

# Unit 2 reading

## 1. PRE-READING

### Discuss.

- When you hear the phrase 'amazing places', what kind of places come to mind? Which ones would you like to visit?
- Which of the following are important to you when you visit a place?

weather      geographical features      sights  
culture and traditions      people

- What do you know about Iceland?

## 2. READING FOR GIST

Read the magazine article on page 19 about Iceland and answer the question below.

What is the purpose of the article?

- to describe a place in detail
- to educate the reader
- to inform and entertain the reader
- to advertise a holiday

## 3. READING FOR DETAILS

Read the article again and answer the questions 1-7 below. Choose *a*, *b*, *c* or *d*.

**TIP**

- Read through the text before you look at the questions.
- Then read each question carefully to get an idea of what you are looking for and underline the section in the text where the answer is found.
- Make sure you have chosen the correct answer by eliminating the wrong options.
- Be careful! Don't assume an option is correct just because it contains a word or phrase that is also in the text.

- Why would one find it hard to believe that there are lots of volcanoes in Iceland?
  - Volcanoes are not usually found on islands.
  - Volcanoes are a very special geographical feature.
  - We do not usually associate volcanoes with ice.
  - Volcanoes can cause damage to glaciers.
- When Jake Heath went to Iceland, the weather was
  - unusually mild.
  - warmer than he had expected.
  - as cold as he expected.
  - stormy but not very cold.
- What is remarkable about the Great Geyser?
  - its location
  - the temperature of the water
  - its size
  - the height the water reaches

- How does the Icelandic nation provide for some of its energy needs?
  - by having built a power station under the ground
  - by using geothermal sources to provide energy
  - by using advanced technology to heat water
  - by collecting and burning natural gas
- What does the word *it* in line 56 refer to?
  - the spa
  - the reservation
  - making a reservation
  - staying at the spa
- The Aurora Borealis
  - lasts for six months continuously.
  - occurs during daylight.
  - is a natural phenomenon.
  - is a state of total darkness.
- What do we learn about the Icelanders from the extract?
  - They have a good quality of life.
  - They are too traditional.
  - Most of them live in Reykjavik.
  - They keep themselves busy by taking part in fun activities.

## 4. GUESSING THE MEANING OF UNKNOWN WORDS

A. Match the highlighted phrasal verbs in the article with their meanings.

- stand out  c
- made up  a
- turned out  d
- made up for  b

- to form
- to compensate for
- to be very noticeable
- to happen in a particular way

B. Look at the following words from the article and choose the correct meaning *a*, *b* or *c*.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. struck (line 7)   | 5. harness (line 46)   |
| a. hit   | a. acquire   |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> b. impressed                        | b. exchange  |
| c. attacked  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> c. control and use                                  |
| 2. scheduled (line 21)   | 6. indulge in (line 54)  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> a. arranged                         | a. think about   |
| b. postponed   | b. afford  |
| c. designed  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> c. allow yourself to experience something enjoyable |
| 3. gales (line 25)   | 7. coastal (line 71)   |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> a. strong winds                     | a. near the sea  |
| b. heavy rain  | b. in the mountains  |
| c. high temperatures   | c. in the suburbs  |
| 4. spouts (line 33)  | 8. policies (line 88)  |
| a. drips continuously  | a. ideas or plans  |
| b. flows heavily   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> b. rules and laws                                   |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> c. comes out quickly and with force | c. customs or traditions   |

# NICELAND!

**A**re you in search of an amazing place to go on holiday? Have you ever considered Iceland? 'Professional traveller,' Jake Heath has just returned from a fascinating trip to the historic second largest island in Europe and tells our readers about this impressive place.

When I got to Iceland, I was immediately struck by the unique natural beauty and absence of pollution. These things make the island stand out from other places, as it is truly untouched by problems that exist in the rest of the world. One of the reasons that Iceland is such an amazing place is that about half of the island is made up of volcanoes and a mountainous lava desert.

1c Who would imagine that a place with a name like 'Iceland' would feature landscape like that? Of course, Iceland also has several glaciers, or 'frozen rivers', and many fjords. Plus, it has more land covered by glaciers than anywhere else in Europe. So, when you think of it, the name Iceland does make sense after all!

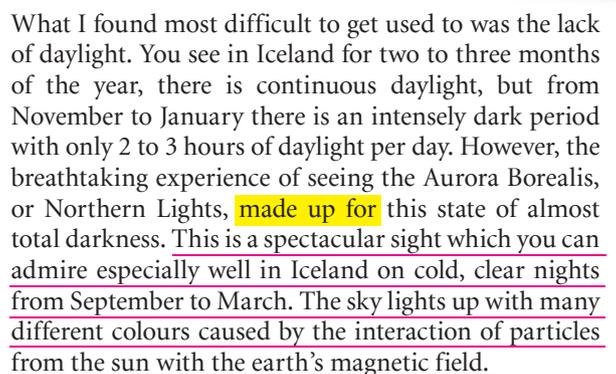
20 When I was told that my trip to Iceland had been scheduled for the first week in January, what I expected was extreme cold. However, I was in for a surprise. The climate of Iceland is milder in winter than most people think. In Reykjavik, the average temperature in January is 5°C and although winds and gales are common in winter, thunderstorms are extremely rare. As it turned out, the weather was no obstacle to my expeditions to some fascinating places.

I have been travelling around the world for more than a quarter of a century, and I have been to several breathtaking natural wonders. Very few of them can be compared to the Great Geyser in Haukadalur in South Iceland. This geyser, or hot spouting spring, spouts hot water to a height of 60 metres, which is a truly remarkable and incredible sight!

3d Another extraordinary sight I visited was the famous volcano of Hekla, one of the 200 active volcanoes in the country. Its first recorded eruption was 1000 years ago and since then there has been a series of eruptions, some of which were gentle while others caused significant damage to the nearby countryside.

