

Task 1

You are writing to your e-pal to tell him/her about your new summer job.

You must use **all** of the points below in your email:

- Describe the job.
- Say why you like/dislike it.
- Say whether you think he/she would like it.

You should start your email with: **Dear Chris**

You should end your email with: **Your friend, (your name)**

Your email should be between 80–100 words.

Task 2

You have just read the advertisement below about a writing competition asking people to describe their favorite sport or hobby. You have decided to enter the competition. Write an email to the editor about your favorite sport or hobby.

You must briefly develop **all** the points below:

- Say what your favorite sport/hobby is.
- Say when and where you practice the sport/hobby.
- Say how it makes you feel.
- Say why it's your favorite pastime.

Your email should be approximately 70 words.

Competition: My favorite sport or hobby

Tell us what makes your favorite pastime special!

Share your experience with our readers and you might win a new laptop!

email your entries to our editor at [pastimes@ hillside.hill](mailto:pastimes@hillside.hill)

Task 3

Read the article below about safety at the seaside.

Write an email giving advice to a friend who is going to have a seaside holiday for the first time. Write 70–90 words. You may refer to the ideas in the article, but write in your own words.

Safety at the Seaside

When you arrive at the beach, you need to decide where you are going to sit. Some people may want to be very close to the sea, but they have to be aware of the tides. The tides (changes in the level of the sea) go up and down twice a day. In some parts of the world (like the Mediterranean) the difference between high and low tide may be less than half a metre. However, it can be huge in other regions, with the sea rising ten or fifteen metres. Accordingly, you need to know whether the tide will force you to move before you plan to leave.

Safety in the water is very important. A good swimmer must stay close to anyone in their group who cannot swim, especially children. Even if you can swim well, you are advised not to go beyond your depth; in other words, you should be able to walk back to the beach if you get into difficulty. Also, you should not lie on an inflatable mattress or toy on the sea. You may soon find yourself hundreds of metres away from the beach. Never swim soon after you have eaten. Your last meal should be at least three hours before you swim.

Whether you are on the beach or in the sea, it is important to protect yourself from the sun. For this, you will need a good sun hat and proper sunglasses. Make sure you keep putting sunscreen on all the parts of your body which are not protected by clothes, both before and after you go in the water.

Finally, remember that a lot of other people use the beach, so take your rubbish home with you. This not only makes the beach more pleasant, it also makes it safer for everyone.

Task 4

Choose **one** of the topics below and write your answer in 100–150 words.

- A** Your English teacher has been talking to your class about improving your language skills. Write an essay on the following subject:

How can you improve your English-language skills outside the classroom?

OR

- B** You see the following notice on your college website.

Where's the best place in town to spend a Saturday afternoon? Tell us about it! What can you see and do there? Why do you like it? The person with the best response will win a digital radio!

Write about your favourite place to spend a free afternoon in town.

Task 5

Read the advertisement about holidays. Write a letter to the Organiser.

- say what kind of holiday you are interested in
- give the age group and number of people
- choose the place and time of year
- ask about prices

Write between 70 and 100 words. Do not write an address.

Highlight Holidays

Looking for that special holiday experience?

Camping? Coach tour? Adventure activities?

Tell us what kind of holiday you want, and we'll organise it for you!

Home or abroad, low or high budget, you let us know what you are looking for, and we will do the rest.

Contact: The Organiser, Highlight Holidays

Task 6

The latest issue of an international magazine you read had an article about a nightmare teacher (see the text below). The magazine has invited readers to send in an article about their dream teacher. Write about 100 words.

A Nightmare Teacher

Ms Blixen is the wrong person to be a teacher for many reasons. Firstly, she knows very little about her subject, history. If we ask questions about the topic that are not answered in our book, she gets annoyed because she is not sure of the answer. She never gives us praise for the things we do well, but she is quick to criticise our work. She has also made it clear that she believes young people should not have opinions. In fact, even if we support our opinions, she will not accept them, but will punish us instead.

Task 7

Read the extract from a newspaper article about teenagers' free time.

DAILY NEWS**Mind and Body: Can Young People Exercise Both?**

Lots of teenagers love taking part in sports and similar activities, especially when this gives them opportunities to have fun with friends. However, teachers and parents are careful to stress to young people how important it is for them to study hard and get good grades in their exams. This can be quite stressful and certainly leads to many teenagers feeling that they do not have enough time for themselves.

Schools and parents expect a lot from school students, yet students need to spend time with friends doing sports and similar activities that they enjoy. How important are such activities for young people and how can they find the time for them? Support your views with examples.

Write about one page (approximately 180 words).

Task 8

Read the newspaper article below about young people and fashion.

DAILY NEWS**Has Fashion Freedom Gone Too Far?**

In recent years young people, both boys and girls, seem to have become a lot more fashion conscious. Now it is common for teenagers to choose their own clothes rather than the clothes that their parents want to buy for them. They are often influenced by peer pressure, by advertising, and by fashion sections of magazines. Parents claim that this can be very expensive, and schools complain about trends that they consider to be unsuitable for young people.

Write a letter to the editor, sharing your opinion on the issue and offering suggestions as to how students can be fashionable without causing disagreement.

Write about one page (approximately 180 words).

Task 9

Write a letter to a friend about a tourist attraction you have visited. Explain what you liked and suggest she goes there. Write between 100 and 120 words.

Task 10

You have received an email from your English-speaking friend, Rita, who is planning to move to your city. Read Rita's email and the notes you have made. Then write an email to Rita, using all your notes.

From: Rita Smith
Sent: 18th April
Subject: New job!

Guess what? I got a great job in your city! My job starts in June, so I must find a place to live soon!

I want to book a hotel room from 13th-15th May to come and look at flats. Are there any hotels in or near the city centre that you would recommend?

I'll be walking and using public transport often when I'm living there. Is it a good system?

Also, are there any nice parks in the city where I can take my dog for long walks?

Of course, my daughter Irene, who's the same age as your son, will be living with me. Can you tell me about the school your son goes to in the city centre?

Write back soon!

Rita

Suggest

Give opinion

Recommend

Give details

Write your **email**. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

Write your answer in 120-150 words in an appropriate style.

Task 11

You recently saw this notice in an English-language magazine called *Free Time*.

Reviews needed!

Have you played a good board game or computer game recently? If so, could you write a review of it? Include a description of the game and information on how it's played. Say whether you would recommend the game to other people and why.

The best reviews will be published soon.

Write 120–180 words.

Task 12

You are one of the students at your school who helped to organise a day trip to a local place of interest. The head teacher has asked you to write a report on the trip, stating (1) where you went and what you did, (2) how successful the trip was, and (3) suggestions for improving future trips.

Write 120–180 words.