

ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ
АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК. 2025–2026 уч. г.
МУНИЦИПАЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП. 9-11 КЛАССЫ

Максимальный балл за работу 80 баллов

LISTENING

**Recommended time: 15 minutes
(16 points)**

Задание 1.

Task 1

*Listen to the people introducing two different sports centres. You will hear the recording twice. There are two tasks for you to deal with after that. For items 1-8, write **A** for Gym A and **B** for Gym B answering the given questions.*

Which gym has ...

1. a good air-conditioning system?
2. dance classes?
3. a shop?
4. a café?
5. a bigger gym with more machines?
6. a swimming pool?
7. a sauna?
8. martial arts classes?

Задание 2.

Task 2

For items 9-16, choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

9. Gym A has ...

- A. lots of activities in the evenings.
- B. a few different activities at different times.
- C. lots of activities at different times of day.
- D. a number of activities in the afternoon.

10. Gym A ...

- A. moved into a new building.
- B. rearranged a sauna.
- C. is a three-storeyed building.
- D. opened ten years ago.

11. In gym A, you can have a massage ...

- A. at a reasonable price.
- B. free if you are a member.
- C. if you book in advance.
- D. given by Zumba specialists

12. You can borrow ...

- A. towels and yoga mats.
- B. towels.
- C. yoga mats from the gym.
- D. trainers.

13. Gym B can give you advice about ...

- A. training, lifestyle and diet.
- B. sports injuries and diet.
- C. how to become a professional athlete.
- D. psychological personalised programmes

14. In the main gym, you must ...

- A. use a towel.
- B. wear trainers.
- C. take a bottle of water.
- D. put on branded sportswear

15. The lifeguard can also ...

- A. give you some tips to improve your swimming.
- B. demonstrate the best way to swim.
- C. give you swimming lessons.
- D. open the lockers.

16. The timetable for the classes is ...

- A. available online.
- B. in a brochure.
- C. on the noticeboard
- D. in the WhatsApp chat.

READING

Recommended time: 25 minutes
(14 points)

Задание 3

Task 3

Read the text. For items 1-10, choose the correct option to answer a question or complete a sentence.

Language Evolution in the Digital Era: From Slang to Emoji

The English language has never stood still, yet the pace at which it is changing today feels unprecedented. A century ago, new expressions usually travelled by book, newspaper or radio, drifting slowly from one region to the next. Now a single post on a global social-media platform can introduce a fresh word to millions within hours. Slang once whispered in school corridors suddenly appears in marketing slogans, political speeches and even the headlines of serious newspapers. For many linguists, the digital era is less a quiet river of change and more a white-water rapid that keeps everyone paddling just to stay upright.

One obvious accelerator is the sheer volume of daily online communication. Billions of text messages, short videos and memes are shared every twenty-four hours, most of them informal and experimental. In such spaces, writers worry less about spelling conventions or formal registers; creativity is rewarded with likes, shares and retweets. A teenager who coins an amusing phrase on TikTok may see it repeated by celebrities the very same week. The result is an ever-expanding reservoir of slang: ghosting for suddenly cutting off contact, simp for showing excessive admiration, and yeet for energetic throwing are only a few examples. Because digital conversations leave a searchable trace, researchers can watch these expressions rise, peak and fade with a precision that was impossible before.

Alongside slang, visual symbols have gained linguistic status. The first smiley face on a computer appeared in 1982, but emojis – colourful icons representing faces, objects and actions – are the real game-changer. When Apple added an emoji keyboard to its devices in 2011, usage exploded. Today, the Unicode Consortium approves over a hundred new emojis each year, from a wobbling head to a gender-neutral person with a beard. According to recent industry reports, the “face with tears of joy” still tops the global popularity charts, accounting for roughly five per cent of all emoji sent in 2024. Although emojis were created to lighten text, many users now combine several icons to build complex, hybrid sentences: a red heart + a slice of pizza + the number 4 can quickly express “I love pizza forever.”

Digital language does more than entertain; it also reflects social change. Inclusive writing, for instance, is easier to achieve when a user can choose a mix of skin-tone modifiers, gender options and relationship symbols. At the same time, misunderstandings happen because platforms render the same emoji in slightly different styles. A harmless grin on one app may look like a sarcastic sneer on another, causing unintentional offence. Slang poses its own challenges. Teachers report that informal abbreviations such as brb or idk sometimes

sneak into formal essays, while employers fear miscommunication when staff from different generations interpret the same term differently.

