination?
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## **Best Friends Forever (B2 - Upper Intermediate)**

### **A – Before you start**

*Answer the questions with a partner.*

1. Have you ever had a dog?
2. If so, was it a pet or a working dog (e.g. a guard dog or a sheep dog, etc.)?
3. How much do you think a dog understands when its owner tries to communicate with it?

### **B – Listen and answer**

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

1. The domestication of dogs began in Africa.
2. Some studies have found that dog-owners are psychologically and physically healthier.
3. Juliane Kaminski says domestication occurred because dogs and humans adapted to each other.
4. She thinks dogs are better at understanding verbal commands than understanding gestures.
5. According to Kaminski, a chimpanzee that is raised with humans can be considered a pet.
6. Over 80 per cent of dogs in the world live in people's homes as pets.
7. Juliane Kaminsky is not scandalised by the fact that dogs are eaten in some parts of the world.
8. According to some studies, cats have the same ability to understand words as dogs do.

### **C – Read and answer**

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. Why are dogs referred to as 'man's best friend'?
2. How do we know that dogs descended from the grey wolf?
3. What research is carried out at the Dog Cognition Centre of the University of Portsmouth?
4. Why is the Centre studying the domestication of dogs rather than that of other animals?
5. What characteristics did humans look for when selecting and breeding dogs?
6. Why was Chaser famous?
7. What kinds of changes have enabled dogs to live in the environment we have created for them?
8. What can dogs do much better than wolves?

9. Why are cats more difficult to study than dogs?
10. What difference is there between cats and dogs in their motivation to follow cues?

### 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. If you apply for British citizenship, you may have to \_\_\_\_\_ an English language test.
2. We didn't measure the table in the shop, but I would say it was \_\_\_\_\_ two metres long.
3. Daisy keeps herself to herself. She doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ with any of her classmates.
4. During their holiday in Scotland, Joe and Anne \_\_\_\_\_ seafood most evenings.
5. That's a strange-looking dog! I wonder what \_\_\_\_\_ it is.
6. Helen's got a job and three small children! How does she \_\_\_\_\_ everything?

### 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: Certainly humans were involved in the evolution of the wolf into the friendly dog.

ROLE Certainly humans had a role in the evolution of the wolf into the friendly dog.

1. Dogs do not only offer companionship and protection. They also offer well-being.  
WELL Dogs offer well-being \_\_\_\_\_ companionship and protection.
2. People who don't own a dog have a higher probability of dying after a heart attack.  
LIKELY People who own a dog \_\_\_\_\_ after a heart attack.
3. Juliane Kaminski studies dogs because, as a model, they are so interesting.  
SUCH Juliane Kaminski studies dogs because they \_\_\_\_\_ model.
4. She thinks it's possible that dogs adapted to the human environment in specific ways.  
MIGHT She thinks dogs \_\_\_\_\_ to the human environment in specific ways.
5. Thanks to humans, dogs have become animals that can cope with our environment.  
TURNED Humans \_\_\_\_\_ animals that can cope with our environment.
6. Cats began to be domesticated around ten thousand years ago.  
HAVE Cats \_\_\_\_\_ around ten thousand years.

### F Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Which animal makes the best pet, in your opinion? Why?
2. Do you think it's right for people to have wild animals as pets? Why (not)?
3. Do you think dogs are more intelligent than other pets, like cats or horses? Why (not)?
4. Do you know of any instances in which pets or other animals have demonstrated their intelligence in a surprising way?

## Finland is the World's Happiest Country (C1 - Advanced)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about Finland? (e.g. its climate, geography, history, traditions, etc.)
2. Can you think of any reasons why Finland is ranked as the World's Happiest Country?

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. The level of corruption in Finland is the lowest in the world.
2. The author of the article says the capital, Helsinki, looks a lot like other Nordic cities.
3. The inhabitants of Helsinki can walk to the nearest park or forest.
4. Some Finns spend their summer holidays in cabins without running water.
5. The author flies to the island of Vartiosaari to meet Adela Pajunen.
6. Many Finns recognise that some things in their country could be improved.
7. In recent years, Finnish people have discovered that ice-swimming is good for the health.
8. Few Finns have their own sauna nowadays.

### C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. What is the purpose of the author's trip to Finland?
2. What makes it easy to explore Helsinki, especially in summer?
3. How do the inhabitants of Helsinki stay happy during the cold dark winter months?
4. What is most of Finland's landscape made up of?
5. What is Adela Pajunen encouraging doctors to prescribe for patients suffering from stress?
6. What social and political issues are Finns concerned about?
7. What example does the article give of *sisu*, the stoic and determined character of Finns?
8. Why is it possible for Finns to hike and forage anywhere?

### 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 dessert is made with \_\_\_\_\_, like raspberries, blackberries, blueberries and strawberries.
2. They arrived at the log cabin and lit a fire, so it soon warmed up and became nice and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In the past, homes didn't have \_\_\_\_\_ . People got water from a well, pump or stream.
4. Our guests arrived early. We were only \_\_\_\_\_ through our breakfast when they rang the bell.
5. Amy had some time to spare before her train so she \_\_\_\_\_ round looking at shop windows.
6. If you're wild camping, it's useful to have a \_\_\_\_\_ phone charger with you.

