

#### About the series...

The **INTERACTIVE SKILLS** series includes two books for four levels (B1-B2, C1-C2). It is suitable for both teenagers and adults who wish to improve their writing and speaking skills on their way to any formal exam. The series offers oral and written practice, suitable for all major formal exams, in a highly communicative and motivating mode. It covers the work necessary for the preparation of the TIE logbook during the school year while practicing Speaking and Writing skills.

Each unit offers thorough practice through Reading and real life situation Listening, supported with communicative tasks, model texts, paragraph and language analysis, topic-based vocabulary banks, practice in reproduction of texts, guided writing techniques, choice of topics, project fun work and editing skills for real development as well as support from an innovative teacher's book, full of ideas.



For your book order please call:  
**+30 24610 28 888**  
or email: **info@atabank.gr**

Akis Davanellos  
Katerina Oikonomou

INTERACTIVE SKILLS B1 - B2 | Speaking & Writing

# INTERACTIVE SKILLS B1 - B2

## Speaking & Writing

For teenagers & adults

ISBN: 978-6188015708

# INTERACTIVE SKILLS B1-B2

(SPEAKING & WRITING)

		PAGE		PAGE
LOGBOOK 1 Introduction				5
UNIT	SPEAKING		WRITING	
1A	INVESTIGATION: Whitney Houston's biography	6-7	Describing people (opinion)	8-11
1B			Describing characters (opinion)	12-15
2A	BOOK / READER: "Spirit Bound" a vampire story	16-17	Describing places (opinion)	18-21
2B			Describing buildings (opinion)	22-25
3	NEWS STORY: "New iPhone out in the market... Fans hurry up!"	26-27	Describing an object (opinion)	28-31
4	COMMUNICATION TASK: Celebrations	32-33	Describing a festival (opinion)	34-37
Student's record page				38
LOGBOOK 2 Introduction				39
UNIT	SPEAKING		WRITING	
5A	INVESTIGATION: "The Lightning Thief" a strange film	40-41	Book and film reviews	42-45
5B			Review and opinion giving	46-49
6	BOOK / READER: Exploiting back / front covers	50-51	Back / Front cover exploitation	52-57
7	NEWS STORY: "ERAGON, the new book by Christopher Paolini is out!"	58-59	Plot exploitation (narrative)	60-63
8	COMMUNICATION TASK: Book types	64-65	Moral and recommendations	66-71
Student's record page				72

		PAGE		PAGE
LOGBOOK 3 Introduction				73
UNIT	SPEAKING		WRITING	
9	INVESTIGATION: The environment	74-75	Giving and asking for advice	76-79
10	BOOK / READER: "Robinson Crusoe"	80-81	Accepting and refusing invitations (suggestions)	82-85
11	NEWS STORY: "London 2012: Olympic opening ceremony"	86-87	Asking and giving information	88-93
12	COMMUNICATION TASK: Holiday types	94-95		
Student's record page				96
LOGBOOK 4 Introduction				97
UNIT	SPEAKING		WRITING	
13	INVESTIGATION: The Internet	98-99	Giving solutions to problems	100-105
14	BOOK / READER: "Pride and Prejudice"	106-107	Opinion giving	108-113
15	NEWS STORY: "Athletes banned for doping offenses"	114-115	Advantages – Disadvantages	116-121
16	COMMUNICATION TASK: House types	122-123		
Student's record page				124
Appendices: Useful expression lists for speaking and writing				125-126
Communication practice pages				127-128

# UNIT 1A

## SPEAKING (Reading - Listening)

### Task 1: INVESTIGATION

Read this investigation done by a student about Whitney Houston and decide if the statements in the comprehension task which follows are True (T) or False (F). Work in pairs and highlight the correct answers in the text.

#### WHITNEY HOUSTON... THE STAR!!!

**W**hitney Houston was an American singer, film star and model. She was born in Newark, New Jersey. Her mother was a Gospel singer and Whitney inherited her beautiful voice from her. She also inherited her mother's good looks. She was quite tall and slim. With her striking looks and her girl next-door charm she featured in layouts in the pages of Glamour and Cosmopolitan magazines.

Looking at Whitney it is not difficult to see why she was so popular. She had thick black hair, big sparkling eyes and a beautiful smile. She was always elegantly dressed and her clothes complemented her perfect feminine figure.