Yet language experts argue that panic is unnecessary. Every era has worried about declining standards, and every era has survived. Shakespeare was once criticised for inventing too many words; today he is praised for his creativity. In a similar way, emojis and internet slang can enrich expression rather than impoverish it. Far from replacing traditional literacy, digital fluency seems to add a supplementary layer. A well-chosen emoji can signal irony that might take three sentences to explain, and a trendy acronym can establish group identity in an instant. As one linguist notes, “We are not witnessing the death of language but the birth of additional tools.”

Looking ahead, artificial-intelligence keyboards are already suggesting emojis and slang phrases in real time, making the feedback loop even quicker. Virtual-reality chat rooms may soon require entirely new sets of gestures and icons. None of this means that standard grammar books will vanish; formal writing still rules academia, law and diplomacy. However, successful communicators of the future will likely switch registers as effortlessly as they now switch apps—writing a concise email to a client before sending a meme-filled message to a friend. In short, the digital era is not a threat to language but a reminder that communication, at its heart, is a living, adaptable craft.

1. Why did emoji usage rise sharply after 2011?

- A. Smartphones began to include built-in emoji keyboards.
- B. The Unicode Consortium reduced the number of icons.
- C. Researchers advised writers to use more symbols.
- D. Social-media companies banned animated GIFs.

2. The example “red heart + slice of pizza + number 4” is used to illustrate:

- A. the confusion caused by mixed symbols
- B. the decline of written words in favour of pictures
- C. how emojis can combine to create complex meanings
- D. the official guidelines issued by linguists

3. What concern do teachers have about digital slang?

- A. It delays students’ reading speed.
- B. It appears in academic assignments.
- C. It makes essays too formal.
- D. It eliminates creativity in writing.

4. The writer’s attitude toward language change is best described as:

- A. fearful but resigned
- B. neutral and uninterested
- C. optimistic and balanced
- D. strongly disapproving

5. In paragraph 5, the phrase “additional tools” suggests that emojis and slang:

- A. will completely replace traditional language
- B. are optional enhancements to communication
- C. cause long-term grammatical errors
- D. confuse non-native speakers more than natives

6. What does the author imply about future communication technologies?

- A. Artificial intelligence will slow down language evolution.
- B. Virtual-reality chat will likely introduce new expressive forms.
- C. Grammar books will become obsolete within a decade.
- D. Written language will disappear from professional contexts.

7. Which of the following problems is NOT mentioned in the passage?

- A. Cross-platform emoji misinterpretation
- B. Generational misunderstanding of slang
- C. Legal disputes about emoji copyrights
- D. Informal abbreviations entering formal texts

8. Which statement best summarises the author’s final conclusion?

- A. Digital language threatens serious communication.
- B. Standard grammar rules are no longer necessary.
- C. The pace of change will soon stabilise.
- D. Successful communicators will master switching registers.

9. What is the main focus of the passage?

- A. The decline of traditional spelling rules
- B. How digital technology accelerates language change
- C. The history of English slang before the internet
- D. Methods for teaching emoji literacy in schools

10. According to the passage, slang spreads faster today mainly because people:

- A. read more printed newspapers
- B. travel internationally more often
- C. share content instantly online
- D. follow stricter grammar guidelines

Задание 4

Task 4

For items 11-14, match sentences A-F with the gaps in the text. There are two extra sentences.

The King of the Shopping Mall

It was on 22 March 1954 that the world's first shopping mall, Northland, opened. Built in a suburb of Chicago, USA, the designer of Northland, Victor Gruen, told the press that it was the 'shopping centre of the future'. Gruen was half-right, because although Northland was the world's first purpose-built shopping centre, it was his next design, Southdale in Minnesota, that became the model that architects all over the world would copy. Opened two years after Northland, Southdale was the first shopping centre where the shops were enclosed in one enormous building, and shopping mall architects have followed Gruen's model ever since. **11)** ____.

However, if Victor Gruen invented the mall, businessman Alfred Taubman perfected it. Taubman took Gruen's design and added a few rules to encourage consumers to spend as much money as possible. Taubman decided that shops should only occupy two floors. Furthermore, the escalators to move shoppers between the floors should always be at the two ends of the mall, forcing people to walk past all the shops on a floor. He also insisted on glass safety barriers on the first floor, allowing consumers to easily see the shops above and below them, and on opening up the front of shops completely by removing their big glass windows. **12)** ____.

