Cambridge English Qualifications

B1 Preliminary Reading Part 5 – Teacher's notes

Description

After working on a summary and possible strategy for the task, students work through a sample task using supporting questions. They then create their own gapped text in pairs for other students to complete.

Time required:	90 minutes
Materials required:	▪ Student handouts ▪ Sample task ▪ Correction fluid (optional)
Aims:	▪ to introduce and practise B1 Preliminary Reading Part 5 and a strategy for answering it ▪ to raise awareness of clues that are present in the text that help with the prediction of missing words

Procedure

1. Write 'The Coconut tree' on the board. Explain that students are going to read a text on this topic and elicit a few ideas of what the text might be about.
2. Write the first sentence from the **sample task** on the board. Elicit any words which could be used to fill in the gaps from the class and write them next to the gap.
3. Hand out the **sample task** or project it without the multiple-choice answers showing. Ask students to read the text through quickly and see if their predictions about the content were correct. Tell them to ignore any gaps for the moment.
4. Ask students to re-read the first paragraph only and set the following questions about the content of the text:

    - **What is the subject of the first paragraph?** General introduction to coconut trees and where they are found
    - **What other subjects does the text cover?** The different uses of the coconut tree
    - **Do most people know about these uses?** No, they probably just think coconut trees are an attractive beach tree

    Point out that it is possible to understand the text in general without knowing the missing words and that it is important to read the whole text because it gives you the context, which will help you fill in

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the gaps – it is not always enough just to read the words on either side of the gap (you will look at examples of this later in the activity).

5. Direct students to the first sentence of the sample task. Establish that this is the introductory sentence to the text and they should use the rest of the paragraph to help them choose the answer. Ask students which answer choice is correct by going through each one eliciting or explaining why it can/cannot be used (C is correct as the article 'a' fits with 'Climate' but not 'weather' or 'condition' because they are uncountable and singular respectively, and not 'temperature' because that would be at a specific point in time and not in general).

6. Allow students time to decide their answers individually.

7. Put students in pairs and ask them to read and discuss their answers for questions 21–26, justifying their reasons for each answer and comparing ideas. Encourage them to read not only the words on either side of the gap (after as well as before the gap) but also the whole sentence or even paragraph to help them find the answer. Explain that it is also important that they develop the skill of predicting the words before looking at the answer options, as the options are always the same parts of speech and may have similar meanings.

8. After students check in pairs, check answers with the whole class. During the whole class check, discuss why the incorrect options are not possible. Point out that the four options are always the same part of speech and all have similar meanings. For example:

   Q 21. they are all nouns associated with weather but the article 'a' means it has to be followed by a singular countable noun

9. Students work in pairs/groups to complete **Handout 2**. Elicit answers as a whole class, establishing correct answers and their justification.

Suggested follow-up activity

In the next class, pair students so the student who created the gap-fill checks the answers with the student who completed their gap-fill. Encourage students to say why they completed the gaps as they did using grammatical terminology, and saying which they found difficult and why.

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B1 Preliminary Reading Part 5

Answer key

Sample task

21. C

22. A

23. B

24. A

25. C

26. D

Student handout 2

a) In Reading Part 5, you have to read a text with **six** gaps in it and choose the best word to fill the gap from a choice of four options.

b) The **texts** are usually factual or a story.

c) This part of the paper tests mainly **vocabulary** but some **grammar** too.

d) It is a good idea to read the text **three** times. First, read it without the answer choices and try to predict the type of word to use in the gap. Then read the text again, look at the answer choices and choose the best one for each gap. Finally read the completed text again to check it makes sense.

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Sample task

Part 5

Questions 21 – 26

For each question, choose the correct answer.

The Coconut Tree

The coconut tree is thought to be one of the most valuable trees in the world. It is mostly found by the sea where there is a hot and wet **(21)** ..... . The coconuts often fall into the sea and float on the water until they **(22)** ..... another beach, where more trees then begin to grow.

Holiday makers often see the coconut tree as no more than an attractive sun umbrella that provides **(23)** ..... . However, this amazing tree has hundreds of **(24)** ..... and more are still being discovered.

People have made houses, boats and baskets from the coconut tree's wood and leaves for centuries. Even today, if you take a **(25)** ..... in your cupboards, you will find coconut oil in products as **(26)** ..... as medicine and desserts.

21	A	temperature	B	condition	C	climate	D	weather
22	A	reach	B	go	C	travel	D	arrive
23	A	cloud	B	shade	C	dark	D	cold
24	A	uses	B	jobs	C	roles	D	things
25	A	scene	B	sight	C	look	D	view
26	A	opposite	B	separate	C	strange	D	different

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Student handout

a) In Reading Part 5, you have to read a text with _____ gaps in it and choose the best word to fill the gap from a choice of _____ options.

b) The _____ are usually factual or a story.

c) This part of the exam tests mainly _____ but some _____ too.

d) It is a good idea to read the text _____ times. First, read it without the answer choices and try to predict the type of word to use in the gap. Then read the text again, look at the answer choices and choose the best one for each gap. Finally read the completed text again to check it makes sense.

Student handout

a) In Reading Part 5, you have to read a text with _____ gaps in it and choose the best word to fill the gap from a choice of _____ options.

b) The _____ are usually factual or a story.

c) This part of the exam tests mainly _____ but some _____ too.

d) It is a good idea to read the text _____ times. First, read it without the answer choices and try to predict the type of word to use in the gap. Then read the text again, look at the answer choices and choose the best one for each gap. Finally read the completed text again to check it makes sense.

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