In addition to volcanic activity, Iceland is richer in hot springs and high temperature geothermal activity than any other country in the world! The inhabitants of Iceland are very creative and technologically advanced, and they have managed to harness the energy of their natural resources. They have built a power station which collects and uses the natural geothermal heat produced under the ground to meet the energy needs of the island.

4b The Icelanders have also used geothermal heat for open-air swimming pools and spas, where people can enjoy a dip in the relaxing thermal water. Plus, these thermal spas are famous for their numerous health benefits. So, who wouldn't want to indulge in a stay at one of them? Naturally, I had made a reservation at one of the most popular spas, and it was an experience I will never forget!



What I found most difficult to get used to was the lack of daylight. You see in Iceland for two to three months of the year, there is continuous daylight, but from November to January there is an intensely dark period with only 2 to 3 hours of daylight per day. However, the breathtaking experience of seeing the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, made up for this state of almost total darkness. This is a spectacular sight which you can admire especially well in Iceland on cold, clear nights from September to March. The sky lights up with many different colours caused by the interaction of particles from the sun with the earth's magnetic field.

6c About four fifths of the population of Iceland live near the capital, Reykjavik, and the surrounding coastal areas. The Icelanders are not characterised only by high standards of living and a high level of technology and education. Their culture is very rich with strong traditions in literature and art. Reykjavik has an annual cultural event every third week in August which attracts about 100,000 people from all over the world. This event offers numerous exciting types of entertainment, such as art exhibitions, fairs and fireworks displays. Of course, throughout the year visitors can participate in a variety of fun activities. I myself particularly enjoyed riding on a famous Icelandic pony, river rafting, whale watching and hiking on glaciers.

Iceland is a land of contrasts and quite a unique place not only in terms of geographical features. The wild Icelandic landscape invites the adventurous traveller, and the Icelandic people set an example with their environmentally-friendly policies.

## 5. POST-READING

### Discuss.

- Would you like to visit Iceland? Why/Why not?
- How is the place you come from different from Iceland?

# Unit 2 vocabulary & grammar

## VOCABULARY

### 1. WORDS EASILY CONFUSED

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the words in the boxes.

absence lack shortage loss

- Jeremy didn't come to the meeting, and the manager commented on his absence.
- If it doesn't rain in spring, there will be a(n) shortage of water this summer.
- Maria reported the loss of her passport to the police.
- Amanda was given the job in spite of her lack of experience.

succeed achieve accomplish manage

- Do you think he will manage to finish all the work by tomorrow's deadline?
- In many computer games, you have to accomplish a number of tasks to get a high score.
- Kareem was chosen because his communication skills will help him succeed as a manager.
- Ken's training really hard to try to achieve his goal of taking part in the Olympics.

beach shore coast

- A new high-speed train line has been built along the west coast of Scotland.
- Many wild animals live on the shores of Lake Victoria.
- Building sandcastles on the beach is a summer tradition in Britain.

climate weather temperature

- Global warming has increased the world's average temperature.
- Latin America has a much more humid climate than most of Europe.
- Today's weather forecast is for heavy snow.

### 2. WORDS RELATED TO THE WEATHER

A. Match the words 1-10 with their meanings a-j.

- |             |          |                |          |
|-------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| 1. shower   | <b>j</b> | 6. fog         | <b>e</b> |
| 2. heatwave | <b>i</b> | 7. downpour    | <b>b</b> |
| 3. blizzard | <b>a</b> | 8. humid       | <b>g</b> |
| 4. freezing | <b>c</b> | 9. storm       | <b>f</b> |
| 5. mist     | <b>d</b> | 10. changeable | <b>h</b> |

- a snowstorm with strong winds
- an unexpected, heavy fall of rain
- extremely cold
- thin fog that gathers in the air above the ground or water
- thick clouds in the air
- powerful winds and heavy rain
- damp and usually very hot
- likely to go from hot to cold and back again
- a period of time when the temperature remains very high
- usually light rain for a short period of time

B. Complete the sentences using words from exercise A.

- The weather is so changeable today that I can't decide whether to wear a T-shirt or a jacket.
- It's freezing in this room. Can we turn on the central heating?
- It's very hot and humid in the jungle.
- Let's wait for this light shower to end before we go shopping.
- The storm/downpour has caused a flood in the town centre.
- A blizzard has covered the mountains in snow.

### 3. EXPRESSIONS WITH MAKE AND DO

A. Complete the blanks with the verbs *make* or *do*.

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <u>make</u> an effort     | 11. <u>make</u> a suggestion     |
| 2. <u>make</u> a purchase    | 12. <u>do</u> damage             |
| 3. <u>do</u> business        | 13. <u>do</u> one's homework     |
| 4. <u>make</u> certain/sure  | 14. <u>make</u> money / a profit |
| 5. <u>make</u> a complaint   | 15. <u>make</u> a mess           |
| 6. <u>make</u> a fuss        | 16. <u>make</u> a phone call     |
| 7. <u>do</u> one's duty      | 17. <u>do</u> work               |
| 8. <u>do</u> good/harm       | 18. <u>do</u> wrong/right        |
| 9. <u>make</u> up one's mind | 19. <u>make</u> noise            |
| 10. <u>make</u> sense        | 20. <u>make</u> a request        |

B. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the phrases in the box.

make an appointment    make a decision  
make an excuse    make a guess    make progress  
make a suggestion    do one's best  
do harm    do somebody a favour    do wonders

- John made an excuse and left work early.
- Can you do me a favour and pick up the children from school this afternoon?
- It has been hard work, but I think we are finally making progress on this project.
- Good morning. I would like to make an appointment to see the doctor this afternoon.
- We are all doing our best to finish the project on time.
- If you stop eating so much junk food, it will do wonders for your health.
- I'm not really sure when man walked on the moon for the first time, but I can make a guess.
- The scandal has done a lot of harm to his reputation.
- I would like to make a suggestion about how to improve the company's image.
- Have you made a decision yet about where you are going for your summer holiday?