She began her career in 1985 and in the next three years she became very well known. Actually her first album was named Rolling Stone's best album in 1986.

Houston's first acting role was as the star of the film "The Bodyguard". The film soundtrack won the 1994 Grammy Award. The song "I will always love you" became the best selling single by a female artist. It sold



more than a million copies in a week! She also starred in the films "Waiting to Exhale" (1995) and "The Preacher's Wife" (1996).

In 1992 she married R&B singer Bobby Brown and on March 4, 1993 Houston gave birth to her daughter Bobbi Christina, her only child.

Towards the late 90's Houston turned from Hollywood's good girl to a person that could no longer be trusted. She was late for interviews and rehearsals and she was cancelling talk show appearances and concerts. After years of struggling with her personal problems she made her come back in 2010 but did not get good reviews. In 2011 she enrolled in a rehabilitation centre with alcohol problems.

Unfortunately on February 11, 2012 she was found dead in her suite at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. It was the final act of a very important singer and actress.

#### A. Comprehension Task

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Whitney became famous after acting in the "The Bodyguard".                          | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Her father was a music talent.  | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Whitney's appearance helped her in her career.                                      | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Her daughter was less than twenty years old when her mother died.                   | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. "I will always love you" became the best selling single in the music industry ever. | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Whitney had serious alcohol problems after the 90's.                                | T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> |

**B. Write down a question on the text above to ask one of your classmates**

## SPEAKING (Reading - Listening)

# UNIT 1A

### Task 2: SPEAKING - PAIR WORK

Two friends are talking about Whitney Houston's life. In pairs study the questions – answers below, find the wrong information and role-play the dialogue giving the correct answers.



**A:** What is your investigation about?

**B:** I chose to do an investigation about Whitney Houston, the famous actress who sadly had a tragic accident on February 2012.

**A:** Why did you choose this investigation?

**B:** The reason for doing this investigation is watching the film "The Bodyguard" on TV. I loved the song "I will never love you again" at the end of the film so I decided to find out more about Whitney Houston.

**A:** Was it interesting?

**B:** It was very interesting since I discovered that Whitney Houston was less famous than I thought. It was also pretty sad because she died at such a young age. She had problems with her heart.

**A:** Can you briefly present the content of your investigation?

**B:** Whitney Houston was a famous American singer, actress and model. She was very beautiful and modeled for magazines such as the Cosmopolitan. She appeared as a singer in 1985 and managed to become very well known. She was the star in the film "The Bodyguard" and the soundtrack of the movie "I will always love you" became very successful. In 1992 she married Bobby Brown and had a daughter. Since the late 90's she started having a lot of personal problems which harmed her career. She made her comeback in 2010 but on February 11, 2012 she was found dead. It was a tragic end.

### Task 3: SUMMARY WRITING / SPEAKING

Work in pairs or groups, underline the most important information in the text on page 6 and write a summary. Present it in class.



# UNIT 1A

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

### TASK 1: VOCABULARY BANK

Revise or learn the words provided.  
Work in pairs to make sentences using some of the words you did not know.

#### People - Appearance

#### USEFUL WORDS

##### Height

extremely tall, tallish, above average height, medium built, of average height, below average height

##### Weight

slim, thin, plump, overweight, skinny

##### Hair

jet black, brown, auburn, ash blonde, with highlights

##### Hair styles

a crewcut, spiky, shoulder-length, wavy, swept back, with a fringe, in plaits, in a bun, back combed, with a ponytail

##### Parts of the face

forehead, cheeks, chin, eyelashes, eyebrows, jaw

##### Special features of the face

moustache, sideburns, wrinkles, bags under the eyes, beauty spot, freckles, spots, scar, beard

##### Complexion

fair-skinned, dark-skinned, swarthy, olive-skinned, tanned, rosy-cheeked

##### Compound adjectives about the body

left-handed, big-headed, dark-skinned, fair-haired

#### People - Character

#### USEFUL WORDS

##### Character

absent-minded, antagonistic, arrogant, broad-minded, conscientious, efficient, generous, hopeless, humble, ignorant, jealous, liberal, loyal, modest, narrow-minded, nosy, offensive, quarrelsome, stubborn, tolerant, trustworthy, carefree, outgoing, strong-willed, ambitious, energetic, selfish, snobbish, unpredictable, dishonest, unreliable

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

# UNIT 1A

### TASK 2: MODEL TEXT

Study the text analysis first and then the text.  
Work in pairs and be ready to justify your answers that refer to the text.

