

## FRIENDS LIKE THESE

*Friends*, the TV series which follows six 20-somethings living in New York, doesn't seem to have lost its appeal even though the doors to Central Perk finally closed in 2004. It ran for 10 years and its last episode attracted over 50 million American viewers. So, what continues to be the appeal of this iconic programme? Shouldn't something your parents watched be 'uncool'?

I can't quite remember the first episode I watched. I realised then that it was ahead of its time. But I had no idea of the impact it would have in years to come, thanks to the incredibly talented cast and crew who all contributed to its success. It is cross-generational, which is something that is harder to achieve than it sounds.

There is no denying that certain aspects of the show give the game away regarding when it was made. The appearance of the Twin Towers on the New York skyline is hard to miss, as are the fashions: the high-waisted trousers, the 1990s hairstyles and the amount of denim! Then, there's the technology, which is perhaps the most evident factor. There are several scenes where one of the characters puts a VHS into the far-from-slimline TV. And the lack of phones is actually nostalgic, considering they are so prominent in modern life. How refreshing are their chats at the Central Perk café without people constantly checking their phones?

Not many series could stand the test of time over 25 years since it was first aired. Regardless of certain aspects of the show that date it, there is a lot to be positive about. It is still relatable to people in their 20s. There are the dating disasters, not just from Joey, the serial dater, but from all of the key characters.

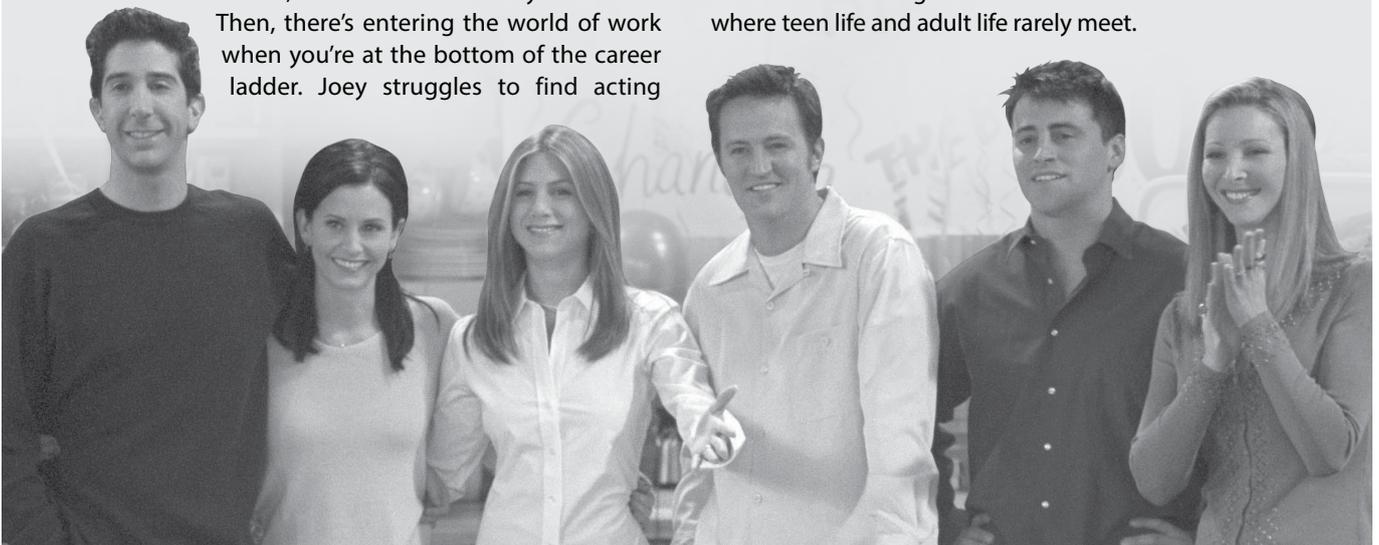
Then, there's entering the world of work when you're at the bottom of the career ladder. Joey struggles to find acting

work, Rachel starts off waitressing and Monica tries to establish herself as a chef. Also, family dynamics which have been carried over from childhood – Ross is still the golden child, leaving sister, Monica, to live in his shadow. Chandler's relationship with his parents is difficult and Phoebe's childhood is a slow reveal of tragedy.

