



## Rugby (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about rugby football?
2. Have you ever watched a rugby match or played in a rugby team?
3. How popular is rugby in your country?

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. Football has been played in Britain since the late Middle Ages.
2. Rugby wasn't invented till the 19th century.
3. It is not known for sure how it was invented.
4. The rules for rugby were established in 1863,
5. The teams competing in the Five Nations Championship were the four British teams and France.
6. There is no connection between American football and rugby.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. At what time of year was folk football played?
2. What were the rules of folk football?
3. Why is William Webb Ellis said to have invented rugby?
4. What kinds of values were football and rugby associated with in the Victorian era?
5. Why was the Rugby Football Club Union created to regulate the game in 1871?
6. In which countries has rugby become particularly important?

### 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. James didn't go to basketball \_\_\_\_\_ after school yesterday because he wasn't feeling well.
2. Marie was offended when Sarah invited a lot of friends to her party but \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Martin is very friendly, \_\_\_\_\_ his sister is rather unsociable.
4. My grandmother used to sing this. It's an old Scottish \_\_\_\_\_ song.
5. News of the disaster \_\_\_\_\_ rapidly and in a few hours the whole town knew about it.
6. Lack of exercise and the consumption of high-calorie foods are the \_\_\_\_\_ causes of obesity.

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

Write one word only in each space.

The international governing body for the sport of rugby union is World Rugby. 1\_\_\_\_\_ four years, World Rugby organises a tournament called the Rugby World Cup, in 2\_\_\_\_\_ twenty top international teams 3\_\_\_\_\_ part. The next Rugby World Cup will take place in France in 2023.

The winners of the tournament are awarded the Webb Ellis Cup, named 4\_\_\_\_\_ the man who is said to have invented the game when he 5\_\_\_\_\_ up the ball and ran with it during a football game. The current champions are South Africa, who 6\_\_\_\_\_ England in the final of the 2019 tournament, which was held in Japan.

## F – Write about it

Write about a sport that you like to watch. Mention:

- why you like watching it;
- how often you watch it;
- who you watch it with;
- whether you prefer to watch it in person or on TV.
- who your favourite players or teams are.

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## Amelia Earhart (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you enjoy flying?
2. What is the longest flight you have ever been on?
3. Would you like to learn how to pilot a plane? Why (not)?
4. What do you know about Amelia Earhart?
5. Can you name any other aviation pioneers?

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. Amelia Earhart's transatlantic flight took place in May, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She set off from \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ intending to land in Paris.
3. Instead of Paris, she landed in Northern \_\_\_\_\_.
4. She had obtained her pilot's licence in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In 1928, she flew across the Atlantic for the first time, as a member of a crew of \_\_\_\_\_ people.
6. On 1st June 1937, she set out to fly round the world, but \_\_\_\_\_ later her plane disappeared without trace.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How long did Amelia Earhart's solo flight across the Atlantic take?
2. What made her decide that she wanted to learn to fly?
3. Why did she call her first plane "The Canary"?
4. How old was she when she got her pilot's licence?
5. Why wasn't Earhart satisfied with the transatlantic flight she made in 1928?
6. Why was a non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic considered very dangerous?
7. What other flying feats was Earhart the first person to achieve?
8. How far were Earhart and Noonan from completing their trip when their plane disappeared?

## 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 the Titanic sank, 1,517 people died: 832 passengers and 685 \_\_\_\_\_ members.
2. Our plane \_\_\_\_\_ in London five hours late, so we missed our train to Edinburgh.
3. The local council \_\_\_\_\_ parking permits to residents of this borough.
4. This restaurant has \_\_\_\_\_ the choice of main courses. There aren't many to choose from.
5. Have you ever taken a \_\_\_\_\_ in a helicopter?
6. It was raining heavily so the two girls \_\_\_\_\_ shelter in a shop doorway..