#### "My best friend"

Kate has been my best friend for six years. I first met her when she accidentally spilled her juice on me on my first day at my new school.

Kate looks younger than fifteen. She is of average height, slim with an oval face and hazel eyes. She prefers wearing casual comfortable clothes and flat shoes. Her favourite colours are grey and blue. In her free time she plays basketball but what she likes best is going shopping and travelling abroad. She has already visited many countries as she wants to become an air hostess.

Kate's most striking characteristic is her honesty. She would never consider doing anything behind anybody's back. She is very generous and trustworthy when it comes to keeping secrets. Above all, she is outgoing and we always have fun together.

All in all, Kate is the perfect friend. Since the day I met her I have never felt alone. We certainly argue from time to time but we always manage to overcome our problems. I wouldn't change her for the world.

#### TEXT ANALYSIS

Circle the correct answer from the options provided.

When describing a person...

1. In the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph...
- a. give the person's special characteristics and basic information about his/ her life.
  - b. give information on how, when and where you met the person and your relationship with him / her.

2. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph...
- a. describe the person's most striking features.
  - b. describe the person in great detail.

3. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph use...
- a. past tenses.
  - b. present tenses.

4. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph...
- a. write about the person's character.
  - b. write about the person's personal interests.

5. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph use...
- a. past tenses.
  - b. present tenses.

6. In the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph...
- a. write about the person's life style.
  - b. give an overall opinion about the person.

7. You must...
- a. use adjectives without justifications. (Mary is generous and friendly. Moreover, she is lively).
  - b. use adjectives with justifications to support your views (Mary is generous. She always loves giving people gifts. Moreover she is friendly and that is why she is so popular at school. Her best quality though is that she is lively, she is the heart and soul of school parties).



# UNIT 1A

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

### TASK 3: PRACTICE

Read the following composition and choose the correct answers:

#### "My grandmother"



One of the early memories of my life is that of a woman with grey hair who loved me **1. very much / too**. That woman is my grandmother Martha.

Martha is a plump woman with pink fat cheeks and short, curly hair. Her **2. most / more** striking features though **3. were / are** her warm smile and her sparkling blue eyes. She is always well **4. dressing / dressed** and all of her grandchildren are very proud of her.

Unlike **5. much / many** people of **6. her / his** age my grandmother is very easy going. She even plays football with us in the park. Not many grandmothers **7. did / do** that. Although she does her best to take care of us when our mother is **8. in / at** work, she always spoils us.

Spending so **9. much / many** time with my grandmother has influenced my character and personality. I will always admire her for her **10. kind / kindness** and patience.

### TASK 4: WRITING TIPS

Study the following ways of joining sentences. How are they used in written language? Make your own examples.

#### TIPS

##### \* To combine similar ideas

Sabrina is **neither** shy **nor** stupid.

Sabrina is **both** a talented artist **and** a pianist.

**Not only** is Sabrina good looking **but** she is smart too.

Stella is a swimmer. **Moreover / What is more** she is a keen water polo player.

##### \* To show the logical result of an idea

The old man was mean and **needless to say** noone liked him.

The old man was **so** mean **that** noone liked him.

He is **so** calm **that** nothing ever upsets him.

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

# UNIT 1A

### TASK 5: WRITING

A school magazine has asked students to contribute articles with the title: "Describe a person you admire". Use the **HELP BOX** to organise your work before you write.



Discuss before you write:

Who is writing this text? Why?

Who is going to read it?

What information do you need for the reader?

What kind of text are you writing?

What kind of vocabulary is used?

What language is used? Formal or informal?

What is included in each paragraph?

What are the special characteristics of this text?

Refer to TEXT ANALYSIS before and while writing.  
Use it as a check list.

### FURTHER PRACTICE

A teenage magazine is organising a competition for young writers. Write an article for the magazine selecting from the choices below:

**TOPIC 1:** "The teacher I admire most"

**TOPIC 2:** "My favourite neighbour"

**TOPIC 3:** "A person I know well"

**TOPIC 4:** "My most / least favourite relative"

## FUN WORK

Design and present an investigation  
on a famous person  
you admire

## TASK 1: BOOK / READER

This is an extract from a well known book. Read it and decide if the statements in the comprehension task which follows are True (T) or False (F). Work in pairs and highlight the correct answers in the text.