Taubman also wanted shoppers to spend as much time as possible in the malls so they would spend more money. He suggested letting plenty of natural light into them by constructing huge glass ceilings. Taubman also installed artificial lights next to the glass ceilings, so that as daylight faded, the artificial light increased and shoppers were unaware of the passing of time. Holding different events every week and local festivals in the space inside the mall would bring in even more people. **13)** ____.

Today, shopping malls have grown to the size of small towns and contain a lot of leisure facilities such as theme parks, artificial lakes and even ski slopes to attract customers. **14)** ____.

However, although shopping malls are carefully designed to make consumers part with as much of their money as possible, it is unlikely that they will notice. Many people see a visit to a shopping mall as a leisure activity and that is perhaps Taubman's biggest legacy.

- A.** This took away a major obstacle between shoppers and the brands on sale inside.
- B.** Despite that, if you spend a little time looking around the next mall you visit, you'll see that Taubman's ideas are still being put into practice.
- C.** However, seldom do shoppers notice that the day seems to last longer in a shopping mall.
- D.** The layout of a modern shopping mall is very similar to the layout of those first malls from nearly seventy years ago.
- E.** Restaurants and cafés were placed at the end of the malls because they were only used at certain times of the day.
- F.** The idea was to create a space that people would feel like spending a whole day in.

USE OF ENGLISH

Recommended time: 35 minutes

(30 points)

Задание 5.

Task 5

Read the following letter from one friend to another. Then, read a similar but more formal letter. For items 1-12, fill each space (1-12) in the second letter with one of the formal expressions (A-N) you see in the table below. Make the letter sound correct. There are two extra expressions.

Hi Darren,

Sorry I wasn't able to get to your house warming party last Friday. I was really looking forward to it and I was all ready to leave the house when my aunt from Ireland arrived at the house for a surprise visit! She was only in town for the one evening before she went to my brother's house so I had to stay with her. I'm really sorry Dazza.

I tried to telephone you but your line was busy the two times when I telephoned. Then I was out with my aunt in town and didn't have the chance to ring again.

I hope you understand. I know you wanted to get me to meet that girl, Yvonne, who you work with. Oh well, next time maybe! My evening was really boring...if that makes you feel any better.

See you soon

Regards

Nicholas.

A. Later, I was otherwise engaged	B. I hope this will be possible at the next available opportunity	C. I hope you can understand my difficulties
D. I hope the dinner went well for all concerned.	E. a relative arrived unexpectedly.	F. I regret not being able
G. I must admit	H. was twice engaged	I. introduce me to Ms. Phoenix
J. Dear Mr. Jones	K. Yours sincerely	L. I look forward to hearing from you soon.
M. Please accept my sincerest apologies.	N. There is no denying the fact	

(1)_____.

(2)_____ to get to your business dinner last Friday. I was really looking forward to it and I was all ready to leave the house when (3)_____. She was only in town for the one evening before she went to my brother's house so I had to stay with her. (4)_____.

I tried to telephone you but your line (5)_____ when I called. (6)_____ and didn't have the chance to ring again.

(7)_____. I know you wanted to (8)_____ who you work with.

(9)_____. (10)_____.

(11)_____.

(12)_____.

Nicholas

Задание 6

Task 6

For items 13-18, fill in the missing words. Use only one word in each gap.

A Cardboard Bike

If you're looking for a cheap new bike for Christmas, you may want (13) ____ think about buying Stephen Jones' amazing eco-friendly bicycle. Can you guess (14) ____ it's made of? You might be surprised to find out that it is made of cardboard! And, just in case if you're wondering, it is water-resistant too!

The inventor came (15) ____ with the idea after reading about a boat made of cardboard which was designed by students at Cambridge University. Stephen's biggest challenge was creating a bike that was strong (16) ____ to be ridden by someone at almost any size. After experimenting with several options, he discovered that if he folded the cardboard in a particular way, it could carry (17) ____ weight of a rider.

Most cyclists need to be able to use their bikes in wet weather, especially in the UK, so his next challenge was to work out ways to protect the bike from the water. It (18) ____ him a while to get this right, but he found he could spray it with a special waterproof substance. In the end, the result is a smart bike that looks and feels like it's made of lightweight plastic. Steve's next project is to create a plane out of cardboard too.

