

LISTENING

Time: 20 minutes (15 points)

Task 1

Hello, everyone!

It's Eddie McCormick, linguist and researcher, back again. My last post about different dialects and accents generated a lot of feedback, and I was inspired to interview as many people as possible who speak with different English accents. I think it turned out to be incredibly interesting!

Now listen to the native speakers sharing the secrets how to identify their accents. Believe me, it's awesome!

Match the accents to their specific features in questions 1-11.

You have 30 seconds to read the task.

1.	The Welsh English accent...	a)	drops of the "h" sound at the start of many words.
2.	The southern US accent...	b)	sounds stronger and longer than in an English accent.
3.	The Australian English ...	c)	speakers pronounce the "ck" endings as very strongly "bach".
4.	The posh English accent...	d)	has a specific feature of saying a sort of question tag at the end of the sentence.
5.	The New York English accent...	e)	speakers say [oi] instead of [ai] in some words.
6.	The Scottish English accent...	f)	differs from the British accent in pronouncing the "r" and "o" sounds.
7.	The Canadian English accent...	g)	should be pronounced as if you have some fruit in your mouth.
8.	The Liverpool English accent ...	h)	has a lot of unique variations of words and specific expressions.
9.	The Cockney English accent...	i)	reflects the character of people who are either on the top or at the bottom but not in the middle.
10.	The American English accent...	j)	is spoken in Texas.
11.	The Irish English accent...	k)	speakers usually make a lot of the vowels a little longer.

Listen to the recording again and write the suitable answers.

12. Which two cities mentioned (one American and one British) have their own accents? (write in any order)

_____, _____

13. Which English accent should be pronounced with the 'air of superiority'?

14. If the New York residents say the words 'tree' and 'ding', what do they really mean?

_____, _____

15. People who call themselves Aussie live in ... (write the country)

READING

Time: 15 minutes (15 points)

Task 2

Read the text about really unusual museums. Six parts of the sentences were taken out from the text. Put the appropriate sentences into the correct places.

TWO SENTENCES ARE EXTRA, DO NOT USE THEM.

Really Unusual Museums!

Looking for something interesting to do? You might want to visit one of these unusual museums.

The Pencil Museum

(1) _____, the Pencil Museum is located in Keswick, Cumbria, in the north-west of England. It receives over 80,000 visitors a year from all around the world for almost 45 years already. Find out how they get lead into a pencil, and marvel at the world's biggest colouring pencil.

The British Lawnmower Museum

Lawnmowers are an important feature of most British gardens. Now you can find out all about them at the "internationally-famous" British Lawnmower Museum. Exhibits include Lawnmowers of the Rich (2) _____.

Teapot Island

With more than 6,000 teapots on display, Teapot Island grew from the personal collection of owner Sue Blazye. In 2011, (3) _____, in which the authors said, "It's awful if you don't like teapots. But it's probably all right if you do."

The Dog Collar Museum

(4) _____, the Dog Collar Museum has a collection of over 100... dog collars. Mrs Gertrude Hunt donated her collection of collars to the Leeds Castle Foundation in memory of her husband, John Hunt, a distinguished medievalist.

The Gnome Reserve

The Gnome Reserve has the world's largest collection of garden gnomes, (5) _____. Visitors are given a gnome hat and fishing rod on entering to enforce the fun. After a tour of the 4-acre reserve, you can enjoy a delicious cup of tea at the Gnome Kitchen.

Colman's Mustard Museum

One of the most popular tourist attractions in the city of Norfolk is Colman's Mustard Shop & Museum. Find out about the history and production of Colman's mustard, with many items on show, (6) _____ for mustards.

So many museums, so little time!

- a) when the exhibitions changed every month.
- b) Located in Leeds Castle,
- c) with over 1,000 of them on display.
- d) Opened in 1981,
- e) six days a week but not on Mondays,
- f) including wartime tins and Art Deco pots
- g) and Famous and Vintage ones.
- h) the museum was featured in the book *Crap Days Out*,

Task 3

There are five words that are highlighted in the text. Match them to the other words to make the collocations. **THREE WORDS ARE EXTRA, DO NOT USE THEM.**

7. find	a) ... net
8. memory	b) white-... worker
9. fishing	c) ... and chips
10. collar	d) The Botanical ...
11. gardens	e) ...your way
	f) ... stick
	g) ... bloom once
	h) ... up

Task 4

Read four diary notes about some of the museums mentioned above. Write the names of the museums next to the reviews. Words in bold will help you to guess.

12. Brian, 13 y.o., visited _____

...Ugh, today was so beyond boring. I was practically dragged there against my will, like some kind of cruel punishment. The whole place smelled weirdly of wood and rubber, and it was just... endless. I felt my soul actually leaving my body for a solid hour. The only decent bit was the gift shop, obviously, but even that was just full of... **stationery**. My eyes have never rolled so hard in my entire life. I'm never forgiving Mum and Dad for this.

