

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 2 Practice 2

In this practice you will learn

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		Yes	No	
B1 Reading	• An email request for help	☐	☐	/
	• Digital habits across generations	☐	☐	/
	• Encyclopedia entry	☐	☐	/
Read these magazines	➤ <i>International Day of Happiness</i>	☐	☐	/
	➤ <i>Holi</i>	☐	☐	/

Reading: B1

An email request for help

Read an email asking for help from another department to practise and improve your reading skills.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. to clear something with somebody
2. to talk through something
3. product design
4. to launch a product
5. to have a good eye for detail
6. packaging

Definitions

- a. the material used to protect goods and present them to the customer
- b. the process of producing or improving a product to suit customers' needs
- c. to introduce a product to the customers for the first time
- d. to be good at noticing the smaller but important parts of things
- e. to discuss something carefully and in detail
- f. to get approval or permission from somebody to do something

Reading text: An email request for help

To: James Forrester

Date: 6 November

Subject: Possible help with product design

Dear James,

As you know, we have been working on the new perfume that we are launching in April and we are unsure about some of the packaging details. We have seen some of your creative work in the sales department and we think you have a very good eye for detail.

Do you have some time before close of business this Friday to sit down with us and talk through some of our designs? We would truly appreciate your advice on this. It shouldn't take longer than two hours of your time and we would be happy to clear it with Patricia, your department head, if necessary.

Best regards,

Sarah Ford

Head of Department

Product Design

Tasks

Task 1

Circle the best answer.

1. What department does James work for?
 - a. Marketing
 - b. Product Design
 - c. Sales
 - d. Research and Development
2. Which department is working on the new perfume?
 - a. Marketing
 - b. Product Design
 - c. Sales
 - d. Research and Development
3. What is happening in April?
 - a. The company will introduce the new perfume to the public.
 - b. The product design department will finish their design of the new perfume.
 - c. The sales department will stop selling perfumes.
 - d. The marketing department will design advertisements for the new perfume.
4. What is Sarah requesting?
 - a. For James to design the perfume.
 - b. For James to have a meeting with the product design department to help them with the packaging of the perfume.
 - c. For James to ask Patricia for permission to sell the perfume.
 - d. For James to move to the product design department.
5. Who is the head of the sales department?
 - a. James
 - b. Sarah
 - c. April
 - d. Patricia
6. When would Sarah like to sit down with James?
 - a. Today
 - b. Some time next week
 - c. Any time between today and the end of Friday
 - d. This weekend

Task 2

Write a number (1–6) to put the events in the order they are mentioned.

- _____ James has a meeting with Sarah and her team.
- _____ The product design department starts work on the design of the new perfume.
- _____ Sarah asks Patricia for permission to use James.
- _____ The product design department introduces the new perfume to the public.
- _____ Sarah and her team finalise the details of the packaging for the new perfume.
- _____ Sarah writes an email to James asking for help.

Discussion

What should you include in an email asking for help?

Digital habits across generations

Read an article about how people at different ages use computers and smartphones to practise and improve your reading skills.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (1–8) with the vocabulary (a–h).

Vocabulary

1. to miss out on
2. addiction
3. constantly
4. to be cut off from
5. unlike
6. social media
7. ironically
8. early adopters

Definitions

- a. websites and apps like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- b. in a funny or strange way because it's unexpected
- c. different from
- d. to not get the benefits of
- e. needing something too much or in an unhealthy way
- f. people who are the first to buy or use new technology
- g. all the time without a break
- h. to have no access to

Reading text: Digital habits across generations

Today's grandparents are joining their grandchildren on social media, but the different generations' online habits couldn't be more different. In the UK the over-55s are joining Facebook in increasing numbers, meaning that they will soon be the site's second biggest user group, with 3.5 million users aged 55–64 and 2.9 million over-65s.

