

You will hear people talking in 8 different situations. For questions 1-8 choose the best answer (A, B, or C).

1 You hear a woman bringing an MP3 player back to the shop where she bought it. What is the problem with it?
 1 It doesn't switch off properly 2 It jumps from one track to the next
 3 It plays tracks at the wrong speed

2 You hear a woman talking to a waiter. What does she want him to bring her?
 1 mineral water 2 orange juice 3 coffee

3 You hear a man describing a journey. Where did he want to go?
 1 Manchester 2 Crewe 3 Leeds

4 You hear an advertisement for a sale in a furniture store. Which items have the biggest reductions?
 1 beds 2 armchairs 3 sofas

5 You hear a woman talking to a car mechanic. What is the problem with her car?
 1 The brakes don't work properly 2 It won't start in wet weather
 3 The engine keeps on stopping

6 You hear a graphic designer talking about his work. How does he feel about the recent change in his job?
 1 He thinks he's made the right decision
 2 He regrets giving up his previous job
 3 He thinks his new work is boring

7 You hear a radio announcement about traffic on a motorway. Where are the longest delays expected?
 1 between junctions 17 and 18 2 between junctions 13 and 14
 3 between junctions 10 and 11

8 You hear a man phoning his local newsagent's shop. Which newspaper did he receive by mistake this morning?
 1 the Sun 2 the Telegraph 3 the Daily Mirror

You are going to read a magazine article about a famous pianist and the young student who became his pupil. For questions 9-14, choose the answer A, B, C or D, which you think fits best according to the test.

A musician and his pupil

Paul Williams interviews the famous pianist Alfred Brendel.

Over six decades the pianist Alfred Brendel gradually built up and maintained a dominant position in the world of classical music. He was an intellectual, sometimes austere, figure who explored and recorded the mainstream European works for the piano. He wrote and played a great deal, but taught very little. Those who knew him best glimpsed a playful side to his character, but that was seldom on display in his concerts. It was a disciplined, never-ending cycle of study, travel and performance.

And then, four or five years ago, a young boy, Kit Armstrong, appeared backstage at one of Brendel's concerts and asked for lessons. Initially, Brendel didn't take the suggestion very seriously. He had had very few pupils and he saw no reason to start now. He quotes from another famous pianist: 'You don't employ a mountain guide to teach a child how to walk.' But there was something that struck him about the young boy – then about 14. He listened to him play. Brendel explained, 'He played remarkably well and by heart. Then he brought me a CD of a little recital he had given where he played so beautifully that I thought to myself, "I have to make time for him." It was a performance that really led you from the first to the last note. It's very rare to find any musician with this kind of overview and the necessary subtlety.'

As Brendel is bowing out of the public eye, so Kit is nudging his way into it - restrained by Brendel, ever nervous about the young man burning out early. Kit, now 19, is a restless, impatient presence away from the lessons – always learning new languages; taking himself off to study maths, writing computer code or playing tennis. All under the watchful eye of his ever-present mother. On top of all this he composes. 'This was very important,' Brendel says. 'If you want to learn to read music properly it is helped by the fact that you try to write something yourself. Then I noticed that Kit had a phenomenal memory and that he was a phenomenal sight reader. But more than this is his ability to listen to his own playing, his sensitivity to sound and his ability to listen to me when I try to explain something. He not only usually understands what I mean, but he can do it. And when I tell him one thing in a piece, he will do it everywhere in the piece where it comes in later.'

Brendel catches himself and looks at me severely. 'Now I don't want to raise any expectations. I'm very cross if some newspapers try to do this. There was one article which named him as the future great pianist of the 21st century, I mean, really, it's the worst thing. One doesn't say that in a newspaper. And it has done a great deal of harm. As usual, with gifted young players, he can play certain things amazingly well, while others need more time and experience. It would be harmful if a critic was there expecting the greatest perfection.'

