1.4 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: 1-hour Pack

ISEB CE.E4 · about 60 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

This pack builds technical accuracy for the ISEB Common Entrance English paper. Short spelling and punctuation questions come first, building to grammar, sentence construction and Standard English, and finishing with two questions on the effect of punctuation choices and a longer editing task. Write your answers clearly, using full sentences where asked.

1 Which of these sentences uses the correct word?

- [ ] A) Cutting down the forest had a devastating effects on the wildlife.
- [ ] B) Cutting down the forest had a devastating efect on the wildlife.
- [ ] C) Cutting down the forest had a devastating affects on the wildlife.
- [ ] D) Cutting down the forest had a devastating affect on the wildlife.
- [ ] E) Cutting down the forest had a devastating effect on the wildlife.

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2 Which sentence uses the contraction correctly?

- [ ] A) Do you know who's' coming tomorrow?
- [ ] B) Do you know who's coming tomorrow?
- [ ] C) Do you know whos coming tomorrow?
- [ ] D) Do you know wh'os coming tomorrow?
- [ ] E) Do you know whos' coming tomorrow?

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3 Which words are the fronted adverbial in this sentence?

"On Saturday afternoon, the farmer opened the gate."

- [ ] A) the farmer
- [ ] B) the farmer opened the gate
- [ ] C) the
- [ ] D) On Saturday afternoon the
- [ ] E) On Saturday afternoon

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4 Which sentence is NOT punctuated correctly?

- [ ] A) Leah loves painting, Omar prefers music.
- [ ] B) The museum was crowded; we left after an hour.
- [ ] C) Priya plays the violin; her sister plays the drums.
- [ ] D) Some pupils prefer maths; others prefer English.
- [ ] E) The garden was silent; not a leaf moved.

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5 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"Come inside and wash your hands_____" announced Tom.

- [ ] A) :
- [ ] B) .
- [ ] C) ,
- [ ] D) ;
- [ ] E) ?

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6 Which of these words is spelled correctly?

- [ ] A) disciplin
- [ ] B) sacriffice
- [ ] C) restaurrant
- [ ] D) profesion
- [ ] E) necessarily

---

7 Read the sentence, then choose the labelled word that is spelled incorrectly. If every word is correct, choose E.

"I (A) will (B) return the (C) book (D) tomorow."

- [ ] A) will
- [ ] B) return
- [ ] C) book
- [ ] D) tomorow
- [ ] E) No mistake

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8 Which word could replace the word in capitals so that the sentence means the opposite?

"The scar on his arm was PERMANENT."

- [ ] A) feigned
- [ ] B) restful
- [ ] C) compact
- [ ] D) ephemeral
- [ ] E) enduring

---

9 The word in capitals does not make sense in the sentence. Which word should replace it?

"Her speech was so TRIVIAL that the whole hall was moved to tears."

- [ ] A) ambiguous
- [ ] B) poignant
- [ ] C) tedious

---

10 What does the word in capitals mean in this sentence?

"She FREQUENTLY visits her grandparents at the weekend."

- [ ] A) many times
- [ ] B) slowly and by degrees
- [ ] C) only just; almost not
- [ ] D) in a keen and enthusiastic way
- [ ] E) by good luck

---

11 Which word means "showing steady and careful effort"?

- [ ] A) naive
- [ ] B) palpable
- [ ] C) unsociable
- [ ] D) companionable
- [ ] E) assiduous

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12 Four of these words are close in meaning. Which word does not belong with the others?

- [ ] A) examine
- [ ] B) scrutinise
- [ ] C) inspect
- [ ] D) grouse
- [ ] E) peruse

---

13 Which of these is a complex sentence?

- [ ] A) Although it was late, we kept working.
- [ ] B) We kept working.
- [ ] C) We kept working and it was late.
- [ ] D) It was late, but we kept working.

