

PRACTISE YOUR READING SKILLS

Reading know-how

- Внимательно прочитайте первую часть предложения. Выбрав один из вариантов его продолжения А, В, С, D, соотнесите содержание полученного предложения с содержанием прочитанного текста.
- Подумайте, что имел в виду автор текста. Иногда информация выражается имплицитно, а не эксплицитно. Вы должны уметь «читать между строк».

A *Read and answer*

You are going to read a magazine article about going on holiday. For Questions 1-7, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Getting Away From It All

Somewhere around February it begins. The drizzle is coming down outside and the kids are bored on a Saturday afternoon. It's usually then that my husband decides it is time to plan our summer holiday. Out come the brochures and the discussion begins.

It's not that we're an argumentative family, but it seems that where we are to spend two weeks in the summer relaxing brings out the worst in us. Before too long, we're all insisting on places and refusing others, the volume steadily increasing. My daughter discovers a lifelong ambition to go to India. Funny how she never mentioned it before. My son isn't going anywhere unless he can bring his dog and my husband doesn't mind where he goes as long as it's within five miles of a golf course.

As usual, it's left to someone, and guess who, to find somewhere that everybody is willing to accept (the dog goes to the neighbours, though). This can take some weeks of persuading, reminding and convincing on my part, but usually there's a solution. Then it's time to plan the packing. It seems that everybody else believes that it can be done half an hour before we leave for the airport. My husband lays out things he wants to take and I put them back when he's not looking and get out the real holiday clothes. My daughter wants to take everything she owns. Each item she has to put back is the subject of another argument.

Finally the day arrives and we get to the airport in plenty of time. This happens because I start to shout five hours earlier that we are going in five minutes, ready or not. Once at the airport, we check in. It sounds simple enough, but the thing is that airports are full of people running around who don't know where to go. Not surprising since we only do it once a year and we've forgotten where we went last time. We finally find the right desk, get rid of the bags and go through to the departure lounge.

Somewhere around here I can finally think about relaxing. Not for me the cold sweats, shaking, and nervous wondering about the plane. Everything is somebody else's problem. If there's something wrong with the plane, the pilot can worry about it. If a passenger has a heart attack, the stewards can worry about it.

And so begin two weeks of relaxation. I learned long ago that the only way to do it is to stop being called 'Mum'. For those two weeks, whenever I hear the word I look around as if it refers to someone else. I ignore any question that begins with 'Where's my...'. The funny thing is that they always find it anyway. The only thing I worry about is which book I'm going to take to the pool. My husband follows a ball around a course, my kids do whatever kids do these days and I become myself again for a short while.

- 1 The writer implies that her family
 - A find it hard to agree on anything.
 - B all have very different personalities.
 - C don't usually fight over things.
 - D don't care about each other's feelings.
- 2 The writer thinks her daughter's ambition to go to India is
 - A not as strong as she claims.
 - B amusing in a girl her age.
 - C strange for someone like her.
 - D a secret she should have shared.
- 3 The writer implies that
 - A her son refuses to go with them.
 - B the others try to make her agree.
 - C nobody is really happy with the idea.
 - D she gets the others to agree.
- 4 Why does the writer put back the clothes her husband chooses?
 - A She doesn't like what he wears.
 - B He forgets to choose things for her.
 - C He can't decide what to take.
 - D The clothes aren't suitable.
- 5 The writer implies that
 - A it's not far from her house to the airport.
 - B they would be late if she didn't make a fuss.
 - C airports are usually badly designed.
 - D people should go on holiday more often.
- 6 The writer thinks she is different from some other people because she
 - A finds flying an enjoyable experience.
 - B doesn't worry about problems.
 - C understands what pilots face.
 - D doesn't care about other passengers.
- 7 The writer thinks that her family
 - A try to stop her from relaxing on holiday.
 - B don't recognise her when she's on holiday.
 - C don't need her as much as they think.
 - D ignore her unless they need something.



B

Discuss

In pairs, discuss the answers you have chosen. Have you chosen the same answers for the same reasons?

Grammar focus

Look at these examples of the third conditional.

If you **hadn't** forgotten your passport, we **wouldn't** have missed the plane.
= You forgot your passport so we missed the plane.

The holiday **would** have been okay if you **hadn't** complained all the time.
= The holiday wasn't okay because you complained all the time.

Read the following sentences and decide which other sentence means the same. Circle a, b or c.

- 1 If the weather had been better, we could have reached the North Pole.
 - a We reached the North Pole in spite of the bad weather.
 - b The bad weather prevented us from reaching the North Pole.
 - c We reached the North Pole because the weather wasn't too bad.
- 2 If there had been fewer tourists, it wouldn't have been so hard to find a room.
 - a There weren't many tourists so we found a room easily.
 - b It wasn't easy to find a room because there were so many tourists.
 - c It wasn't so difficult to find a room despite the number of tourists.
- 3 If I hadn't gone round the world when I was young, I would never have done it.
 - a I didn't go round the world when I had the chance and now I never will.
 - b I went round the world but I wish I had waited until later.
 - c I had the chance of a lifetime to go round the world and I took it.
- 4 We could have waited at home if we had known the plane was going to be delayed.
 - a Knowing the plane was going to be late, we made the wrong decision.
 - b We needn't have left for the airport, but we didn't know that.
 - c We waited at home because we knew the plane was late.