



ENGLISH B2

Reading Comprehension

DATE OF EXAM

TIME: 1 hour and 10 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

There are **3 tasks** in this part of the test.

You must complete **all** the tasks.

You must write your answers in the space provided: 'Answers'.

Questions 1 to 18 are worth 1 point each. Questions 19 to 24 are worth two points each.



Task 1:

You are going to read four texts (A-D) that give advice about moving house.

- Decide which text each phrase (1-8) refers to.
- There is an example at the beginning (0).
- The texts, including the one used to answer the example, may be used more than once.

Which text(s):

Answer:

describes a shop where you need to spend a lot of time.

(0) B

mentions the importance of scheduling when things should be done.

1. _____ and

2. _____

describes a way to make a new residence include elements of a former one.

3. _____

mentions goods whose value will increase in the future.

4. _____

mentions buying things whose appearance can be easily changed.

5. _____

advises against leaving something for people to take.

6. _____

suggest making your home appear that it was furnished little by little.

7. _____

says you should take advantage to simplify your life.

8. _____



Moving Survival Guide: How to Make your New Place Feel Like Home

Here's a guide on how to make your new place feel like your own.

A. Mix old and new furnishings

This might sound obvious but when you move, especially if it's to a different city or country, take some things that remind you of home. I shipped some pictures and ornaments that had decorated my London home, as well as a few choice pieces of "investment" furniture.

You can't bring everything, so you'll have to buy some new stuff – but avoid, as far as your budget allows, relying too much on *Ikea* or else your place will start to look like it came in a box. *Ikea* is best for a few practical bits and pieces like the *Billy* bookshelf and duvets, pillows and sheets which can be dressed up with interesting covers.

B. Mix and match

Try and mix it up a bit with furniture or homegoods bought from a variety of stores, which will make it feel like you've put your home together over time, rather than in a single trip to a blue and yellow superstore. *Urban Outfitters* does good value, mid-century style furniture that looks spot on in an NYC apartment. *Overstock* also offers good-value options if you're willing to wade through the massive inventory. It can be worth it though. I picked up a pair of industrial barstools for less than \$100.

C. Get rid of what you don't want – but selling it isn't always the answer

Moving is a great excuse to clear out things you don't want anymore, but decluttering and getting rid of larger possessions like furniture can be harder than you think, especially when you have a deadline. But it all takes time and effort, which is probably the last thing you want when planning a big move. And timing is everything – you'll probably need your bed and sofa right up to the day you move, yet your buyer might not be able to pick it up on the day you need them to.

D. Donating furniture is tricky

Donating unwanted goods is another way to declutter. Again, don't assume that your timeline will work for the organization you're donating to. When I tried to donate my London sofa before moving to America, I struggled to find a charity that could commit to picking it up in time, but the likes of *British Heart Foundation* in London and *Housing Works* and the *Salvation Army* in New York organize pick-ups for larger items if you plan ahead.

Donating and selling are much better alternatives than, say, abandoning your stuff on the street. But they take planning, so make sure you start the process early.

Source: an article by Katie Thompson in *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media (*Abridged version*)



Task 2:

- You are going to read a newspaper article about giving gifts.
- For questions (9-16) write the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.
- There is an example (0) at the beginning.

My mother gives the strangest gifts, but she gives them with love

I stared at a text message in disbelief. The attached photo scared and confused me.

“For Lindy!” The message said. “They’re in her size!”

I was used to getting text messages from my mom around the holidays with gift ideas for members of the family, including my sister-in-law. I would laugh or sigh and answer “neat!” or “what?”.

But this time, as I looked at a picture of a pair of black leather trousers, I simply answered, “NO.”

She had gone too far.

When you get a less desirable gift, people like to say, “It’s the thought that counts,” but with my mother’s gifts, you’ve really got to wonder *What thought was that exactly?* My mother is the type of person to see a pair of plus-size leather trousers and say, “They’re in her size!”, without ever once saying to herself, *What would my future daughter-in-law do with a pair of leather trousers?*

Still, my mother’s presents are never given with malice or mischief; they are always presented with wide-eyed, innocent excitement. “Do you like it?”, she always asks expectantly, and we nod our heads while we try to **figure out** what “it” is.