Задание 7.

Task 7

For questions 19-24, read the text. Use the word given in brackets in the text to form a word that fits in the gap.

London Eye

The London Eye is a giant observation wheel that is a popular attraction in London. The wheel is one of the tallest of its kind with a (19) ____ (HIGH) of 135 metres. Over 1,700 tons of steel were used for its (20) ____ (CONSTRUCT). People make special journeys to see this wheel. Ten thousand visitors can ride on this attraction (21) ____ (DAY).

The architects, Julia Barfield and her husband David Marks won the competition to design a Millennium landmark. Their design was the most imaginative of all the projects, and the first (22) ____ (DRAW) of the wheel were made on their kitchen table. Julia found

the ideal site by drawing a circle round London and finding its centre.

Not (23) _____(SURPRISE), it took about three years to get the wheel built. In (24) _____ (RECOGNISE) of their work, the couple were awarded the MBE, a special honour that is given in the UK to someone who has achieved something special.

Задание 8.

Task 8

For items 25-30, match the names of the masterpieces and their painters (A-H) to the description of artworks created by the artists (25-30). There are two names of paintings you do not need to use.

The description of the artwork	The name of the painting
<p>25. It is probably the most famous painting in the world. This painting is a portrait of Madame Gherardini, personifying the ideal woman of the Renaissance. They tried to damage the painting more than once, and in 1911 it was also kidnapped, returning only 2 years later. The painting is officially declared priceless. It is currently kept in the Louvre, Paris.</p>	<p>A. “The Birth of Venus” by Sandro Botticelli B. “The Persistence of Memory” by Salvador Dalí C. “The Starry Night” by Vincent van Gogh D. “Mona Lisa” by Leonardo da Vinci E. “The Virgin of Vladimir” by Andrei Rublev F. “Danaë” by Rembrandt van Rijn G. “The Sistine Madonna” by Raffaello Santi H. “Girl with a Pearl Earring” by Johannes Vermeer</p>
<p>26. The painting illustrates the myth of the birth of Aphrodite. The beautiful goddess drifts to the shore in a sea shell, driven by the Zephyr's wind (West wind), and on the shore she is met by one of the Graces. This masterpiece is kept in Florence in the Uffizi Gallery.</p>	
<p>27. The painting is often referred to as the northern Mona Lisa. This is not only because of its extraordinary popularity, but also because the expression on the girl's face is difficult to capture and explain. In 2003, based on the novel of the same name by Tracy Chevalier, a film was cut about the hypothetical creation of the painting. The painting is kept in the Mauritshuis gallery in The Hague.</p>	
<p>28. This masterpiece, one of the most famous paintings, also known as the Madonna di San Sisto, is kept in the Old Masters Picture Gallery in Dresden. The painting has a little secret: the background, which looks like clouds from a distance, upon close examination is the heads of angels. And the two angels depicted in the picture below have become the motif of numerous postcards and posters.</p>	
<p>29. According to the author himself, the picture was painted as a result of abstract associations that the artist had at the sight of processed cheese. This outstanding painting, the best art of all time, is located in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.</p>	

<p>30. The artwork is one of the most famous paintings in post-impressionist culture. Painted in June 1889, it depicts the view from the east-facing window of the painter's room just before sunrise, with the addition of an imaginary village. It is currently on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Unlike most of Dutch artist's paintings, the masterpiece was painted from memory.</p>	
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25	26	27	28	29	30

Do not forget to transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet!

WRITING

Recommended time: 45 minutes

(20 points)

You see the following notice in an online English magazine for teenagers.

<p style="text-align: center;">Reviews wanted</p> <p style="text-align: center;">An interesting film/theatre production</p> <p>Have you been to a cinema or a theatre in your area recently? If so, write a review including some general information about the film or play, describing what was it like, saying whether you recommend it to other teenagers or not.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Don't forget to send the review to us by the end of November!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We will put the best reviews on our website next month.</i></p>
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Write 200-250 words (the headline is included in the word count). Remember to:

- give a headline to your review;
- write some general information (the name of the film/ play, the plot of the story in short, evaluation of acting) about the film/play;
- use at least 2 passive structures and 2 idioms of your choice in your review;
- give at least 2 reasons why people of your age should see the film/play.

Underline the required passive structures and idioms in your review.