

Reading and
Use of English

Part 8

Multiple matching

- 1 Read the article about the explorer Ranulph Fiennes quickly. In the article, is he mainly
- A** giving advice to inexperienced explorers?
B talking about the nature of exploration?
C promoting adventure travel to young people?
- 2 For questions 1–10, answer by choosing from the sections of the article (**A–D**). Some of the choices may be required more than once.

In which section are the following mentioned?

an aspect of Fiennes's character that may have been unfairly highlighted

1

a negative effect of the growing interest in adventure travel

2

Fiennes's suggestion that people find increasingly unusual ways to achieve recognition

3

a misconception regarding the knowledge previous explorers had

4

Fiennes's fascination with a field in which he is fairly inexperienced

5

Fiennes's opinion that someone who is reasonably fit could reach the South Pole

6

the belief that explorers have too much respect for their own field

7

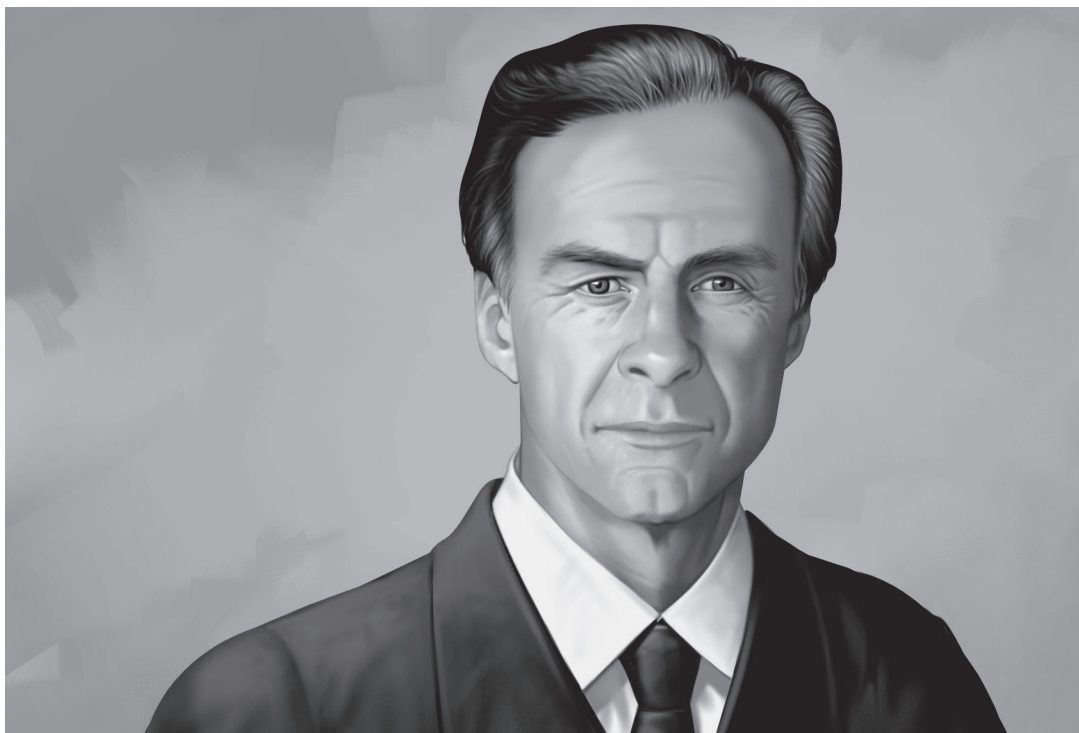
Fiennes's primary motivation for being an explorer

8

the importance given by explorers to achieving something before anyone else

9

a reason Fiennes gives for exploration becoming more appealing to amateurs

10 

Is this your idea of fun?

Sir Ranulph Fiennes is the world's greatest living explorer. But now it seems an endless stream of people are conquering the South Pole or clambering up Everest. Mark MacKenzie asks him, is the exploring game becoming too easy?

