
Unit 4

1. Reading Passage (I).

Environment

El Niño

It rose out of the tropical Pacific in late 1997, bearing more energy than a million Hiroshima bombs. By the time it had run its course eight months later, the giant *El Niño* of 1997-98 had deranged weather patterns around the world, killed an estimated 2,100 people, and caused at least 33 billion dollars in property damage.

The rainfall itself was no surprise. Every three to seven years, for as long as anyone could remember, the same rainfall had arrived after a pool of hot seawater the size of Canada appeared off the west coast of the Americas. The ocean would heat up right around Christmastime, so fishermen called the phenomenon *El Niño*, for the Christ Child. Then that titanic storm source would pour vast amounts of precipitation onto Peru's normally arid northwestern coast. But few had ever seen so much rain – five or six inches a day in some places.

In other areas the water simply pooled. The mosquitoes that thrived in these places caused rampant malaria – some 30,000 cases in the Piura region alone, three times the average for its 1.5 million residents.

Peru was where it all began, but *El Niño*'s abnormal effects on the main components of climate – sunshine, temperature, atmospheric pressure, wind, humidity, precipitation, cloud formation, and ocean currents – changed weather patterns across the equatorial Pacific and in turn around the globe.

And that's not the end of it. It is not uncommon for an *El Niño* winter to be followed by a *La Niña* one – where climate patterns and worldwide effects are, for the most part, the opposite of those produced by *El Niño*. Where there was flooding there is drought, where winter was abnormally mild, it turns abnormally harsh. *La Niñas* have followed *El Niños* three times in the past 15 years – after the 1982-83 event and after those of 1986-87 and 1995. Signs of another *La Niña* began to show up by June 1998.

Comprehension questions.

1. “El Niño” originated
 - a) in Peru.
 - b) in the Pacific Ocean.
 - c) in the vicinity of Hiroshima.
 - d) near the coast of Canada.
2. The Ocean
 - a) caused floods off the west coast of the Americas.
 - b) displayed a rise in temperature before the heavy rainfall.
 - c) off the coast of Canada heated up just before Christmas.
 - d) usually heated up around Christmas every year.
3. One of the main characteristics of “El Niño” was
 - a) to cause great losses in human lives and property.
 - b) to follow its regular course.
 - c) to supply the region with great energy.
 - d) to supply with energy a million Hiroshima bombs.
4. The giant “El Niño”
 - a) had a duration of eight months.
 - b) lasted three to seven years.
 - c) was a blessing to fishermen.
 - d) was caused by the ozone hole.
5. The phenomenon “El Niño” was given this name
 - a) as its appearance coincided with Christmas time.
 - b) because fishermen are very religious people.
 - c) because in Spanish it means “the little child”.
 - d) because it gave the impression of an angry child.
6. Peru’s northwestern coast
 - a) is full of precipices.
 - b) is very dry.
 - c) is vast and stormy.
 - d) suffers from heavy rains.
7. The cases of malaria tripled
 - a) in places where the water pooled after the rains.
 - b) in the arid coast of Peru.
 - c) where the level of the rain rose by five or six inches a day.
 - d) where there was ample precipitation.
8. “El Niño” was the cause of the
 - a) civil changes taking place across the equatorial Pacific.
 - b) frequency of precipitation.
 - c) spread of malaria all over the world.
 - d) unusual changes in the map of meteorological conditions all over the world.
9. “La Niña”
 - a) occurs in winter too.
 - b) is followed by phenomena of the same kind.
 - c) is very common in the equatorial places.
 - d) is generally characterised by vast amounts of rainfall.
10. Heavy rainfalls have appeared on Peru’s northwestern coast
 - a) after every dry summer.
 - b) because it is normally arid.
 - c) over regular periods.
 - d) very seldom.

2. English Usage.

In this section you must choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. Then underline the letter (**a**, **b**, **c** or **d**) for the word or phrase of your choice. Give **one answer only** to each question.