But the main message is that friendship makes you strong. Although they are all very different in character, they all get on. To anyone who has made the move to a big city from the security of their parents and siblings, living with friends for the first time increases your dependence on them. If there's a problem with colleagues at your new workplace, your friends are there to make you feel better. To young people about to leave home, this type of programme must be reassuring.

And let's not forget the fun factor. Ultimately, the show is uplifting. No one actor stands out when it comes to comic timing. This is due to the quality of the writing as well as the actors themselves, who quite literally throw themselves into the part. One of the funniest scenes is when Ross, Rachel and Chandler try to get a sofa up a narrow staircase. Any fan would tell you that the comedy here is both physical and verbal.

So, when I find my kids watching the whole series for the third time, it's far from the annoyance of other rubbish they watch. As I find a comfortable place on the sofa, there's a little guilt as I know I should be getting on with some jobs. It's not quite nostalgia I feel, more a sense of satisfaction. There aren't many things that I can honestly say we watch together, but this is definitely one of them – a rare and genuine common interest in a world where teen life and adult life rarely meet.





1 You are going to read a magazine article about the TV series *Friends*. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- 1 What does 'the doors to Central Perk finally closed' in line 3 mean?
  - A The series came to an end.
  - B The actors found new jobs.
  - C The filming location moved.
  - D The series was no longer popular.
- 2 What does the writer appreciate about the show in the second paragraph?
  - A the impact of the very first show
  - B the future influence the show would have
  - C the appeal of the show to all age groups
  - D the well-written scripts
- 3 What is it that most dates the show?
  - A the Twin Towers
  - B the coffee shop
  - C the technology
  - D the fashion
- 4 What message do the storylines give to young people?
  - A A support network is very important.
  - B Look for acceptance in others.
  - C Don't grow up too soon.
  - D Try to forget the past.
- 5 What does 'uplifting' mean in line 51?
  - A intelligently written
  - B thought-provoking
  - C a high standard
  - D full of hope
- 6 How does the writer feel when she sees her children watching the series?
  - A nostalgic
  - B annoyed
  - C content
  - D guilty



2 In the magazine article, there are two words ending in *-line*.

*The appearance of the Twin Towers on the New York **skyline** is hard to miss.*

*... one of the characters puts a VHS into the far-from-**slimline** TV.*

Choose the correct word to fill each gap in the following sentences. There is an example at the beginning (0).

airline coastline deadline guideline headline  
offline outline pipeline underline

- 0 Which airline are you flying with?
  - 1 Have you seen the \_\_\_\_\_ of this morning's newspaper?
  - 2 The \_\_\_\_\_ of our country is becoming more damaged by violent seas.
  - 3 I'm working as fast as I can to make sure I meet the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4 When writing an essay, make sure you write an \_\_\_\_\_ first.
  - 5 Do we have to \_\_\_\_\_ or just circle the answers?
  - 6 I'm going to take a week \_\_\_\_\_ to have a break from technology.
  - 7 I read that an important oil \_\_\_\_\_ was damaged in the storm.
  - 8 I followed every \_\_\_\_\_ so I know I did everything correctly.
- 3 Which of the words in the box in Exercise 2 are nouns? Which one is a verb? Which one is an adjective?