A

In the field of human exploration, Sir Ranulph Fiennes's personal achievements are remarkable and his numerous expeditions to the North and South Poles have turned him into an iconic figure, the explorer's explorer. Now there are many amateurs that would follow in his footsteps and adventure travel is one of the fastest growing sectors of the travel market. This year, record numbers are expected at the base camp of Everest, in the hope of reaching the summit of the world's tallest peak. So, is the exploring game getting too easy? 'Anyone who plans carefully could get to the South Pole if they're in relatively good condition and go at the right time of year,' says Fiennes. 'I would say the same of Mount Everest. If the weather's good and you take a reasonable guide, you should be able to get up even if you've never climbed before. However, there are still plenty of expeditions the majority of the public would not be able to do. Crossing the whole continent of Antarctica unsupported, for example, your troubles only really start at the South Pole. But the urge to go to far-flung regions is innate to man,' Fiennes continues, 'and I think provided there is no ecological damage, this is fine. On Everest, though, there has been a dramatic impact in terms of litter.'

B

But with specialist companies willing to deposit increasing numbers of tourists in ever more remote locations, is exploring still a true test of character? 'The challenge is what you make of it,' says Fiennes. 'In the wrong weather, you can have the most horrendous time on reasonably easy routes.' Also lying behind the increasing numbers of extreme adventurers, says Fiennes, is the improved technology used for polar equipment. 'It's all a lot lighter now, less bulky. If you're inexperienced, that makes these journeys a lot more appealing.' Patrick Woodhead, whose young team reached the South Pole in 75 days, thinks the explorer community has a tendency to be overly reverential towards their discipline and claims his South Pole trek was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. However, in Fiennes' biography of the original Antarctic explorer, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, he implies strongly that

there are those among modern explorers who remain ignorant of the debt they owe to Scott's pioneering spirit. 'People today think we knew back then that Antarctica was a continent – we didn't. On his first expedition to Antarctica in 1902, Scott made an 800-mile journey when the furthest expedition previously had been 14 miles.'

C

What is it that has driven explorers to the extremes of the Earth? 'Explorers have always had a thousand different motives,' Fiennes acknowledges. 'If I'm asked myself, I am quite clear. It's my profession and how I make an income. There are people who aren't comfortable with that. I'm supposed to say "Because it's there to be conquered." I think some people still need this image of nobility.' Such frankness has contributed to Fiennes's reputation for occasional haughtiness. On an expedition in 1971, he made the mistake of taking along a television crew. 'It meant good publicity for future expeditions,' he says, 'but they deliberately set out with the aim of showing me up as a dictator.'

D

Nevertheless, Fiennes has built his reputation on the only sort of accomplishment that matters among his peers – being first. 'When Sir Edmund Hillary first scaled Everest, he used every aid at his disposal. The next "first" then has to be the person to do it without oxygen, then the first solo ascent and so on.' So are there any true 'firsts' left? 'In part, it's the attitude of the individual,' he says. 'If something has been done, they will find their own firsts. Eventually, expeditions end up relying on gimmicks; for example, going to the South Pole on a motorbike, or on a camel and so on.' In 1992, Fiennes completed his first archaeological expedition to find the lost city of Ubar in the deserts of Oman. He admits he found the detective work intriguing, albeit a challenge for a relative amateur, and believes the possibility of making similar discoveries may increasingly occupy his time in the future. While most men his age are thinking about retirement, his appetite for adventure appears undiminished.

Vocabulary

Wordlist on page 208 of the Coursebook.

A Verb and noun collocations

Complete the sentences with one of the words from the box.

out with in to into

- 1 Their solar panel business ran _____ problems after a succession of wet summers in the mid-2000s.
- 2 Last year's police campaign to reduce the number of accidents on motorways met _____ limited success.
- 3 Union leaders have not ruled _____ the possibility of taking strike action.
- 4 Her attempt to cycle across the Sahara ended _____ failure yesterday, when she fell off her bike and broke her leg.
- 5 Taking on the Cup holders was no easy task, but they rose _____ the challenge and drew 1-1.

