

Facoltà di Studi Umanistici

PROVA SCRITTA LINGUA INGLESE 1

CDL Lingue e Comunicazione

NAME _____ MAT. NO. _____

1st Year Exam- JANUARY 2020 60 MINUTES KEY

Reading Comprehension – Transformation questions – Word formation

Reading Comprehension

Read the text below. For each question choose the best answer.

Gareth Ellis

Gareth Ellis,13, is the youngest son of Alan, an engineer, and Kath, a nursery teacher. His older brothers work in banking and computers, but Gareth’s dream was always to become a clown. Three years ago, Alan, Kath and Gareth joined the circus. ‘People laugh when we tell them,’ says Kath. ‘But it’s true. Gareth has wanted to be a clown since we took him to the circus when he was three.’

When Alan lost his job, he and Kath decided to see if they could find full- time circus jobs. They both got jobs with a famous circus and Gareth began training to become a clown. He calls himself Bippo. They travel with the circus during the summer and return home for the winter. Gareth’s brothers are old enough to look after the house while they are away.

‘I can’t say it was easy,’ says Kath. There was a lot to think about and organise. We only had a car and a very small caravan to sleep in, and we were leaving behind our lovely house. The only thing Gareth missed was his long, hot baths.’

‘People ask about my education,’ says Gareth, ‘ but from the beginning, wherever we go, someone has always come to teach me. I follow the same books as everyone back at school and I’ve got a computer. I’ve never fallen behind my classmates.’

And the future? ‘ It was a difficult decision,’ says Kath, ‘but there was no other way to teach Gareth about being a clown. I’m happy to say it’s working, and we’re enjoying it.’ And Gareth? ‘I’m going to be the main clown in a circus one day’, he says, ‘perhaps Bippo’s circus.’

1) What is the writer trying to do in the text?

a) describe how one family changed their lives

b) give details about how to join the circus

c) advise what to do when you lose your job

2) What would a reader learn about Gareth from the text ?

a) He does not enjoy school work.

b) He has a definite aim in life.

c) He would like to be at home with his brothers.

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- 3) Alan and Kath joined the circus because
- a) they wanted to spend time travelling in the summer.
 - b) their older sons needed their house for themselves.
 - c) their youngest son wanted to train as a performer.
- 4) When they first joined the circus, Kath
- a) wanted to go back home.
 - b) was not able to sleep properly.
 - c) found things difficult

Write about a circus you have seen or would like to see (write 50-80 words)

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Sentence Transformation

Write the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first. You must change the first sentence using no more than 3 words.

- 1). The circus entrance ticket was cheaper than I'd expected.
The circus entrance ticket wasn't as **expensive as** I'd expected.
- 2)A lot of people were there in spite of the rain.
Even **though it rained** ,a lot of people were there.
- 3)I liked the clowns best, and my brother did too.
I liked the clowns best, and **so did** my brother.
- 4)'Who does this jacket belong to ?' my mother asked.
My mother asked, '**whose is** this jacket?'
- 5)We stayed until the show finished.
We **didn't leave** until the show finished.

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Verb Tenses. Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in brackets. If there is one, put the adverb in the right position.

- 1) A circus **is** a group that consists of clowns, acrobats, and animals which travels around to different places and performs shows. (be)
- 2) Cirque du Soleil, the Canadian circus, **will perform** their show called 'Totem' in Rome on the 1st April 2020. (perform)
- 3) Tightrope artist Freddy Knock **fell** when he was performing in Wattens, Austria. (fall)
- 4) Charlie Cairoli, a famous clown, **died** in Blackpool in 1980. (die)
- 5) Victorian illusionists **were** interested in talking to spirits. (be)
- 6) Gustavo Arcaris, a famous knife thrower, **is looking for** a new assistant, at the moment. (look for)
- 7) Massarti, the famous one-armed lion tamer, **was eaten** by lions in 1872. (eat)
- 8) All my life, I **have loved** going to circuses. (love)
- 9) The trapeze artists **had already finished** when we arrived. (already/ finish)
- 10) The circus audience **has / have been clapping** for over half an hour now. (clap)

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Word Formation. Fill the space in the sentence using the base word given. The required word may be a noun, adverb, adjective or verb and it may be either positive (e.g. helpful) or negative (e.g. unhelpful). You MUST change the word.

Harry Houdini, the (1)_____ escapologist was born in Hungary in 1874 and was one of seven (2)_____. He was a champion cross-country (3)_____ in his youth. He became a professional (4)_____ in 1891. In 1894, he married Bess Rahner, who was (5)_____ courted by his brother. Bess worked as his new stage (6)_____ for the rest of Houdini's (7)_____ career. Houdini's big break came when he gave a (8)_____ of escape from handcuffs at Scotland Yard. He succeeded in baffling the police so (9)_____ that he was booked at the Alhambra Theatre for six months. His (10)_____ grew with such notable escapes as the, 'Chinese Water Torture Cell', 'Buried Alive Stunt', 'Suspended Straight Jacket Escape' and the 'Milk Can Escape'.

Before Houdini died, he and his wife agreed that if Houdini found it possible to communicate after death he would communicate the message, 'Rosabella Believe' a secret code which they agreed to use. In 1943 Bess declared that "ten years is a long enough time to wait for any man" and suspended all spiritual meetings to contact her husband.

- (1) fame
- (2) child
- (3) run
- (4) magic
- (5) initial
- (6) assist
- (7) perform
- (8) demonstrate
- (9) effective
- (10) popular

- (1) famous (2) children (3) runner (4) magician
(5) initially (6) assistant (7) performing
effectively (10) popularity

- (8) demonstration (9)