Over the years, my mother’s Christmas presents have become infamous for the amusement, bewilderment – and sometimes – horror that they could evoke. New members of the family find themselves smiling, confused and slightly scared, like being asked to open Pandora’s Box.

Two years ago, my mother gave me red ruffled panties. They were large, bright red, and covered in obscenely fluffy ruffles, the kind that you see little girls wearing under their fancy dresses in old-timey pictures. They were the type of panties that I imagined, if worn under clothes, would make the wearer look like she was wearing a lumpy, full diaper. As I held them up, my mother remarked, “You know, because you’re dating now.”

Several years ago, my mother spent days working on handmade clay sculptures for my brother, my sister and me: lovingly crafted, grotesque interpretations of our heads. We each got a garish caricature, each a little different: “I made the nose extra large so you can rest your glasses on her face at night,” my mother explained to me. “Keep it on your bathroom counter.”

I took the clay head home and placed it on my bathroom counter as instructed; I soon discovered that few things terrify a two-year-old child more than a small, grotesque version of his mother’s head staring at him while he poops. He’d forget it was there and then see it and start screaming.

My son eventually started using the downstairs bathroom more and more, and then refused to take a bath if the head was in the room. We both endured its presence in our lives until one day, as I was doing dishes, I heard a series of bumps and then a large crash. I walked over to the staircase and there, at the bottom, was the clay head, broken into a dozen pieces. At the top of the stairs my son looked down, triumphant.

One Christmas, I got a pair of rollerblades, looked at my mother and said, “Are you trying to kill me?” To most people, rollerblades might seem like a decent gift. But I can barely walk in a straight line without falling over: I’m known for



misjudging the placement of walls and walking directly into doorjamb. The only possible explanation I could see for why my mother had gifted me rollerblades was that she wanted me dead, or at least seriously injured.

But, the most terrifying gifts my mother has ever given her children were when she paid some horrible craftsman to make life-sized replica cloth dolls for my son and my niece. They were the same height as our children, had the same skin-tones and curly hair and they were even dressed in our children's actual clothes (which she'd snuck out of our homes). If any doll was going to murder you in your sleep, it was going to be one of these dolls.

We soon learned that the dolls were not going to murder us in our sleep – they were, instead, planning on killing us when we were wide awake. Nothing gives you a heart attack faster than coming home and seeing a life-size replica of your child lying face-down on the floor.

The other day someone asked me what I hoped to get for Christmas. "Oh nothing," I explained, "I'm a single mom. My kids give shit gifts, and my mom, well ..." You don't "hope" for gifts from my mother. They're coming – whether you want them or not.

But the weird, clueless, endless and enthusiastic love embodied in my mother's weird gifts is the same love with which she raised my siblings and me, and it's hers and hers alone. She has always loved us for our boring, reserved personalities unconditionally, and we – with all our eyerolls and exasperated sighs around the Christmas tree – love her unconditionally as well.

Source: an article by Ijeoma Oluo in *the Guardian*, Guardian News and Media (Abridged version)

8. Why did the writer think the leather trousers would not be a good gift?

- A. They were not big enough.
- B. They were not new.
- C. They were inappropriate.
- D. They were too expensive.

Answer: C

9. What does the writer say about the gifts her mother gives?

- A. Most of them are given as a joke.
- B. Many times the recipient cannot identify the gift.
- C. She buys special gifts for new members in the family.
- D. Relatives try to avoid receiving her mother's gifts.

Answer: _____

10. What does "figure out" mean in paragraph seven?

- A. dislike
- B. understand
- C. respond
- D. give back

Answer: _____



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11. What is said about the red ruffled panties?

- A. The writer wanted to wear them to a party.
- B. They should only be worn by small children.
- C. Her mother thought they were comfortable.
- D. They were not flattering.