1. When he tried to kick the ball he felt a sharp _____ on his knee.
 - a) ailment
 - b) bruise
 - c) harm
 - d) pain
2. The young woman _____ out of the window but as she didn't see anybody she went on reading her book.
 - a) glanced
 - b) glimpsed
 - c) viewed
 - d) watched
3. The _____ thought of the sea-journey makes me feel sea-sick.
 - a) exact
 - b) mere
 - c) simple
 - d) sole
4. It is said that Scotland is a fisherman's _____ and every angler shares this view unquestionably.
 - a) enjoyment
 - b) heaven
 - c) home
 - d) paradise
5. The rope they used was very strong as it consisted of several strands _____ together.
 - a) tied
 - b) twisted
 - c) wound
 - d) woven
6. The _____ leading to the front door was made of coloured flat stones.
 - a) alley
 - b) lane
 - c) path
 - d) track
7. The story he told us about his adventure on the desert island was quite _____.
 - a) credulous
 - b) disbelieving
 - c) incredible
 - d) incredulous
8. The people of the little town were in a state of panic as one of the panthers of the visiting circus had got _____.
 - a) escaped
 - b) freely
 - c) loose
 - d) lose
9. I can't share a bedroom with my brother because he _____ and doesn't let me sleep.
 - a) hums
 - b) purrs
 - c) sniffs
 - d) snores
10. The country road was so _____ that our car bounced and we thought it might break to pieces.
 - a) even
 - b) hoarse
 - c) steep
 - d) uneven

11. The spy managed to leave the country using one of his _____ names.
- a) fake
 - b) false
 - c) forgery
 - d) fraudulent
12. The bus conductor asked the passengers to have their _____ ready.
- a) bills
 - b) fares
 - c) fees
 - d) tickets
13. Mr Anderson has a very profitable job. He _____ in second-hand cars and yachts.
- a) bargains
 - b) deals
 - c) exchanges
 - d) supplies
14. The bank _____ were arrested as they were trying to escape in a stolen car.
- a) burglars
 - b) hitchhikers
 - c) robbers
 - d) thieves
15. A _____ of wild duck flying to the south reminded us that winter was coming.
- a) flight
 - b) herd
 - c) pack
 - d) swarm
16. Hardly ever _____ a stroke of work.
- a) does he do
 - b) he does
 - c) he did
 - d) he has done
17. Mr Emerson, the lawyer, is said to make higher _____ for his work than he should.
- a) bills
 - b) charges
 - c) fees
 - d) prices
18. Disco music does not seem to _____ to elderly people.
- a) appeal
 - b) attract
 - c) interest
 - d) move
19. This painting is a reproduction. Nobody could afford the _____ which is kept in the National Gallery.
- a) natural
 - b) initial
 - c) model
 - d) original
20. Don't ask Robert to stay any longer. It is nearly midnight and everybody knows that he keeps early _____ .
- a) hours
 - b) moments
 - c) nights
 - d) times

3. Sentence transformation.

Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means **exactly the same** as the sentence printed before it.

Example: A. Was the mail to **ALDERS Co.** sent by Jessica?

B. Did

Answer: B. Did **Jessica send the mail to ALDERS Co.?**

1) A. What a pity you can't stay longer.

B. I wish

2) A. Sandra is going to the hairdresser's. He will dye her hair.

B. Sandra is going to the hairdresser's to have

3) A. "I won't tell you anything about the party," he said to Helen.

B. He refused

4) A. After the long walk Barbara was too tired to prepare any dinner.

B. After the long walk Barbara was so

5) A. What is the new secretary's name?

B. He wants to know what

6) A. Hasn't Robert left school yet?

B. Does

7) A. I apologized for not having written to her for six months.

B. I said I was sorry that

8) A. Both Arthur and Roger are equally good cricketers.

B. Arthur is

9) A. What a pity you can't come tomorrow.

B. If

10) A. I should advise you to take an overcoat with you.

