



## Waitangi Day (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about New Zealand? (e.g. its location, climate, etc.)
2. Do you know anything it's famous for?
3. What do you know about the indigenous Māori people?

### B – Listen and answer

Listen (without reading) and complete the Fact File on Waitangi Day.

#### Fact File: Waitangi Day

Waitangi Day is celebrated every year on <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in the year <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

It was an agreement between Māori chiefs and the <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

The treaty was originally signed by <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ Māori chiefs.

Over <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ chiefs added their signatures later.

The treaty was written in English and <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

The first official commemoration was in <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

In 1974, Waitangi Day became a <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in New Zealand.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why is the Treaty of Waitangi an important document?
2. Who were the first Europeans to settle in New Zealand?
3. What did the local tribes give merchants in exchange for guns and clothing?
4. Why did Māori chiefs make alliances with the British?
5. Why were there serious disagreements over the terms of the Waitangi Treaty?
6. What made it difficult for Māori to preserve their traditions in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
7. When did they begin to defend their rights more firmly?
8. Why can Waitangi Day be a day of sadness for many Māori?

### 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 or vice versa.).

1. Jake said he can't take a holiday next week because he's got too many \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a plant. Its fibres are used to make linen articles, like sheets, towels or clothing.
3. I missed my appointment at the dentist's because there was a \_\_\_ about the time and date.
4. The company is \_\_\_\_\_ employees for its new branch in Paris.
5. Don't forget to pay the gas bill tomorrow. I'll send a \_\_\_\_\_ to your phone.
6. Before you sign the contract, make sure you agree to all the \_\_\_\_\_.

## E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

New Zealand lies in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, east of Australia, from <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ it is separated by the Tasman Sea. The country is <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ up of two large islands – the North Island and the South Island – and over 700 smaller islands. The <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ city is Wellington, but the largest city is Auckland. <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of these are on the North Island.

New Zealand's geography is very varied. There are mountains, glaciers and volcanoes, as <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ as subtropical forests and vast plains. The <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ also varies greatly, from subtropical in the far north to cool and temperate in the far south and alpine in the mountainous areas.

## F – Write about it

Write about your country, or another country you are interested in. Mention:

- its location;
  - its capital and largest cities;
  - its geographical features;
  - its climate.
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## Ada Lovelace (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are you interested in computer science?
2. Is computer programming part of the national curriculum in schools in your country?
3. How many programming languages can you name?
4. Have you heard of Ada Lovelace? If so, what do you know about her?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen to the two parts of the article (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

#### Part One

1. Ada Lovelace's parents separated before she was born.
2. Ada's education was similar to that of most young women at the time.
3. In 1833, she met Charles Babbage – known as "the father of computers" – at a party.
4. Babbage had already designed his Analytical Engine, which was similar to a computer.
5. In 1843, Ada translated an article by Babbage on the Analytical Engine.
6. She included many notes and a computer programme.
7. Other mathematicians and engineers immediately realised the importance of Ada's work.
8. Alan Turing was inspired by her notes.

#### Part Two

9. Ada Lovelace was educated by lecturers from Cambridge University.
10. She married a nobleman and had three children.
11. Ada's husband did not want her to do scientific research.
12. Ada's behaviour was always reserved and conventional.

### C – Read and answer

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

1. Why did Ada's mother make her study the sciences, maths and logic?
2. Why was the English translation of Luigi Menabrea's article much longer than the original?
3. What did Ada Lovelace realise could be done with the Analytical Engine?
4. In what ways did Ada's mother take too much control of her daughter when she was dying?
5. How strict was Ada's mother when Ada was a child?

- Why did Ada's husband go to libraries and copy out articles for her?
- What were the negative aspects of Ada's personality according to some biographers?
- How has she been commemorated?

### 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.)

- This is the plan. Ideally, it should be \_\_\_\_\_ by the end of the month.
- If your back hurts you so much, you should take a \_\_\_\_\_.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ on the beach for a couple of hours this morning and we both got sunburnt.
- I found several interesting articles in some medical \_\_\_\_\_ at the library.
- The boys lost their parents when they were small, so they were \_\_\_\_\_ by their grandparents.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ durable colour photograph was taken in 1861. Before that, the colours faded fast.