B Adjective and noun collocations

- 1 One of the items of vocabulary in each group is not normally used with the word in capitals. Cross out the item which does not fit. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 distinct	heavy	remote	strong	POSSIBILITY
1 fair	inside	realistic	slim	CHANCE
2 potential	recurrent	resounding	trivial	PROBLEM
3 burning	daunting	exciting	fresh	CHALLENGE
4 hard	high	personal	poor	MOTIVATION
5 huge	overnight	roaring	terrible	SUCCESS
6 continued	dismal	inevitable	urgent	FAILURE
7 heated	lifelong	greatest	secret	AMBITION
8 major	outlying	remarkable	sporting	ACHIEVEMENT

- 2 Complete the sentences with an appropriate adjective from exercise 1. There is an example at the beginning (0).
 - 0 I can't understand why he applied for the job; there wasn't even a remote **possibility** that he'd get it.
 - 1 Recent corruption scandals mean that the party now stands **only a** _____ **chance of** victory in the forthcoming elections.
 - 2 During his adolescence, serious illness was a _____ **problem**, and always seemed to strike at exam time.
 - 3 The situation does pose **a rather** _____ **challenge**, but we will not be put off.
 - 4 His consistently low marks seem to be both the result and the cause of _____ **motivation**.
 - 5 The book brought her great wealth and worldwide fame, but this was **no** _____ **success**; her previous two novels had been bestsellers in her own country.
 - 6 It was a night of _____ **failure** for British athletes, whose recent successes had given cause for great optimism.
 - 7 As I've always said, it's been a _____ **ambition** of mine to play Hamlet, and now at last I can fulfil it.
 - 8 Undoubtedly, the greatest _____ **achievement** of the year was Alek Schmidt's record-breaking marathon run of two hours and three minutes.

C Word formation

Don't forget!

You may need to use the negative or plural form of the noun.

Complete the sentences with an appropriate noun form of the word in capitals at the end of the sentence. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 0 Many people at the club are questioning the <u>wisdom</u> of signing the 16-year-old goalkeeper. | WISE |
| 1 Excessive _____ to direct sunlight should of course be avoided. | EXPOSE |
| 2 Councillors have once again rejected the _____ for a new multi-storey car park. | PROPOSE |
| 3 Management criticized the unions for their stubborn attitude and _____ in the wage negotiations. | FLEXIBLE |
| 4 The government is concerned at the number of unfilled _____ in the nursing profession. | VACANT |
| 5 There is a strong feeling within the company that greater _____ should be placed on staff development. | EMPHASIZE |
| 6 Failure to meet legal safety _____ has led to the temporary closure of the fairground. | REQUIRE |
| 7 She chose to live in Brighton because of its mild climate and _____ to London. | CLOSE |
| 8 There is a chronic _____ of housing in our cities. | SHORT |
| 9 The complete _____ of this answer shows that the candidate did not read the question carefully. | RELEVANT |
| 10 He achieved _____ for failing a drugs test after winning an Olympic® final. | NOTORIOUS |

Language focus

A Spelling

The following letter contains **20** spelling mistakes. Find the mistakes and correct them.

Dear Sir,

I am writting to complain about an article that apeared in the 'Winners and Losers' section in last weekend's edition of your newspaper.

The article, wich analyses the growth of my educational publishing company, 'ABC', describes me as 'a man with surprisingly little education' and attributes my success to 'agressive ambition and a complete disregard for the welfare of his employees'. This is, of course, totaly untrue, and althought I do not intend to justify myself or my business methods, their are one or two observations I feel I ough to make.

Firstly, the economics degree I obtained from Bristol University speaks for itself, particularly, I feel, as I graduated with first class honours. In adition, whilst I am proud

to consider myself ambitious, this is not at the expense of my staff, who would, I know, be only too pleased for you to intervue them. Indeed, they would be disappointed if they where not given the oportunity to inform your readers of their generous salary, impresive working conditions and excellent promotion prospects.

As you can imagine, your article has caused considerable pane and embarrassment, both too myself and my family, who found it extremly upsetting. I trust you will print an apology in the next edition of your newspaper, pointing out and rectifying the innacuracies in the article.

Yours faithfully

John Austin

B Modal verbs: *might, could, may and can*

Grammar reference on page 215 of the Coursebook.