B. You had better

- 11) A. They did not let us enter the museum last Saturday.
B. We weren't
- 12) A. Only with great difficulty could I open the door of my locker.
B. I had
- 13) A. Occasional guests slept in this cold room.
B. This cold room was given
- 14) A. They say that a witch's ghost haunts this castle.
B. This castle
- 15) A. There was too little time for James to finish all those exercises.
B. James hadn't
- 16) A. This is as good as anything can be.
B. Nothing
- 17) A. You must take a taxi. Otherwise you'll get lost in this big city.
B. You must take a taxi so as
- 18) A. "Why isn't dinner ready yet?" he asked his wife.
B. He asked his wife why
- 19) A. "Although I've eaten my fill, I can't help tasting your delicious cakes, Mary,"
said Patrick.
B. Patrick told Mary that
- 20) A. William is too young to travel on his own.
B. William is not

4. Key word transformation.

Complete the second sentence in such a way that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given.

Do not change the word given.

You must use between **two** and **five** words, including the word given.

Example: A. You should not stay at that hotel if you are not sure you can afford it.

unless

B. You should not stay at that hotel enough money.

Answer: B. You should not stay at that hotel **unless you have** enough money.

1. Although it rained heavily the boys did not stop playing football.

went

In spite of the heavy rain the boys _____ football.

2. If I had enough money I'd buy this beautiful dress.

afford

I wish _____ to buy this beautiful dress.

3. I wish I had such a fast car.

only

If _____ such a fast car.

4. He was sensible enough to avoid driving through the centre of the town.

clever

He drove along the ring road _____ of him.

5. "I shouldn't have sold my old car," says my brother.

regrets

My brother _____ his old car.

6. "It's a pity I didn't invite Richard to the party," said Sandra.

wishes

Sandra _____ Richard to the party.

7. They couldn't see what was ahead because of the thick fog.

prevented

The thick fog _____ what was ahead.

8. They found the lorry-driver responsible for the accident.

blame

The lorry-driver _____ the accident.

9. Mr Arnold invariably takes a walk in the park every afternoon.
accustomed
Mr Arnold is _____ in the park every afternoon.
10. University entrance examinations were easier in the past.
difficult
University entrance examinations are _____ used to be.
11. In Britain you can't drive a car unless you have fastened your seat-belt.
compulsory
In Britain _____ driver to have his seat-belt fastened.
12. I'm sure that William can repair this machine in thirty minutes.
capable
I'm sure William _____ this machine in thirty minutes.
13. This kind of work interests Patricia very much.
interested
Patricia _____ this kind of work.
14. The noise going on outside my window gets on my nerves.
stand
I _____ on outside my window.
15. Could I stay at your hotel for the night?
put
Could you _____ for the night?
16. The policeman wouldn't let us enter the building.
prohibited
The policeman _____ the building.
17. If you don't hurry you will miss the train.
haste
Unless _____ miss the train.
18. Be careful, children! There's a wild dog inside the gate.
warned
He _____ a wild dog inside the gate.
19. "I have never been to that place before," said George.
denied
George _____ that place before.
20. Would you like me to drive you home?
lift
Shall I _____ home?

5. Derivatives.

The word at the beginning of each of the following sentences should be used to form **a new word** that fits suitably in the blank space.

Fill each blank in this way.

Example: fear

The captain of the fishing-boat was a strong and **fearless** man.

1. instinct

When he heard the noise he moved sideways and the falling stone just missed him.

2. health

This town is now much than it was when I last visited it.

3. observe

According to the huge bear fell off a tree.

4. indicate

Although the left-hand flashed, the car turned right.

5. appetite

The hostess served some before the main course which consisted of roast beef.

6. cancel

The of the meeting disappointed Mr Eliot who had spent two whole nights to prepare his speech.

7. extend

The hotel I was staying at was pleasantly situated with an view of the Lake of Geneva.

8. office

Detectives usually wear civilian clothes. You can scarcely see one in his uniform.

9. stop

Where can I find a for this bottle?

10. annoy

When the boy pushed her past, the woman glanced at him with a look of

11. conquer

The of England by the Normans took place in 1066 AD.

12. wake

Last night I was kept by my neighbour's dog; he didn't stop barking a moment.

13. terror

The bomb was placed by in the central railway station last night.

14. terror

The passengers were when they saw the three men pointing their guns at them.