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

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

The U.S. Navy's official report stated that Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, had 1\_\_\_\_\_ (run/remained/left/fallen) out of fuel while flying between Lae, New Guinea, and their next stop, Howland Island, and had crashed into the ocean. However, there are 2\_\_\_\_\_ (different/no/several/mainly) other theories about what happened to them. One is that they made an emergency 3\_\_\_\_\_ (downing/landing/fall/take off) on a remote uninhabited island, Nikumaroro, and lived there as castaways 4\_\_\_\_\_ (since/unless/while/until) they died.

A week after Earhart's disappearance, U.S. Navy pilots flew over the island, but did not see the aviators or their plane. 5\_\_\_\_\_ (However/Therefore/Despite/So), they reported that there were signs of recent habitation, though the atoll was known to be uninhabited.

In 1940, part of a skeleton was found on the island but, at the time, it was thought to be that of a man. Now some scientists think it more 6\_\_\_\_\_ (true/strange/probably/likely) that the bones belonged to a woman of European ancestry and that they might have been those of Amelia Earhart.

## F – Write about it

Write about an aviation pioneer (aviator, aircraft designer or manufacturer:) from your country. Include:

- some biographical information;
- what difficulties he/she faced;
- what he/she managed to do.

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## Saint Helena (B2 - C1)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. The island of Saint Helena is associated with a famous historical figure. Do you know who?
2. What else do you know about the island?

### B – Listen and answer

Listen to the main article (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false) beside these statements.

1. Saint Helena has a population of just under 4,500.
2. The island had very few native inhabitants when it was discovered.
3. In the past, it belonged to the Portuguese and the Dutch.
4. In the 19th century, other famous prisoners were held there, besides Napoleon Bonaparte.
5. In the late 19th century the island became very prosperous.
6. An airport for commercial flights was opened in 2007.

## C – Read and answer

Read the main article and answer the questions.

1. Which of the inhabitants of Saint Helena can call themselves "Saints"?
2. How did the island get its name?
3. Why was Saint Helena considered by the Portuguese to be strategically important?
4. Why did British ships have to deliver rice to the island on their way back to Britain?
5. How did the abolition of slavery affect Saint Helena?
6. Why did the island become less useful in the second half of the 19th century?
7. What does the article say about the economy of Saint Helena?
8. What is expected to attract more people to the island in the near future?

## D – Listen and answer (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 Nicole Shamier, without reading, and choose the correct answer.

1. According to Nicole Shamier, Saints often ask people
  - a) what work they do.
  - b) where they come from.
  - c) how much they earn.
2. Nicole says that in order to apply to officially become a Saint Helenian, you need to
  - a) live there for 5 years.
  - b) take a DNA test.
  - c) be related to a Saint Helenian.
3. The inhabitants like to consider themselves
  - a) Saint Helenians.
  - b) British citizens.
  - c) both of these.
4. Saint Helenian students usually go to universities in Britain.
  - a) True.
  - b) False.
  - c) The article doesn't say.
5. Nicole has been working for the Saint Helena
  - a) fishing industry.
  - b) tourism sector.
  - c) government.
6. She says that one of the advantages of living on the island is that
  - a) internet is cheap.
  - b) the cost of living is low.
  - c) salaries are high.

## 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 – Write about 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 great-grandparents were Hungarian. They \_\_\_\_\_ in the UK after the 1956 revolution.
2. The Isles of Scilly lie \_\_\_\_\_ of Cornwall.
3. Some car makers are suspending production because they can't get \_\_\_\_\_ of microchips.
4. It is the responsibility of parents to \_\_\_\_\_ that their children develop healthy eating habits.
5. The air \_\_\_\_\_ from Brussels to London is usually lower in the middle of the week.
6. The owners of that poor dog leave it tied up with a \_\_\_\_\_ all day.