Sheila, aged 59, says, 'I joined to see what my grandchildren are doing, as my daughter posts videos and photos of them. It's a much better way to see what they're doing than waiting for letters and photos in the post. That's how we did it when I was a child, but I think I'm lucky I get to see so much more of their lives than my grandparents did.'

Ironically, Sheila's grandchildren are less likely to use Facebook themselves. Children under 17 in the UK are leaving the site – only 2.2 million users are under 17 – but they're not going far from their smartphones. Chloe, aged 15, even sleeps with her phone. 'It's my alarm clock so I have to,' she says. 'I look at it before I go to sleep and as soon as I wake up.'

Unlike her grandmother's generation, Chloe's age group is spending so much time on their phones at home that they are missing out on spending time with their friends in real life. Sheila, on the other hand, has made contact with old friends from school she hasn't heard

from in forty years. 'We use Facebook to arrange to meet all over the country,' she says. 'It's changed my social life completely.'

Teenagers might have their parents to thank for their smartphone and social media addiction as their parents were the early adopters of the smartphone. Peter, 38 and father of two teenagers, reports that he used to be on his phone or laptop constantly. 'I was always connected and I felt like I was always working,' he says. 'How could I tell my kids to get off their phones if I was always in front of a screen myself?' So, in the evenings and at weekends, he takes his SIM card out of his smartphone and puts it into an old-style mobile phone that can only make calls and send text messages. 'I'm not completely cut off from the world in case of emergencies, but the important thing is I'm setting a better example to my kids and spending more quality time with them.'

Is it only a matter of time until the generation above and below Peter catches up with the new trend for a less digital life?

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. More people aged 55 or more use Facebook than people aged 65 or more.	True	False
2. Grandparents typically use Facebook less than their grandchildren.	True	False
3. Sheila feels grateful to social media.	True	False
4. Peter found his own smartphone use affected how he felt about how much his children used their phones.	True	False
5. Peter has changed how much he uses his phone during the working day.	True	False
6. Peter feels that the changes make him a better parent.	True	False

Task 2

Write the phrases in the correct group.

are returning to older technology	are less keen on Facebook	like to keep their phones near them
use social media to find old friends	were the first generation to get smartphones	feel lucky to have the internet in their lives

Teens	Grandparents	Parents

Discussion

Who uses their phone the most among your family or friends?

Encyclopedia entry

Read an encyclopedia entry on the Taj Mahal to practise and improve your reading skills.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. a fountain
2. a pathway
3. a dome
4. an archway
5. precious stones
6. marble

Definition

- a. a rounded roof with a circle-shaped base
- b. valuable stones like diamonds, rubies and emeralds
- c. a narrow track for walking on
- d. a structure in a garden or park that pushes water into the air
- e. a type of hard smooth stone that is often used for decoration
- f. a curved structure, often over an entrance or passage

Reading text: An encyclopedia entry

The Taj Mahal (pronounced /tɑːdʒ m'hɑːl/) is a famous mausoleum next to the river Yamuna in the Indian city of Agra. A mausoleum is a building where people bury the dead. The name Taj Mahal means 'the crown of palaces'.

1.

The most famous part of the Taj Mahal is the large white dome in the centre. It is 35 metres high and is surrounded by four smaller domes. The rooms inside the building are decorated with beautiful archways and precious stones in the walls. The buildings are surrounded by gardens with pathways, pools, fountains and green gardens.

2.

The construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1632 and finished in 1653. It was built with materials from all over India and Asia, but the main material is white marble. Historians believe that the materials were transported by over 1,000 elephants for the construction.

3.

The emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a burial place for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. According to legend, he wanted to build another Taj Mahal in black on the other side of the river, but this never happened. During the Indian Rebellion of 1857, many parts of the Taj Mahal were damaged by British soldiers, who took some of the precious stones from its walls. Over the years, the Taj Mahal has suffered from environmental damage, and there have been many government attempts to conserve its beauty.

4.

The Taj Mahal is one of India's most famous landmarks. There are millions of visitors to the mausoleum every year. The Taj Mahal is almost always included in lists of famous buildings to visit and is considered one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

5.

