

## ESOL Skills for Life

# Reading - Level 2

## Sample Candidate Paper ESOLRL2AM/P

Time limit: 1 hour 15 minutes

Number of tasks: 4

Fill in the boxes below

First name

Surname

Date of Birth

For centre use only

Learner ID

Centre Name

Date completed

For office use only

Marks

Task 1

Task 2

Task 3

Task 4

Total Marks

Pass Mark 26/40

Pass

Fail

This is not a live paper

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# This is not a live paper

## Instructions

- Use a pen.
- You have 1 hour 15 minutes to complete four tasks.
- Some questions must be answered with one tick in a box ☐. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a tick ☐.

## Information

- This paper has 40 marks.
- The marks for **each** task are shown at the bottom of the page.
- You may use a monolingual dictionary (simplified dictionary or glossary).

## Advice

- You should spend about 15-20 minutes on each task.
- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

## Task 1

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Marker  
use only



### Tips on how to be happy

Being happy isn't always easy. Here are some tips to help you find some joy.

1. It can be hard to stay in touch with people. Phone an old friend and it will brighten both of your days.
2. Seeing someone you care about smile makes you happy, especially if you helped put it there. Happiness spreads!
3. Relying on one person to make you happy, isn't the best idea. Broaden your range of friends and activities. Trying new adventures creates brain chemicals that make you feel blissful.
4. Trust your instincts! When we don't and it goes wrong, we can feel sad. Let your intuition guide you towards people and things that will make your life better.
5. Experts say meditation is the key to happiness, but how do you do it? The idea is to calm yourself and have some quiet time to yourself. There are many classes and websites to help.
6. Keeping everything in your head can make you lose your focus. Make a list of things that are difficult to manage. You may find that the list isn't very long and that you can deal with most things.
7. Stay away from people who drag you down. Just as happiness transfers from person to person, so does negativity!
8. Sometimes small daily problems can drive happiness away. You need to remember the big picture and not just focus on the bad parts. Life is full of ups and downs.
9. We all want to be good people and so keeping your values strong will help create happiness. Remember if we help others, it makes us feel good too.
10. We get so involved in our lives that we forget to enjoy ourselves. Keep a day for fun in your diary each week.

Keep on Smiling 😊

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Put a tick in the correct box ☒.

1. The text is about

a) how to meditate

☐

b) how to be a good person

☐

c) how to feel good

☐

d) how to avoid bad people

☐

(1 mark)

2. What can be the effect of having new adventures?

---

(1 mark)

3. Use a dictionary. What does 'intuition' mean in this context?

---

(1 mark)

4. Summarise in your own words what doing 'meditation' is.

---

(1 mark)

Marker  
use only

# This is not a live paper

Put a tick in the correct box ☒.

**5.** According to the text, which statement is true?

a) Keep in contact with everyone you know.

☐

b) Depend on one main person.

☐

c) Spend a lot of quiet time alone.

☐

d) Avoid negative people.

☐

(1 mark)

**6.** How can making a list help you?

---

(1 mark)

Marker  
use only

Put a tick in the correct box ☒.

Marker  
use only

7. According to the text, which statement is true?

a) It's the big problems that make you feel sad.

☐

b) Happiness is catching.

☐

c) Trusting your instincts makes you feel unhappy.

☐

d) Writing in your diary makes you feel happy.

☐

(1 mark)

8. Explain in your own words what 'the big picture' means.

---

(1 mark)

9. According to the text why are values important? Give **two** details.

i)

---

ii)

---

(2 marks)

Total marks for Task 1: 10 Marks

## Task 2

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Marker  
use only



# Entertainment World

Entertainment World is the biggest leisure and entertainment complex in England. It is home to many restaurants, bars, a cinema and a bowling alley as well as other attractions.

### Cinema

The cinema is the busiest in the UK, with almost 2 million visitors a year. It has 20 screens, more than any other. The VIP screen is very luxurious with an extra wide screen, armchair style seats and complimentary snacks.

### Bowling

The bowling alley has 26 bowling lanes, open until midnight every night. The last entry is at 11pm as each game lasts for 1 hour. It also has a bar and a café.

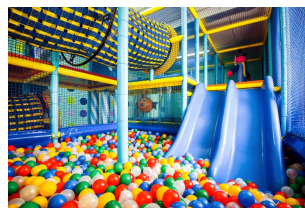
### Restaurants

There is a large selection of restaurants offering international cuisine, which in the evenings and weekends tend to be very busy. You can choose from:

- USA Burgers – private function room for special occasions, such as birthdays.
- New Delhi Delights – the best curry for miles around.
- Pastry People – try the delicious Arabic desserts.
- Chili Taco – Mexican inspired food.

### Other attractions

There is a large indoor mini golf course and an indoor family entertainment centre called 'Child's Play,' the second largest of its kind in the country.



### Getting here

Entertainment World is well served by public transport. It has its own tram and bus stop. Easily accessible by road:

- From the north - Junction 4 off the M13 and follow the ring road.
- From the south - Junction 3 off the M10, then follow the signs.

### Parking

Entertainment World has a large car park, which is safe and secure and won't cost you a penny. Despite ample parking, it can be difficult to find a space at peak times. Please don't park in unauthorised areas, you don't want to ruin your stay by getting a ticket and paying a parking fine! Don't worry if you have to use our overspill carpark, we will transport you to the main entrance by golf cart, which is unique to Entertainment World.



