

You are going to read a text about a man called Jim Alston and his wife who have lived on a desert island for a long time. For questions 1-5, choose the answer A, B, C or D, which you think fits best according to the text.

Desert Island Dream

Jim Alston and his wife Kim have spent over a decade living totally alone on a desert island off the coast of Australia. The couple bought the island miles away from civilisation to fulfil Jim's childhood dream of becoming a real-life Robinson Crusoe. It wasn't easy to set up a meeting with someone who has no telephone and only gets letters every three months, but we finally got in touch and Jim invited me to visit.

As the helicopter approached, I found myself looking down on the kind of place that is real paradise with golden beaches, coconut trees and clear blue sea. When we landed, Jim Alston was there to greet me, wearing only an old pair of swimming trunks and flip-flops. As we walked to the house, I found out more about him. Adventure had always been part of his life. Once he decided to sail around Australia and bought a boat. While a friend was teaching him to sail, they stopped by accident at a small island, which was for sale. Jim immediately decided to buy it. Originally, he planned to stay for a few months and sell it. 'Now, even though I could sell the island at a profit, I'm not interested.'

After a forty-five-minute walk through the dense jungle, we got to the house, where we were surrounded at once by dogs, chickens, geese and peacocks. The building was not much more than an old wooden hut with a tin roof. He showed me round and gave me time to unpack. The room which he gave me had a marvellous view, but the first thing I noticed was the largest spider I had ever seen. I tried to stay calm, but I got really nervous when I also learned that the whole island was full of poisonous snakes. Jim told me not to worry. He said that the only ones I was likely to meet were the boa constrictors that hung in the trees near the outside toilet.

Over the next few days, I began to see what it was really like to live on a desert island. Wilderness Island is as beautiful as any exotic holiday advertisement, but Jim and his wife do not spend their time sunbathing and swimming; it is much too dangerous to go in the sea, which is full of sharks and stonefish. They have to keep working hard to survive, and make a little money by selling fruit to boats that come to visit from time to time. The couple admitted that after the first five years on the island they were so tired that they took a year off the island and even wanted to put it for sale. They returned, however, and even adopted a rescue baby kangaroo named Ernie.

They say they never planned to live alone, but it just happened that way. Now they are used to it, and do not miss other people at all. What they enjoy is the feeling of being completely free. Nobody can tell them what to do, and if they do not like anyone who comes to the island, they ask them to leave.

On my last day, as I sat on the beach waiting for the flight back to the mainland, I was desperately looking forward to getting back to the comforts of modern life. It was a great relief when the helicopter landed and took me away. Soon Wilderness Island was just another green dot in the deep blue sea. To me, it did not feel at all as if I was leaving paradise; it was like being rescued from hell.

- 1 It was hard to arrange a meeting with Jim because
- 1 he did not like visitors 2 he lived a long way away
- 3 his post was not delivered very often
- 4 he rarely answered the telephone

- 2 The writer was worried because
- 1 there were spiders in the bedroom
- 2 the house was surrounded by animals
- 3 there were lots of snakes on the island
- 4 the toilet was outside the house

- 3 Jim and Kim work hard
- 1 because they want to make a lot of money
- 2 to provide things they need
- 3 because they get large numbers of visitors 4 because they help animals

- 4 What does the word 'it' in 'Now they are used to it' refer to
- 1 the hard work 2 living by themselves 3 feeling free
- 4 what happened

- 5 When the writer left the island,
- 1 he was glad to leave 2 he wanted to go back again
- 3 he was tired of hard work 4 he was nervous about the flight

- 23** You will hear people talking in different situations. For questions 23-30 choose the best answer (A, B, or C).
You hear two neighbors talking about a new statue in their town. What does the woman say about it?
- 1** She suspects many people won't like it
 - 2** She doesn't understand what it represents
 - 3** She is convinced it should be removed

- 24** You hear a music teacher talking about his job. He regrets that
- 1** music is rarely considered an essential subject
 - 2** there are so few advanced level music students
 - 3** he cannot teach the music that he personally likes

- 25** You hear two journalists talking about driverless cars. What do they both think about them?
- 1** Most drivers would be keen to try them out
 - 2** More tests have to be done on their reliability
 - 3** There will need to be many changes to driving laws

- 26** You hear a doctor talking about colds. She says many of her patients are unaware that
- 1** antibiotics are ineffective in treating colds
 - 2** healthy eating may help the symptoms of colds
 - 3** there are things they can do to avoid colds

- 27** You hear a brother and a sister talking about a musical they have seen. Why does the woman like the musical?
- 1** It explores themes that are important to her
 - 2** She feels sympathetic to its central character
 - 3** The songs are entertaining and easy to remember

- 28** You hear a woman talking about horse riding. How has the woman benefited from going riding again?
- 1** She now has a new group of friends
 - 2** Riding has helped to improve her balance
 - 3** It has enabled her to deal effectively with stress

- 29** You hear a customer complaining in a department store. What does the shop assistant agree to do?
- 1** exchange the item for a different size
 - 2** offer a refund for the unsatisfactory item
 - 3** give him a credit to spend in the store

- 30** You hear a food critic talking about a chef called Peter Tinney. What is she doing?
- 1** describing Peter's creative approach to cooking
 - 2** justifying why Peter deserves the award he has won
 - 3** defending Peter's decision to close his restaurants