# GRAMMAR

## 1. PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE / PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

**A. Match the rules about the uses of the Present Perfect Simple and the Present Perfect Progressive with the examples 1-8 below.**

- Jake Heath, **has just returned** from a fascinating trip to the historic second largest island in Europe...
- I **have been travelling** around the world for more than a quarter of a century...
- I **have been** to several breathtaking natural wonders.
- Its first recorded eruption was 1000 years ago and since then there **has been** a series of eruptions...
- They **have been hiking** all day, that's why they are so tired.
- It's the first time I've **seen** such an impressive spectacle.
- Have you been playing** games on my computer again?
- I'm afraid you can't see Mr and Mrs Heath because they **have gone** to Iceland.

The Present Perfect Simple is used:

- for actions that happened in the past but the exact time is not mentioned 3
- for recently completed actions 1
- for past actions whose results are obvious in the present 8
- for actions which started in the past and continue up to the present (emphasis on the action) 4
- with adjectives in the superlative form and expressions like *the only/first/second...* etc. 6

**TIME EXPRESSIONS**  
used with the Present Perfect Simple

just, ever, never, before, always, yet, already, how long, since, for, recently, lately, so far, once, twice, etc.

The Present Perfect Progressive is used:

- for actions which started in the past and continue up to the present (emphasis on the duration of the action) 2
- for actions which happened over a period of time in the past and may have finished, but the results are obvious in the present 5
- to show annoyance resulting from a recent action 7

**TIME EXPRESSIONS**  
used with the Present Perfect Progressive

how long, for, since, all day/morning/week, etc.

**B. Look at the examples above and answer the following questions.** See Grammar Reference

- What's the difference between *since* and *for*?
- What's the difference between *have been* in sentence 3 and *have gone* in sentence 8?
- In sentence 4, why is the Past Simple (*was*) appropriate in the first part of the sentence and why is the Present Perfect Simple (*has been*) appropriate in the second part of the sentence?

Grammar Reference p. 113.

## 2. PRACTICE

Read the dialogues and complete the blanks with the Present Perfect Simple, the Present Perfect Progressive or the Past Simple of the verbs in brackets.

A

**Mark:** I finally get to see your new flat! I (1) have been (be) so curious to see what it's like.

**Tom:** Well, it's a mess at the moment because I'm having it redecorated. The decorators (2) have been working (work) in here since seven this morning. It's quiet now because they (3) have stopped (stop) to take a tea break.

**Mark:** This is a great area to live in. Did you know that I (4) have been looking (look) for a place to buy for the last six months?

**Tom:** My landlord (5) has been trying (try) to sell a studio in this block since last summer.

**Mark:** Yes, I know. I (6) have already seen (already / see) it advertised. I am definitely interested in it.

**Tom:** Great! I'd love to have you as a neighbour. Would you like me to give you his phone number?

**Mark:** That's OK. I (7) wrote (write) it down when I (8) saw (see) the advert in the paper. Is that your phone ringing?

**Tom:** Yes, and it just might be my landlord. He (9) has been calling (call) me all week to ask me about how the decorators are coming along.

B

**Paul:** This village is really one of my favourite places.

**John:** I can see why. It's just beautiful! I can't believe I (10) haven't been (not be) here before. (11) Have you discovered (you / discover) it recently?

**Paul:** Oh, no, I (12) have been coming (come) here for more than twenty years. My father first (13) brought (bring) me when I was only eight.

**John:** You know, although it's just a few kilometres out of town, you feel like you are in a different country!

**Paul:** Yes, you are right. Let me show you something. Can you see that sign over there? There is a piece of land for sale. For the past few months I (14) have been thinking (think) of buying it. Maybe I could build a house. What do you think?

**John:** That's a wonderful idea! Is it expensive?

**Paul:** Well, I (15) haven't called (not call) the owner yet; but whatever it costs, it's definitely worth it. I (16) have never been (never be) anywhere so pleasant before.

# Unit 2 listening

## 1. PRE-LISTENING

### Discuss.

- Do you like visiting museums? Why / Why not?
- Which of the following museums would you be most interested in visiting?



Madame Tussaud's Waxwork Museum



The London Dungeon



Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum



The Chocolate Museum

## 2. LISTENING FOR GIST

**TIP**

Before you listen, read the rubric carefully to find out the situation and the topic discussed. Try to predict or guess what the speakers are going to say. That way, the listening text will be easier for you to understand.

You will hear a conversation between a teenager who has just come out of the London Dungeon and a man who is writing a report on London's tourist attractions. Which of the following are discussed?

- the location of the museum
- what you can see
- how to get there
- who the museum is for
- the entrance fee

## 3. LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Listen to the conversation again and complete the sentences below.

1. The boy is in London on holiday with his brother and two friends.
2. His uncle recommended a visit to the London Dungeon.
3. The boys spent 2 hours in total in the Dungeon.
4. The boy described the visit as scary and funny at the same time.
5. The boys had to wait in a queue for 45 minutes to get into the dungeon.
6. Even approaching the ticket counter is scary because it is (really) dark.
7. The guides told the visitors about the history of London.
8. The rats that had brought the Great Plague were killed by the Great Fire.
9. The boy definitely does not think it would be a good idea for (small /young) children or nervous people to visit the Dungeon.
10. The boy would recommend a visit to the London Dungeon although he found it (quite) expensive.

## 4. MULTIPLE MATCHING

You'll hear five different people talking about why they visited or moved to a particular place. Choose from the list a-f the statement that best describes each speaker's experience. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

**TIP**

When doing a multiple matching listening task, remember to:

- ▶ read through the statements carefully to get a clear idea of what you are listening for.
- ▶ wait to hear the recording a second time before you make your final decision.

