**INGLESE I**

**READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES (3)**

**EXERCISE 1**

**Read the following article then answer the questions which follow.**

Graffiti Art

1. Man has always scribbled and drawn on walls. Some of what has been drawn, the graffiti of prehistoric man for example, has become a museum piece. But if man draws on walls now his graffiti, or “graff” to use its slang or popular name, does not become a museum piece, it is wiped off as soon as it is put there. There are differences in the perception of graffiti, though. In the US it has become a serious business to a growing number of young people, while scrawling graffiti is seen as a crime in the UK.

2. Just a few weeks ago eight graffiti gang members were convicted of causing £5,000 worth of damage on the London Underground. They are among more than 70 hard-core graffiti artists, or “graffers”, thought to be operating in London today. They often work at night, covering walls, trains and railway stations with brightly painted murals or scrawls in spray paint and marker pen.

3. Some people regard graffiti as a form of vandalism and a menace. London Underground says that rail users find it ugly and offensive. It spends £2m a year dealing with it, and has even introduced trains with graffiti-resistant paint. “We don’t think it’s artistic or creative – it’s vandalism. It’s a huge nuisance to our customers, and it’s ugly and offensive” says Serena Holley, a spokeswoman for London Underground. “It creates a sense of anarchy and chaos” says Richard Mandel who prosecuted the graffiti gang. “Passengers feel as if the whole rail system is out of control”. British Transport Police has a graffiti unit designed to catch graffers in the act. It spent five months tracking down the recently prosecuted gang. Graffiti art can also be a dangerous pastime, as some teenagers have died in accidents during nocturnal graffiti raids.

4. However, others say that graffiti at its best is an art form. Art galleries in London and New York have exhibited work by increasingly famous graffers. Even some of those who think graffiti is wrong admit that graffers are talented. “It’s just that their artistic talent is channelled in the wrong direction” says Barry Kogan, a lawyer who represented Declan Rooney, one of the gang members.

5. There is a huge difference between “good graffiti” and vandalism. “I don’t go in for spraying private property, like people’s houses” says Dean Coleman, a 24-year-old graffiti artist. “It would make them look horrible. Some graffiti is disgusting, but there is also some that can brighten up grey walls”. 6. Dean definitely sees himself as an artist, and thinks graffiti art does not get due recognition. “There’s no graffiti art in the Tate Gallery and there should be” he says. “Graffiti is as valid as any other art form. It is a thought-out expression of an individual’s feelings. The motivation for a piece of graff can be happiness or sadness, frustration or relief. And for this reason, graff is very close to the hearts of young people”

(abridged from The Guardian)

**Choose the best answer and circle the right letter (A,B,C or D).**

1. The graffiti artists arrested recently in London were

A. put in prison.

B. fined a large sum of money.

C. wrongly accused.

D. found guilty.

2. The attitude of London Underground is that graffiti

A. is a problem because some passengers don’t like it.

B. is something to be stopped at all costs.

C. is irritating but they have more serious problems to worry about.

D. is causing the price of tickets to go up and needs to be stopped.

3.The British Transport Police

A. have killed some “graffers” by accident.

B. spent a lot of time trying to catch a group of graffiti artists.

C. have recently criticized the behaviour of the London Underground.

D. don’t know what to do about the problem.

4. Barry Kogan thinks graffiti artists

A. should show their work in art galleries.

B. should not have been convicted.

C. should use their abilities in different ways.

D. should be more careful when working in the Underground.

5. Dean Coleman

A. has never broken the law.

B. is concerned about how little he earns from his work with graffiti.

C. would like to see graffiti taken more seriously by the art world.

D. is worried about young people taking up graffiti-spraying.

**In paragraphs 1-6 find one word that has the same meaning as the following.**

1. removed (par.1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. increasing (par.1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. gaily (par.2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. unattractive (par.3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. disorder (par.3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. charged (par.3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. leisure activity (par.3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. shown (par.4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. enormous (par.5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. beyond doubt (par.6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 2**

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following article then answer the questions which follow.

TATTOOS AND BODY ART

Tattoos and Body Art are becoming mainstream and teenagers often see body decoration as a rite of passage. Teens are very interested in fashion and body image. It seems that everyone has a tattoo these days. What used to be the property of sailors, outlaws, and biker gangs is now a popular body decoration for many people. And it is not just anchors, skulls, and battleships anymore – from school emblems to Celtic designs to personalized symbols, from proper names to tribal symbols, people have found many ways to express themselves with their tattoos.

Maybe you have thought about getting one. But before you head down to the nearest tattoo shop and roll up your sleeve, there are a few things you need to know. A tattoo is a puncture wound, made deep in your skin, that’s filled with ink. It is done by penetrating your skin with a needle and injecting ink into the area, usually creating a sort of design.

What makes tattoos so long-lasting is that they are so deep – the ink is not injected into the epidermis (the top layer of skin that you continue to produce and shed throughout your lifetime) but into the dermis, which is the second, deeper layer of skin. Dermis cells are very stable, so the tattoo is practically permanent, even if some surgical operations can delete it thanks to sophisticated and painless techniques.

If you are thinking about getting a tattoo, there is one very important thing you have to keep in mind: getting it done safely. Although it might look a whole lot cooler than a big scab, a new tattoo is also a wound. Like any other cut, scrape, puncture, cut or penetration to your skin, a tattoo can cause infection and even disease.

