



Dr. App (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you have a lot of apps on your phone?
2. If so, which ones do you use most?
3. Which apps are the most useful, in your opinion?
4. Do you read the list of ingredients on the labels of the food you eat?
5. Do you sometimes find them difficult to understand?

B – Listen and answer

Listen (without reading) and complete the Fact File.

FACT FILE – YUKA APP	
Use of app:	To scan food and ¹ _____.
Download cost:	² _____
Country of origin:	³ _____
Year of launch:	⁴ _____
Number of users:	⁵ _____ in ⁶ _____ countries.
Other similar apps:	⁷ _____ Dirty; Open Food ⁸ _____

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What do apps like Yuka rate?
2. What is the maximum rating for a product?
3. How did Yuka arrive in the US?
4. How is the rating of a product arrived at?
5. What causes a product to lose points?
6. Do any brands finance the app?
7. Why can a product's rating sometimes be misleading?
8. What advice does the article give on using these apps?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. Our dog look ferocious, but he's really _____.
2. Noah asked his dad to drive him to the football stadium, but his dad _____.
3. These instructions need to be very clear; otherwise they will _____ people.
4. That's an expensive _____, but all its clothes are very stylish.
5. Alice wrote a review for the café and gave it a _____ of 5 out of 5.
6. I went to the school careers officer to ask for some _____ about what to study at university.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

For many decades, health authorities and dietitians have ¹_____ (told/said/spoken) us that animal fat is bad for our health. Food companies make many low-fat products, but reducing the fat in food makes it less tasty, so they add sugar. This has ²_____ (taken/lead/led) to an enormous increase in obesity, diabetes and other health problems. In fact, there is evidence that sugar is far ³_____ (bad/worse/worst) for us than fat. So how do we avoid 'hidden sugars' in ready-to-eat food? We can, of course, ⁴_____ (control/check/ask) the list of ingredients, but food companies make this difficult for us ⁵_____ (by/with/for) using over fifty different names for sugar in their products. Watch for the word syrup, as in 'corn syrup' or 'rice syrup'; and look ⁶_____ (over/after/out) for words ending in -ose, like fructose, sucrose, maltose, dextrose. In other words, make sure you know what you are eating.

F – Check your pronunciation

Underline the stressed syllable in each of these words.

producers products beneficial additives relevant
success algorithm industry mislead reviews

G – Write about it

Write about your favourite food or dish. Mention:

- how often you eat it;
- whether it's home-cooked or shop-bought;
- what the ingredients are;
- whether you think it's healthy/unhealthy;
- why you think so.

The Zippo Lighter (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Does anyone in your family or circle of friends smoke cigarettes or cigars?
2. If so, how do they light them? With matches or a cigarette lighter?
3. What else do people use cigarette lighters for?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. George G. Blaisdell worked for the family _____ company in Bradford, Pennsylvania.
2. He had the idea for a new cigarette lighter in _____.
3. He founded the Zippo Manufacturing Company during the _____.
4. The first Zippos cost _____ each.
5. The company slogan was: "It _____ we fix it free."
6. Since starting production, the company has produced over _____ lighters.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What does the article say about the design style of the Zippo lighter?
2. What defects did earlier cigarette lighters have?
3. What inspired Blaisdell to design a better lighter?
4. What features made his lighter better than previous ones?
5. When were the first Zippo lighters sold?
6. What changes did Blaisdell make to the casing in the 1940s?
7. Why have some of the lighters used during the Vietnam War become collectors' items?
8. Why has the Zippo lighter been used on music and film tracks?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. The average rent has risen _____ in England over the past few years to £1,348 per month.
2. If you're not satisfied with your mobile phone network, you can easily _____ to another one.
3. _____ is a golden metal used to make musical instruments like the trumpet and saxophone.
4. Remember to put the _____ back on the biscuit tin, otherwise the biscuits will go soft.
5. The repair shop said it would cost too much to _____ our TV, so we bought a new one.
6. Tom _____ the spider off the chair with his hand and watched it run across the floor.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