Answer: _____

12. What is true about the sculptures?

- A. The writer's son wanted one of himself.
- B. The writer didn't know which one was hers.
- C. The writer was told where it should be placed.
- D. The writer was insulted by one part of her sculpture.

Answer: _____

13. What happened to the sculpture?

- A. The writer's son probably broke it on purpose.
- B. They got rid of it because they no longer liked it.
- C. It got moved to a more secluded place in the house.
- D. The writer broke it while doing housework.

Answer: _____

14. What point is made about the rollerblades?

- A. The writer is too clumsy to use them.
- B. The writer preferred another type of exercise equipment.
- C. The writer thought she was given them by accident.
- D. The writer stopped doing exercise after she got hurt.

Answer: _____

15. What is said about the dolls?

- A. They were not too similar to the children.
- B. They were never put away properly.
- C. They were wearing something obtained through deceit.
- D. They were made by a family member.

Answer: _____

16. What is the message at the end of the article?

- A. People should only give thoughtful gifts.
- B. Mother and daughter are more similar than they think.
- C. The writer's mother hopes to change her kids' personalities.
- D. The silly gifts represent the giver's feelings.

Answer: _____



Task 3:

You are going to read an article about people who fake their own deaths.

- Complete sentences (17-22) according to the information in the text.
- Use a maximum of FOUR words.
- Contractions count as two words.
- There is an example (0) at the beginning.
- You MUST use original wording.
- Normally there is more than one correct answer, but you MUST only write ONE answer for each item.

A Look at the Weird World of Death Fraud

A few years ago Elizabeth Greenwood decided that she had “screwed herself financially.” With more than \$100,000 in college debt, she joked to a friend that her plan was to become a “highly sought-after public intellectual” who would pay it off by giving TED Talks. If that failed, her friend said, Greenwood could always fake her own death and disappear to a tropical island. She was intrigued by the notion. In her book, *Playing Dead: A Journey Through the World of Death Fraud*, Greenwood reveals an industry devoted to helping people vanish. She drinks Coronas with Steve Rambam, a cynical investigator who chases death fakers in the Philippines, where you can rent a corpse and hire locals to stage a mock funeral as evidence of your untimely expiration. She travels to Los Angeles, where she visits a woman who goes by the name Pearl Jr. who’s convinced that Michael Jackson faked his death and is now living secretly among us. Greenwood also introduces us to people — and there are many — who pretended to die at the World Trade Center on September 11 to scam charitable organizations.

The writer let them tell their stories and reveal their inner selves, however odious they turn out to be. By her own admission, she has something in common with them: She’s running from her past, too. Greenwood is from Worcester, Mass., a working-class town she abandoned for California. She admits that she blends in with the con artists, braggarts, and other sketchy souls she encounters in the world of death fraud. She even goes shopping with one of her subjects, a California woman who was devastated to read a 2007 interview with her father, a friend of Andy Warhol’s. As far as the woman had known, her dad had been dead since the early 1970s. He’d faked a heroin overdose, in part, to escape her.

Near the end of the book, she runs down several of the most fundamental suggestions in just a few paragraphs that can be taped to the computer screen of anyone doing their own research: Don’t stage a drowning. Most drowning victims eventually wash up somewhere, so when you don’t, eyebrows will be raised. Use your real first name for your new identity. And “for the love of God,” she counsels, “ditch the car.”

Source: Bloomberg (*Abridged version*)

0. Elizabeth Greenwood decided to fake her death to get out _____ **OF HER MONEY** _____ problems.

ANSWERS:

17. In the Philippines local people _____ to attend your funeral.

18. Pearl Jr. thinks that Michael Jackson _____.



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19. Greenwood explains that quite a few people

_____ on September 11th.

20. Greenwood is _____ the people in her book.

21. The woman in California admits that her father faked his death to get _____ her.

22. Greenwood says that people who fake their own deaths

_____ their first names.



ID NUMBER: _____

ENGLISH B2

Listening Comprehension

DATE OF EXAM

TIME: 40 minutes approximately

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

There are **3 tasks** in this part of the test.

You must complete **all** the tasks.