## Vocabulary Relationships

Choose the correct options to complete the sentences. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 It looks like they've managed to **sort out** / on / of their differences.
- 1 My cousin was **brought up** / on / in mainly by my parents.
- 2 I have no idea how they **put up** by / with / for each other.
- 3 I'm really starting to **run out** for / of / off patience with her attitude to work.
- 4 Mary and Jack are so different, but they **get over** / in / on so well.
- 5 They **fell down** / over / out years ago and haven't spoken since.
- 6 Who did you *look / watch / see* **up to** when you were a child?
- 7 You should never **let** a good friend up / down / in.
- 8 That girl always gets *spoken / said / told* **off** in lessons for talking.

## Describing people

1 Complete the table below with words from the box. The first one has been done for you.

bald expressive freckled generous insensitive intolerant  
modest pale plump reserved well-built

Appearance	Character
<i>well-built</i>	

2 Use the words from the box in Exercise 1 to complete the sentences. There is one extra word which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 He goes to the gym every day. He's extremely *well-built*.
- 1 She has red hair and \_\_\_\_\_ cheeks just like her sister.
- 2 He is very \_\_\_\_\_ about how good he is at playing the piano.
- 3 My dad went \_\_\_\_\_ at an early age. I can't imagine him with hair now!
- 4 The dog is looking a little \_\_\_\_\_. We should take her for longer walks.
- 5 My grandma has become so \_\_\_\_\_. She used to be very open-minded.
- 6 Mr Bean has a very \_\_\_\_\_ face. That's what makes him so funny.
- 7 I'm really \_\_\_\_\_. I need to go somewhere hot on holiday to get a tan.
- 8 My brother is \_\_\_\_\_. He doesn't show his true feelings very often.
- 9 Our teacher is \_\_\_\_\_. She gave us all ice creams at the end of term.

## Language focus Defining relative clauses

Choose the correct relative pronoun from the box to complete the sentences. You can use each word more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

that when where which who whose why

- 0 I can't find the person *whose* bag I found.
- 1 This is the place \_\_\_\_\_ I grew up in the 1990s.
- 2 Let me know a day \_\_\_\_\_ we can meet for a coffee.
- 3 This is the man \_\_\_\_\_ dog I looked after.
- 4 My teacher is the reason \_\_\_\_\_ I loved French.
- 5 The woman \_\_\_\_\_ you usually talk to is away today.
- 6 The clock \_\_\_\_\_ is in the kitchen is the only one that works.
- 7 Summer is the season \_\_\_\_\_ the city is most crowded.
- 8 He's the colleague \_\_\_\_\_ I met on my first day.

## Non-defining relative clauses

Write the words in the correct order to make a sentence. Insert commas if the sentence contains a non-defining relative clause. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 I/whose/wants/bike/neighbour/it/borrowed/back/The

*The neighbour, whose bike I borrowed, wants it back*

1 a pharmacist/woman/I/week/The/met/last/is/who

2 heights/parachute/aunt/doesn't/who/like/a/did/My/jump

3 The/worked/very/where/office/I/is/modern

4 is/the/My/when/birthday/party/a/time/I/have/big

5 the/world/the/painting/is/that/is/This/all/known/over

6 was/nine/left/only/when/older/my/brother/home/I

7 The/reason/she/why/here/learn/was/to/came/English

8 a/which/toy/I/had/child/as/popular/is/still/That/very

## Causative passive with *have* and *get*

Complete each gap in the text with the correct form of a verb from the box. Use each word only once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

be cut deliver enlarge fix get have paint renew

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Archives



There was so much to do before the holiday, it almost made me not want to go. My best friend was getting married abroad and there was a lot to organise. First, I got my car (0) *fixed* because I had to drive a group of us to the airport. Then, I went to pick up my friend's present. I (1) \_\_\_\_\_ got a great picture of her and her fiancé (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on the internet, so I collected it and put it in a nice frame. I even managed to get some flowers (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the hotel where we were staying.

Weddings always involve (4) \_\_\_\_\_ your photo taken, so obviously I wanted to look my best for the event. I got my nails (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and had my hair (6) \_\_\_\_\_. I was ready.