During the Golden Age of Hollywood movies, from the 1920s to the 1960s, characters who smoked were often ¹_____ as cool and sophisticated and their cigarette lighters were part of this aura. As ²_____ as an attractive lady reached inside her handbag ³_____ her cigarette case, a gallant stranger would be ready with his cigarette lighter to ⁴_____ it for her. Offering a cigarette to a new acquaintance was a ⁵_____ of breaking the ice. Rarely ⁶_____ screen characters seen without a cigarette in their hands. This was partly ⁷_____ to the fact that tobacco companies paid large sums of money to film companies to make ⁸_____ that their products were highly visible.

F – Write about it

Write about your favourite gadget or useful piece of equipment. Mention:

- what it's used for;
 - whether it has any special features;
 - what it's made of;
 - where it was made;
 - where/when/how you got it;
 - why it's your favourite.
-

Zadie Smith (C1 -Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like reading historical novels? Why (not)?
2. Do you think historical novels are more difficult to write than novels set in the present?
3. If so, why?
4. How do you think novelists create their characters?
5. Have you ever tried writing a novel? If so, what kind?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen to the two parts of the article (without reading) and complete them.

PART ONE

1. Sadie Smith's first novel *White Teeth* was a _____.
2. It was set in Willesden, London, between the _____ and _____.
3. Her latest novel *The Fraud* is about a real 19th century legal case called the Tichborne _____.
4. One of the main characters is Andrew Bogle, a man from _____ who was once a _____.
5. Another character is Eliza Touchet, a _____ who manages her cousin's house and family.
6. Smith says her story is set in the 19th century because her London surroundings are all _____.

7. She names two great periods of reform in England: the 1830s and the _____, ____ and _____.

8. In *The Fraud* Smith attempts to show how _____ played a key role in British history.

PART TWO

9. Smith says she drew inspiration from the novels of Charles Dickens and _____.

10. She mentions the novel *Demon Copperhead* which was based on _____.

11. Smith says she wants to remind her readers of the capacity of human beings to _____.

12. She also says she would find it difficult to write a book that has no _____ in it.

C – Read and answer

Read the two parts of the article and answer the questions.

1. What does the article tell you about Willesden, the area where Zadie Smith grew up?

2. What characteristics of Smith's latest novel are different from or similar to her previous novels?

3. What part do Roger Tichborne, Arthur Orton and Andrew Bogle play in the story?

4. Who is the main focus of the novel?

5. What did Zadie Smith enjoy most about writing the novel?

6. What does she think of the performance of the last Conservative government in Britain?

Why?

7. What does the title *The Fraud* refer to besides Arthur Orton's claim to be Roger Tichborne?

8. What does the publication of *The Fraud* and *Demon Copperhead* show about Charles Dickens?

9. What are the risks of being present on online platforms, according to Smith?

10. Where does Zadie Smith she think she got her sense of humour from?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Over eighty people were invited to the reception but less than forty _____.

2. *Robinson Crusoe* is the story of a man who is _____ and survives for years on a desert island.

3. In the exam, you have to write a composition on one of the three _____ you are given.

4. Please stop drumming your fingers on the table. It's extremely _____.

5. There are _____ in our garden fence and our neighbour's dogs keep coming through them.

6. The hotel is luxurious, although it looks rather _____ from the outside.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Complete the text. Use only one word in each space.

Zadie Smith's first stage play, which debuted in 2021, was *The Wife of Willesden*. She wrote it when she ¹_____ out that the borough where she was raised had been picked as the 2020 London Borough of Culture. The play is based on *The Wife of Bath's Tale* from *The Canterbury Tales*, written by Geoffrey Chaucer at the end of the 14th century. Smith had ²_____ the

tales from Middle English to modern English during her studies at Cambridge University. In her play, Smith replaces the pilgrimage to Canterbury made by Chaucer's characters

³_____ a drinking tour of London pubs, while the Wife of Bath becomes Alvita, a black

British woman who, ⁴_____ born in Jamaica, now lives in Willesden. Alvita, ⁵_____ her

counterpart in Chaucer's story, has had five husbands, with ⁶_____ she has had varying experiences, some of which very traumatic. Most of the play is taken up with Alvita talking to people in a pub before ⁷_____ them the story of a man in 17th century Jamaica who is found

⁸_____ of rape and is given a rather unusual punishment: going and finding what women really want.