- a. I struggled to get used to my new surroundings.
- b. I found the locals to be very friendly and helpful.
- c. I enjoyed exploring a new place.
- d. I discovered a new talent.
- e. I took a risk that paid off.
- f. I adapted easily to a new lifestyle.

- Speaker 1  c
- Speaker 2  a
- Speaker 3  e
- Speaker 4  d
- Speaker 5  f

## VOCABULARY

# vocabulary & grammar

### 1. ADJECTIVES ENDING IN -ED AND -ING

A. Read the following sentences. What's the difference between *excited* and *exciting*? Can you think of any other adjectives ending in *-ed* and *-ing*?

*I was very excited about moving to New York City.*

*My trip to Australia was one of the most exciting in my life.*

**NOTE**

Adjectives ending in *-ed* describe the feeling or attitude one experiences (e.g. bored = experiencing the feeling of boredom). Adjectives ending in *-ing* describe what or who causes the feeling or attitude (interesting = causing interest). Note the following irregularities: impressed **BUT** impressive, scared **BUT** scary

B. Complete the sentences below with the correct form of the words in capitals.

- My older sister has an impressive IMPRESS collection of coins.
- The sight of the burnt countryside filled me with an overwhelming OVERWHELM feeling of sadness.
- The famous artist said that he was thrilled THRILL to visit his hometown.
- When I saw the bear coming towards me, I was too scared SCARE to move.
- If you get lost in a forest, it can be very frightening FRIGHTEN.
- Rob was disappointed DISAPPOINT when he found out he was not going to play for the team.

### 2. ADJECTIVES DESCRIBING PEOPLE AND PLACES

A. Look at the adjectives in the box and decide if they are used to describe people, places or both, and if they have a positive, negative or neutral meaning.

+Pe brilliant -Pe nervous +Pl glorious -Pe homesick  
+Pe grateful -B miserable +/-B enormous +B attractive  
-B dull OB plain OB mysterious +Pl picturesque  
-OB remote +B splendid +Pe graceful

Pe:people Pl:place B:both +:positive -:negative O:neutral

B. Complete the sentences below with some of the words in the box above.

- Tom is studying in another country but is homesick for his family.
- The swan was very graceful in its movements.
- The company manager's office is enormous; it must be at least 100 square metres.
- The sailors explored the mysterious ship in the hope of finding an explanation for what had happened to the crew.
- Mr Pound is a(n) brilliant mathematician.
- I would be grateful for any advice you can give me.
- After the earthquake, it was difficult for rescue teams to reach the remote areas of the country.
- People are often nervous before a job interview.

## GRAMMAR

### ARTICLES

A. Read the examples below and answer the questions that follow.

- I'd always wanted to visit **Australia**, and when my friend, **Brad**, who lives in **Sydney**, invited me to his wedding, I accepted **the invitation** immediately.
- I really liked **the Sydney Aquarium**. There's a **glass chamber** in the aquarium that allows visitors to get a close look at some incredible sea creatures - including **sharks**!
- I decided to rent a **small cabin** near **Lake Winston**, which is about a **two-hour drive** from **the town** where I live.
- I've been working as **an accountant** for about ten years.
- I've always loved **animals** and was thrilled when my cousin agreed to let me help him with some of **the chores** on the farm.

- Which article do we use before a singular countable noun when we mention it for the first time? *a(n)*
- Which article do we use before nouns which are specific or have been mentioned before? *the*
- Do we use an article before plural countable nouns when we refer to them in general? *No.*
- Which words do not take the definite article *the*?  
*See Grammar Reference*

**Grammar Reference p. 114.**

B. Read the texts and complete the blanks with *a, an, the* or *-*.

A. Furnishing (1) a new flat is something that needs (2) - time and (3) - attention. Very (4) - few of us are rich enough to be able to hire (5) an interior decorator. (6) The majority of people must do it by themselves. Nowadays, there are lots of design shops which offer (7) a wide range of (8) - products at affordable prices.

B. (9) The Museum of (10) - Modern Art in New York is (11) a great museum. Not only does it contain beautiful paintings by (12) - famous artists, such as Monet and Picasso, but (13) the building itself is also (14) an excellent work of (15) - architecture.

# Unit 2 speaking

## 1. WARM-UP

- Where do you live? What do you like or dislike about the area?

## 2. CHOOSING BETWEEN OPTIONS

Imagine that you are getting ready to go and study abroad and want to find a place to rent. You have found two places that you can afford. One is an apartment downtown, near your college. The other option is living in a shared house with other college students in the suburbs. Decide which one is better for you.

### First:

Look at the pictures and ask your teacher:

*See Teacher's Notes*

- What are the neighbourhoods like?
- What are the drawbacks of each?
- What sort of condition is each building in?
- How much is the rent for each place?

### Then:

When you have all the information you need, explain which option you prefer and why.

OPTION 1



OPTION 2



## 3. FURTHER DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions. You can use some of the words/phrases in the box.

- What are the advantages or disadvantages of living in a large city?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of living with roommates?
- If you could build a house anywhere you wanted, where would you choose, and why?

personal space    privacy    split the bills  
economical    fresh air    open spaces  
convenient    public transportation  
arguments    get along with    housework  
have access to

**TIP**

- ▶ Read the rubric carefully and look at the pictures to make sure you understand the situation and what the options are.
- ▶ Ask the questions given; they will help you get the information you need to make your decision.
- ▶ Carefully consider all the information you have received before making your decision.
- ▶ Remember that you must explain why you prefer the option you chose.

# examination practice

**TIP**

Remember that your answer must be between two and five words. Keep in mind that you must definitely use the 'key' word and not change it in any way at all.