Many different cultures have pierced their bodies for centuries. If you look in a history book, you will find that Egyptians, Greeks and Romans did body art, such as piercing and tattooing. Tattoing is very diffused also in African tribes or other Oriental cultures, especially considered like signs of dominance, social status, group belonging or other charming reasons. People in ancient times pierced their bodies for decoration to show the person’s importance in a group or because they thought it protected them from evil; today, we know much more about the risk of body piercing.

Body piercing is a serious decision, anyway. Before you decide what you want to do, ask your friends, parents or other trusted adults what they think. Remember: you do not have to pierce your body to “belong”; you can always change your mind or wait if you are not sure. If you do decide to have your body pierced, never pierce your own body or let a friend do it because you can run into very serious health problems. Keep in mind that you have to live with your body your whole life.

**Choose the best answer and circle the right letter (A, B, or C)**

1. Young people consider tattoos and piercing as

a. a way to appear fashionable and trendy.

b. a symbol of dominance and power.

c. a way of showing they are grown-up.

2. In the past

a. only sailors and criminals used to get tattoos.

b. tattoos didn’t represent a distinctive sign of style.

c. tattoos were not so popular as they are nowadays.

3. To get a tattoo

a. you have to cut your skin with a knife.

b. you have to get your skin penetrated with a needle.

c. you have to undergo a surgical operation.

4. Dermis is

a. the top layer of the skin.

b. the thicker layer of the skin.

c. the deeper layer of the skin.

5. People in the past thought that piercing their bodies

a. meant to protect them from malignant forces.

b. was a symbol of moral strength.

c. meant to show their higher social status.

**In paragraphs 1 - 6, there is ONE word that has the same meaning as the following:**

1. ordinary \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. criminals \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. injury \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. get rid of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. everlasting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. illness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. carefully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. malevolence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. danger \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. relied on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 3 READING COMPREHENSION**

Read the following article, then answer the questions which follow.

The London Underground

1. The London Underground is a public transport network composed of electrified railways (that is, a metro system). They run underground in tunnels in central London and above ground in the city's suburbs. The oldest metropolitan underground network in the world, the London Underground is usually referred to as either simply "the Underground" by Londoners, or (more familiarly) as "the Tube". It became operational in 1863.

2. Since 2003, the Tube has been part of Transport for London (TfL). It also schedules the famous red doubledecker buses. Previously London Transport was the holding company for London Underground.

3. There are currently 275 open stations and over 253 miles (408 km) of active lines, with three million passenger journeys made each day. The figure, however, is increasing. Lines on the Underground can be classified into two types: sub-surface and deep level. The sub-surface lines were dug by the cut-and-cover method, with the tracks, running moderately below the surface (5 m). Trains on the sub-surface lines have the same loading gauge as British mainline trains. The deep-level or "tube" lines run about 20m below the surface

4. Lines of both types usually emerge onto the surface outside the central area, the exceptions being the Victoria Line which is in tunnel for its entire length save for a maintenance depot, and the Waterloo & City Line which, being very short, has no non-central part and no surface line.

5. Each station displays the Underground logo containing the station's name in place of the word "Underground", both at entrances to the station. It is also shown along the station walls so that they can easily be seen by passengers on arriving trains. In addition, many stations' walls are decorated in tile motifs that are unique to the station, such as profiles of Sherlock Holmes' head at the Baker Street station or a cross containing a crown at the King's Cross station.

**Choose the best answer and circle one letter (a, b, c)**

1. The London Underground runs, as the name implies, all the time.

a. True b. False c. It doesn’t say

2. There are more than 275 stations.

a. True b. False c. It doesn’t say

3. The sub-surface lines run about

a. five meters below the surface

b. fifteen meters below the surface

c. twenty meters below the surface

4. The Waterloo & City line is the tiniest in the system.

a. True b. False c. It doesn’t say

5. Many stations' walls are decorated with Sherlock Holmes’ profiles

a. True b. False c. Only some of them

**VOCABULARY**

In paragraphs 1 - 5, there is ONE word that has a similar meaning as the following.

1. system (§ 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. plans (§2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. growing (§3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. lines (§3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. measure (§3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. major (§3)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. appear (§4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. except (§4)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. repository (§4)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10. incoming (§5)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER KEY EXERCISE 1**

READING COMPREHENSION

1D; 2B; 3B; 4C; 5C

VOCABULARY

1)wiped off ; 2) growing; 3) brightly; 4) ugly; 5) chaos; 6) prosecuted; 7)pastime; 8) exhibited; 9) huge; 10) definitely

**ANSWER KEY EXERCISE 2**

READING COMPREHENSION.

1C 2C 3B 4C 5A

VOCABULARY

1) mainstream= ordinary;

2. outlaws= criminals;

3. Wound= injury;

4. Shed= got rid of;

5. Permanent= everlasting;

6. Disease= illness;

7. Safely= carefully;

8. Evil= malevolence;

9. Risk= danger;

10. Trusted= relied on

**ANSWER KEY EXERCISE 3**

READING COMPREHENSION

1) b. false

2) b. false

3) a. five meters below the surface

4) c. It doesn’t say.

5) b. False

VOCABULARY

1. network (§1)

2. schedules (§2)

3. increasing (§3)

4. tracks (§3)

5. gauge (§3)

6. mainline (§3)

7. emerge (§4)

8. save (§4)

9. depot (§4)

10. arriving (§5)