

# English skills worksheets G11

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Done by  
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Student Name	
Grade	

Principal:  
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## I. Comprehension

### Earth's Temperatures

The world is now warmer than at almost any time since the end of the last ice age and, on present trends, will continue to reach a record high for the entire period since the dawn of civilisation, a study has found.

The study published in the journal Science, aims to give a global overview of Earth's temperatures over the past 11,300 years - a relatively balmy period known as the Holocene that began after the last major ice age ended and encompasses all of recorded human civilization.

Their data (compiled by studying such things as ice cores, fossils and ocean sediment) looked back over a much longer era than previous research, which went back 1,500 years.

Scientists say it is further evidence that modern-day global warming isn't natural, but the result of rising carbon dioxide emissions that have rapidly grown since the Industrial Revolution began roughly 250 years ago. Scientists say that if natural factors were still governing the climate, the Northern Hemisphere would probably be destined to freeze over again in several thousand years. Instead, scientists believe the enormous increase in greenhouse gases caused by industrialization will almost certainly prevent that.

Shaun Marcott, a geologist at Oregon State University, says "global temperatures are warmer than about 75 percent of anything we've seen over the last 11,000 years or so." The other way to look at that is, 25 percent of the time since the last ice age, it's been warmer than now.

It's taken just 100 years for the average temperature to change by 1.3 degrees, when it took 5,000 years to do that before. By the end of the century, climate warming models predict an additional increase of 2 to 11.5 degrees, due largely to carbon emissions, the study noted.

### Now answer these questions:

1 - 'Dawn' in this text means:

- Earth
- Sunrise
- Beginning
- Heat

2 - 'Balmy' means:

- Cold
- Hot
- Warm
- Cool

3 - True or false: this study looks at a longer than usual time-period.

- True
- False



4 - The Earth's temperature has increased quickly since:

1,500 years ago

The Holocene

The Northern Hemisphere

The Industrial Revolution

5 - 'Prevent' means:

Complete

Stop

Slow

Encourage

6 - True or false: Scientist predict the earth will freeze over because of increased greenhouse gases.

True

False

7 - True or false: The temperature will increase by 1.3 degrees in the next 100 years.

True

False

8 - This article could be described as a \_\_\_\_ look at the future.

Optimistic

Pessimistic

### Black Friday

Ever since 1932, Black Friday has signalled the beginning of the Christmas shopping season in the United States. This shopping extravaganza follows Thanksgiving, on the fourth Thursday of November, and comes just before 'Cyber Monday'.

Use of the name 'Black Friday' was first recorded as coming from Philadelphia, where it was used to describe heavy, disruptive vehicle and pedestrian traffic the day after Thanksgiving. Apparently, loads of people would go into town on the Friday after Turkey Day, before the yearly Army/Navy football game on Saturday; stores would take advantage of all the extra business by promoting big sales.

As 'Black Friday' became more popular in the early eighties, one "explanation" for the event became that this day represented the point in the year when retailers begin to make a profit, going from being "in the red" (meaning to be in debt) to "in the black" (meaning to be free of debt).

Black Friday is not an official holiday in the United States, but in some states government employees are given the day off. Schools and non-retail employees are normally given Thanksgiving Thursday and Black Friday as public holidays.

Most major retailers offer promotional sales with big discounts, and it has been the busiest shopping day every year since 2005. In 2014, sales revenues for Black Friday reached a whopping \$11.6 billion, falling slightly to \$10.4 in 2015. In 2013, overall spending from Thanksgiving Thursday up to Cyber Monday topped \$56 billion!

1. Black Friday signals the start of the Easter season.

true

false



2. Black Friday comes before Thanksgiving.

true

false

3. The term 'Black Friday' was first recorded in Philadelphia.

true

false

4. To be 'in the red' means that you owe people money or are in debt.

false

true

5. In 2014, sales revenues for Black Friday reached more than \$12 billion.

false

true

6. Overall spending from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday was more than \$56 billion in 2013.

false

true

**Read the text and look at the questions that follow it. In this reading comprehension, the questions are true or false.**

An Ipswich mother, who allowed her son to go on holiday during school term, has been fined £400 after her son repeatedly refused to go to school.