There was just one thing I'd forgotten. As I (7) \_\_\_\_\_ getting some money exchanged a week before our flight, I had a terrible realisation. I hadn't got my passport (8) \_\_\_\_\_. After several stressful days, I managed to get an emergency one, much to everyone's relief.





### Listening Part 3 Multiple matching

1 **06** You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their families. For questions 1–5, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says about the different family members. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

- |   |           |                          |
|---|-----------|--------------------------|
| A She has a busy working life with little opportunity to go out much. | Speaker 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B She has worked hard to achieve her ambitions.                       | Speaker 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C Her marriage was not as strong as it seemed.                        | Speaker 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D She now has the job that her parents had hoped for her.             | Speaker 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E She does not judge the speaker.                                     | Speaker 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| F She studied the same subject as the speaker.                        |           |                          |
| G She has a successful and steady relationship with her partner.      |           |                          |
| H Her work seems unsuited to her personality.                         |           |                          |

#### What to expect in the exam

- You will not hear exactly the same words as those in sentences **A–H**. Before you listen, consider at least one alternative way of expressing the general idea contained in each sentence.
- Each extract usually contains at least one distractor – a key word or expression which could cause you to make the wrong choice. Pay close attention both times you hear the recording.
- Each extract lasts about 30 seconds.

2 Match the phrases in bold in extracts 1–6 from the listening to the meanings (a–f).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1 But she seemed to <b>prove them all wrong</b> .   | _____ |
| 2 Apparently, they'd been <b>having an affair</b> for the previous five years.                      | _____ |
| 3 Susan <b>was devastated</b> and went to pieces for about six months.                              | _____ |
| 4 She'd always loved the open air and animals, but ... she never wanted to <b>let anyone down</b> . | _____ |
| 5 She's ten years older than me and I've always <b>looked up to her</b> .                           | _____ |
| 6 She's also <b>pushed herself to the limit</b> to reach the top in her chosen sport.               | _____ |
| a became extremely upset  |       |
| b done as much as she possibly could  |       |
| c show everyone they were mistaken  |       |
| d admired and respected her   |       |
| e going out with each other   |       |
| f disappoint people   |       |

## Reading and Use of English Part 4 Key word transformation

For questions 1–6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

- 0 He's not talking to his brother because of the argument.

### OUT

He's ..... *FALLEN OUT WITH* ..... his brother, so they aren't talking.

- 1 That company is fixing the roof today.

### HAVING

We're ..... that company today.

- 2 This part of France is where I spent my childhood.

### GREW

I ..... this part of France.

- 3 Paul said I could stay in his flat for a few nights.

### PUT

Paul offered ..... in his flat for a few nights.

- 4 I really don't want you to contact him again.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

Under ..... to contact him again.

- 5 Mary doesn't have any patience for anyone.

### IS

Mary ..... everyone.

- 6 Maria and Richard were acquaintances for a long time before they became a couple.

### KNOWN

Maria and Richard ..... many years before they became a couple.

## Reading and Use of English Part 2 Open cloze

For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

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🔍

### Why I Travel Alone

People always ask me (0) *why* I travel alone. It's hard for them to understand and, as a result, they like to come (1) ..... with various reasons for my strange habit. The first is that I must have no friends or at least none (2) ..... wants to spend an extended period with me. (3) ..... next is that I'm fiercely independent. I (4) ..... deny that I am the first to refuse help from others, preferring to struggle and do it myself. Then, there's the desire to meet new people (5) ..... than hanging out with someone I know from home. (6) ..... fact, the reality is rather simple. I enjoy it. I can do what I want when I want to do it. I don't have to compromise. That's not to say I have given (7) ..... on travelling with others. It's just that if I had the choice, I (8) ..... choose solo travel over that with friends at this point in my life.