1 In 1–7, complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 Would you mind lending me your pen for a moment?

May I borrow your pen for a moment?

1 Although he lives here, we never see him.

He may _____.

2 They're very likely to ask you to speak French during the interview.

You may _____.

3 Perhaps she didn't know you were married.

She might _____.

4 He had a good chance of getting the job, but he didn't apply.

If he'd applied for the job, he could _____.

5 I rarely use my bike these days, so it would make sense if I sold it.

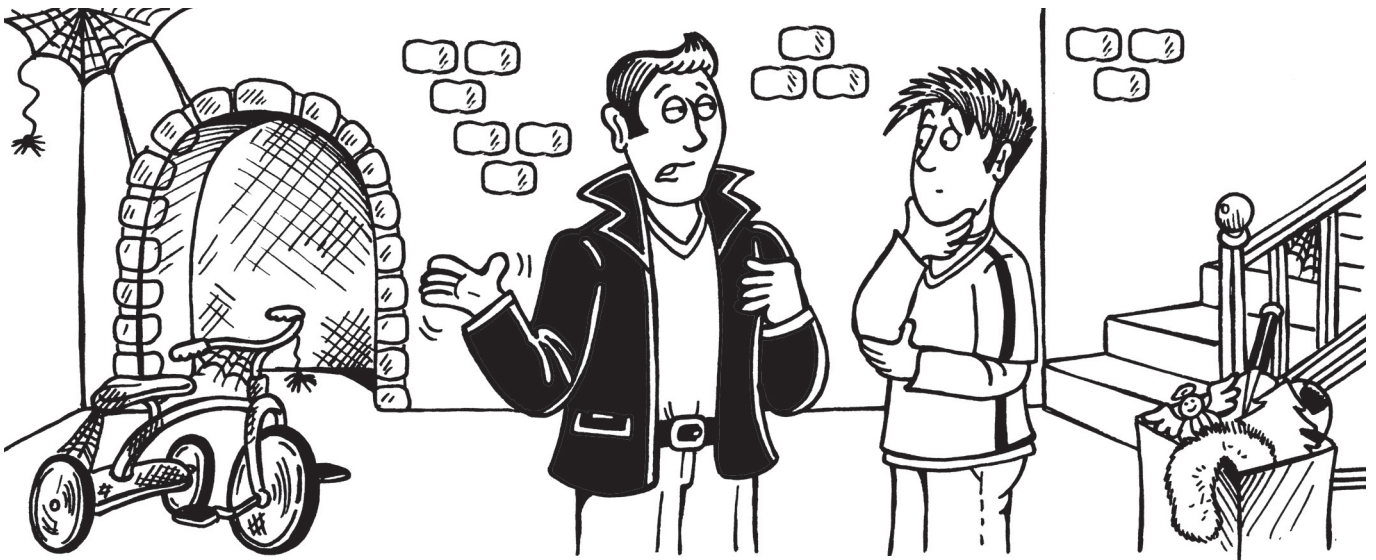
I rarely use my bike these days, so I may _____.

6 Why on earth didn't you tell me you were vegetarian?

You might _____!

7 It's unlikely she was enjoying herself very much.

She can't _____.



I rarely use my bike these days, so it would make sense if I sold it!

2 In 1–7, one of the three alternatives is incorrect. Cross it out. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 You ~~might not~~/may not/cannot leave until I give you permission.

1 It's not my scarf – I think it ~~might/could~~/can be Graham's.

2 It ~~might/may/could~~ not be warm enough to eat outside tonight, but we'll keep our fingers crossed.

3 He's so lazy – he ~~might/may/could~~ at least offer to do the washing up!

4 I know you didn't want to come, but you ~~might/may/could~~ as well try and enjoy yourself now that you're here.

5 Don't run across the road like that again – you ~~might/may/could~~ have been run over!

6 It was a tough walk, but we ~~could/were able to/managed to~~ reach the end before it got dark.

7 Police are now saying that the fire ~~might/may/could~~ not have been started deliberately, although they have refused to rule out the possibility of arson entirely.

