

PART 3

You are going to read a newspaper article about children using computers. Eight sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-I the one which fits each gap (14-20). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Computer Babies

They can hardly walk or talk, but some toddlers are putting their parents to shame by getting to grips with computers! Bianca Hehir, for example, is obviously something of a computer whiz-kid. She stares closely at the screen while her hands fly across the keyboard.

0 C She is one of the youngest in a class of toddlers who are learning to use computers before they can even talk or walk properly. She is following in her three-and-a-half-year-old sister Abigail's footsteps. Bianca's mother, Di, says, "People scoff when I say I'm taking the girls to computer class." 14 Just now she has really changed her whole view of computer learning. "I think it's an excellent introduction to education and basic learning of numbers and words. It's really good," she admits now. For such a tiny tot, Bianca is getting familiar with computers at a surprising rate. The classes are run in Liverpool by Dr April Jones, who picked up her computer expertise while studying for her Doctorate degree.

Dr Jones, who is thirty five, had always wanted to work from home. 15 "I realised it was a way to steer kids away from computer games," she says. "Instead of wasting valuable time trying to get the highest score, they could do interesting and enjoyable things on computers that would also be educational."

16 Now, three years later, she has a growing business and 120 students, the youngest of whom are still in nappies. "Toddlers are capable of realising that by clicking switches or moving the mouse they will get a reaction on the screen - for instance, a plane will fly across, or a thumbs-up sign will appear," she explains. 17 She believes that the process of learning becomes more enjoyable this way.

Touch-sensitive screens that react to little fingers, talking books, cartoon style characters and games all help get the message across that computers can be fun. The toddlers don't realise they're learning as they play. 18 Moreover, they also learn to combine play and studying, which can have amazingly good results.

The programmes she uses for her students of two to three years old involve letters and numbers from the very beginning. Another element that she takes advantage of is the fact that the computers have speakers. 19 Another advantage is that when they begin lessons at school, they are already used to handling computers.

20 What remains to be seen is whether her methods and ideas will spread nation-wide, or even be applied internationally.



TEST 9

- A Armed with two computers, Dr Jones started her project in her front room.
B However, she does not hide the fact that she thought it was a bit ridiculous in the beginning.
C There is nothing strange in that except the fact that Bianca is only twenty months old.
D Through this innovative approach, the children develop their hand-eye co-ordination.
E She goes on to say that the children use large keyboards and love playing with all the buttons.
F Even though it is a revolutionary way of handling children's education prior to primary school, Dr Jones seems to be quite satisfied with the process and the results.
G One of the problems she has had to face so far is the cost of the equipment.
H In this way, the kids learn to recognise the sound associated with each letter and as a result they are much better prepared when they start school.
I However, it was not until her ten-month-old son, Adam, became interested in playing with her home computer that she had the idea of teaching technology to toddlers.

PART 4

You are going to read some information about ghosts in different parts of Britain. For questions 21-35, choose from the places (A-E). Some of the places may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Where might you come across:

- a ghost which causes a lot of trouble? 0 D
more than three different ghosts? 21
ghosts of women who died young? 22 23
20th century ghosts? 24
singing ghosts? 25
the ghost of someone who died because of their love of a poem? 26
a ghost who appears once a year? 27
a ghost who haunts important travellers? 28
ghosts you don't see or hear, but sense in some other way? 29 30
a ghost who is associated with a particular kind of food? 31
the ghost of someone who took part in a war? 32
ghosts without heads? 33
the ghost of an accident victim? 34
a ghost that seems to love animals? 35

Haunted Britain

A. London

Heathrow Airport, Middlesex

The next time that you are delayed at Heathrow Airport, you can amuse yourself with a little ghost-hunting. Heathrow Airport has three ghosts, including an invisible one that breathes heavily down the necks of air hostesses in the staff car park. The VIP lounge in Terminal 1 is haunted by a young man in a grey suit, while a ghostly gentleman in 1940's formal dress and a black bowler hat haunts the runway where, back in 1943, a Second World War DC3 bomber burst into flames.

B. Peterborough

The Bell Inn, Great North Road, Stilton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire Tel: 0733-241066

This 16th century inn has a female ghost who avoids the public bar, but who appears at the end of the beds in rooms 21, 33 and 37. Rumour has it that she is the ghost of old Mrs Sheila Thornhill, the wife of Mr Cooper Thornhill, who was responsible for making Blue Stilton cheese so famous.

C. Haworth

The Weavers Restaurant, 15a West Lane, Haworth, Mar Keighley, West Yorkshire, Tel: 0535-643822

The ghost of author Emily Brontë, who is famous for her romantic novel Wuthering Heights, is said to celebrate 19th December, the day of her death at the age of thirty, by making an appearance at the restaurant. She has been seen climbing through the air where the old staircase used to be sited.

D. York

The Snickleway Inn, 47 Goodramgate, York, Yorkshire, Tel: 0904-656138

Three ghosts live in this pub. One of them is a young Victorian girl who plays with the pub's cat, Tibby (who is still alive!). The top floor is home to a phantom which no one has ever seen but which smells strongly of lavender. The third ghost lives in the cellar. This, the pub's "bad" ghost, turns the beer taps on and off. In June last year the pub was shut for a week for renovations. It seems the "bad" ghost was irritated, because it caused chaos, with hours of poltergeist activity. Drink here if you dare!

E. Whitby

Whitby Abbey, Whitby, North Yorkshire, Tel: 0947-603568

Whitby Abbey is packed full of ghostly ghosts. Constance de Beverley, the nun who fell in love with Sir Walter Scott's beautiful poem Marmion, haunts the stairs leading to the cell where she spent her last weeks. She was kept there as a punishment and the doorway was closed with a wall. A coach pulled by four headless horses can be seen entering the gates, while the ghost of Saint Hilda, daughter of the Abbey's founder, is seen at the window. On the old Christmas Day (6 January), a choir of sweet voiced ghosts can be heard at dawn, and a headless figure in a white gown often wanders around the grounds of the Abbey, scaring away treasure hunters.