- Encyclopedia Britannica article on the Taj Mahal: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Taj-Mahal>
- Official site of the Taj Mahal: <https://www.tajmahal.gov.in/>
- UNESCO Profile of the Taj Mahal: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/252>

Tasks

Task 1

Match the paragraphs (1–5) with the best paragraph headings (a–f). One heading is not needed.

Paragraph	Heading
1.	a. History
2.	b. Gallery
3.	c. Architecture
4.	d. Construction
5.	e. Tourism
Not needed	f. References

Task 2

Are the sentences true, false or not mentioned?

- The Taj Mahal is constructed of white marble and a small amount of black marble.
 - True
 - False
 - The text doesn't say.
- There are water features in the gardens of the Taj Mahal.
 - True
 - False
 - The text doesn't say.
- The construction of the Taj Mahal never finished.
 - True
 - False
 - The text doesn't say.

4. The materials for the Taj Mahal are not all from India.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. The text doesn't say.
5. There was a black Taj Mahal on the other side of the river.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. The text doesn't say.
6. The British destroyed the Taj Mahal in the 20th century.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. The text doesn't say.
7. The Indian government is trying to protect the Taj Mahal.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. The text doesn't say.
8. The Taj Mahal is the most visited building in India.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. The text doesn't say.

Discussion

What famous places have you seen?

International Day of Happiness

There's more behind the International Day of Happiness than you might think. Find out more by reading the article and answering the questions.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. to measure
2. psychological
3. an orphan
4. to adopt a child
5. human rights
6. healthcare

Definition

- a. a person whose parents have died
- b. medicine, hospitals and doctors
- c. to find out how much, how long, how tall, etc.
- d. to become the legal parent of a child who is not yours
- e. about your mind and feelings
- f. things we all agree everyone should have

International Day of Happiness

You might think the International Day of Happiness is a day to practise positive thinking or to give thanks for the things in your life that make you happy. But it's actually a United Nations (UN) project which has a more serious purpose. The UN thinks happiness will only be for everyone when the people of the world are equal.

Why 20 March?

On this date (and also on 23 September), the centre of the sun is directly above the Earth's equator, which is called an equinox. On the equinox, day and night last for almost equal time all over the Earth. The equinox is felt by everyone on the planet, which matches perfectly with the idea behind the Day of Happiness. Since 2013, the Day of Happiness has been celebrated in all 193 United Nations member states.

How did the idea start?

The idea goes back to 1972, when the King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, said that we should measure a country's progress by its happiness and not just how much it produces or how much money it makes. He called it Gross National Happiness (GNH). Again, it is more than just a nice idea. Bhutan developed a system to measure happiness based on things like people's psychological health, their general health, how they spend their time, where they live, their education and their environment. People in Bhutan answer about 300 questions, and the results are compared every year to measure progress. The government uses the results and

the ideas behind GNH to make decisions for the country. Other places use shorter, similar versions of this kind of report, for example the cities of Victoria in Canada and Seattle in the USA, as well as the state of Vermont, USA.

The man behind the International Day of Happiness

In 2011, a UN adviser called Jayme Illien suggested the idea of an international day to increase happiness. His plan was accepted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2012. Jayme was born in Calcutta, India, and he became an orphan when he was a child. He was adopted by an American nurse, Anna Belle Illien. She travelled the world to help orphans and she took Jayme with her. He saw children like him, but who were not as lucky as him because they were often escaping wars or they were very poor. He wanted to do something about it, so he worked in the areas of children's and human rights.

The World Happiness Report

The UN measures and compares the happiness of different countries in the World Happiness Report. It bases its report on social, economic and environmental well-being. The UN also sets goals for countries to achieve to increase happiness because it says happiness is a basic human right. Happiness should not be something people have because they are lucky to live in a place where they have basic things like peace, education and access to healthcare. If we agree that these basic things are human rights, then it is not a very big step to agree that happiness is a basic human right too.