### E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

#### The Difference Engine

A difference engine is a kind of mechanical calculator. Charles Babbage began to build a small one in 1819 and had completed it <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (by/after/from/since) 1822. In 1823, the British government gave Babbage £1700 to produce a larger engine in the hope that it <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (should/will/would/can) save them money by preventing critical errors in tables that were calculated and copied by hand. However, the machine proved <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (too/much/very/lot) more complicated and expensive to build than expected, as it <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (requested/demanded/asked/required) almost 25,000 precision parts to be made. A small working prototype was built in 1832. This was <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (which/that/what/who) left such a lasting impression on Ada Lovelace. However the larger engine <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (wasn't/has/hasn't/was) never built and in 1833 Babbage's interest turned to designing the Analytical Engine, a more general-purpose machine.

### F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's famous female scientists or engineers. Mention:

- when/where she was born;
- what branch of science or engineering she is/was involved in;
- where she was educated;
- what she is famous for.

## Margaret Atwood (C1 -Advanced)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

- Have you ever read *The Handmaid's Tale* or watched the TV series?
- If so, what did you think of it?
- What do you know about its author, Margaret Atwood?
- Can you name any other dystopian novels?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen to the two parts of the article (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

#### Part One

- Margaret Atwood read George Orwell's book *Nineteen Eighty-Four* when she was 39 years old.
- She realised that totalitarian states control people by restricting their access to information.
- Her latest book *Old Babes in the Wood* imagines a posthumous interview with George Orwell.
- Her interest in totalitarian regimes didn't develop until she started writing *The Handmaid's Tale*.

5. She is surprised that very few young writers are at present interested in dystopias.
6. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was the belief that the future would bring continual improvements.
7. This optimism continued until the 1950s.

### Part Two

8. Atwood thinks Kamala Harris lost against Trump because she's female and Black.
9. She notes that the Republican Party no longer represents middle-class people.
10. She firmly believes Trump will do all the things he's been threatening to do.
11. Atwood doesn't put much trust in Trump's vice-president, J. D. Vance.
12. She wonders whether Trump is really as mad as he seems to be.

### C – Read and answer

Read the two parts of the article and answer the questions

1. How did the totalitarian state in Orwell's novel maintain control over all its citizens?
2. What kind of book is Atwood's latest work *Old Babes in the Wood*?
3. What is the link between the story called *Impatient Griselda* and *The Decameron*?
4. What didn't Atwood understand about Orwell's *Animal Farm* when she first read it? Why?
5. What made people living in the 19<sup>th</sup> century optimistic about the future?
6. Why was the theme of *The Handmaid's Tale* unusual when the book was first published?
7. Why does Atwood think some people were afraid of having Kamala Harris as president.
8. What kind of elites were the Democrats perceived to be representing, according to Atwood?
9. Why does she think some people in the Republican Party may try to restrain Trump?
10. Why doesn't Atwood interpret the ending of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* as negative?

### 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. Tom's parents \_\_\_\_\_ him to play computer games after dinner, but he did so all the same.
2. The police identified the thief thanks to the \_\_\_\_\_ cameras in the shop.
3. Daisy seems rather \_\_\_\_\_ today. Is anything wrong?
4. Since 2013, government documents have been \_\_\_\_\_ after 20 years instead of 30.
5. A president of the United States can only be elected for two \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Can't you think for yourself? You're acting as if you've been \_\_\_\_\_.

### E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. Orwell \_\_\_\_\_ (VISAGE) a totalitarian society where all information was filtered by the state.
2. His character, Winston Smith, is given a \_\_\_\_\_ (FORBID) book that changes his life.
3. It shows that the seemingly \_\_\_\_\_ (OPPOSE) ideologies of totalitarian states are identical.
4. Atwood understood that \_\_\_\_\_ (CERTAIN) was an effective method of control.
5. She was \_\_\_\_\_ (HORROR) to discover the true meaning of *Animal Farm*.
6. In 1898, H. G. Wells's *War of the Worlds* had hinted at a very \_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE) future.
7. Atwood sees Trump's vice president as an even more \_\_\_\_\_ (QUESTION) figure.
8. She says America, though still powerful, has had a few \_\_\_\_\_ (FAIL) in recent times.

### F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Why?
2. How much do you worry about these things in the future? Add other topics, if missing.
 