## "ROBINSON CRUSOE"



**"R**obinson Crusoe" is a book written by Daniel Defoe. It was first published in 1719. It tells the story of a castaway on a remote island in the Pacific Ocean.

Crusoe joins an expedition but he is shipwrecked in a storm about forty miles out to sea on an island which he calls the island of Despair. With him he has three animals that survived the wreck ... a dog and two cats. Overcoming his despair, he fetches arms, tools and supplies from the ship before it sinks. He builds a home for himself, learning to survive on his own.

He hunts, grows barley and rice, learns to make pottery and adopts a small parrot. Reading the Bible he found in the ship makes him religious and thankful to God for his salvation. Many years pass and Crusoe discovers cannibals who occasionally visit the island to capture and eat natives. When one of their prisoners escapes, Crusoe helps him, names him Friday, teaches him English and converts him to Christianity. One day, an English ship appears. Crusoe helps the captain to suppress a mutiny. He finally goes back home and, with

the money he gains from a plantation in Brazil, he becomes a wealthy man.

The book is informative, giving the reader a lot of details about the island and the way Crusoe managed to survive.

## A. Comprehension Task

1. Crusoe found guns and other useful things on the island.	T <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
2. According to the text there is something to learn from this book.	T <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Crusoe found animals on the island.	T <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Crusoe became religious because God saved him.	T <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Friday was not a Christian.	T <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Friday was one of the cannibals.	T <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Crusoe escaped from the island on a ship.	T <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
8. In the end Crusoe becomes rich.	T <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>

## B. Write down a question on the text above to ask one of your classmates

## TASK 2: SPEAKING - PAIR WORK

In pairs discuss the text on page 80 using the questions and notes below:

A: What book did you read?

B:

(Title / writer)

A: What was your book about?

B:

(Talk about the main theme in brief)

A: Where / when did it take place?

B:

(Time and place)

A: Can you say a few more details about the book?

B:

(Give a summary of the plot / highlight the most important events / points)

A: How did your book end?

B:

(Explain how Crusoe left the island / what happened next?)

A: Was your book interesting?

B:

(Say why the plot was or was not interesting / talk about the characters / say if you learned something)



# UNIT 10

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

### TASK 1: VOCABULARY BANK Revise or learn the expressions provided. Work in pairs to make sentences using some of the expressions you did not know.

#### Invitations

#### USEFUL WORDS

#### Expressions for inviting somebody

I'm having a Halloween Party...  
I'd really like you to come  
I'm writing to invite you to...  
Would you like to come...?  
Do you fancy +ing?  
How would you like to...?  
How about +ing?  
Why don't you...?

#### Expressions for accepting an invitation

Thanks for the invitation  
I'd love to come  
I'd be delighted to come  
I'm really looking forward to +ing  
I wouldn't miss it for the world  
I can't wait to see you

#### Expressions for refusing an invitation

Thanks for... but I'm afraid I won't be able to make it.  
I'm really sorry but I...  
I'm terribly sorry but I...  
I wish I could join you but unfortunately...  
It'd be great but...

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

# UNIT 10

### TASK 2: MODEL TEXT Study the text analysis first and then the text. Work in pairs and be ready to justify your answers that refer to the text.

"Your aunt has invited you to her new house by the sea. Write a letter accepting the invitation, asking for directions and if you should bring something."

Dear aunt Mary,

I'm delighted to receive your letter. You've finally made it! You've got your dream house by the sea after all. I want to thank you so much for your kind invitation to spend the weekend with you. I wouldn't miss it for the world!

My only problem is that I'll be finishing work rather late that Friday so I won't be able to make it for dinner. I hope to leave Athens sometime between 5 and 6 and drive there. I'd like you to send me directions because this part of the country is quite unknown to me and you know how easily I get lost.

You say that the place is secluded and quite far from the village so would you like me to bring you something? Feel free to ask whatever you need. I'm definitely bringing uncle Steven his favourite whisky but I can also do some shopping for you in case you need something.

I'm looking forward to seeing you both and of course a weekend by the sea sounds just great. Thanks again for the invitation. Write back soon and let me know if you need something.



Yours,  
Sheila

#### TEXT ANALYSIS

Write if the sentences are True (T) or False (F) always referring to the text.

When writing a letter to accept or refuse an invitation...