## This is not a live paper

Marker  
use  
only

1. What attraction at Entertainment World has the most visitors in the UK?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

2. What is free at the cinema?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

3. What is the latest time you can start a game at the bowling alley?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

4. Where can you have a party?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

5. Which restaurant specialises in sweet food?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

## This is not a live paper

6. How do you know it is easy to get to Entertainment World?

(1 mark)

7. Use a dictionary. What does 'ample' mean in this context?

(1 mark)

8. What will happen if you do not park in the official car parking spaces?

(1 mark)

Put a tick in the correct box ☒.

9. According to the text, which statement is true?

a) Entertainment World has the largest bowling alley in the UK.

☐

b) You can try food from around the world.

☐

c) It is easy to get to Entertainment World by train.

☐

d) Car parking is expensive.

☐

(1 mark)

Marker  
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only

## This is not a live paper

10. What is the purpose of the final paragraph?

Marker  
use  
only

---

(1 mark)


Total marks for Task 2: 10 Marks

## Task 3

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Marker  
use only

<http://www.healthy.living.uk>




# Healthy Living

[Body](#)[Mind](#)[Health](#)[Living](#)

[Search](#)

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### The pros and cons of living in a big city.



There are many job opportunities in cities, which is great to develop your career, or even start a new one. Jobseekers often use recruitment agencies but be warned, there will be lots of others and you will be competing with many other applicants.

There are lots of housing options so finding a place is easy. People either rent an entire house or you can share a house with others; this will keep the cost down. If you move to a city, be careful of scams, don't transfer money to landlords you've never met, who say they need your money before you apply. Remember rent can be expensive and probably won't include the cost of utility bills.

In big cities you can live almost anywhere as there is plentiful public transport on offer. Often people end up living out of the city, far from where they work or study to find cheaper housing. People commute from 45-90 minutes each way. At peak times, this can be even longer due to traffic jams and the huge amount of people using transport, in stations and on the streets. So, when travelling from A to B in a big city, I advise you to be patient!

You'll find lots of things to see and do and plenty are free. You can also find food options to suit all budgets, from high-end restaurants to cheap meal deals in grocery stores. There is a lot of competition which helps keep the prices down.

Cities are not always the safest places to live. Like any big city around the world, it's not uncommon for phones and bags to be snatched. Don't let this put you off as there are plenty of police around and the chance of being in the wrong place at the wrong time is unlikely.

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1. What is the problem with finding a job in a big city?

(1 mark)

2. According to the text, how can you reduce the cost of housing? Give **two** details.

i)

ii)

(2 marks)

3. What advice does the writer give about:

**Landlords:**

**Travelling:**

(2 marks)

4. According to the text what can make your journey to work longer? Give **two** details.

i)

ii)

(2 marks)

Marker  
use  
only

## This is not a live paper

5. Explain why food can be cheaper in big cities.

---

(1 mark)

Marker  
use  
only

Put a tick in the correct box ☒.

6. According to the text, which statement is true?

a) Bills are often not included in the rent.

☐

b) Crime does not happen in all big cities.

☐

c) Transport is cheap.

☐

d) Police are often in the wrong place.

☐

(1 mark)

7. What does 'put you off' mean in this context?

---

(1 mark)


Total marks for Task 3: 10 Marks

## Task 4

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Marker  
use  
only

<http://www.blog.life.uk/volunteerlife>



Search


# My Life

[Blog](#)

[Where?](#)

[How to help](#)

[Useful Links](#)



## My life as a Volunteer

by David Alder

I taught English as a volunteer all over Asia and had the most rewarding time. I am passionate about the role volunteering can play in changing lives around the world.

The plan was to volunteer when I retired, at around 58. But I lost three jobs in three years so I decided to volunteer earlier, so life really did begin at 50 for me! It was a difficult decision to leave my aging parents, but I knew I had to do it.

I'd always wanted to work abroad, and volunteering provided me with the opportunity to work all over the world. My students were of all ages and backgrounds. Teaching English was challenging at times, but I enjoyed watching people grow in confidence immensely. Learning how to fit in to a different culture was hard and I made some mistakes, but people were very forgiving and helped me to adjust and I felt part of the community in the end. I encouraged them to communicate in English in and out of the classroom, but I believe reading is the real key to learning a language.

I've been in secondary education my whole life, starting as a history teacher. Everything in life depends on education. Many of my students are now in good jobs and some teach English in schools. Keeping in touch has shown me the positive impact of volunteering and a good education. I've gone back to visit a few times and it's such a joy catching up.

I was always excited to go when I got the placements and sad to leave at the end. Will I volunteer again? Never say never!

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1. At what age did the writer start volunteering?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

2. Name **two** things he found difficult about volunteering.

i)

\_\_\_\_\_

ii)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(2 marks)

3. What is he unsure of? Give **two** details.

i)

\_\_\_\_\_

ii)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(2 marks)

4. What does he think is the best way to improve language skills?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

Marker  
use  
only



# This is not a live paper

Put a tick in the correct box ☒.

5. According to the text, which statement is true?

a) He has always been an English teacher.

☐

b) He worked all over the world.

☐

c) He taught secondary students in Asia.

☐

d) He had to learn the culture.

☐

(1 mark)

6. What does the word 'immensely' mean in this context?

---

(1 mark)

7. What do the following phrases mean in this context? Write the numbers in the boxes below to match the meaning

a) keeping in touch

1 finding out news

2 competing

b) catching up

3 staying in contact

4 reaching

5 staying up late

(2 marks)

Marker  
use  
only

Total marks for Task 4: 10 Marks

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**End of Assessment**

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