It is touching to see the mellowness of Brendel in his post-performing years. He explains 'When I was very young, I didn't have the urge to be famous in five years' time, but I had the idea I would like to have done certain things by the age of 50. And when I was 50, I thought that I had done most of those things, but there was still some leeway for more, so I went on. Although I do not have the physical power to play now, in my head, there are always things going on, all sorts of pieces that I've never played. I don't play now but it's a very nice new career.'

9

What is the writer emphasising in the first paragraph?

- 1 the light-hearted nature of Brendel's character
 2 the wide range of music that Brendel has played
 3 the total dedication of Brendel to his art
 4 the reluctance of Brendel to take on pupils

10

Brendel uses the quotation about the mountain guide to illustrate that

- 1 it is not always easy to teach people the basics
 2 it is unwise to try to teach new skills before people are ready
 3 it is unnecessary for an expert to teach people the basics
 4 people can learn new skills without help from others

11

What made Brendel first decide to accept Kit as a pupil?

- 1 He was so determined and persistent
 2 He could play without the music 3 He seemed so young and serious
 4 He had an extraordinary talent

12

Which of Kit's musical abilities does Brendel admire the most?

- 1 He is able to understand and respond to advice
 2 He can play a piece of music the first time he sees it
 3 He is able to remember all the music he has ever played
 4 He is able to write music himself

13

Why does the writer use the phrase 'catches himself' in the fourth paragraph?

- 1 He doesn't enjoy giving interviews to journalists
 2 He realises he has said too much to a journalist
 3 He resents the way that he has often been misquoted
 4 He wants to be careful he doesn't upset any music critics

14

What is Brendel doing in the final paragraph?

- 1 explaining which pieces he prefers to play now
 2 describing his present state of mind
 3 expressing regret at the loss of his physical strength
 4 justifying his lack of ambition when he was young

Read the text and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each space (15-22).

Why we need to play

Human beings are not the only creatures that like to (15) ... fun. Many animals play,

as do some birds. However, no other creatures spend so much time enjoying themselves as human beings do. Indeed, we keep onto our sense of fun right into adulthood.

So why do human beings spend so much time playing? One reason is that we have time for leisure; animals have very little time to play as most of their life is spent sleeping and (16) ... food.

So, is play just an opportunity for us to (17) ... in enjoyable activities or does it have a more important (18) ... ? According to scientists, (19) ... from being fun, play has several very real (20) ... for us – it helps our physical, intellectual and social development. It also helps to (21) ... us for what we have not yet experienced. With very (22) ... risk, we can act out what we would do in unexpected, or even dangerous, situations.

15 1 do 2 take 3 get 4 have

16 1 searching 2 gaining 3 looking 4 seeking

17 1 engage 2 involve 3 combine 4 contribute

18 1 cause 2 purpose 3 intention 4 motive

19 1 except 2 apart 3 excluding 4 away

20 1 services 2 assets 3 profits 4 benefits

21 1 practice 2 plan 3 provide 4 prepare

22 1 narrow 2 short 3 brief 4 little

Read the text and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each space (23-30).

Vinyl attraction

Nobody ever really expected my Uncle Peter to make much money. When he left school, he didn't have any plans for a career, and he got a job in a second-hand record shop. Peter's mother couldn't (23) ... over it. Her other children had both (24) ... to get places at university, and she was quite (25) ... that a young person needed a good education to get on in life. To (26) ... things worse, this was the time when vinyl records were being phased out. It looked as though my uncle would soon be looking for (27) ... somewhere else.

Then, all of a (28) ... Peter's luck changed. He announced he was going to start collecting records and set (29) ... a mail order business selling rare records. Nobody really (30) ... him seriously at first. Who would be interested in a technology that's out of date? Vinyl records have since become collectors' items, and my uncle is now a very rich man.

23 1 get 2 come 3 pass 4 take

24 1 achieved 2 succeeded 3 managed 4 accomplished

25 1 determined 2 convinced 3 convicted 4 persuaded

26 1 get 2 drive 3 bring 4 make

27 1 profession 2 job 3 career 4 work

28 1 minute 2 moment 3 once 4 sudden

29 1 out 2 off 3 up 4 in

30 1 believed 2 took 3 thought 4 gave