### E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2))

*Complete the text. Use only one word in each space.*

The sauna tradition has <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ practised in Finland for thousands of years. Saunas appeared there with the first settlements after the Ice <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. These ancient saunas were just holes dug in the ground and covered with animal skins. Then, around 1,500–2,000 years ago, after people <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ developed better building tools, they began constructing their saunas from logs. Sauna bathing is considered an important aspect of the Finnish way of <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. There are approximately 3.2 million saunas in Finland. This means it <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ be possible for all Finns to bathe at the same time. <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ average, Finnish children have their first sauna before they turn six months old and will <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ on having them about once every ten days all <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ their lives.

### F Talk about it

*In pairs or groups.*

1. Do you know where your country is ranked in the World Happiness Report? (If not, look it up.)
2. Do you agree with its ranking? Why (not)?
3. What are the things that make people happy/unhappy in your country?
4. Do you agree with Wolfgang Zellar that happiness is the result of being satisfied with your lot?
5. Do you believe being outside and connecting with nature can make you happier and improve your physical and mental well-being? Why (not)?

## Answers: Matariki – Māori New Year (B1)

### B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – Each tribe celebrates Matariki in its own way. 3. F – It will be in the third week of June (on 20<sup>th</sup> June). 4. T 5. F – They enjoy food cooked underground. 6. T

### C – Read and answer

1. Because of its time zone. (It is situated in the time zone that reaches midnight first.) 2. Matariki is the Māori name for the 'mother' (central star) of a cluster of stars known as the Pleiades. It is also the name of the cluster. 3. It appears just before dawn in midwinter. 4. It depends on the Māori lunar calendar and astronomical observations. 5. Because if the stars were bright, it meant there would be a good year (for crops). 6. There are songs, dances, prayers, performances and fireworks. People also eat traditional food and participate in story-telling. 7. To pass down Māori legends, traditions and knowledge.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. dawn 2. oven 3. blended 4. dim 5. shortage 6. passed down.

### E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. early 2. close 3. hundreds 4. seen 5. at 6. by

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## Answers: Windrush Day (B2)

### B – Listen and answer

1. 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2. 1948 3. unemployment 4. British Nationality 5. discrimination 6. 2018

### C – Read and answer

1. It took thirty days. 2. It means the Commonwealth citizens who came to live in Britain between 1948 and 1971. 3. A deadly hurricane in 1944 made the situation worse. 4. Many of them went to the nearest employment centre in Brixton to look for work. 5. Most of them found work within a month. 6. Some of the jobs were as nurses in the National Health Service and as cleaners, manual labourers and drivers. 7. Because, when they arrived, their details had not been properly recorded by officials. 8. A compensation scheme was introduced and recommendations were put forward to improve the immigration system. The government also announced a national day to pay tribute to the Windrush Generation.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. wide range 2. dock 3. welder 4. acknowledged 5. seeking 6. wages

### E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. great 2. up 3. As 4. cost 5. to 6. addition 7. It 8. least

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## Answers: Best Friends Forever (B2)

### B – Listen and answer

1. F – It began in Asia. 2. T 3. T 4. F – She thinks their particular strength is in reading non-verbal communication, i.e. gestures. 5. F – She says raising a chimpanzee in a house doesn't make it a pet. 6. F – Eighty-five per cent of the dogs in the world are street dogs. 7. T 8. T

### C – Read and answer

1. Because we associate certain positive characteristics with them, like loyalty, protectiveness and affection. 2. There is genetic evidence for it. 3. The Centre carries out research into the special relationship between dogs and humans and how dogs understand humans and the world around them. 4. Because dogs have been living with us for a long time: roughly thirty thousand years. 5. They looked for friendliness, cooperation and the ability to understand our communication. 6. Because he knew more than one thousand objects by name. 7. Changes in their anatomy



and physiology. 8. They can read human communication, attend to humans and establish eye contact with humans. 9. Because cats are territorial, so they can't be studied at a research centre. Researchers would have to go to people's homes to study cats. 10. Cats are less motivated to follow cues and less eager to interact, especially with a stranger.

**D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. undergo 2. roughly 3. hang out 4. dined on 5. breed 6. cope with

**E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. as well as 2. are less likely to die 3. are such an interesting 4. might have adapted  
5. have turned dogs into 6. have been domesticated for

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**Answers: Finland is the World's Happiest Country (C1)**

**B – Listen and answer**

1. F – Finland is one of the world's least corrupt countries. 2. F – She says it has its own design aesthetic. 3. T 4. T 5. F – The author goes to Vartiosaari by ferry. 6. T 7. F – They have known about the benefits for centuries. 8. F – Most Finns have a sauna at home.

**C – Read and answer**

1. She wants to find out whether Finland is really such a pleasant country to live in and why its people are the happiest in the world. 2. The city is small enough to explore on foot or by bike and in summer it has up to nineteen hours of sunlight. 3. They go to cafés, carve a hole in the sea ice and go for a dip, or spend time outdoors in parks or forests. 4. Most of it is made up of lakes, islands and forests. 5. She's encouraging them to prescribe time outside. 6. They are concerned about their welfare state and their 830-mile long land border with Russia. 7. They don't complain about the winter or the weather. 8. There's a law, called Everyman's Right, which gives everyone the freedom to roam and forage in Finland's forests and use its lakes.

**D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. berries 2. cosy 3. running water 4. halfway 5. wandered/roamed 6. solar-powered

**E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?**

1. been 2. Age 3. had 4. life 5. would 6. On 7. carry/go 8. through