**A. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.**

- Tom is so tall that you always notice him in a crowd. **out**  
Tom is so tall that he always stands out in a crowd.
- The last time I played tennis was in March. **since**  
I haven't played tennis since March.
- It takes ten minutes by car to get from the shopping centre to our house. **drive**  
Our house is a ten-minute drive from the shopping centre.
- I couldn't get to work on time because there was so much traffic. **of**  
There was a lot of traffic, so I couldn't get to work on time.
- I bought this car a year ago. **had**  
I have had this car for a year.
- Jenny started doing her homework an hour ago. **been**  
Jenny has been doing her homework for an hour.
- Christine has a drawing class every Monday and Friday, as she wants to get better at it. **twice**  
Christine has a drawing class twice a week, as she wants to get better at it.
- Terry enjoyed himself so much at the spa that it compensated for the cost. **made**  
Terry enjoyed himself so much at the spa that it made up for the cost.

**B. Read the text and complete the blanks with the correct form of the words in capitals.**

## Farasan Island



**TIP**

Decide what part of speech is needed to fill in the gap. The words to be formed will usually be nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs.

- Last month we went on a weekend break to Farasan Island on the (1) recommendation of my best friend. **RECOMMEND**
- What an (2) amazing place! It is off the southern coast of the Jizan province and it's a perfect (3) location for scuba diving. Farasan doesn't have a wide range of (4) accommodation, so it's necessary to book ahead of time. We stayed at the Farasan Hotel and were certainly very (5) satisfied with the service. We arrived on Friday evening and (6) immediately went to visit a beautiful old mosque. The following day, I felt like staying in bed till late and having a leisurely breakfast, but my friend had made (7) arrangements for us to use a fishing boat to go scuba diving, so we got up bright and early. I had never been scuba diving before and I can say that it was one of the most (8) thrilling experiences I have ever had. Later that afternoon, we met some artists and we got an (9) invitation to attend their exhibition in the evening. It was great and we had a good time. We spent the next day exploring the picturesque streets of the old town. We had a fantastic weekend, and Farasan certainly made a very good (10) impression on us! **IMPRESS**
- AMAZE**
- LOCATE**
- ACCOMMODATE**
- SATISFY**
- IMMEDIATE**
- ARRANGE**
- THRILL**
- INVITE**

# Unit 2 writing

## WRITING AN ARTICLE

### 1. DISCUSS

- What kind of magazines do you enjoy reading? What particular kinds of articles attract your attention?
- Do you enjoy reading articles about travel and different places in the world? Why / Why not?

### 2. FOCUS ON CONTENT AND ORGANISATION

#### A. Read the rubric below and underline the key words.

You have seen this announcement in an international travel magazine.

*A place I will never forget*

Tell us about a place you have visited which has made such an impression on you that you will never forget it.

The most interesting articles will be published in next month's issue.

#### B. Now read the article below. What aspects of the place does the writer refer to? *beauty of landscape, health and fitness and leisure*

## Auvergne a magical combination

Have you ever stood on the summit of a volcano? Can you imagine yourself standing on one in France? In the Auvergne volcanic region, one of the most beautiful regions in France, you can experience the unique volcanic landscape and much more.

Last year I visited the region and on the first day, I climbed the Puy de Dôme - a dormant volcanic peak. The view from the top was simply breathtaking; the sky was bright blue and all around I saw mountain chains, rolling green hills, golden wheat fields and the sparkling city of Clermond-Ferrand.

The volcanoes aren't the only attraction, however. There are many other interesting places to see, including the elegant spa town of Vichy with its therapeutic waters. Here you can relax, become fit and get a new lease of life. But what I really enjoyed most was walking around the town, admiring the architecture and browsing in the antique shops.

On my last night, I had dinner in a restaurant with stylish décor giving it a feel of old France. After I had eaten a satisfying meal and finished a delicious chocolate mousse, I was overcome with a feeling of bitter-sweet sadness at having to leave that magical place.



So, if you are looking for a place that combines beauty, health, fitness and leisure, then a visit to Auvergne is a must! It is an experience you will never forget.

#### C. Each of the following phrases corresponds to one of the paragraphs in the article. Write the numbers 1-5 in the boxes.

In this paragraph, the writer:

- makes a general statement summing up his opinion.
- uses questions to attract the reader's attention and introduce the topic.
- describes a specific occasion during his visit and his feelings.
- explains what one can see and do in the area.
- gives a description of impressive scenery.

5  
1  
4  
3  
2

### 3. FOCUS ON LANGUAGE AND STYLE

A. The writer has used language that makes the article vivid and interesting for the reader. Find descriptive language in the article that corresponds to the meanings below.

Paragraph 1  
unusual and special \_\_\_\_\_ *unique*

Paragraph 2  
not active \_\_\_\_\_ *dormant*  
extremely beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ *breathtaking*  
clear and bright \_\_\_\_\_ *sparkling*

Paragraph 3  
stylish \_\_\_\_\_ *elegant*  
casually looking through \_\_\_\_\_ *browsing*

Paragraph 4  
to be strongly affected by \_\_\_\_\_ *overcome*  
combining happy and sad aspects \_\_\_\_\_ *bitter-sweet*

B. Complete the sentences using the phrases in the box.

When the sun sets      If you want      Take a walk  
Make time to      Set in      For those who enjoy  
One thing you mustn't miss      Once visited  
Built on      One of the major attractions

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Set in* \_\_\_\_\_ the Alps, the town is the perfect place for a peaceful and relaxing winter holiday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Make time to* \_\_\_\_\_ visit Petra, the archaeological city in Jordan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *If you want* \_\_\_\_\_ to escape the routine of city life, Patagonia is the place for you!
- \_\_\_\_\_ *When the sun sets* \_\_\_\_\_, sit back and enjoy the quiet of the night.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *For those who enjoy* \_\_\_\_\_ nature, the scenic Lake District is an ideal getaway.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *One of the major attractions* \_\_\_\_\_ of Riyadh is Kingdom Tower.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Once visited* \_\_\_\_\_, Tunisia is a country you'll definitely want to return to.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Built on* \_\_\_\_\_ 40 hills, San Francisco is one of the most charming cities in the country.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *One thing you mustn't miss* \_\_\_\_\_ is the breathtaking pyramids of Giza.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Take a walk* \_\_\_\_\_ through the forest and see the squirrels.