15. gift

That girl is a pianist; one day she will be famous.

16. custom

Although he used to have a fear of heights, now he has grown to travelling by plane.

17. custom

It is to tip a waiter at a restaurant.

18. effect

Yesterday Dr Burns gave a lecture on the of the new medicine.

19. receive

When I entered the hotel and told my name, the gave me the key to the room I had booked in advance.

20. impress

The actress made an entrance and was greeted with applause.

6. Cloze test - 1

Read the passage carefully. Then choose from the numbered groups that follow the best word that fills each blank space.

That year I (1) the best two months of the dry season on one of the estates — in fact, on the principal cattle estate — of a famous meat-extract (2) company.

BOS. You have seen the three (3) letters on the advertisement (4) of magazines and newspapers, in the windows of provision merchants, and on (5) for the next year you receive by post in the (6) of November. They scatter pamphlets also, written in a sickly enthusiastic (7) and in several languages, giving statistics of slaughter and bloodshed enough to (8) one turn faint. 5

The “art” illustrating that “literature” represents (9) vivid and shining colours a large and enraged black bull (10) upon a yellow snake writhing in emerald-green grass, with a cobalt-blue sky for a background. 10

The snake (11) disease, weakness – perhaps mere hunger, which last is the chronic disease of the majority of mankind. Of course everybody knows the BOS Ltd, with its (12) products: Vinobos, Jellybos, and the latest unequalled perfection, Tribos, (13) nourishment is offered to you not only highly concentrated, (14) already half digested. Such apparently is the love (15) limited company bears to its fellow-men – even as the love of the father and mother penguin for their hungry fledgelings. 15

Of course the capital of a country must be (16) employed. I have nothing to say (17) the company. But being myself animated by (18) of affection towards my fellow-men, I am saddened by the modern system of advertising. (19) evidence it offers of enterprise, ingenuity, impudence, and resource in certain individuals, it proves to my mind the wide prevalence of that form of (20) degradation which is called gullibility. 20
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Answers:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. a) entertained | b) remained | c) rambled | d) spent |
| 2. a) factory | b) industry | c) manufacturing | d) manuring |
| 3. a) magic | b) magician | c) majestic | d) majesty |
| 4. a) foliage | b) leaves | c) pages | d) sheets |
| 5. a) almanacs | b) calendars | c) diaries | d) prospects |
| 6. a) beginning | b) end | c) month | d) season |
| 7. a) design | b) form | c) style | d) way |
| 8. a) compel | b) do | c) make | d) oblige |
| 9. a) by | b) in | c) on | d) with |
| 10. a) kicking | b) stamping | c) strolling | d) walking |
| 11. a) marks | b) presents | c) signals | d) symbolises |
| 12. a) unbeaten | b) unrivalled | c) unshakeable | d) unsolicited |
| 13. a) such | b) that | c) which | d) whose |
| 14. a) also | b) besides | c) but | d) even |
| 15. a) as | b) that | c) which | d) whose |
| 16. a) financial | b) pleasantly | c) productively | d) useful |
| 17. a) against | b) contrary | c) disagreeable | d) unfavourable |
| 18. a) feelings | b) laws | c) regulations | d) rules |
| 19. a) Although | b) Nevertheless | c) Whatever | d) Whoever |
| 20. a) mental | b) normal | c) physical | d) psychic |

7. Cloze test - 2

Fill the numbered blanks in the following passage using **one word only** in each space.

Kenelm Jerton entered (1) dining-hall of the Golden Galleon Hotel (2) the full crush of the luncheon hour. Nearly (3) seat was occupied, and small additional tables had (4) brought in, where floor space permitted, to accommodate late-comers, (5) the result that many of the tables were almost touching (6) other. 5

Jerton (7) beckoned by a waiter to the (8) vacant table that was discernible, and took his seat (9) the uncomfortable and wholly groundless idea that nearly (10) one in the room was staring (11) him. He was a youngish man (12) ordinary appearance, quiet of dress and he could never wholly rid himself (13) the idea that a fierce light of public scrutiny beat on him (14) though he had been a notability. 10

After he (15) ordered his lunch (16) came the unavoidable interval of waiting, with nothing to do (17) to stare at the flower-vase on his table and to be stared (18) (in imagination) by several fashionable young ladies, some maturer beings (19) the same sex, and a satirical-looking old man. In order to carry off the situation with some appearance of unconcern he became spuriously interested (20) the contents of the flower-vase. 15

8. Error correction.

In this test, some of the sentences are correct, and some have a word which should not be there.