#### 1. In the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph when accepting an invitation...

- thank the person for their letter. T ☐ F ☐
- apologise for not writing sooner. T ☐ F ☐
- give the reason for writing. T ☐ F ☐
- thank and accept the invitation. T ☐ F ☐
- explain how you feel. T ☐ F ☐
- ask for or give news. T ☐ F ☐

#### 2. In the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph when refusing an invitation...

- thank the person for their letter. T ☐ F ☐
- apologise for not writing sooner. T ☐ F ☐
- give the reason for writing. T ☐ F ☐
- thank but refuse the invitation. T ☐ F ☐
- explain how you feel. T ☐ F ☐
- ask for or give news. T ☐ F ☐

#### 3. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraphs when accepting an invitation...

- ask any questions about the invitation (direction, clothes, if assistance is required, etc). T ☐ F ☐
- ask questions about the reader's life. T ☐ F ☐

#### 4. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraphs when refusing an invitation...

- just say no to the invitation and be rude. T ☐ F ☐
- apologise, explain why you refuse the invitation and suggest an alternative plan. T ☐ F ☐

#### 5. In the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph when accepting an invitation...

- thank again. T ☐ F ☐
- request a reply. T ☐ F ☐
- say you are sorry. T ☐ F ☐
- send love, best wishes, etc T ☐ F ☐

#### 6. In the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph when refusing an invitation...

- apologise again. T ☐ F ☐
- never apologise because it is a friendly letter. T ☐ F ☐

# UNIT 10

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

### TASK 3: PRACTICE

Read the following composition and choose the correct answers:

**“You have received an invitation from a friend for his graduation party. Refuse politely”**

Dear Brian,

Thanks **1. a lot / lot** of for your letter and kind invitation to your graduation party. I wish I **2. should / could** accept but unfortunately I **3. have / had** already got plans.

You see, I'm **4. wasting / spending** that weekend with a friend in Milan. This trip **5. has / was** arranged a long time ago and we've already **6. done / made** plans. So you understand that **7. its / it** is not polite to tell him that I wouldn't make it, after all. He has even **8. found / booked** tickets for the Opera. Imagine **9. we / us** wearing a tie and attending an Opera performance!

You know how much I'd **10. hate / love** to be there with you all and, needless to say, I am heartbroken I will be losing all the fun. Anyway, we can arrange to meet as **11. soon / fast** as I come back, go clubbing and celebrate your graduation **12. on / in** style.

Thanks again and sorry I can't make it. Write **13. again / back** and tell me everything about the party. I want every little detail, OK? Have fun!

Yours,  
Nick

### TASK 4: WRITING TIPS

Fill in the gaps with the words provided.

T  
I  
P  
S

after, before, by the time, meanwhile, sometimes, when, while

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I was young I would 2. \_\_\_\_\_ play truant. One day  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I was playing at the park I decided to explore the area. I had never left the park 4. \_\_\_\_\_ so it sounded like an adventure. 5. \_\_\_\_\_ walking for half an hour or so I realised that I was getting hungry and I decided to turn back. But... I was lost! 6. \_\_\_\_\_ my parents, notified by the school, were out looking for me. 7. \_\_\_\_\_ they found me I had already decided never to do it again.

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

# UNIT 10

### TASK 5: WRITING

“Your friend has asked you to attend his New Year Eve's party. Write a letter refusing or accepting his invitation”.

Use the **HELP BOX** to organise your work before you write.



Discuss before you write:

Who is writing this text? Why?

Who is going to read it?

What information do you need for the reader?

What kind of text are you writing?

What kind of vocabulary is used?

What language is used? Formal or informal?

What is included in each paragraph?

What are the special characteristics of this text?

Refer to **TEXT ANALYSIS** before and while writing.  
Use it as a check list.

### FURTHER PRACTICE

Your school is organising a competition for young writers. Choose one of the following to write an article for the competition:

**TOPIC 1:** “Your aunt has invited you to spend a weekend at her cottage. Write a letter accepting the invitation”

**TOPIC 2:** “Your friend has invited you to her parents' silver wedding anniversary. Write a letter refusing the invitation”

**TOPIC 3:** “Your cousin is organising a party for his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Write a letter accepting or refusing the invitation”