- climate change;	- violence;
- inequality;	- healthcare;
- misuse of artificial intelligence;	- totalitarianism;
- disinformation;	- freedom of speech;
- nuclear proliferation	- food insecurity and water scarcity;
- poverty	- _____

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## A Confederacy of Dunces (B2 Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like novels or films that make you laugh? Why (not)?
2. Can you name any that have made you laugh recently?
3. Some novels and films are described as “cult classics”. What do you think this means?
4. Which works in your own language would you describe as “cult classics”?

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. John Kennedy Toole was born in the state of \_\_\_\_\_, USA.
2. He wrote his novel *A Confederacy of Dunces* in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It was finally published in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The title comes from a quote of \_\_\_\_\_ century Irish writer, Jonathan Swift.
5. The novel is about Ignatius J. Reilly, an \_\_\_\_\_ medieval scholar and misfit.
6. Ignatius lives with \_\_\_\_\_.
7. He spends his time \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and writing letters to his girlfriend.
8. He gets a job at a \_\_\_\_\_ and loses it
9. His second job is \_\_\_\_\_ and he loses that, too.
10. His mother thinks he should go into a \_\_\_\_\_.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What is the tragic story behind John Kennedy Toole’s novel?
2. Who managed to get the novel published? How?
3. What happened in 1981?
4. How does the article describe Ignatius J. Reilly’s appearance?
5. What does Ignatius do to help his mother with the housework?
6. Why does his mother decide he needs to get a job?
7. Why does Ignatius think no employers would give him a job?
8. How does he justify losing his first job?
9. Why does he lose his second job?
10. What qualities have made *A Confederacy of Dunces* become an international cult classic?

### 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. You’d better wear a jacket and trousers to the interview. Jeans and a sweater are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. J. R. R. Tolkien, the author of *The Lord of the Rings*, was a \_\_\_\_\_ of English Literature.
3. I can’t stand Mara’s new boyfriend. He’s really \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Last night’s storm was quite severe but luckily it didn’t do much \_\_\_\_\_ in this area.
5. Our neighbours’ children are thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_. Their parents let them do whatever they like.
6. Yesterday Joe \_\_\_\_\_ our maths teacher so much that she gave us all extra homework!

### E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

1. Peter and his brother Ivan are undergoing grief because they have lost The plot of *A Confederacy of Dunces* focuses <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (at/on/to/with) Ignatius J. Reilly’s adventures all over the city of New Orleans, and the eccentric and <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (shining/bright/coloured/colourful) characters he comes into contact with. One could say that the city, <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (as/like/so/what) it was in the early 1960s, is also one of the story’s main protagonists. Many local writers

and critics consider the novel to be the best <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (depiction/picture/drawing/aspect) of New Orleans to <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (find/found/be found/have found) in a work of fiction. Its authenticity is enhanced by the accurate use of New Orleans dialects in the dialogues.

Many of the characters, including Ignatius J. Reilly himself, are based on real people that the author had come <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (over/from/to/across), and the events of the story are set against <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (unreal/realistic/actual/effective) locations, like the Prytania Theater and the D. H. Holmes store. <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (From/Since/Of/In) 1996, a statue of Ignatius has stood in Canal Street, at the former site of the D. H. Holmes store where, in the opening scene of the story, Ignatius was waiting under the clock for his mother.

### **F – Write about it**

*Write about a cult classic written in your own language. Mention:*

- who wrote it;
- when it was written;
- where/when it's set;
- what it's about;
- how it was received when it first came out;
- whether it has won any prizes;
- why it's considered a cult classic.

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## **Answers: Waitangi Day (B1)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. 6<sup>th</sup>/6 February   2. 1840   3. British Crown   4. 43   5. 500/five hundred   6. Māori  
7. 1934   8. public holiday

### **C – Read and answer**

1. Because it's considered New Zealand's founding document./It continues to be a guide for the treatment of the Māori people today.   2. They were sealers, whalers, missionaries and merchants.   3. They gave them flax and tinder.   4. To protect themselves.   5. Because differences in its translation led to misunderstandings about the promises it made.   6. They felt pressured to assimilate into the colonial culture.   7. In the 1950s.   8. Because of the loss of their land, language and culture.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. commitments   2. Flax   3. misunderstanding   4. seeking   5. reminder   6. terms

### **E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?**

1. which   2. made   3. capital   4. Both   5. well   6. climate

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## **Answers: Ada Lovelace (B1)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. F – They separated one month after she was born.   2. F – It was a very unusual education for women.   3. T   4. F – He had already designed his Difference Engine, an early calculator.   5. F – She translated an article by Luigi Menabrea.   6. T   7. F – The real value of her contributions was recognised a hundred years later.   8. T   9. T   10. T   11. F – He helped her to do it.   12. F – She swore, smoked and gambled.