### 4. OUTLINE

#### INTRODUCTION

- Give general information about the place you are going to describe.
- Refer to what makes the place interesting or why you are going to write about it.

#### MAIN PART (2-3 paragraphs)

- Describe the place, the sights and the things to do.
- Give your impression and/or describe your feelings.

#### CONCLUSION

- Sum up your opinion by making a general comment or giving your feelings.

### 5. WRITING TASK

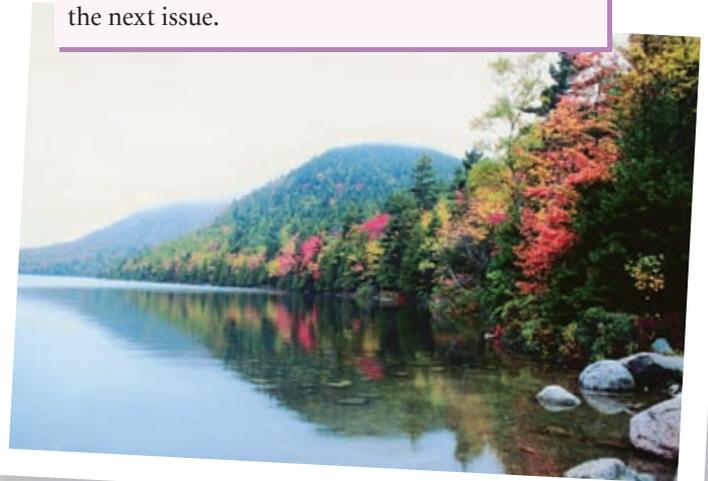
Read the rubric below and write the article (120-180 words).

You have seen this announcement in an international travel magazine.

#### BEAUTY SPOTS you shouldn't miss !

Tell us about the places near you that are popular because of their beautiful scenery. Say what attracts visitors to those places and describe how you feel about them.

The most interesting articles will be published in the next issue.



**TIP**

When writing an article, you want to catch the readers' attention and interest them. You should:

- use a catchy title.
- think about the purpose of the article and who will read it in order to write in an appropriate style (formal or informal).
- organise the article in paragraphs which expand on, describe or give examples of the topic.
- use lively colourful language (i.e. a variety of words/phrases/expressions, direct and indirect questions).
- comment on the topic or give your opinion.

READING

Read the magazine article below about travelling by InterRail around Europe and answer the questions 1-8 on page 29. Choose the best answer *a, b, c* or *d*.

# INTERRAILING

## *around Europe*



Imagine you were told to pack a rucksack with all you need for a month of travelling, what would you take with you? Well, this is the problem which thousands of young people have when they decide to go 'InterRailing'. Never heard of it? Well, InterRail has become a common part of our language. The idea is you buy one train ticket which covers the whole or part of Europe; you pack your bag, jump on a train and go! From Austria to Turkey, from Finland to Spain, InterRail is the ideal way for young people to travel around Europe on a small budget.

The InterRail Pass was first introduced in 1972 and was a rail ticket which offered under 21-year-olds unlimited travel through twenty-one European countries. The ticket quickly became very popular indeed, allowing young people to travel throughout Europe very cheaply. Over the years, the age limit for the ticket has been raised a number of times and the area covered by the ticket has been expanded. The rail pass now covers 30 countries, reflecting the opening of the borders to the East and the growth of the European Union. Today, there is a wide range of tickets available, for young and old alike, for a whole month or just a few days, for all of the countries or for just one particular 'zone'.

The ticket has been an amazing success. Since its introduction, nearly 7 million young people have travelled using this form of rail ticket. Apart from the fact that the ticket offers young people a cheap form of travel, the InterRail Pass is also simple to use. It is accepted as a means of travel without any further complicated paperwork. It also offers discounts on many ship and ferry connections and lower entrance prices to many museums and galleries.

But it is the freedom which it offers that has captured the hearts of young people. There is nothing quite like sitting on a train with nothing else except the things you have with you

in your rucksack. The freedom to be able to decide yourself when and where to travel without having to stick to any other timetable other than the one you decide upon yourself is thrilling. InterRail offers an element of adventure while providing an element of security at the same time. You know you have your ticket, as it has already been paid for, you know where it is valid and for how long.

Despite the occasional language problem, Europe is perfect for InterRail. It offers travellers an enormous amount of diversity, with each country having something unique. France is one of the most popular countries, in particular Paris. Germany is also a top destination for its history and festivals; Italy is home to art and pizza; Greece has a 'sun, sand and sea' image.

Of course, anyone considering going InterRailing for a month really has to do some careful planning with maps, timetables and one of the many InterRail guides available. For certain trains, in particular the high speed ones, you have to pay extra. You also have to pay a supplement to use the sleeping wagons. Travel safety is a subject many young people have to become familiar with, as well. While it is usually pretty safe on most trains in Europe, there are, of course, areas and times which are more risky than others. Travelling by train during the day is advised for young people, and doing the journey with someone else is also much safer than travelling on your own.

A month of travelling through Europe gives you the chance to see many new places and meet young people from all over the world. It is both educational and culturally rewarding. You are advised to plan well in advance to try and get the most out of your journey. However, in my experience of InterRail, it was all the unexpected things which happened that made the journey so interesting, but above all, fun!