You must write your answers in the space provided "Answer(s)."

Listen carefully to the instructions on the recording.

You will hear each recording twice.

You will have time to read through the tasks before the recording begins, and you will have 2 minutes at the end of the test to complete your answers.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions at this time.

Do not speak during the test.

Each question is worth 1 point.



ID NUMBER: _____

Task 1:

You will hear people talking in six different situations.

- For questions (1-6) write your answer (A, B or C) on the line.
- Here is an example (0).

0. You hear two friends talking about a film.

Why didn't the woman like it?

- A. The story was not original.
- B. The main character was not believable.
- C. The music was inappropriate.

Answer: A

1. You overhear two people talking after a tennis match.

What do they agree about?

- A. The price of the ticket was worth it.
- B. The match was quite long.
- C. Travelling to attend the match was a good idea.

Answer: _____

2. You hear a man and a woman talking about a party the man went to.

What happened at the party?

- A. He avoided seeing someone.
- B. He was impressed by the food.
- C. He got some good advice.

Answer: _____

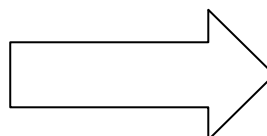
3. You hear an interview with the host of a talent show.

What does he say?

- A. It's ending soon.
- B. There are fewer contestants.
- C. There are bigger prizes than before.

Answer: _____

task continues on next page





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4. You hear a man leaving a phone message after his flight has been cancelled.

What is he going to do?

- A. call off his trip
- B. take the next flight
- C. use an alternative means of transport

Answer: _____

5. You hear a conversation in a computer repair shop.

What does the sales assistant suggest?

- A. installing a new hard drive
- B. updating the antivirus
- C. trying a new operating system

Answer: _____

6. You hear two people talking about changes in their neighbourhood.

What do they agree is a positive change?

- A. There are more places to leave your car.
- B. There is a new place for athletic activity.
- C. There is a new place for grocery shopping.

Answer: _____

Original recordings



ID NUMBER: _____

Task 2:

You are going to hear a man, Tom, talking about teenage jobs in The United States. For questions 7-14 write the correct answer (A, B, or C) on the line according to what you hear. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

0. Why does Tom say that so many young people work in the USA?

- A. It is necessary for the economy to work.
- B. It is due to the tradition of spending.
- C. It is important to help them deal with the public.

Answer: **B**

7. What is said about working for the elderly?

- A. The weather is too extreme for the elderly to work outdoors.
- B. Teens only do gardening for the elderly.
- C. The elderly often don't fancy doing the work.

Answer: _____

8. What is true about Tom's first job?

- A. He did something uncommon.
- B. He wanted to do it for longer.
- C. He did it with someone else.

Answer: _____

9. What is mentioned about the timetable of Tom's first job?

- A. It interfered with his schoolwork.
- B. It varied depending on the day.
- C. It depended on the clients.

Answer: _____

10. What does Tom say about the money he earned?

- A. He spent the money on his friends.
- B. He couldn't buy anything he wanted.
- C. He was required to do something with his money.

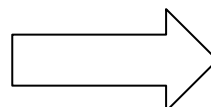
Answer: _____

11. What does Tom say happens in the United States when someone is 16?

- A. They cannot work in certain jobs.
- B. They must earn a certain amount of money.
- C. They need permission from the government to work.

Answer: _____

This task continues on the next page





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12. What does Tom say about his brother's job at a restaurant?
- A. It caused an unpleasant situation at home.
 - B. The worst thing about his brother's job was the long hours.
 - C. Tom couldn't find a similar job when he turned 16.

Answer: _____

13. What is said about Tom's job at the gift shop?
- A. He worked there every day after school.
 - B. He got on well with his colleagues.
 - C. He couldn't work there on Saturdays.

Answer: _____

14. What does Tom say he learned from his jobs?
- A. how to interact with others
 - B. how to handle money
 - C. how to manage his time

Answer: _____

Original Recording



ID NUMBER: _____

Task 3:

You are going to hear four BBC news reports.