---

14 Which sentence is in the passive voice?

- [ ] A) The volunteers will clear the canal.
- [ ] B) The judges will choose the winner.
- [ ] C) The feast will be cooked by the chef.
- [ ] D) The lighthouse keeper will light the lamp.
- [ ] E) The caretaker will lock the gates.

---

15 The pronoun in capitals is wrong. Which pronoun should replace it?

"The teacher spoke to WE all about road safety."

- [ ] A) ours
- [ ] B) our
- [ ] C) us

---

16 What is the word class of the word in capitals?

"Every baker GATHERED cheerfully because the library was shiny."

- [ ] A) conjunction
- [ ] B) determiner
- [ ] C) adjective
- [ ] D) verb
- [ ] E) noun

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17 Choose the word that correctly completes the sentence.

"She opened the garden _____ and walked up the path."

- ☐ A) gate
- ☐ B) gayt
- ☐ C) gait
- ☐ D) gaet
- ☐ E) gaite

---

18 Which sentence uses the contraction correctly?

- ☐ A) The car w'ont start in this cold weather.
- ☐ B) The car won't start in this cold weather.
- ☐ C) The car wont start in this cold weather.
- ☐ D) The car won t start in this cold weather.
- ☐ E) The car wont' start in this cold weather.

---

19 Which sentence is NOT punctuated correctly?

- ☐ A) The tickets sold out, we watched it online.
- ☐ B) Dawn broke slowly; the village began to wake.
- ☐ C) Summer is hot and dry; winter is cold and wet.
- ☐ D) The wind rose; the washing flapped wildly.
- ☐ E) The old bridge creaked; nobody dared to cross.

---

20 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"I have finished my homework_____" announced Leah.

- ☐ A) ;
- ☐ B) .
- ☐ C) :
- ☐ D) ?
- ☐ E) ,

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21 Choose the correct spelling to complete the sentence.

"The _____ took notes throughout the meeting."

- [ ] A) secrettary
- [ ] B) secretary
- [ ] C) secretery
- [ ] D) secratary

---

22 The word 'iddiosyncrasy' is spelled incorrectly. Which is the correct spelling?

- [ ] A) idiosyncrasy
- [ ] B) iddiosyncrasy
- [ ] C) idiosyncracy

---

23 Read the sentence, then choose the labelled word that is spelled incorrectly. If every word is correct, choose E.

"The (A) shedule for the (B) trip has been (C) posted on the (D) noticeboard."

- [ ] A) shedule
- [ ] B) trip
- [ ] C) posted
- [ ] D) noticeboard
- [ ] E) No mistake

---

24 Which word is opposite in meaning to ABUNDANT?

- [ ] A) needless
- [ ] B) scarce
- [ ] C) menacing
- [ ] D) expansive
- [ ] E) plentiful

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25 Which sentence makes the best sense?

- [ ] A) The conditions in the tunnel were so bracing that the rescuers could hardly breathe.
- [ ] B) The conditions in the tunnel were so spacious that the rescuers could hardly breathe.
- [ ] C) The conditions in the tunnel were so refreshing that the rescuers could hardly breathe.
- [ ] D) The conditions in the tunnel were so drafty that the rescuers could hardly breathe.
- [ ] E) The conditions in the tunnel were so stifling that the rescuers could hardly breathe.

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26 Which word does NOT mean "absolutely necessary"?

- [ ] A) imperative
- [ ] B) crucial
- [ ] C) vital
- [ ] D) ephemeral
- [ ] E) indispensable

---

27 Four of these words are close in meaning and one means the opposite. Which word means the opposite of the others?

- [ ] A) complicated
- [ ] B) complex
- [ ] C) elaborate
- [ ] D) straightforward
- [ ] E) convoluted

---

28 Which word is closest in meaning to FLEETING?

- [ ] A) permanent
- [ ] B) absorbing
- [ ] C) profuse
- [ ] D) candid
- [ ] E) ephemeral

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29 Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- [ ] A) The committee has made its decision.
- [ ] B) The committee have made its decision.
- [ ] C) The committee has made their decisions.
- [ ] D) The committees has made its decision.
- [ ] E) The committee were made its decision.