- The InterRail ticket
  - was originally introduced for 21-year-olds.
  - was an instant hit with young people.
  - initially took some time to become popular.
  - was offered free of charge at the start.
- The popularity of the ticket led to
  - an increase in the price.
  - the age limit being lowered.
  - more countries being offered.
  - chaos on the railways.
- The InterRail ticket has been used by
  - nearly 7 million young people per year.
  - over 7 million young people per year.
  - almost 7 million young people altogether.
  - more than 7 million young people altogether.
- Today, the InterRail ticket
  - provides free access to all trains in 30 European countries.
  - includes European ferry crossings in its price.
  - is not available in paper form.
  - offers reductions on many museum entrance fees.
- Young people
  - don't really like travelling with only one rucksack.
  - like the fact that they are free to plan their trip on their own.
  - are thrilled by using fixed timetables.
  - don't feel secure using the InterRail ticket.
- Europe is ideal for this type of travel because
  - you can travel from France and Germany to Italy and Greece.
  - each country is so different.
  - you never have any language problem.
  - it is not far to get to.
- According to the text, people who have an InterRail ticket
  - must learn to be careful while travelling.
  - have to pay a supplement on most trains.
  - should not sleep on trains.
  - should not go to the risky areas of Europe.
- In the author's opinion, this type of travel is
  - good only if it is well-planned.
  - the cheapest way to travel around Europe.
  - a very positive experience for young people.
  - a bit complicated and difficult to do.

## EXAMINATION PRACTICE

A. Read the text below and decide which answer *a, b, c* or *d* best fits each gap.



At (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 3350 metres, Mount Etna in Sicily is the highest (2) \_\_\_\_\_ volcano in Europe. It is one of Sicily's most (3) \_\_\_\_\_ natural attractions, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ climbers with a view of the island's amazing (5) \_\_\_\_\_. In winter, people can ski on the mountain and in summer, they can go on hiking tours through its various forests. In autumn, when the leaves on the trees change colour, it is a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ sight. The volcano has had several (7) \_\_\_\_\_ eruptions in the past century. The most (8) \_\_\_\_\_ was in April 2010, when it suddenly started violently spouting ash into the air. In 2002, many tourists had a(n) (9) \_\_\_\_\_ experience while attempting to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the mountain; as they were climbing, the volcano started to erupt violently and molten lava started to flow down the mountain. Several witnesses recorded the eruption from a safe distance and claimed that, although it was (11) \_\_\_\_\_, it was an impressive (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

- hardly
  - approximately
  - unusually
  - constantly
- active
  - appealing
  - untouched
  - enormous
- valid
  - remarkable
  - traditional
  - luxurious
- indulging
  - providing
  - associating
  - offering
- destination
  - scenery
  - option
  - site
- gentle
  - picturesque
  - spectacular
  - brilliant
- significant
  - challenging
  - unique
  - extraordinary
- recent
  - new
  - late
  - plain
- mysterious
  - scared
  - overwhelming
  - brilliant
- come
  - arrive
  - get
  - approach
- thrilling
  - elegant
  - mild
  - frightening
- spectacle
  - expedition
  - particle
  - obstacle

# Module 1 round-up

## Units (1-2)

### B. Choose the word or phrase that most appropriately completes the sentence.

- By winning the gold medal in the Olympics, he \_\_\_\_\_ worldwide recognition.  
a. accomplished      **b. achieved**      c. managed      d. succeeded
- It took me an hour to \_\_\_\_\_ to work this morning due to the heavy traffic.  
a. reach      b. approach      c. arrive      **d. get**
- Ted was kind enough to \_\_\_\_\_ for the night since we couldn't find suitable accommodation.  
a. pick us up      b. make us up      **c. put us up**      d. pay us off
- Look at Yusuf skiing! He is so \_\_\_\_\_!  
**a. graceful**      b. glorious      c. picturesque      d. grateful
- He was imprisoned as the evidence against him was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. challenging      **b. overwhelming**      c. appealing      d. complimentary
- Her \_\_\_\_\_ from the event didn't go unnoticed.  
a. lack      b. shortage      **c. absence**      d. loss
- Martin overcame many \_\_\_\_\_ and reached great heights in his career.  
**a. obstacles**      b. spectacles      c. particles      d. features
- The best way to get to know London is to join a guided city \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. journey      b. excursion      c. trip      **d. tour**
- The festival ended with a \_\_\_\_\_ fireworks display.  
a. significant      **b. spectacular**      c. challenging      d. stylish
- A meeting has been \_\_\_\_\_ for Tuesday morning.  
a. chartered      **b. scheduled**      c. modified      d. certified

### C. Choose the word or phrase that produces a grammatically correct sentence.

- What \_\_\_\_\_ of our new apartment?  
a. are you thinking      b. have you thought      **c. do you think**      d. have you been thinking
- Tim \_\_\_\_\_ overtime lately.  
a. works      **b. has been working**      c. is working      d. worked
- There is only \_\_\_\_\_ time left before the plane takes off. Hurry up!  
**a. a little**      b. hardly any      c. few      d. a few
- Sandra won't go to school today because she has \_\_\_\_\_ fever.  
a. -      b. the      c. little      **d. a**
- My grandmother has been in the hospital for ten days, but I haven't visited her \_\_\_\_\_.  
**a. yet**      b. already      c. since      d. before
- This is the third time I \_\_\_\_\_ to Italy this year.  
a. have been travelling      b. travel      c. travelled      **d. have travelled**
- This kind of \_\_\_\_\_ quite a lot.  
a. furniture cost      **b. furniture costs**      c. furnitures costs      d. furnitures cost
- I enjoyed the trip to Edinburgh \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. a lot of      **b. a lot**      c. plenty of      d. much
- I'm afraid the news \_\_\_\_\_; our team lost all three games in the playoffs.  
**a. is disappointing**      b. is disappointed      c. are disappointing      d. are disappointed
- I \_\_\_\_\_ in a lake since I was six years old.  
a. don't swim      b. didn't swim      **c. haven't swum**      d. haven't been swimming

**D. Read the text below and complete the gaps. Use only one word in each gap.**

## Leave it to the TRAVEL AGENT!



Are you concerned about having to organise (1) your holidays all by yourself? Then why don't you try (2) the option of leaving everything to a travel agent? This has indeed turned (3) out to be the best solution during the past (4) few years, in terms of saving you the time and energy that planning a holiday requires. A visit to a travel agency will certainly pay (5) off as you will be able to find package tours for every taste and budget. You might (6) be in for a big surprise when you find out how (7) many different options there are and you will probably have a hard time making (8) up your mind about where to go. Travel agents, however, are always ready to provide you (9) with suggestions once they (10) have made sure of what your preferences are. So, don't waste (11) any more time! Pick up the phone and (12) make an appointment with your local travel agent! You won't regret it!