- For questions (15-22) complete the gaps with the word or short phrase you hear on the recording.
- Do not change the word(s).
Write between ONE and THREE words.

REPORT 1: PRINCE WILLIAM

Prince William has stated that he is ready to have more

(0) _____ **RESPONSIBILITY** _____ at any time.

Prince William has been criticised lately in

(15) _____.

Prince William's family have

(16) _____ his decision.

REPORT 2: PREVENTING TERROR ATTACKS

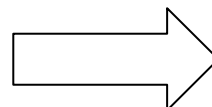
The National Police Chiefs Council already advises

(17) _____ people annually on security.

Police want to stop attacks by people who might be

(18) _____ the Islamic State.

task continues on the next page





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REPORT 3: DINOSAURS

There is a new **(19)** _____ of fossils that shows that dinosaurs were in trouble before the asteroid hit the Earth.

The new evidence shows that several diverse

(20) _____ variables might have caused the end of the dinosaurs.

REPORT 4: INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

A new type of room is being added to the International Space Station to make the modules

(21) _____.

Robert Bigelow says that one possibility is to

(22) _____ these new modules for science.

Source: *BBC News (abridged version)*



ID NUMBER: _____

ENGLISH B2

Writing

DATE OF EXAM

TIME: 1 hour 20 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

There are 2 **tasks** in this part of the test.

You must complete **BOTH** tasks.

You must write your answers in the space provided. There are sections on the exam paper to write notes and/or a draft. Anything written in these sections will NOT be corrected.

Please write the total number of words you write for each task in the section marked WORDCOUNT.

You will be penalised for writing more than 10% above or below the word count.

Do NOT include your name in the answer. The exam is anonymous.

Please make your handwriting legible. Any tasks which cannot be understood will not be corrected.

Each task is worth 27 points.



ID NUMBER: _____

Task 1

You are studying at an American university. Your class has had a discussion about shopping in large chain stores or small local shops and now you have to write an essay about the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

Include: prices and timetables

culture and tradition

your own idea

Write your **essay**.

Write between 175-200 words.

This part will NOT be corrected.

NOTES:



ID NUMBER: _____

Task 2

Your name is Pilar Ortega. You see the following advertisement online and decide to apply for the job. Read the advertisement and your notes and write your letter. You must use all of your notes.

Catering company is looking for weekend workers.

The successful candidate should:

- have previous work experience
- be able to deal with the public
- have knowledge of either English or German

Interested candidates should apply to the manager, Mrs. P. Johnson, explaining why you think you are suitable for the job: pjohnson@cateringworld.com

I have... → have previous work experience

Previously, I... ← be able to deal with the public

I speak... → have knowledge of either English or German

Write your **letter of application**.

Write **between 175-200 words**.

This part will NOT be corrected.

NOTES:



SPEAKING TEST – ENGLISH B2

INTERLOCUTOR:

Good morning/afternoon. Can I have your mark sheets please?

I am going to record the test. This is the B2 speaking exam. It's the ___ (date) ___ of ___ (month) __, ___ (year) ____.

My name is _____ and this is my colleague _____.

PART 1 – (4 minutes – 6 minutes for groups of 3).

To candidate A: What's your name? And your surnames?

To candidate B: What's your name? And your surnames?

To candidate A: ___ where do you live/come from?

And what do you like about living in _____?

To candidate B: ___ where do you live/come from?

And what do you like about living in _____?

Ask each of the students one or more of the following questions.

The candidates will be asked questions about the following topics:

Leisure time

Work

Education

Travel

Holidays

Hobbies

Music

Food

Etc

PART 2 – (3 minutes – 4 minutes for groups of 3):

Picture set 1

In this part of the test I'm going to give each of you two photographs. I'd like you to talk about your photographs on your own for about a minute and also to answer a short question about your partner's photos.

Candidate A: It's your turn first. Here are your photographs. They show different ways of visiting cities.

(The interlocutor shows the photos to Candidate A).

I'd like you to compare the two photographs and say what the advantages and disadvantages of each one are. All right?