The 36-year-old mother, who can not be named for legal reasons, appeared before South East Suffolk Magistrates Court yesterday where magistrates heard her 14-year-old son was currently on holiday in Spain.

She told that court: "He just does not like going to school. Although he is getting better now and seems to be enjoying it."

The boy has had 145 unauthorised absences between October 15 last year and March 22 this year. His absences were blamed on a late-night life style.

The mother has been attending parenting classes voluntarily and told the court that she thought they were helping her.

Out of the last eight school sessions - there are two a day - he has attended five.

Chairman of the bench David Coe asked her if she thought she could get her son to school in future.

"Yes I think I can with some help," she said.



She told the court that he was on holiday during the time other pupils were doing work experience because he had not been given a place.

On sentencing Mr Coe said: "He is not in school and then he disappears on holiday. We would expect the local authority to bring this back to court quickly if there are further problems."

She was fined £400 and ordered to pay £50.

Yesterday's case is the second to be dealt with by south east Suffolk magistrates recently. Last month a 37-year-old was fined £50 after her son had attended just 16 out of 182 sessions.

And the cases follow national concern after Oxfordshire mother Patricia Amos was jailed for allowing her children to miss school. She was originally sentenced to 60 days' jail, but this was reduced on appeal.

1. The boy had returned to school when his mother was in court.  
True  
False
2. The main reason for his absences was the fact that he went out late every night.  
True  
False
3. The mother has to go to parenting classes.  
True  
False
4. The mother claims her son is not currently missing school lessons.  
True  
False
5. The mother may find herself in court again soon.  
True  
False
6. There have been other similar cases nationwide but this is the first in this area.  
True  
False
7. There was national support for the tough treatment of Patricia Amos.  
True  
False

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### British Culture and Children

Millions of British children are "culture starved" as they have never been to an art gallery, theatre or museum, a study has claimed.

The research, commissioned by Visit Birmingham, found four in 10 children had never been to an art gallery, while a quarter of parents had never taken their offspring to the theatre.

One in five parents said they did not think their child would be interested.

The study surveyed 2,000 parents of five to 12-year-olds around the UK.

It also found 17% of children had never visited a museum, while one in 10 had not been outside their home town to visit other sites in the UK.

Half of parents said they made little effort to educate their children about culture or history and relied on schools to do so.

A quarter said they could not afford to visit attractions with 28% saying they did not have the time and 18% believed their child was "too young for culture".

However half said they were more likely to take their children sight-seeing when they were abroad on holiday.

When asked what cultural activities their children had participated in, the most popular was learning an instrument (39%), with ballet (24%), painting (23%) and singing in a choir (22%) the next most popular activities.

Just over a fifth of children were learning a foreign language.

Emma Gray, from Marketing Birmingham, which runs the Visit Birmingham campaign, said it was important for all generations to embrace cultural activity.

Culture can take many kinds of forms and it's essential our children are encouraged to get involved with this at any early age," she said.

A few trips during the year to museums, landmarks or even cultural festivals will prove to be memorable, informative and fun occasions for youngsters."

### Are the following statements true or false?

1 - Most UK children have never been to an art gallery.

True



False

2 - The survey focused on children from age 11 to 16.

True

False

3 - 50% of parents felt it was the schools responsibility to teach children about culture.

False

True

4 - Some children are learning a foreign language.

False

True

5 - Emma Gray thinks culture isn't that important and more focus should be on science and maths.

True

False

### European Union

The European Union (EU) is a unique political and economic community with supranational and intergovernmental dimensions. It is composed of twenty-seven member states primarily located in Europe. In 1957, six European countries formed the European Economic Community (EEC) by the Treaty of Rome. Since then the EU has grown in size through the accession of new member states and has increased its powers by the addition of new policy areas to its remit. In 1993, the Maastricht Treaty established the base of the current legal framework.

The EU created a single market which seeks to guarantee the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and capital between member states. It maintains a common trade policy, agricultural and fisheries policies, and a regional development policy. In 1999 the EU introduced a common currency, the euro, which has been adopted by thirteen member states. It has also developed a role in foreign policy, and in justice and home affairs. Passport control and customs checks between many member states were abolished under the Schengen Agreement.

With over 492 million citizens the EU generates an estimated nominal GDP of €8.6 (\$10.7) trillion in 2007. It represents its members in the WTO and observes the G8 summits. Twenty EU countries are members of NATO. Important institutions of the EU include the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the European Court of Justice and the European Central Bank. EU citizens elect the Parliament every five years.

#### **Choose the correct answer**

1. How many members has the EU?

6.            27.            We don't know.

2. The euro is used in all the countries of the EU.

True.            False.            We don't know.

3. Passport control between many member states was abolished.

True.            False.            We don't know.

4. What is the estimated nominal GDP of the EU?



8,600,000€.

8,600,000,000.

8,600,000,000,000.

5. Only twenty EU countries are members of NATO.

True.

False.

We don't know

### **Are some shower curtains dangerous?**

As part of an ongoing campaign against polyvinyl chloride, a Virginia-based environmental advocacy group today called on manufacturers and retailers to phase out its use in shower curtains. To buttress its case, the group, the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, released the results of a small study indicating that PVC-containing shower curtains are capable of emitting scores of volatile organic compounds, as well as phthalates, lead, and other potentially harmful materials, into people's bathrooms. A previous study, conducted by Environmental Protection Agency researchers, also found that plastic shower curtains can emit toxic compounds into the air.

There's still debate among scientists about just how serious the health effects are that have been associated with exposure to some of the chemicals highlighted as dangerous, especially at low doses. However, CHEJ, which has particularly strong concerns about the environmental and health toll in communities with factories that manufacture PVC, urges consumers to avoid using PVC shower curtains, as well as many other PVC products, particularly those that are flexible.

For people who are concerned about their shower curtains, there are alternatives. IKEA phased out PVC shower curtains 11 years ago, switching to ethylene vinyl acetate. Target, the country's fifth-largest retailer, has also committed to replacing many of its shower curtains with EVA. The company has said that 88 percent of its shower curtains would be PVC free by spring of 2008. Bed Bath and Beyond, JCPenney, and Macy's are shifting toward PVC-free shower curtains, according to the report, but have not set goals or a time frame for completely eliminating the products.

Manufacturers are not required to label shower curtains, but some do list "PVC" or "vinyl" on the packaging. The recycling code "3" or sometimes "V" also indicates the presence of polyvinyl chloride. Numerous online retailers, such as EcoChoices, Pristine Planet, and Greenfeet, sell shower curtains--primarily cotton or hemp--that are free of PVC. Without good ventilation, however, mildew can be a problem with cotton and hemp products. In response to such problems, Healthgoods sells a recycled polyester plastic shower curtain that it claims is superior to the fabric options.

### **Answer these questions (choose the best answer):**

1. What did the study released by the Center for Health, Environment and Justice show?

That PVC stands for polyvinyl chloride.

That most shower curtains sold at IKEA are made from PVC.

That PVC shower curtains may release potentially harmful materials into your bathroom.

2. What material are the shower curtains sold at IKEA made from?

Ethylene vinyl acetate

Polyvinyl chloride

Hemp

3. What's the biggest problem with hemp and cotton shower curtains?

They are see-through.



They are too expensive.  
They may cause mildew.

4. When do JCPenney and Macy's plan to switch to more environmentally-friendly shower curtains?

Spring 2008

It hasn't specified a date

Yes

5. Is it easy for consumers to tell that a shower curtain is made from PVC?

Yes, that information is always on the shower curtain label.

Not always, because shower curtains don't have to be labelled.

.Yes, but only if they're made in China

## II. Grammar

### Section 1

Choose the best word or phrase (a, b, c or d) to fill each blank.

(1) Roberta \_\_\_\_\_ from The United States.

- a) are
- b) is
- c) am
- d) be

(2) What's \_\_\_\_\_ name?

- a) -
- b) his
- c) him
- d) he

(3) My friend \_\_\_\_\_ in London.

- a) living
- b) live
- c) lives
- d) is live

(4) Where \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) works Tom
- b) Tom works
- c) Tom does work
- d) does Tom work

(5) I \_\_\_\_\_ coffee.