- a) If a sentence is correct, put a tick (✓) on the line next to that sentence.
- b) If a sentence has a word which should **not** be there, **write** that word on the line next to the sentence.

Examples: 1. The visitors were not allowed to use their mobiles. ✓

 2. Mr Logger avoids to starting a new job on a Tuesday to

1. Catherine telephoned at her husband to remind him of his appointment. 1. _____
2. Barbara went to work on foot despite of the heavy rain. 2. _____
3. John and Patrick are going on an excursion this Sunday. 3. _____
4. There shouldn't to be any empty seats on that bus. 4. _____
5. What happened it when the football match started? 5. _____
6. When I paid for the book the cashier did not give to me any change. 6. _____
7. Dr Abbot has studied the customs of the people that they live on that island. 7. _____
8. They promised to telephone me as soon as they will arrive there. 8. _____
9. The doctor has told me that I am in need of a good rest. 9. _____
10. Upon entering into the room the children started dancing. 10. _____
11. The train from Bristol is due to arrive at half past three o'clock. 11. _____
12. Apart from a Bible and a copy of Shakespeare's works there were no other books on the shelf. 12. _____
13. That bus was terribly slow, besides of being very dirty. 13. _____
14. They say that the train will reach to its destination in six hours. 14. _____
15. He looked at me in astonishment, without saying not a word. 15. _____
16. As far as I know, the only person who can operate this machine is the Manager's secretary. 16. _____
17. The Manager says that as regards for his secretary, she is a mostreliable person. 17. _____
18. No sooner had the guests arrived than the lights went out. 18. _____
19. I will lend to you the bicycle if you promise to be back at noon. 19. _____
20. She was so scared that she was unable for to utter a word. 20. _____

9. Reading passage (II).

Save the Elephant.

Scenes of elephant slaughter, a tragedy overlooked for years, are at last forcing their way into the public consciousness. Reports of the elephant's plight are now stirring outrage in every part of the world. This week delegates from a hundred nations are gathering in Lausanne, Switzerland, to consider how to save the giant of beasts.

They represent the countries that have signed the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the treaty that regulates the trade of ivory and other products from threatened animals. The delegates must decide whether to declare the elephant an endangered species, an action that would trigger a global ban on the international ivory trade. The proposal has sparked rancorous debate, both inside and outside Africa, over whether such a ban could be enforced and whether it is the best way to save the elephant.

More is at stake than the survival of a single species. Conservationists fear that if they cannot rally to the rescue of the earth's largest land mammal, there is little hope of preventing a multitude of lesser creatures from slipping into extinction. The elephant has become emblematic of the wild and the struggle to preserve it.

Repeated attempts to control the ivory trade have failed. The current system, set up under CITES in 1986, requires ivory-producing nations to adopt export quotas intended to safeguard existing elephant populations. In addition, each tusk in international trade must be covered by an export permit and marked with a unique serial number, which is recorded in a computer in Cambridge, England.

Theoretically, that number allows nations to trace the tusk as it passes from country to country in trade. But many quotas have been ill-considered or ignored, falsified export documents have been discovered in numerous nations, and corrupt officials in collusion with traders continue to skirt the system.

In recent months the trade has been in retreat. Responding to growing public indignation, many industrialized nations have declared a moratorium on ivory imports. In Africa nations have declared war on the poachers. Thousands have been arrested, scores killed and tons of illicit tusks seized.

Among those African nations whose herds have been hardest hit are Tanzania and Kenya. They call for a worldwide ban, and are joined by conservation groups, including the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Wildlife Conservation International (WCI).