Source

- <https://dayofhappiness.net>

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. The UN hopes people will think about what makes them happy on 20 March.	True	False
2. There is more than one International Day of Happiness every year.	True	False
3. The equinox happens for everyone on Earth on the same day.	True	False
4. The King of Bhutan was the first person to celebrate a Day of Happiness.	True	False
5. Bhutan asks people a lot of questions to see how happy they are and why.	True	False
6. Jayme Illien's experience as a child influenced his choice of work as an adult.	True	False
7. The United Nations has copied some of the work of Bhutan.	True	False
8. Happiness is something the UN thinks everyone has a right to have.	True	False

Task 2

Put the words in order to make sentences.

- of different countries The UN in the the happiness measures and compares World Happiness Report.
- is directly above the Earth's equator. On the centre 20 March, of the sun
- well-being. and environmental The UN on bases social, economic its report
- suggested happiness. of an to increase Jayme Illien international day the idea
- every year to measure People in Bhutan and the results progress. are compared answer questions
- idea. than more a nice It just is

Discussion

What is the most important thing people need to be happy?

Holi is sometimes called the festival of colours. Find out more about this very special springtime festival in this article.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the words (a–f) with the words (1–6) to make collocations.

Vocabulary

1. coloured
2. broken
3. soaking
4. passionately
5. ancient
6. clean

Definition

- a. clothes
- b. in love
- c. powders
- d. relationships
- e. stories
- f. wet

Holi

What is Holi and why is it celebrated?

Holi is an ancient Hindu festival that originated in India and Nepal and is now celebrated in many places around the world. The date changes each year depending on the full moon, but it is held sometime between the end of February and the middle of March, and lasts a night and a day. It also represents the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil. An important part of the celebration is forgiving anyone who has upset you and repairing any broken relationships. Holi is sometimes called the festival of colours.

What happens on Holika Dahan?

The festivities start the night before Holi, which is called Holika Dahan. People build bonfires which represent good winning over evil and the end of winter. They perform rituals around the fire. In ancient stories, Holika was a devil whom the God Vishnu destroyed through fire. People start collecting wood for the bonfires several days before so that they can build really big fires.

What happens on Rangwali Holi?

The next day is called Rangwali Holi. In the morning everyone goes into the streets and people throw coloured powders and water at each other. Some people use water guns and water balloons. After a few hours everyone is soaking wet and covered in a rainbow of different colours. Many people prepare themselves by putting oil on their skin and hair to

make it easier to remove the colour afterwards. In the evening people put on clean clothes, go and visit their friends and family and exchange sweets and other delicious food.

Why do people throw colours?

Some people say that the colours are a way of celebrating the many colours of the flowers in springtime. But in the area around Mathura and Vrindavan the people also tell a story about the god Krishna. Krishna was passionately in love with a girl called Radha but he was worried that she would not love him because their skins were different colours. He didn't need to worry because Radha let him paint her face the same colour as his to show that she loved him. It is said that lovers nowadays often paint their faces the same colour during Holi to remember this story.

There is a spirit of togetherness and equality during the Holi festival as people from all backgrounds and walks of life celebrate and have fun together.

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. The festival of Holi lasts more than one day.	True	False
2. The bonfires on Holika Dahan celebrate the beginning of winter.	True	False
3. In the evening on Rangwali Holi, everyone throws coloured powder and water at each other.	True	False
4. People change their clothes in the evening of Rangwali Holi.	True	False
5. Radha did not love Krishna because of the colour of his skin.	True	False
6. Holi is a festival for all different types of people to celebrate together.	True	False

Task 2

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

bonfires	colours	forgive
guns	oil	popular

- Holi is sometimes known as the festival of
- On the first night of Holi people light
- During Holi you should people who have hurt you.
- Some people use water to spray water on other people.
- People put on their skin to help remove the colour afterwards.
- The festival of Holi began in India and Nepal, but is in many other countries as well.

Discussion

Have you ever celebrated Holi?