F – Write about it

Write about a high-profile legal case or trial that took place in your country. Mention:

- what the case or trial was about;

- who was involved;

- why it was given a high profile;

- what the outcome was.

Silent Spring (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What are the most serious environmental problems at present, in your opinion?
2. What do you know about the use of pesticides?
3. Have you ever used them? If so, what for?
4. Have you ever heard of DDT? If so, what do you know about it?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Rachel Carson was the founder of the Environmental Protection Agency.
2. She got her degree in Science while working for the US Bureau of Fisheries.
3. Before writing *Silent Spring*, she wrote a book about the origins of the sea.
4. *Silent Spring* is about the dangers of using synthetic pesticides to kill insects.
5. Carson did not realise pesticides could be harmful to humans as well as animals.
6. President J. F. Kennedy initiated an investigation into pesticides after reading *Silent Spring*.
7. *Silent Spring* is still studied in university courses.
8. Rachel Carson did not live long enough to see the publication of her book.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Who influenced Rachel Carson's choice of university course?
2. What is the connection between the line from Keats's poem and the contents of Carson's book?
3. What US government programme does *Silent Spring* focus on?
4. What were some of the other uses of DDT during World War II?
5. What style of writing does Carson use at the beginning of the book?
6. What is Carson's main claim in *Silent Spring*?
7. Why did she hide the fact that she was ill?
8. What examples does the article give of dangerous substances that are present today?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. The company will bring out a new _____ of electrical appliances next year.
2. There was an interesting TV _____ about food additives on Channel 4 last night.
3. Swimming has now been _____ in this river because of the high level of pollution.
4. The building was demolished because the walls had been _____ by the earthquake.
5. That was the scariest horror film I've ever seen. It was truly _____.
6. The suspect's _____ that he had an alibi for the time of the robbery proved to be false.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: Rachel Carson's book greatly influenced the popular imagination in the US.

IMPACT Rachel Carson's book had a great impact on the popular imagination in the US.

1. Few books have been so powerful that they changed the course of history.
ENOUGH Few books have been _____ change the course of history.
2. As a child, Rachel Carson loved to write.
PASSION As a child, Rachel Carson _____ writing.
3. In 1957, they sprayed a mixture of pesticides and fuel oil from agricultural aircraft.
MIXED In 1957, pesticides _____ sprayed from agricultural aircraft.

4. The use of DDT was widespread during World War II.
 WIDELY DDT _____ during World War II.
5. Carson's reaction to criticisms of her book was composed and confident.
 WITH Carson reacted _____ to criticisms of her book.
6. Powerful companies try to convince us that today's chemicals aren't very important.
 PLAY Powerful companies seek to _____ of today's chemicals.

F – Write about it

Write about an environmental problem you consider to be one of the most serious at present.

Mention:

- where the problem occurs;
- who/what it affects;
- what the causes are;
- why you think it's one of the most serious problems;
- what could/should be done about it, in your opinion.