---

30 Which sentence is the active version of this sentence?

"The bread will be supplied by the bakery."

- [ ] A) The bakery supplies the bread.
- [ ] B) The bread will be supplied by the bakery.
- [ ] C) The bakery will supply the bread.
- [ ] D) The bread will supply the bakery.
- [ ] E) The bakery supply the bread.

---

31 The pronoun in capitals is wrong. Which pronoun should replace it?

"Priya said that HER would bring the cake."

- [ ] A) hers
- [ ] B) she
- [ ] C) herself

---

32 Choose the verb form that correctly completes the sentence.

"These days, the players in the team _____ in a neat diary."

- [ ] A) wrote
- [ ] B) written
- [ ] C) write
- [ ] D) writes
- [ ] E) writing

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33 Choose the word that correctly completes the sentence.

"It took the _____ afternoon to sort the books."

- [ ] A) whole
- [ ] B) whoal
- [ ] C) hole
- [ ] D) wholle
- [ ] E) hoal

---

34 Which sentence uses the contraction correctly?

- [ ] A) Hows your grandmother feeling today?
- [ ] B) How's your grandmother feeling today?
- [ ] C) How's' your grandmother feeling today?
- [ ] D) Ho'ws your grandmother feeling today?
- [ ] E) How s your grandmother feeling today?

---

35 Which words are the fronted adverbial in this sentence?

"After lunch, the bus pulled away."

- [ ] A) the
- [ ] B) the bus pulled away
- [ ] C) the bus
- [ ] D) After lunch the
- [ ] E) After lunch

---

36 Which sentence joins the two main clauses correctly?

- [ ] A) The tickets sold out; we watched it online.
- [ ] B) The tickets sold out we watched it online.
- [ ] C) The tickets sold out; We watched it online.
- [ ] D) The tickets sold out, we watched it online.
- [ ] E) The tickets sold out; and we watched it online.

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37 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"Why is the cat on the table_____" enquired Tom.

- ☐ A) .
- ☐ B) ,
- ☐ C) ?
- ☐ D) ;
- ☐ E) :

---

38 Which of these sentences has every word spelled correctly?

- ☐ A) I will return the book tomorrow.
- ☐ B) I will return the book tomorow.
- ☐ C) I will return the book tommorrow.

---

39 The word 'eliminnate' is spelled incorrectly. Which is the correct spelling?

- ☐ A) eliminnate
- ☐ B) eliminate
- ☐ C) elimminate
- ☐ D) elimanate
- ☐ E) elliminate

---

40 Which word is opposite in meaning to UNFORTUNATELY?

- ☐ A) regrettably
- ☐ B) clearly
- ☐ C) avidly
- ☐ D) unluckily
- ☐ E) fortunately

---

41 Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

"The two rivals _____ for the title, each determined not to give way."

- ☐ A) surrendered
- ☐ B) retired
- ☐ C) competed
- ☐ D) collaborated

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42 Which sentence means the same as this one?

"The theft was intentional, and the thieves had studied the building for weeks."

- [ ] A) The theft was unplanned, and the thieves had studied the building for weeks.
- [ ] B) The theft was fascinating, and the thieves had studied the building for weeks.
- [ ] C) The theft was plentiful, and the thieves had studied the building for weeks.
- [ ] D) The theft was calculated, and the thieves had studied the building for weeks.
- [ ] E) The theft was succinct, and the thieves had studied the building for weeks.

