

READING

Time: 20 minutes

Task 1. Read the text below to decide if each sentence (16-23) is true or false, according to the text. If it is true, mark **A** on your answer sheet. If it is false, mark **B** on your answer sheet.

THE EARTHQUAKE

I had found a cave to live in and had spent three or four months building a wall around its entrance. It meant that I had to enter my home by using a ladder, but at least I would be safe from the wild animals and any other creatures which may live on the island.

When I had finally finished building, I pitched my tent in the space between the cave mouth and the wall and felt very comfortable and content. However, this feeling did not last long. The very next day, when I was busy in my new home, just inside the entrance to the cave, I saw some earth falling from the roof of my cave, and I heard two of the supporting posts, which I had put up, make a frightening, cracking noise. I was afraid that the roof of the cave was about to fall in and bury me alive, so I ran to my ladder and climbed over the wall to get clear of any falling rocks which might roll down the hill.

The moment I stepped down onto the ground, I realised that a terrible earthquake was taking place. The ground I was standing on shook three times, with a pause of about eight minutes between each tremor. The shaking was so strong that it would have brought down the strongest building in the world. Huge waves were crashing on the shore and making a terrible noise as the earthquake shook the water. I think that the shocks must have been stronger under the water than they were on land.

The experience frightened me so much that I was stunned, and could do nothing but stare around me. I felt sick from the shaking of the earth, as if I was in a boat on a rough sea. Then, suddenly, I heard a crash as rocks fell from the hill, and I was filled with fear. I was worried that my months of work would have been destroyed in a few minutes and that my few belongings would be destroyed. This thought made me so sad that I felt my heart sink in my chest.

I sat on the ground until I was sure that the earthquake had stopped. When there was no shaking for some time, and it seemed that my wall had not been damaged by the earthquake, I began to feel my courage returning. However, I was still afraid to go back into my cave in case the roof collapsed on top of me. I did not know what to do.

As I sat there, the sky became grey and rain clouds gathered overhead. The wind began to blow, and grew stronger and stronger, until, in no more than half an hour, a dreadful hurricane was blowing. The sea was rough, and trees were being pulled up by their roots. It was a terrible storm. After three hours, the wind dropped and the rain started. Through all this, I stayed sitting on the ground, afraid to move.

Suddenly, I realised that this strange weather must be a result of the earthquake and therefore, it must mean that the earthquake was over. If I was right, then it was safe to return to my cave. I felt happier thought, and went and sat in my tent, where I could shelter from the rain. However, my tent was being beaten so hard by the storm that I was forced to go into my cave, although I was still nervous and unsure about the safety of the roof.

After some time, I began to feel calmer. There had been no more shaking but I had made a new plan. If earthquakes happened often on this island, then I would have to build a new home. A cave was not a safe place to live. This time, I would make a hut, surrounded by a wall, and I would live there without fear.

- 16. Crusoe built a cave to live in.
- 17. The tremor made the cave crash down.
- 18. Crusoe's belongings were destroyed.
- 19. Crusoe stood near the wall during the earthquake.
- 20. The earthquake followed the storm.
- 21. When the storm began Crusoe was in a boat on a rough sea.
- 22. Crusoe felt better during the storm.
- 23. Crusoe started to repair the cave.

Task 2. You are going to read a part of a story about a girl called Maria who is going on holiday with her parents. For **Questions 24-30**, choose the correct answer **A, B, C** or **D**.

‘All right, back there?’ said Maria's father.

‘Not much longer now,’ said Maria's mother.

- 3** Neither of them turned round. The backs of their heads rode smoothly forward between the landscapes that unrolled at either side of the car; hedges, trees, fields, houses came and went before there was time to examine them.

Back behind her parents' travelling heads, with the countryside unrolling tidily at each side of her, Maria hoped there would be something to talk to at this holiday house her parents had rented for the month. You can always talk to people, of course.

It is usual, indeed. The trouble with people is that they expect you to say particular things, and so you end up saying what they expect, or want. And they usually end up saying what you expected them to. Grown-ups, Maria had noticed spent much time telling each other what the weather was like, or wondering aloud if one thing would happen, or another. She herself quite liked to talk to her mother, but somehow her mother was always about to go out, or into another room, and by the time Maria had got to the point of the conversation, she had gone. Her father when she talked to him
16 would listen with distant kindness, but not as though what she said were of any great importance. Which, of course, it might not be. Except, she thought, to me.

And so for real conversation, Maria considered, things were infinitely preferable. Animals, frequently. Trees and plants, from time to time. Sometimes what
20 they said was consoling, and sometimes it was uncomfortable, but at least you were having a conversation. For a real heart-to-heart you couldn't do much better than a clock. For a casual chat almost anything would do.

'Here we are,' said Mrs Foster.

Maria and her parents got out of the car and stood in front of the house, considering it. At least Maria considered it. Her mother said, 'How pretty. I like the white walls,' and her father began to take the suitcases from the car. Maria went on considering.

It was a tidy house. It stood neat and square – or rather, rectangular, for it was longer than it was high – with a regular number of green-shuttered windows upstairs and down, on either side of a black front door.

'Well, Maria,' said Mr Foster, is it anything like you imagined?'

'No,' said Maria.

'Built around 1820, I should think,' said Mr Foster in his instructing voice. And Maria thought, never mind about that, because somewhere there is a swing. It is blowing in the wind – I can hear the squeaking noise it makes. Good, I shall like having my own swing. And someone's got a little dog that keeps yapping. She walked round the corner of the house into the garden, to see where the swing might be, but there was nothing to be seen except a large square lawn and a good many trees.

24. What do we learn about Maria's parents when they speak to her without turning round (lines 1-3)?

- A** They would rather ignore her.
- B** They are too busy talking together.
- C** They do not expect an answer.
- D** They think she may be asleep.

25. Why does Maria hope there will be something to talk to at the house?

- A** She says she often feels bored and lonely.
- B** She can't rely on people to talk to her.

- C** She dislikes being with other children.
- D** She feels people have fixed ideas.

26. What does the writer suggest about Maria's opinion of adult conversation?

- A** It is too difficult to follow.
- B** It can often be quite dull.
- C** The topics are unexpected.
- D** The topics are interesting.

27. Which word best describes Maria's feelings when she tries to talk to her mother?

- A** disappointed
- B** worried
- C** angry
- D** impatient

28. What do you think the writer means by Maria's father listening with 'distant kindness'? (line 16)

- A** He cannot always hear what she says.
- B** He tries very hard to understand her.
- C** He is not really involved in what she says.
- D** He pretends to know what she means.

29. What does 'it' in line 20 refer to?

- A** what things say to Maria
- B** Maria talking to herself
- C** what people say to Maria
- D** the attitude of Maria's father

30. What is Maria most interested in when she arrives at the holiday house?

- A** there is a dog she can talk to
- B** the fact that the house is very old
- C** the fact that she can hear a swing
- D** the surprising appearance of the house

TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET!