



The Scottish Broch (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you know of any Iron Age sites in your country?
2. If so, where are they? Who were the people that inhabited them?
3. What has been found at these sites?

B – Listen and answer

Listen to the main article (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. Brochs are found
 - a) all over Great Britain.
 - b) only in Scotland.
 - c) in many parts of Europe.
2. They were built
 - a) before 400 BCE.
 - b) after 100 CE.
 - c) after 400 BCE.
3. They probably had
 - a) roofs made of wood or thatch.
 - b) no roofs.
 - c) roofs made of tiles.
4. The word 'broch'
 - a) is found in many place names.
 - b) is from the Scots language.
 - c) means a farm.
5. Archaeologists now think brochs were
 - a) forts.
 - b) houses.
 - c) religious structures.
6. Butser Ancient Farm in England is an open-air museum with reconstructions of buildings from
 - a) the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.
 - b) Roman and Anglo-Saxon times.
 - c) all of these periods.

C – Read and answer

Read the main article and answer the questions.

1. Who were the brochs built by?
2. What's striking about them?
3. What do they consist of?
4. Why were they initially thought to be defensive structures?
5. What makes archaeologists now think they were houses?
6. What suggests the people living in them were wealthy?
7. What is experimental archaeology?
8. What is there at Butser Ancient Farm besides reconstructions of ancient buildings?

D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

N.B. This interview is graded as C1, so don't be discouraged if you find it difficult. Try to understand the main points.

Read these statements. Then listen to the interview with Dawn Mackay, without reading, and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire was founded at the beginning of this century.
2. The Caithness Broch Project aims to attempt to build a broch.

3. Dawn Mackay is an archaeologist working on the project.
4. The project started a couple of years ago.
5. Many of the sites proposed for the broch were rejected.
6. The site has now been chosen.
7. Mackay says they will have to experiment to try to build a broch without any mechanical help.
8. Scotland's landscape hasn't changed since the Iron Age.
9. Mackay says there is evidence that a lot of wood was used in the building of brochs.
10. She hopes the project will encourage tourists to come and discover other Caithness attractions.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

Listen to the interview while reading the text. (If you did Exercise D, check your answers while reading.)

F – 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 primary school in our village is closing down next year because of a _____ of pupils.
2. The Pit Bull Terrier is considered to be the most dangerous _____ of dog.
3. Rob contacted his local _____ to complain about a large hole in the road outside his house.
4. On our last visit to the city, we got a travel card that _____ us to use all public transport.
5. Amelia went for a swim in the sea yesterday _____ _____ the cold wind.
6. A lot of people enjoy doing _____ like sudoku or crosswords in their spare time.

G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

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

1. Brochs are _____ (MYSTERY) conical structures found only in Scotland.
2. Archaeologists are still unsure of their origins, use and _____ (SIGNIFY).
3. An incredibly sophisticated level of _____ (ENGINE) was required to build the brochs.
4. The Caithness Broch Project is a charity, so it requires careful _____ (MANAGE) of funds.
5. The project aims to discover how such _____ (MASS) towers were built in drystone.
6. In experimental archaeology, the attempts are part of the _____ (LEARN) process.
7. The people who built the brochs didn't have any lifting _____ (EQUIP).
8. They built using the tools that were _____ (AVAIL) to them at the time.

H – Write about it

Write about an important ancient structure or archaeological site in your country. Mention:

- its location;
- what it consists of;
- what is known about it (e.g. when it was built, by whom, what it was used for);
- whether it is open to visitors.

Answers: The Scottish Broch (B2)

B – Listen and answer

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. c

C – Read and answer

1. They were built by the Caledonian tribes. 2. Their size is striking. The broch on the island of Mousa is 13.3 metres tall. 3. They consist of conical towers constructed with two concentric walls. 4. Because 'broch' means fort and because they had very thick walls without windows. 5. Very few weapons were found. Instead there were agricultural instruments and cooking ware. 6. The pottery found at the site showed that, long before the Roman invasion, the inhabitants of the brochs consumed imported goods like olives and wine from the Mediterranean. 7. It is a way to discover more about an ancient construction by trying to replicate it using tools and materials of the time. 8. There are crops from pre-history and rare breeds of sheep and goats.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

1. F – It was founded in the last century./fifty years ago. 2. T 3. F – She's an architectural technician. 4. It has been running for at least a decade. 5. T 6. F – There are now two possible sites to choose from. 7. T 8. F – It has changed. During the Iron Age, Scotland was covered in forests. Now Mackay describes it as a wet desert. 9. F – She says there's not much evidence that a lot of wood was used. 10. T

F – Learn it! Use it!

1. lack 2. breed 3. council 4. enabled 5. in spite of 6. puzzles

G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English?

1. mysterious 2. significance 3. engineering 4. management 5. massive 6. learning
7. equipment 8. available