---

43 Four of these words are close in meaning. Which word does not belong with the others?

- [ ] A) provoke
- [ ] B) deride
- [ ] C) jeer
- [ ] D) ridicule
- [ ] E) mock

---

44 Which two words are closest in meaning?

- [ ] A) convince - complain
- [ ] B) uncover - venerate
- [ ] C) induce - vanish
- [ ] D) extol - stalk
- [ ] E) convince - induce

---

45 Which type of clause is "who lives next door" in the sentence "The man who lives next door is a chef"?

- [ ] A) noun phrase
- [ ] B) main clause
- [ ] C) relative clause
- [ ] D) adverbial clause

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46 Read the sentence. One of the labelled words is wrong. Which one is it?

"My family (A) and I (B) are happy because (C) us are (D) moving house."

- ☐ A) and
- ☐ B) are
- ☐ C) us
- ☐ D) moving

---

47 Choose the verb form that correctly completes the sentence.

"The teacher of the older classes _____ in the school choir last week."

- ☐ A) sung
- ☐ B) sing
- ☐ C) sings
- ☐ D) singing
- ☐ E) sang

---

48 Which of these words is a noun?

- ☐ A) nervously
- ☐ B) library
- ☐ C) between
- ☐ D) nervous
- ☐ E) the

---

49 The word in capitals is the wrong one for this sentence. Which word should replace it?

"She opened the garden GAIT and walked up the path."

- ☐ A) gayt
- ☐ B) gaet
- ☐ C) gate
- ☐ D) gaite

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50 Choose the correctly written contraction to complete the sentence.

"The car _____ start in this cold weather."

- [ ] A) w'ont
- [ ] B) wont
- [ ] C) wont'
- [ ] D) wo'nt
- [ ] E) won't

---

51 Which words are the fronted adverbial in this sentence?

"At the end of the lesson, the river began to rise."

- [ ] A) the river began to rise
- [ ] B) At the end of the lesson
- [ ] C) the
- [ ] D) At the end of the lesson the
- [ ] E) the river

---

52 Which punctuation mark should go in the gap to join the two main clauses?

"The path was icy _____ we walked with great care."

- [ ] A) !
- [ ] B) ,
- [ ] C) no punctuation mark
- [ ] D) ;
- [ ] E) .

---

53 The word in capitals is spelled wrongly. Which is the correct spelling?

"The island is barely VISABLE through the mist."

- [ ] A) visible
- [ ] B) visibel
- [ ] C) vissible

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54 The word 'Wensday' is spelled incorrectly. Which is the correct spelling?

- [ ] A) Wensday
- [ ] B) Wenesday
- [ ] C) Wednesday

---

55 Read the sentence, then choose the labelled word that is spelled incorrectly. If every word is correct, choose E.

"The (A) play (B) ends in (C) tradgedy for the (D) hero."

- [ ] A) play
- [ ] B) ends
- [ ] C) tradgedy
- [ ] D) hero
- [ ] E) No mistake

---

56 Which two words are opposite in meaning?

- [ ] A) economical - sparing
- [ ] B) economical - wasteful
- [ ] C) dreary - peaceful
- [ ] D) slothful - verbose
- [ ] E) wasteful - profligate

---

57 The paragraph below contains eight errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar. Find and correct all eight errors: 'On saturday me and my freind Rhys begun our Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The weather were terrible and we didnt have proper waterproofs. By the time we reached the campsite, we was both soaked threw and exausted, but we still had a brilliant time.'

(8)

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Mark scheme · 1.4 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: 1-hour Pack

Question 1

E) Cutting down the forest had a devastating effect on the wildlife. - 'effect' is the word that fits the meaning and grammar of the sentence **B1**

Answer: E) Cutting down the forest had a devastating effect on the wildlife.

Question 2

B) Do you know who's coming tomorrow? - 'who's' is the contraction of 'who is', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: B) Do you know who's coming tomorrow?

Question 3

E) On Saturday afternoon - the fronted adverbial is the opening phrase that says when, where or how, followed by a comma **B1**

Answer: E) On Saturday afternoon

Question 4

A) Leah loves painting, Omar prefers music. - a comma cannot join two main clauses on its own (a comma splice); a semicolon can **B1**

Answer: A) Leah loves painting, Omar prefers music.