## G – 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: The Portuguese gave the island the name of Emperor Constantine's mother.  
NAMED The Portuguese named the island after Emperor Constantine's mother.
1. The Portuguese realised that the island was strategically valuable.  
AWARE The Portuguese were \_\_\_\_\_ of the island.
  2. They introduced goats, pigs and fruit trees in an attempt to create a source of food.  
BY They tried to establish a source of food \_\_\_\_\_, goats and pigs.
  3. With the opening of the Suez Canal, the island became less useful.

- REDUCED The opening of the Suez Canal \_\_\_\_\_ the island.
4. In the past, it took a ten-day boat journey to get to the island.
- TAKE It \_\_\_\_\_ a ten-day boat journey to get to the island.
5. Nicole Shamier arrived there five years ago.
- LIVED Nicole Shamier \_\_\_\_\_ five years.
6. It's likely that internet costs will drop next year.
- TO Internet costs \_\_\_\_\_ next year.

## H – Write about it

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

## Tom Gauld (C1 - Advanced)

### A – Before you start

*Write about an island that belongs to your country. Include information about:*

1. Do you ever read comic strips or comic books?
2. If so, which ones are your favourites? Can you name the cartoonists that write them?
3. What do you think of the political cartoons appearing in newspapers in your country?
4. Do you think political cartoons have the power to persuade people? Why (not)?

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. Tom Gould's cartoons are easily recognisable.
2. His cartoons appeared regularly in the New Scientist magazine till 2014.
3. Gould says his cartoons are often inspired by situations that don't turn out as expected.
4. When working for The Guardian, he decides for himself the theme of the cartoon.
5. Gould says that ideas for cartoons come to him more easily when he's away from his computer.
6. He finds political cartoons are easier to create than those based on other subjects like literature.
7. His cartoons often feature animals or objects that look or behave like humans.
8. He says that in his cartoons the drawings and the words are equally important.

### C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. What are the stylistic characteristics of Tom Gauld's cartoons?
2. What themes do they focus on?
3. What does Gould's book *Baking with Kafka* contain?
4. What does he usually do when he has to come up with an idea for a cartoon?
5. Why does he think the challenge of producing a political cartoon does him good?
6. What does he have to be careful to avoid?
7. Why do the stories in cartoons have to be simple and relevant?
8. Why does Gauld use the metaphor of crossing a stream to explain how a cartoon is read?

### 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.)*

1. People are \_\_\_\_\_ to fill up their cars because there are rumours of a shortage of petrol.
2. Dad kept falling asleep at the theatre, so Mum \_\_\_\_\_ him with her elbow a few times.
3. Most cooks prefer electric ovens for \_\_\_\_\_ cakes because they maintain a steady temperature.

4. When camping, set up your tent at least 65 metres from a \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid polluting it.
5. Psychiatrists say you reveal a lot about your personality when you \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The project was a complete \_\_\_\_\_ because the managers didn't foresee any of the pitfalls.

### **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.

In a recent interview in The New Yorker magazine, cartoonist Tom Gauld was 1\_\_\_\_\_ what inspired his dedication to cartoons. He explained that when he was a child he was very 2\_\_\_\_\_ on drawing and 3\_\_\_\_\_ a lot of time doing it. Since he also enjoyed looking at the pictures in his books, he was disappointed to discover that books for grown-ups were usually completely 4\_\_\_\_\_ of illustrations. With comic books, on the other 5\_\_\_\_\_, it was possible to go on reading illustrated stories, even 6\_\_\_\_\_ an adult. Gauld said that when writing his latest book for children, he realised at quite an 7\_\_\_\_\_ stage that, if the story was to work well as a bedtime story, the words would have to sound good when spoken 8\_\_\_\_\_ loud. He also realised that children needed to see characters with faces, which he often avoided drawing in his comics for adults.

### **F – Write about it**

Write about a cartoonist who is well known in your country. Mention:

- what kind of cartoons/comics he/she creates;
- who they are intended for;
- where they appear;
- how popular he/she is;
- what his/her best known works are.