## FUN WORK

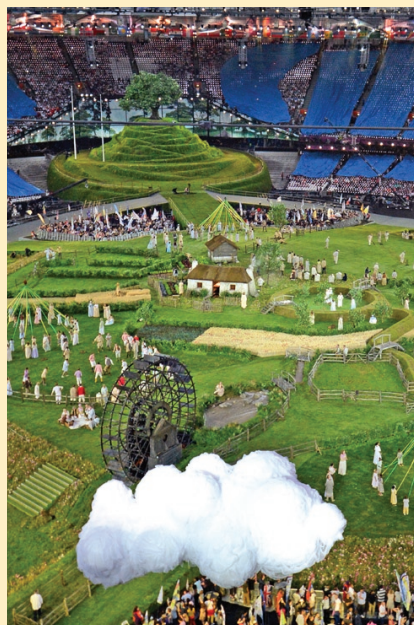
Read a book you really like or use a book you have already read. Write a summary of the book paying attention to the plot and the characters. Be ready to answer questions such as the ones on page 81



### TASK 1: NEWS STORY

Read this news story from the Internet and decide if the statements in the comprehension task which follows are True (T) or False (F). Work in pairs and highlight the correct answers in the text.

#### "LONDON 2012: OLYMPIC OPENING CEREMONY" BBC NEWS ONLINE (JULY 2012)



The Olympic Stadium will be transformed into the British countryside for the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Games, on 27 July. A cast of 10,000 volunteers will help recreate country scenes, featuring farmyard animals and landmarks like Glastonbury Tor. The opening scene of the £27m ceremony will be called "Green and Pleasant". "The show will create a picture of ourselves as a nation" director Danny Boyle says. "The best way to tell the story is through working with real people" he continues.

There have been 157 cast rehearsals and the volunteers have actually worked very hard and proven that the Olympic spirit is still going strong. The set will feature meadows, fields and rivers with families taking picnics, people playing sports on the village green and farmers working. Real farmyard animals will be grazing; 30 sheep, 12 horses, 3 cows, 2 goats, 10 chicken, 10 ducks, 9 geese and 3 sheepdogs.

One billion people worldwide are expected to watch the opening ceremony. The director of the show, Mr Boyle, is known for directing the films "Trainspotting" and "Slumdog Millionaire". The world's largest harmonically tuned bell, weighing 23 tones and measuring 2m tall x 3m wide, will ring inside the stadium to start the Shakespeare's inspired spectacle featuring 900 children. The ringing of the bell is symbolical. This is how communities notified each other that something important was going to happen. After the war the bells rang in London to announce peace and now, as the Games are a symbol of peace, the bell will ring again.

#### A. Comprehension Task

- |  |                            |                            |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 10,000 people get paid for taking part in the opening ceremony. | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The main idea of the opening ceremony is to promote Britain.    | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Volunteers' work is associated with the Olympic games.          | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Technology will be the major issue in this opening ceremony.    | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Fake animals will be presented during the ceremony.             | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The bell symbolises an old way of communication.                | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Write down a question on the text above to ask one of your classmates

### TASK 2: SPEAKING - PAIR WORK

In pairs discuss the text on page 86 using the questions and notes below:

A: What story did you read?

B:

(Mention the title and the source of the news story)

A: Why did you choose it?

B:

(Provide a good reason for choosing the news story)

A: What did you learn from your new story?

B:

(First refer to two or three general things you have learnt and talk about one of them in detail)

A: Can you briefly summarise your news story?

B:

# UNIT 11

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

### TASK 1: VOCABULARY BANK

Revise or learn the words / expressions provided. Work in pairs to make sentences using some of the words you did not know.

#### USEFUL WORDS

#### Asking for information

Can you tell me about...?  
Can you explain how...?  
Can you let me know...?  
Do you mind letting me know...?  
Is there any chance you could tell me...?  
There are a few things I'd like to know...  
It'd be a few things I'd like to know...  
It'd be a big help to me if...  
I need some help with...  
I need some information about / on...

#### Giving Information

Here's the information you wanted  
I'm sending you the information you asked for  
I hope this information will help  
I hope this information will be of help  
Let me give you some ideas as to how you...  
I've come up with a few things you may find helpful

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

# UNIT 11

### TASK 2: MODEL TEXT A

Study the text analysis first and then the text.  
Work in pairs and be ready to justify your answers that refer to the text.

#### TEXT ANALYSIS

Write if the sentences are True (T) or False (F) always referring to the text.

When asking for information...