Answers: Dr. App (A1 - Pre-Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. cosmetics 2. No cost/Free 3. France 4. 2017 5. 56 million 6. twelve 7. Think
 8. Facts

C – Read and answer

1. They rate the safety of food and cosmetics. 2. one hundred/a hundred/100 3. It appeared in a TikTok video that went viral. 4. It is determined by an algorithm that searches the internet for information about the product. 5. A product loses points if it has high levels of sugar or sodium or potentially harmful additives. 6. No they don't. The company refuses sponsorship by brands. 7. Because the app doesn't consider the quantity of a particular ingredient. 8. The advice is not to depend on one app for information, but to look at multiple sources and user reviews.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. harmless 2. refused 3. mislead 4. brand 5. rating 6. advice

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. told 2. led 3. worse 4. check 5. by 6. out

F – Check your pronunciation

producers products beneficial additives relevant
 success algorithm industry mislead reviews

Answers: The Zippo Lighter (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. machinery 2. 1932 3. Great Depression 4. \$1.95 5. works or 6. six hundred million

C – Read and answer

1. It says it's an art deco design classic. 2. They were unreliable and difficult to use even with two hands. 3. He observed a friend struggle to light a cigarette. 4. It could be operated with one hand. It also had an improved chimney and a lid that could be used as a wind shield, so the flame burnt steadily whatever the weather. 5. In 1933. 6. The casing was made of steel instead of brass and had a black crackle finish. 7. Because their owners personalised them with engraved slogans and stuck-on icons. 8. Because it has a unique click when it's opened, ignited and closed.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. steadily 2. switch 3. brass 4. lid 5. fix 6. flicked

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. seen/regarded
 2. soon
 3. for
 4. light
 5. way/means/method
 6. were
 7. due
 8. sure
-

Answers: Zadie Smith (C1 - Advanced)

B – Listen and answer

1. bestseller
2. 1970s – 1990s
3. Trial
4. Jamaica – slave
5. widow
6. Victorian
7. 1950s – 60s – 70s
8. Jamaica
9. George Eliot
10. David Copperfield.
11. read
12. humour

C – Read and answer

1. It's a working-class neighbourhood in north-west London, with a multicultural community.
2. It's different from her previous novels because it's a historical novel. But it's similar to previous novels because it's set in Willesden.
3. Roger Tichborne is a rich aristocrat who is shipwrecked and disappears on his way to Jamaica. Arthur Orton is an English butcher who some years later claims he is Tichborne. Andrew Bogle is an ex-slave who says he once knew the Tichmore family and confirms Arthur Orton's story.
4. The main focus of the novel is Eliza Touchet.
5. She enjoyed imagining what her characters' lives were like.
6. She thinks it was shocking because they did so little for the people.
7. It also refers to cases in which working-class people don't get a fair trial, or a man's success depends on a woman's sacrifice, or people become wealthy as a result of slave labour.
8. It shows that Dickens' work is still relatable for people today.
9. The risks are that you can become too reactive to the opinions of others and you can spend too much time in an online world of soundbites and simplified narratives.
10. She thinks it may run in her family, since she grew up with it and her brother is a comedian.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. turned up
2. shipwrecked
3. topics
4. annoying
5. gaps
6. unremarkable

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. found
 2. translated
 3. with
 4. though/although/while
 5. like
 6. whom
 7. telling
 8. guilty
-

Answers: Silent Spring (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – Her book led to the creation of the EPA.
2. F – She went to work for the US Bureau of Fisheries after graduating.
3. T
4. T
5. F – During her research she discovered that they were carcinogenic.
6. T
7. T
8. F – She did not live long enough to see the impact it had on the environmental movement.

C – Read and answer

1. An enthusiastic zoology teacher.
2. John Keats's poem mentions a place where no birds sing. Carson's book describes a landscape where there is no bird song in spring because the birds' food chain has been poisoned by pesticides.
3. It focuses on the 1957 programme to eradicate the invasive gypsy moth.
4. It was used to control malaria, typhus, body lice and bubonic plague.
5. She uses the style of a children's story.
6. Her main claim is that pesticides don't just destroy insects, but everything associated with them in the food chain.
7. Because she thought her opponents in the chemical industry might use her illness to undermine her book.
8. Microplastics and PFAS.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. range
2. broadcast
3. banned
4. weakened
5. spine-chilling
6. claim

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. powerful enough to 2. had a passion for 3. mixed with fuel oil were 4. was widely used
5. with composure and confidence 6. play down the importance