Comprehension questions.

1. The CITES has been signed
 - a) for the elephant to be declared an endangered species.
 - b) to ban the international ivory trade.
 - c) to regulate the trade of ivory only.
 - d) to regulate the trade of products from threatened animals.

2. Delegates from a hundred nations
 - a) come from countries that have signed the CITES.
 - b) have declared the elephant an endangered species.
 - c) represent countries that have giant elephants.
 - d) want to start a global ban on the ivory trade.

3. If people cannot join forces to rescue the elephant
 - a) it will struggle to survive by itself.
 - b) the earth's largest mammal will survive.
 - c) there is at least hope to rescue the lesser animals.
 - d) there is practically no hope of rescuing the smaller animals.

4. The current system to control the ivory trade
 - a) has been recorded in a computer.
 - b) has proved inefficient so far.
 - c) is valuable for theoretical reasons only.
 - d) requires each tusk to be marked with a unique serial number.

5. The attempts to control the ivory trade have not proved successful,
 - a) because in Africa, nations have declared war on poachers.
 - b) because there are numerous export documents.
 - c) because there are numerous nations involved.
 - d) owing to the existence of corrupt officials.

10. Composition / Essay writing.

1. Personalization.

a) In many cases the student tends to personalize a topic. For example, in dealing with a topic of the nature “Parties. Discuss.” Quite often the student gives an account of a party where he/she was invited or he/she organized with some friends, giving details of his/her personal experiences.

What he/she is, in fact, required to do is to discuss parties, express his/her opinion about parties, state advantages or dangers involved in them, and so on.

b) Unless the student is required to express his/her own experience on a topic, he/she should avoid writing in the first person.

c) When the student is asked to narrate an event in which he/she took part together with other persons, he/she should mention the other persons first and leave himself/herself last: “George, Lucy and **I** hired a car ...”, “My brother and **I** went ...”.

Never write: “~~**I**, George and Lucy hired ...~~”, “~~**I** and my brother went ...~~”

2. Generalization.

It is dangerous to generalize your opinion about people’s conduct, situations, style, etc. as this may prove unpleasant for some persons.

Note: “~~One must be an idiot to buy clothes from that shop.~~” There may be people who, for one reason or other, buy clothes from **that shop**, irrespective of your personal opinion. Those people will be greatly displeased with you.

3. Modesty - Dogmatism.

In expressing a personal opinion on a subject, phrases of the type: “*In my poor mind ...*”, “*In my humble opinion ...*” should be avoided.

Nor should the student be dogmatic in matters of belief, politics, legislature, taste, morals, proceedings, and so on. We should never give the impression that we expect the others to adopt our own opinion and nobody’s else.

4. Listing.

Phrases denoting *listing* should be avoided in an essay. We should not mark paragraphs with phrases like: “*First I like ...*”, “*Second it is ...*”, “*Third ...*”. Sequence of ideas or actions may be denoted by the structure of the composition and the use of link words and expressions.

Write a composition on **one** of the following topics. Use about **200** to **230** words.

1. Life in rural areas.

Hints.

Natural environment. Healthy surroundings. Clean atmosphere.
Free from traffic jams. Types of houses.
Communication with inhabitants of other villages.
People know each other. People's occupations. Their habits and pastimes.
No hospitals. Lack of doctors, sometimes.
Shops. Schools.

2. Cinema and TV; for and against.

Hints.

Cinema:

Opportunity for an outing. You choose what film to see.
Enlarged pictures that don't tire vision.
Costly: ticket price, bus fares, other expenses connected with the outing.

TV:

Available at home. No expenses involved beside the cost of the TV set.
One doesn't have to go out to watch a film.
Small size of pictures - tiring to vision.
One gets information about things happening at that moment anywhere in the world.
The TV is used in education, in hospitals, in medicine, and so on.

3. Schools: are they necessary?

Hints.

Interaction between teacher and student.
The teacher's psychological approach in dealing with students.
Teachers contribute to students' culture.
Teaching machines are impersonal and unemotional - cannot answer diverse questions.
Teaching machines are at hand any time.