#### 1. In paragraph 1...

- a. thank for the letter received. T ☐ F ☐  
b. apologise for not writing earlier. T ☐ F ☐

#### 2. In paragraph 1...

- a. state the reason for writing. T ☐ F ☐  
b. write some news about your family. T ☐ F ☐

#### 3. In paragraphs 2 and 3...

- a. ask for information. T ☐ F ☐  
b. give information. T ☐ F ☐

#### 4. In paragraphs 2 and 3...

- a. ask for information without details. T ☐ F ☐  
b. give information with many details. T ☐ F ☐

#### 5. In paragraph 4...

- a. thank in advance for the help. T ☐ F ☐  
b. hope that the information provided is useful. T ☐ F ☐  
c. send wishes, love, etc. T ☐ F ☐

"You are planning to go to London for a few days. Write a letter to a friend asking for information on the city, its landmarks, the transportation system and so on."

Dear Peter,

I'm sorry I haven't written earlier but I was up to my eyes. You see, I had exams to take. Anyway, all's good now and I am ready for my trip to London but I need some information from you.

I've decided to stay in a hotel quite near Kensington so as to have easy access to the centre. But still the underground seems a big mystery to me so can you explain how these lines work? Also, I'd like a bit of information on the things I should not miss. There are so many museums! Which ones should I choose?

Another thing that worries me is what clothes to bring. Is July usually wet in London and what are the temperatures like? Are there any specialties I should try and is there something I should be careful about? If you can think of any other information please let me know.

I am looking forward to your letter. Thank you for all your help.

Love from  
Charlie





# UNIT 11

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

### TASK 3: PRACTICE A

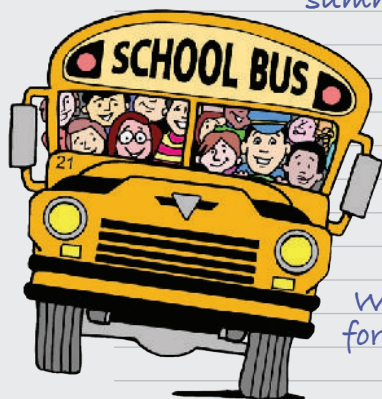
Read the following composition and choose the correct answers:

**"You have chosen to attend a language school. A friend of yours is already attending it. Write a letter asking for information about the school"**

Dear John,

Thank you **1. such / so** much for your kind letter. It **2. did / does** help me a lot. I had a **3. bad / hard** time recovering after the accident but now I **4. feeling / feel** great. Actually, I am thinking **5. on / of** attending Broxton Language school this summer so I will need some **6. information / informations** from you.

For starters, I'd like you to tell me how **7. much / long** the lessons last. The leaflet says four hours a day but it does not specify if they are 50 or 60 minutes long. Can you also tell me if the teachers are strict with homework and the sort or lenient, since it is a summer school?



**8. changing / change** the subject, I want to know a few things about the facilities. Is **9. this / there** a swimming pool and if yes, is it an indoor or an outdoor one? Moreover, when it says expansive playing fields, what **10. sports / sport** is it referring **11. to / at**? Will I be able to continue **12. in / with** my soccer practice? Have I told you that I am a regular member of a soccer team? Well, I am; so I need to practise.

Write soon and let me know if the school is worth coming. Thanks so much for your help and I hope to see you there.

Yours  
Mat

### TASK 4: WRITING TIPS

Fill in the gaps with the missing prepositions.

Having spent the last five years living **1. \_\_\_\_\_** a flat **2. \_\_\_\_\_** the outskirts **3. \_\_\_\_\_** a megacity we were desperate for a chance, so we took a trip **4. \_\_\_\_\_** the mountains. We took the long route **5. \_\_\_\_\_** the coast before climbing **6. \_\_\_\_\_**. The road took us **7. \_\_\_\_\_** a village nestled **8. \_\_\_\_\_** a valley. It was so beautiful, it took our breath **9. \_\_\_\_\_**.



## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

# UNIT 11

### TASK 5: MODEL TEXT B

Study the text analysis first and then the text.  
Work in pairs and be ready to justify your answers that refer to the text.

**"Your friend has asked for information on the accommodation in your university. Write him a letter."**

Dear Paul,

I was really glad to get your letter and I am thrilled you are considering to come to Paxton next year.

I am enclosing a booklet, so as to see that the university has a number of student halls of residence, offering either full-board or self-catering. The full-board one offers 3 meals a day, served at set times – not very convenient believe me! – and the self-catering one means that 5 people share a kitchen.