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## **Answers (Rugby B1)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. F – It has been played in Britain since Roman times. 2. T 3. T 4. F – They were established in 1871. 5. T 6. F – Rugby rules were modified to create American football.

### **C – Read and answer**

1. It was played at Easter./in Spring. 2. Folk football had no rules./was devoid of rules. 3. Because, during a football match at Rugby School, he picked up the ball and ran towards the opposite goal line. 4. They were associated with the values of competitive British Imperial masculinity. 5. Because a player had been accidentally killed during practice. 6. It has become particularly important in New Zealand and South Africa.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. practice 2. left (her) out 3. whereas 4. folk 5. spread 6. leading

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

1. Every 2. which 3. take 4. after 5. picked 6. beat/defeated

## **Answers (Amelia Earhart B1)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. 1932 2. Newfoundland (in) Canada 3. Ireland 4. 1923 5. three 6. a/one month

### **C – Read and answer**

1. It took 15 hours. 2. It was the experience of her first plane ride in 1920. 3. Because it was bright yellow. 4. She was 26. 5. Because she was a passenger, not the pilot. 6. Because, before Lindbergh, six aviators had lost their lives attempting it. 7. She was the first person to fly across both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans and to fly solo non-stop across America. 8. They were about 7,000 miles away from completing it.



**D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. crew 2. landed 3. issues 4. narrowed 5. ride 6. sought

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

1. run 2. several 3. landing 4. until 5. However 6. likely

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**Answers (Saint Helena B2-C1)****B – Listen and answer**

1. F – Its population is just over 4,500. 2. F – It had no native inhabitants. 3. T 4. T 5. F – It fell into poverty. 6. F – The airport was opened in 2017.

**C – Read and answer**

1. Those who were born on the island. 2. It was named after the mother of Constantine the Great. 3. Because ships travelling to the Cape of Good Hope and Asia could stop there. It was a rendez-vous point for them. 4. Because it was difficult to keep the island self-sufficient. 5. The island became a base for the British Navy, which was trying to stop the slave trade by capturing slave ships. As a result, 24,400 slaves were liberated there. 6. Because steam-powered ships were introduced. (These could cross the Atlantic in just 6 days.) Furthermore, after 1869, ships travelling to Asia could use the Suez Canal. 7. The island exports coffee and tuna and it gets an income from tourism. However, it also relies on an annual subsidy from Britain. 8. The introduction of hi-speed internet.

**E – Listen, read and check your answers**

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

**F – Learn it! Use it!**

1. settled 2. off the coast 3. supplies 4. ensure 5. fare 6. rope

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

1. aware of the strategic value 2. by introducing fruit trees 3. reduced the usefulness of 4. used to take 5. has lived there for 6. are likely to drop/are probably going to drop

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**Answers (Tom Gauld C1)****B – Listen and answer**

1. T 2. F – They still appear regularly. He has been producing weekly cartoons for the New Scientist since 2014. 3. T 4. F – They tell him what they want the cartoon to be about. 5. T 6. F – He finds political cartoons more challenging. (He says his heart sinks when he's asked for a cartoon about politics.) 7. T 8. T

**C – Read and answer**

1. His cartoons are concise and minimalist. 2. They focus on a variety of themes, like literature, science and politics. They also contain many references to pop (culture). 3. It contains a compilation of literary humour cartoons which refer to a variety of venerated authors and texts. 4. He goes for a walk or has coffee in a café and doodles while thinking of the idea. 5. Because it encourages him to go outside his comfort zone and make something different. 6. He has to avoid repeating himself. 7. Because there's only a small space available for the cartoon. 8. Because the reader has to step from one scene to the next and make connections in order to understand the story.

**D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. rushing 2. nudged 3. baking 4. stream 5. doodle 6. failure

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

1. asked 2. keen 3. spent 4. devoid 5. hand 6. as 7. early 8. out

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