### **C – Read and answer**

1. Because she didn't want her daughter to have a disorderly, poetical mind like her father, Lord Byron.   2. Because Ada added so many notes and annotations of her own.   3. She realised that with the right programming and inputs it could do more than calculate numbers; it could process notes, letters and images.   4. She forced her to convert back to Christianity by refusing to give her a painkiller till she did. She also prevented Ada's friends from seeing her.



5. She was extremely strict. Ada was forced to lie on a board to correct her posture. If she fidgeted, her hands were put in black bags and she was shut in a closet. 6. Because women were not permitted to enter university or scientific libraries. 7. Some biographers say she was manipulative, aggressive, a drug addict, an adulteress, self-centred, obstinate and lacking in character. 8. There is a day – the second Tuesday of October – named after her. There is also a programming language named ADA. There is a plaque on the house where she lived in St James's Square, London. Since 2015, all British passports have contained an illustration of her and Babbage.

**D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. carried out 2. painkiller 3. lay 4. journals 5. raised 6. first-ever

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. by 2. would 3. much 4. required 5. what 6. was

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**Answers: Margaret Atwood (C1)**

**B – Listen and answer**

1. F – She read it when she was a teenager. 2. T 3. T 4. F – After reading *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, she had already wondered what England would be like if it became a totalitarian state. 5. F – She notes that there are so many writing about them that it has become a genre of its own. 6. T

7. F – World War I and World War II demolished the idea of a wonderful future. 8. T 9. F – She says it now represents both working-class people and middle-class people. 10. F – She doubts it somewhat. 11. T 12. T

**C – Read and answer**

1. It maintained it through mass surveillance. 2. It's a collection of fifteen short stories which are reflections on marriage, mortality and aliens. Some of the stories are in response to specific requests. 3. They are both set during an epidemic. In *Impatient Griselda*, Atwood chose to rewrite the last story of *The Decameron* because it was a story she disapproved of. 4. She didn't understand it was a political allegory. She thought it was about animals. 5. During the 19th century, many advances were made. These led people to believe that their lives would continue to improve. 6. Because at that time neither utopias nor dystopias were being written very much.

7. She thinks they were afraid of losing their identity, status and power, because they thought she would do to them what had been done to women and Black people in the past. 8. They were perceived to be representing snobby, educated people who thought they knew everything. 9. Because if Trump caused serious problems, it would make it impossible for the Republicans to be elected next time. 10. She maintains that since the novel ends with a Newspeak note written in standard English and in the past tense, this means that the world of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a thing of the past.

**D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. forbade 2. surveillance 3. gloomy 4. released 5. terms 6. brainwashed

**E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?**

1. envisaged 2. forbidden 3. opposing 4. uncertainty 5. horrified 6. unpleasant  
7. questionable 8. failures

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**Answers: A Confederacy of Dunces (B2)**

**B – Listen and answer**

1. Louisiana 2. early 1960s 3. 1980 4. 18th 5. eccentric 6. his mother  
7. eating, drinking, thinking 8. clothing factory 9. selling hotdogs 10. psychiatric hospital

### **C – Read and answer**

1. When Toole was unable to find a publisher for his novel, his mental health declined and he took his own life. 2. His mother managed to get the novel published by continuing to approach writers and publishers with the manuscript. 3. The novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. 4. It says he's overweight and oddly-dressed. 5. He dusts a bit and makes an occasional cheese dip.
6. Because after crashing her car she faces a claim for damages. 7. Because he thinks they would sense in him a denial of their values, so they would fear him. 8. He says his excellence confused his employers. 9. Because he eats vast numbers of the hotdogs he's employed to sell. 10. It's clever and amusing and was way ahead of its time, so it still resonates with readers today.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. unsuitable 2. scholar 3. obnoxious 4. damage 5. spoilt 6. riled

### **E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. on 2. colourful 3. as 4. depiction 5. be found 6. across 7. actual 8. Since