13. Lilian, 14 y.o., would like to visit _____

Okay, I know it sounds absolutely ridiculous, and I'd NEVER admit this to my friends, but I'm actually kind of buzzing for tomorrow's trip. There's something weirdly charming about the whole idea. I'm expecting it to be properly magical and funny! My heart does a little flutter just thinking about wandering around there, hunting for **clay guys** in their red hats in the grass with a **spinning**! Part of me hopes it's secretly cool and not just for little kids. Honestly, I can't wait to see it all for myself. This could be pure, joyful chaos.

14. Laura, 12 y.o., is dreaming to visit _____

Okay, it sounds a wee bit daft to say out loud, but I think it would be so amazingly cool. I get this proper warm, fluttery feeling in my chest just *thinking* about it. The whole idea seems so unique and special, like discovering a hidden story that no one else knows. I dream of wandering through those grand, old rooms with high ceilings, feeling connected to centuries of history. I've read that **more than a hundred** of museum's items are placed right in the rooms and halls. It just seems like the most perfect and interesting place. I really, *really* hope I get to go one day.

15. Alex, 14 y.o., has just visited _____

Right, I went in expecting the most mind-numbingly boring hour of my life, and I have never been so happy to be so wrong. It was actually...brilliant? I felt this fizzy kind of surprise the whole time, like finding a secret level in a game. The passion behind all those gleaming, historic **blades and engines** was totally infectious and made me look at ordinary things completely differently. My mates would take the mick endlessly if they knew, but I couldn't stop grinning. I'm honestly buzzing – who knew history could feel so alive and, well, cool?

USE OF ENGLISH

Time: 25 minutes (20 points)

Task 5

Read the text below and choose the word that fits best for each space. *The first one is done for you.*

Example answer: 0 A B C D

How Can Teenagers Manage Stress?

Stress is a common part 0) _____ life for many teenagers today. They can feel stressed 1) _____ school, exams, or friendships. However, there are simple ways 2) _____ manage these feelings and feel better.

One of the most important things is 3) _____ talk to someone. Don't keep your problems 4) _____ yourself. Sharing your worries with a friend or family member can make a big 5) _____.

It is also very helpful to 6) _____ regular exercise. Going for a walk or playing a sport releases chemicals in your body 7) _____ make you feel happier. Another good idea is to make sure you get 8) _____ sleep each night.

Finally, remember to find time 9) _____ the things you enjoy, like listening to music or reading a book. Taking short breaks 10) _____ the day is essential for a healthy mind.

	A	B	C	D
0	in	of	about	---
1.	about	at	from	of
2.	for	to	by	---
3.	to	---	for	about
4.	for	to	with	at
5.	help	change	idea	difference
6.	make	do	have	get
7.	what	which	who	they
8.	enough	too	lots	some
9.	to	for	with	by
10.	during	for	at	on

Task 6

Pick up from the list a suitable word for each gap. There are some extra words you don't need to use.

eggshells

chips

bread

hand

nose

pie

watch

garden

11. After living here for 20 years, my grandfather knows everyone in the area. He really is as friendly as the man next door and **knows the place like the back of his** _____.
12. The new shopping centre is great, but the prices there are through the roof! It costs an arm and a leg, unlike our old local shops which were **as cheap as** _____.
13. I saw Mr. Jenkins fixing his car again at 7 am. He's so predictable and regular, you could **set your** _____ **by him**.
14. Sarah always seems to know what's happening with everyone. If there's any news on our street, she's usually the first to know—she **has her finger in every** _____.
15. Ever since the argument about the parking space, there's been tension. Now, they treat each other with cold politeness, like they **are walking on** _____ around each other.

Task 7

Pangrammatic alliteration is a linguistic game where you have to compose a meaningful sentence with the condition that all words in the sentence start with the same letter. For example, in the tongue twister "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" all words start with the letter 'p'. In the tongue twisters below, that very key letter is missing – find the correct one for each sentence. The example is given to you.

0. annny the inosaur ances aily.

Example answer: The key letter d

16. hhe ells eashells on the eashore. **The key letter** _____

17. isty the ouse ade uffins on onday orning. **The key letter** _____

18. How much ood ould a oodchuck chuck if a oodchuck could chuck ood? **The key letter** _____

19. etty otter ought some utter, ut she said, "This utter's itter..." **The key letter** _____

20. our luffy oxes ound ive allen eathers. **The key letter** _____

WRITING

Time: 30 minutes (20 points)

Task 8

Write a short story about your favourite teacher. Use the target vocabulary to describe the highlights of your story, how you felt deep respect towards the teacher, what situation helped you understand why this teacher was the best and what he or she has already taught you. Remember to give title to your story.

Target vocabulary:

1. *naughty*
2. *wise*
3. *lesson*
4. *role model*
5. *advice*

You must use these words, their word forms or their derivatives at least **ONCE** in a text as in the example:

Example: This story taught me a big lesson.

You should write 80 – 100 words.