Reading and
Use of English

Part 1

Multiple-choice cloze

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

On top of the world

In December 2011, a teenage mountaineer from California (0) the youngest person to complete one of his sport's most extravagant (1) : scaling the highest peak on each of the world's seven continents. Jordan Romero was just 15 when he (2) the summit of Vinson Massif in Antarctica.

Jordan, who grew up climbing the mountains in Big Bear Lake, just east of Los Angeles, conquered his first (3) summit, Mount Kilimanjaro, at the age of nine. At 13, he became the youngest person to (4) it to the top of Everest. He beat the previous record for the Seven Summits, which was (5) by 16-year-old British climber George Atkinson. Both teenagers sparked controversy in mountaineering (6) , with purists claiming they were too young to contribute properly to climbs, and therefore relied excessively on the support of their team-mates.

Although Jordan broadcast his achievements on the Internet, his mother (7) to comment when contacted by the press, claiming that the family was not (8) attention for his feats.



- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 0 A overtook | B turned | C <u>became</u> | D succeeded |
| 1 A successes | B contests | C challenges | D disputes |
| 2 A achieved | B reached | C fulfilled | D accomplished |
| 3 A major | B chief | C upper | D superior |
| 4 A get | B find | C make | D work |
| 5 A kept | B maintained | C broken | D held |
| 6 A sets | B bands | C fields | D circles |
| 7 A declined | B rejected | C denied | D renounced |
| 8 A asking | B seeking | C paying | D searching |

Writing

Part 2

Formal letter: application

- 1 Read the following job advertisement, which has been taken from the Internet, and make a list of the characteristics the ideal candidate would possess.

Personal assistant to insurance executive

A dynamic PA is required to work for a very busy insurance executive. Duties include correspondence, diary management and booking travel. There will also be a great deal of contact with business people at a high level. A minimum of five years' related experience is essential.

- 2 The following is a letter of application for the job advertised in exercise 1. In 1–15, two of the alternatives can be used in each space. Cross out the alternative which **cannot** be used. There is an example at the beginning (0).

(0) *Dear Sir/Dear Executive/Dear Sir or Madam*

I am writing in (1) *reply/apply/response* to your advertisement which appears on the website of the *Business Times* newspaper.

As you (2) *must/can/will* see from my (3) *enclosed/attached/enveloped* CV, I have spent the last six years working at the Tadwell branch of the Excel Insurance Company. I joined the branch as trainee secretary after leaving school and two years ago I was (4) *appointed/destined/promoted* to the (5) *place/position/post* of office manager, in charge of a (6) *staff/team/number* of seven. My (7) *duties/chores/responsibilities* range from the day-to-day (8) *conduct/management/running* of the office to staff training and new recruitment. I am also responsible for (9) *organizing/making/sorting* travel arrangements for management and visiting officials.

I am now interested in working in a more dynamic environment and given the experience I have (10) *acquired/gained/learnt* at Excel, I consider myself well equipped to (11) *respond to/take up/rise for* the challenge offered by the post of personal assistant. I also feel I (12) *have/own/possess* the necessary personal qualities to (13) *meet/complete/deal with* the demands of the job; I have included in the CV the contact details of my branch manager, who would be (14) *welcome/willing/pleased* to provide you with a character reference.

I am available for interview at any time which might be convenient to you and would be able to start work after serving out the two months' notice in my (15) *actual/current/present* job.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Lara Goodrich

- 3 Write your own letter of application in **220–260** words for the following job, which you have seen advertised in an English-language magazine in your country.

Language school receptionist

Busy and expanding language school with a reputation for professional standards and friendly service requires two receptionists for its new centre in the north of England. Successful candidates will have a genuine interest in people and be able to work under pressure. They will also be reasonably fluent in both spoken and written English. IT skills an advantage. Previous experience useful but not essential.

How to go about it

- Make notes about relevant experience, skills and personal qualities which would make you suitable for the job. Think also about your reasons for applying. Remember, you can invent information.
- Make a paragraph plan of your letter. Look back at Lara Goodrich's application; how has she organized her information into paragraphs?
- Use a range of relevant vocabulary and structures. Underline any words and expressions in Lara's application which you might find useful.