Question 5

C) , - a comma ends spoken words that are followed by the reporting clause **B1**

Answer: C) ,

Question 6

E) necessarily - 'necessarily' is spelled correctly; the other four words each contain a spelling error **B1**

Answer: E) necessarily

Question 7

D) tomorow - 'tomorow' is a misspelling; the correct spelling is 'tomorrow' **B1**

Answer: D) tomorow

Question 8

D) ephemeral - 'ephemeral' is the opposite of 'permanent' **B1**

Answer: D) ephemeral

Question 9

B) poignant - 'poignant' is the only word that fits the clue in the sentence **B1**

Answer: B) poignant

Question 10

A) many times - 'frequently' means many times **B1**

Answer: A) many times

Question 11

E) assiduous - 'assiduous' means showing steady and careful effort **B1**

Answer: E) assiduous

Question 12

D) grouse - the other four words all mean something like 'to look at very closely' **B1**

Answer: D) grouse

Question 13

A) Although it was late, we kept working. - it is the only option that is correct in punctuation and grammar **B1**

Answer: A) Although it was late, we kept working.

Question 14

C) The feast will be cooked by the chef. - the subject receives the action: the verb is a form of 'be' plus a past participle, followed by 'by' and the doer **B1**

Answer: C) The feast will be cooked by the chef.

Question 15

C) us - the gap needs the object form: 'us' **B1**

Answer: C) us

Question 16

D) verb - 'gathered' is a verb in this sentence **B1**

Answer: D) verb

Question 17

A) gate - 'gate' is the word that fits the meaning and grammar of the sentence **B1**

Answer: A) gate

Question 18

B) The car won't start in this cold weather. - 'won't' is the contraction of 'will not', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: B) The car won't start in this cold weather.

Question 19

A) The tickets sold out, we watched it online. - a comma cannot join two main clauses on its own (a comma splice); a semicolon can **B1**

Answer: A) The tickets sold out, we watched it online.

Question 20

E) , - a comma ends spoken words that are followed by the reporting clause **B1**

Answer: E) ,

Question 21

B) secretary - 'secretary' is the correct spelling; the other options contain common spelling errors **B1**

Answer: B) secretary

Question 22

A) idiosyncrasy - 'iddiosyncrasy' should be spelled 'idiosyncrasy' **B1**

Answer: A) idiosyncrasy

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Question 23

A) shedule - 'shedule' is a misspelling; the correct spelling is 'schedule' **B1**

Answer: A) shedule

Question 24

B) scarce - 'scarce' is the opposite of 'abundant' **B1**

Answer: B) scarce

Question 25

E) The conditions in the tunnel were so stifling that the rescuers could hardly breathe. - 'stifling' is the only word that fits the clue in the sentence **B1**

Answer: E) The conditions in the tunnel were so stifling that the rescuers could hardly breathe.

Question 26

D) ephemeral - 'ephemeral' does not mean absolutely necessary; the other words do **B1**

Answer: D) ephemeral

Question 27

D) straightforward - the other four words all mean something like 'made up of many connected parts and hard to understand'; 'straightforward' means the opposite **B1**

Answer: D) straightforward

Question 28

E) ephemeral - 'ephemeral' means almost the same as 'fleeting' (lasting for a very short time) **B1**

Answer: E) ephemeral

Question 29

A) The committee has made its decision. - it is the only option that is correct in punctuation and grammar **B1**

Answer: A) The committee has made its decision.

Question 30

C) The bakery will supply the bread. - in the active voice the doer is the subject and the verb keeps the same tense, with no 'be' plus participle **B1**

Answer: C) The bakery will supply the bread.