## Writing Part 2 Review

1 Read the following Writing Part 2 task and model answer. Answer the questions below.

- 1 Have you seen the film in the review? If yes, do you agree with the reviewer? If no, would you like to see it?
- 2 Which film would you review for this task?

You see this announcement in your school's newsletter.

### Musical Review Wanted

Have you seen a musical on stage or at the cinema recently? Write a review of the musical. You should explain what the musical was about, tell us what you liked or disliked about it and say whether other people would want to watch it too.

The best reviews will be put on the school website next month.

Write your **review** in **140–190 words**.

### ● Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again

- I recently went to see *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*, the sequel to the first film. It featured many of the original cast. (1) I went to see it with my mum, dad and brother for my birthday.
- While the first film was filmed on location on the Greek island of Skopelos, the 2018 sequel, directed by Ol Parker, was filmed on the island of Vis in Croatia.
- In the sequel, (2) the story takes place in the present with flashbacks to 1979 when Donna, the main character, Tanya and Rosie graduate from Oxford University. Donna then goes travelling all over Europe, where she meets all three of her love interests, Harry, Bill and Sam.
- In the present, Donna's daughter, Sophie, is pregnant and dreams about opening a tavern.
- She also reunites with her mother's friends from university. (3) Unfortunately, one of the main characters dies.
- (4) So, what's right about it and what's wrong? If you liked the first movie, it's very much the same again. Anyone who loves glitter and ABBA will love it. The absolute beauty of the location is also a big positive. (5) My only criticism is that Meryl Streep features less in this one. (6) Also, a few of the songs are rubbish.
- (7) I would recommend this film to anyone who wants to go into the cinema and come out feeling better about the world. (8) I reckon it's pretty good. It's uplifting and a must-see for me.





2 Match each paragraph from the model answer in Exercise 1 to its structural purpose (a–d).

- Paragraph 1                      a Plot details without revealing the ending
- Paragraph 2                    b Introduction and title of the musical
- Paragraph 3                    c Recommendation to the reader
- Paragraph 4                    d Discussion about the musical

3 Read the model answer in Exercise 1 again. Write the number of each underlined phrase to complete the table below.

Include in a review	Don't include in a review
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—

4 Complete the sentences with the descriptive adjectives from the box. There is an example at the beginning (0).

confusing    fantastic    gripping    hilarious    moving    predictable  
 stunning    terrifying    uplifting

- 0 Some of the scenes were absolutely terrifying. I couldn't watch.
- 1 The comedy is laugh-out-loud. The main character is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 The plot was fast-paced and unclear. In fact, it was rather \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 I hoped the ending would be original, but unfortunately it was all very \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The Greek scenery was \_\_\_\_\_. It really made me want to travel to the area.
- 5 If you don't come out of this film happy, I'd be surprised. It's so \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 It's a \_\_\_\_\_ story of love and loss. You'll be fighting back the tears.
- 7 It's action-packed and \_\_\_\_\_. You'll be left wanting more.
- 8 I have never seen such a \_\_\_\_\_ cast. The script, however, was disappointing.

5 Now plan your own review for the task below.

You see this announcement in an English-language magazine.

**Comedy Review Wanted**

Have you seen a comedy on stage or at the cinema recently?  
 Write a review of what you saw.  
 You should explain what the comedy was about, tell us what you liked or disliked about it and say whether other people would want to watch it too.  
 The best reviews will be put on the school website next month.

**Follow these planning steps:**

- 1 Decide which comedy production or film you want to write about.
- 2 Make notes under the following headings:
  - What the production or film was about
  - What I liked about it
  - What I didn't like about it
  - Would I recommend it? Why/Why not?
- 6 Write an answer to the task in Exercise 5. Write your review in 140–190 words in an appropriate style.

**How to go about it**

- › Underline the key words in the question to ensure you include all the points.
- › Plan your review and divide your answer into clear paragraphs.
- › Use a range of language.
- › When you have finished, check your writing carefully for spelling and grammatical errors.