(After a minute, the interlocutor takes away the photo).

Candidate B: Which type of visit would you prefer to do?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each one?





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Candidate B: It's your turn now. Here are your photographs. They show people looking at art in different places.

(The interlocutor shows the photos to Candidate B).

I'd like you to compare the photos and say why people choose to go to these places to look at art. All right?

(After a minute, the interlocutor takes away the photo).

Candidate A: Do you enjoy visiting art galleries?

Why do people choose to go to these places to look at art?





PART 3 – (4 minutes – 6 minutes for groups of three):

Picture 4

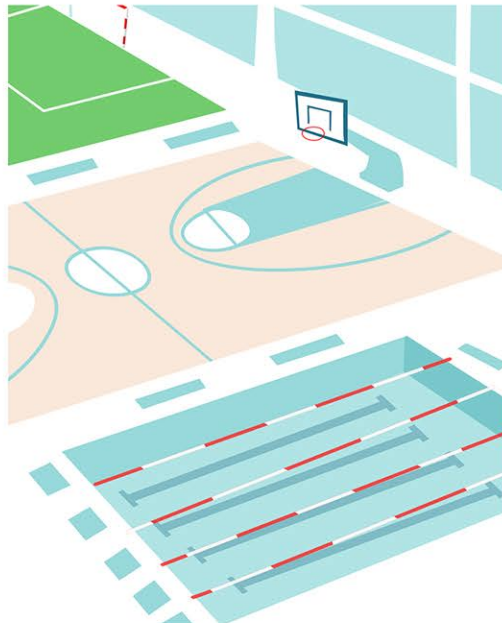
In this part of the test you are going to talk about something together for about 4 minutes.

Here are pictures of facilities that you can find in some neighbourhoods.

(The interlocutor shows the candidates the visual).

First, talk to each other about how important each of these is to make a better neighbourhood. Then decide which TWO of these things are most important to make a good neighbourhood. All right?

1. How important are each of these things to make a better neighbourhood?
2. Which TWO of these things are the most important to make a good neighbourhood?





PART 4 – (5 minutes – 7 minutes for groups of three):

Ask one or more of the following questions:

What changes have you seen take place in your neighbourhood in recent years?

What things would you change about your own neighbourhood? Why?

Is it better to live in the city centre or in a town outside the city? Why?

Is it important nowadays to get on well with your neighbours? Why?

In what ways can neighbours be annoying?

In what ways can neighbours be of help?

Do you like shopping in small neighbourhood shops? Why/why not?

What are the advantages of living in an apartment or a flat?

What are the advantages of living in a large house?

Ask the other candidate(s) any of these where appropriate:

What do you think?

Do you agree?

And you?

EXAM KEY – INGLÉS B2

Reading

Task 1	Task 2	Task 3
1. & 2. C & D	9. B	17. are paid/get paid/receive money
3. A	10. B	18. didn't die/is still alive/staged his death
4. A	11. D	19. lied about dying
5. A	12. C	20. similar to
6. D	13. A	21. away from/ a break from
7. B	14. A	22. should not change/ought not to change/ should keep/ought to keep/maintain
8. C	15. C	
	16. D	

Tarea 4: 2 puntos/ítem (máximo 12 puntos).

2 puntos = respuesta es completa, correcta y el candidato ha utilizado sus propias palabras (no ha copiado textualmente). No hay ninguna falta que impide la comprensión del lector.

1 punto = • El texto escrito es correcto pero incompleto.

• Parte del texto escrito es incomprensible. La parte que se entiende bien es correcta.

• La respuesta es correcta pero el candidato ha copiado parte de la respuesta textualmente.

0 puntos = • La respuesta es incorrecta.

• La respuesta es incomprensible.

Listening

Task 1	Task 2	Task 3
1. C	7. C	15. newspapers
2. C	8. C	16. supported
3. A	9. B	17. 100,000
4. A	10. C	18. inspired by
5. B	11. B	19. analysis
6. B	12. A	20. environmental
	13. B	21. cheaper/bigger
	14. A	22. rent (out)