Question 31

B) she - the gap needs the subject form: 'she' **B1**

Answer: B) she

Question 32

C) write - the subject is plural and the time word needs the present tense, so the verb is 'write' **B1**

Answer: C) write

Question 33

A) whole - 'whole' is the word that fits the meaning and grammar of the sentence **B1**

Answer: A) whole

Question 34

B) How's your grandmother feeling today? - 'how's' is the contraction of 'how is', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: B) How's your grandmother feeling today?

Question 35

E) After lunch - the fronted adverbial is the opening phrase that says when, where or how, followed by a comma **B1**

Answer: E) After lunch

Question 36

A) The tickets sold out; we watched it online. - a semicolon can join two closely related main clauses without a conjunction or capital letter **B1**

Answer: A) The tickets sold out; we watched it online.

Question 37

C) ? - a question mark ends a spoken question, even when the reporting clause follows **B1**

Answer: C) ?

Question 38

A) I will return the book tomorrow. - 'tomorrow' is the correct spelling; the other options contain common spelling errors **B1**

Answer: A) I will return the book tomorrow.

Question 39

B) eliminate - 'eliminnate' should be spelled 'eliminate' **B1**

Answer: B) eliminate

Question 40

E) fortunately - 'fortunately' is the opposite of 'unfortunately' **B1**

Answer: E) fortunately

Question 41

C) competed - 'competed' is the only word that fits the clue in the sentence **B1**

Answer: C) competed

Question 42

D) The theft was calculated, and the thieves had studied the building for weeks. - 'calculated' has almost the same meaning as 'intentional' here **B1**

Answer: D) The theft was calculated, and the thieves had studied the building for weeks.

Question 43

A) provoke - the other four words all mean something like 'to make fun of someone unkindly' **B1**

Answer: A) provoke

Question 44

E) convince - induce - 'convince' and 'induce' mean almost the same (to get someone to agree to do or believe something) **B1**

Answer: E) convince - induce

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Question 45

C) relative clause - it is the only option that is correct in punctuation and grammar **B1**

Answer: C) relative clause

Question 46

C) us - 'us' is wrong here; the correct word is 'we' **B1**

Answer: C) us

Question 47

E) sang - the time word shows the past, so the verb is 'sang' **B1**

Answer: E) sang

Question 48

B) library - 'library' is a noun **B1**

Answer: B) library

Question 49

C) gate - 'gate' is the word that fits the meaning and grammar of the sentence **B1**

Answer: C) gate

Question 50

E) won't - 'won't' is the contraction of 'will not', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: E) won't

Question 51

B) At the end of the lesson - the fronted adverbial is the opening phrase that says when, where or how, followed by a comma **B1**

Answer: B) At the end of the lesson

Question 52

D) ; - a semicolon can join two closely related main clauses without a conjunction or capital letter **B1**

Answer: D) ;

Question 53

A) visible - 'visible' is the correct spelling; the other options contain common spelling errors **B1**

Answer: A) visible

Question 54

C) Wednesday - 'Wensday' should be spelled 'Wednesday' **B1**

Answer: C) Wednesday

Question 55

C) tradgedy - 'tradgedy' is a misspelling; the correct spelling is 'tragedy' **B1**

Answer: C) tradgedy

Question 56

B) economical - wasteful - 'wasteful' and 'economical' are opposites **B1**

Answer: B) economical - wasteful

Question 57

capital letter for the day: Saturday **B1**

spelling correction: friend **B1**

pronoun order and case corrected: 'my friend Rhys and I' in place of 'me and my freind Rhys' **B1**

correct past tense verb: began in place of begun **B1**

subject-verb agreement corrected: was in place of were (the weather was terrible) **B1**

apostrophe inserted: didn't in place of didnt **B1**

subject-verb agreement and homophone both corrected: were both soaked through in place of was both soaked threw **B1**

spelling correction: exhausted **B1**

Answer: On Saturday, my friend Rhys and I began our Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The weather was terrible and we didn't have proper waterproofs. By the time we reached the campsite, we were both soaked through and exhausted, but we still had a brilliant time.

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