**E. Read the text and complete the blanks with the correct form of the words in capitals.**

## a trip to PARIS



Last weekend I went with my wife and our two kids on a short trip to Paris, a place with so many (1) attractions! We stayed in a pretty hotel in the city centre and we had an (2) impressive view of the Champs-Élysées from our window. During the day we explored the city. My wife loves art so our first stop was the Louvre. We enjoyed wandering through the museum looking at all the magnificent works of art and it was (3) overwhelming to come face-to-face with the Mona Lisa. Later that day, we went up the Eiffel Tower. The view of the city was (4) amazing, although my daughter Elizabeth was a little (5) frightened of the height. The next day, we took the children to Eurodisney and we went on lots of (6) thrilling rides. On our last day we just strolled around the city admiring its beauty. We were all in (7) agreement that Paris was a fantastic place to visit. In the afternoon we stopped at a restaurant and had a (8) traditional French meal followed by chocolate tart for dessert and afterwards we took the children rollerblading. Our trip to Paris was a truly (9) wonderful experience.

ATTRACT

IMPRESS

OVERWHELM

AMAZE

FRIGHTEN

THRILL

AGREE

TRADITION

WONDER

**F. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.**

- I am certain that this syrup will have a good effect on your sore throat. **do**  
 I am certain that this syrup will do wonders for your sore throat.
- You have to work hard to compensate for the lost time. **make**  
 You have to work hard to make up for the time you have lost.
- My brother is in the annoying habit of leaving his clothes lying around. **always**  
 My brother is always leaving his clothes lying around.
- He has worked as a sales assistant for only three months. **little**  
 He has got very little experience as a sales assistant.
- I haven't heard from Jason for two weeks. **time**  
 The last time I heard from Jason was two weeks ago.
- We still haven't decided where to go on holiday. **up**  
 We still haven't made up our minds about where to go on holiday.
- They are heading west. **part**  
 They are heading to the western part of the country.
- I didn't expect things to happen the way they did. **out**  
 I didn't expect things to turn out the way they did.

# Module 1 round-up

## Units (1-2)

### LISTENING

You will hear people talking in seven different situations. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer a, b or c.

- You hear a man talking about an experience he had a few years ago.  
What does he describe?  
a. driving his car in a snowstorm  
b. a coach trip in winter  
c. a taxi ride up a mountain
- You overhear a conversation between two friends on holiday in Thailand.  
What is James's attitude towards Gary's problem?  
a. He sympathises with him.  
b. He finds the situation funny.  
c. He is trying to be helpful.
- Listen to an announcement of a ferry departure at a port.  
What is its main purpose?  
a. to warn about the weather conditions  
b. to announce that the boat is late  
c. to inform passengers the boat is leaving
- You hear two friends talking on the phone.  
What does Alex do?  
a. He gives Bill some advice.  
b. He discourages Bill.  
c. He apologises to Bill.
- You overhear a conversation at an airport check-in desk.  
How does the man respond to the customer?  
a. in a friendly and unprofessional manner  
b. in a polite and professional manner  
c. in an unhelpful and unsympathetic manner
- Listen to two friends talking on their first night in London.  
Which of the following do both boys like?  
a. English food  
b. the place they are staying at  
c. the McClean family
- You overhear this conversation.  
Where have the two men met before?  
a. in a hospital  
b. on a glacier  
c. in a park

### SELF-ASSESSMENT

Read the following and tick the appropriate boxes. For the points you are unsure of, refer back to the relevant sections in the module.

Now I can...	
VOCABULARY	> distinguish the difference in meaning of words easily confused <input type="checkbox"/>
	> form nouns deriving from verbs by using appropriate suffixes <input type="checkbox"/>
	> use a variety of words related to the weather, tourism and holidays <input type="checkbox"/>
	> use collocations with <i>make</i> and <i>do</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
	> use a variety of adjectives to describe people and places <input type="checkbox"/>
GRAMMAR	> use the Present Simple and Present Progressive appropriately <input type="checkbox"/>
	> differentiate between stative and non-stative verbs <input type="checkbox"/>
	> use the Present Perfect Simple and Present Perfect Progressive appropriately <input type="checkbox"/>
	> use nouns, quantifiers and articles correctly <input type="checkbox"/>
READING	> skim a text to understand the gist and the writer's purpose <input type="checkbox"/>
	> scan a text to locate specific information <input type="checkbox"/>
	> understand details in a text <input type="checkbox"/>
LISTENING	> understand the necessary information in a short spoken text <input type="checkbox"/>
	> understand specific information in an interview and complete gapped sentences <input type="checkbox"/>
	> listen to short monologues and understand the main idea expressed by each speaker <input type="checkbox"/>
SPEAKING	> talk about places and holidays <input type="checkbox"/>
	> compare and discuss situations shown in photographs <input type="checkbox"/>
	> obtain information that I need, make a choice and justify it <input type="checkbox"/>
	> discuss the topic of <i>places to live</i> in detail <input type="checkbox"/>
WRITING	> write an e-mail to respond to a friend and expand on notes <input type="checkbox"/>
	> write an article <input type="checkbox"/>