Let me give you some information on other practical issues. There is a laundry room with irons and ironing boards – not that anyone is using them. The rooms are cleaned twice a week but clean sheets are distributed every two weeks so you might need to have your own.

Last but not least, regarding the prices, well, self-catering rooms come to £50 a week but the full-board ones can reach £80 or more.



I hope this information will be of help. Write back and tell me what you've decided.

Yours  
Mike

### TEXT ANALYSIS

Write if the sentences are True (T) or False (F) always referring to the text.

When giving information...

- In paragraph 1...
  - never thank for the letter received. T ☐ F ☐
  - apologise for not writing earlier. T ☐ F ☐
- In paragraph 1...
  - clearly state the reason for writing. T ☐ F ☐
  - you do not need to mention the reason for writing. T ☐ F ☐
- In paragraphs 2 and 3...
  - ask for information. T ☐ F ☐
  - give information. T ☐ F ☐
- In paragraphs 2 and 3...
  - ask for information without details. T ☐ F ☐
  - give information with appropriate details. T ☐ F ☐
- In paragraph 4...
  - thank in advance for the help. T ☐ F ☐
  - hope that the information provided is useful. T ☐ F ☐
  - send wishes, love, etc. T ☐ F ☐

# UNIT 11

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

### TASK 6: PRACTICE B

Read the following composition and choose the correct answers:

**“A group of students are coming to visit your town. Write a letter giving them information about the places they should visit and the things they should do”**

Dear friends,

We are **1. so / too** glad that you've decided to **2. come / visit** our town and we are more **3. since / than** willing to give you all the **4. information / informations** you need.

To start **5. on / with**, Lamia is a small **6. provincial / province** town, situated about 220 kms from Athens, so it won't take you more than a couple of hours to get there. The town is **7. build / built** on the slopes of two hills. On top of one, you will find one of the best preserved **8. medieval / medieval** castles in Greece.

**9. Below / under** the castle lies the traditional part of the town with its **10. narrow / narrow** passageways and picturesque old buildings that have been made into traditional **11. restaurants / restaurants** and shops, selling local products so this area is a must.

Another thing you should do, is visit the Thermopylae, the famous site where King Leonidas stood up against the Persian army or alternatively the famous spa at Ypati hot springs which are famous **12. for / since** the ancient years. Lamia's nightlife is also a must. **13. Live / Lively** clubs, bars and traditional taverns are there to cater **14. to / for** all tastes. The people are friendly and hospitable and crime is **15. non-existent / existable**, so I am sure you'll have the time of your life.

Write back and let us know if you want any additional information.

Regards  
Alexis Dimitriou

### TASK 7: WRITING TIPS

Change the following sentences using the more descriptive verbs below:

T  
I  
P  
S

explained, shouted, laughed at, ordered

1. "Attention" said the captain.

2. His classmates said: "Be careful!".

3. "You have to do it this way" said her mother.

4. "You silly" said his grandmother.

## WRITING (Reading - Listening)

# UNIT 11

### TASK 8: WRITING

Your teacher has asked you to write the following letters:  
Use the **HELP BOX** to organise your work before you write.

**A. Giving information** "A friend wants to visit the capital city of your country. Write a letter giving him information on where to stay, what to see, what to buy, etc".

**B. Asking for information** "You are planning a tour to a pen-friend's country. Write a letter requesting information on transport, weather and what you should not miss".



Discuss before you write:

Who is writing this text? Why?

Who is going to read it?

What information do you need for the reader?

What kind of text are you writing?

What kind of vocabulary is used?

What language is used? Formal or informal?

What is included in each paragraph?

What are the special characteristics of this text?

Refer to TEXT ANALYSIS before and while writing.  
Use it as a check list.

### FURTHER PRACTICE

A Reader's Corner club is organising a competition for young writers. Write an article for the magazine selecting from the choices below:

**TOPIC 1:** "You're attending a friend's wedding. Write a letter asking for information on how to get there, what to wear and what you can do to help"

**TOPIC 2:** "Your school is organising a festival. Write a letter to the Mayor giving him information on it and asking for his support"

# FUN WORK

Find a news story from a magazine, newspaper or the internet. Study it, make a summary, be ready to answer questions about it such as the ones on page 87 and follow the "tips" you have learnt throughout the unit