- a) no like
- b) not like
- c) like don't



d) don't like

- (6) ' \_\_\_\_\_ to Australia, Ginny?' 'Yes, two years ago.'
- Did you ever go
  - Do you ever go
  - Have you ever been
  - Are you ever going



- (7) Tokyo is \_\_\_\_\_ city I've ever lived in.  
a) the most big  
b) the bigger  
c) the biggest  
d) the more big
- (8) A vegetarian is someone \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't eat meat.  
a) who  
b) what  
c) which  
d) whose
- (9) \_\_\_\_\_ these days.  
a) I never a newspaper buy  
b) I never buy a newspaper  
c) I buy never a newspaper  
d) Never I buy a newspaper
- (10) I \_\_\_\_\_ watch TV tonight.  
a) am  
b) go to  
c) going to  
d) am going to
- (11) I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ more money!  
a) have  
b) had  
c) would have  
d) was having
- (12) \_\_\_\_\_ be famous one day?  
a) Would you like  
b) Would you like to  
c) Do you like  
d) Do you like to

## Section 2

Choose the best word or phrase (a, b, c or d) to fill each blank.

- (13) It's my birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday.  
a) on  
b) in  
c) at  
d) by
- (14) I \_\_\_\_\_ eighteen years old.  
a) am  
b) have  
c) have got



a) -

(15) I \_\_\_\_\_ a headache.

- a) am
- b) do
- c) have
- d) got

(16) Do you \_\_\_\_\_ a uniform at your school?

- a) carry
- b) wear
- c) use
- d) hold

(17) 'What time is it?' 'I have no \_\_\_\_\_.'

- a) idea
- b) opinion
- c) answer
- d) time

(18) The meal was very expensive. Look at the \_\_\_\_\_!

- a) ticket
- b) receipt
- c) invoice
- d) bill

(19) How many \_\_\_\_\_ of trousers have you got?

- a) items
- b) pairs
- c) sets
- d) times

(20) Joel came back from his holiday in Brazil looking really \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) tanned
- b) sunned
- c) coloured
- d) darkened

### Section 3

Choose the best word or phrase (a, b, c or d) to fill each blank.

(21) Harry can \_\_\_\_\_ English.

- a) to speak
- b) speaking
- c) speak
- d) speaks



- (22) I'm not interested \_\_\_\_\_ sports.  
a) for  
b) about  
c) in  
d) to
- (23) She likes \_\_\_\_\_ expensive clothes.  
a) wearing  
b) to wearing  
c) wear  
d) is wearing
- (24) Harry \_\_\_\_\_ his father's car when the accident happened.  
a) was driving  
b) drove  
c) had driven  
d) has been driving
- (25) I was wondering \_\_\_\_\_ tell me when the next plane from Chicago arrives?  
a) could you  
b) can you  
c) if you could  
d) if could you
- (26) If I \_\_\_\_\_ him, I would have spoken to him, wouldn't I?  
a) saw  
b) had seen  
c) have seen  
d) would have seen
- (27) I like your hair. Where \_\_\_\_\_?  
a) do you have cut  
b) have you cut it  
c) do you have cut it  
d) do you have it cut
- (28) I think Joey must \_\_\_\_\_ late tonight. His office light is still on.  
a) have worked  
b) work  
c) be working  
d) to work
- (29) John tells me Jack's going out with Helen, \_\_\_\_\_ I find hard to believe.



- a) which
- b) who
- c) whose
- d) that

(30) What \_\_\_\_\_ this weekend, Lance?

- a) will you do
- b) are you doing
- c) will you have done
- d) do you do

(31) The weather has been awful. We've had very \_\_\_\_\_ sunshine this summer.

- a) little
- b) a little
- c) few
- d) a few

(32) Did you hear what happened to Kate? She \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) is arrested
- b) arrested
- c) has been arrested
- d) is being arrested

#### Section 4

Choose the best word or phrase (a, b, c or d) to fill each blank.

(33) I usually \_\_\_\_\_ up at about 7.30.

- a) go
- b) be
- c) do
- d) get

(34) I \_\_\_\_\_ football every week.

- a) play
- b) go
- c) do
- d) have

(35) My sister \_\_\_\_\_ the cooking in our house.

- a) does
- b) makes
- c) cooks
- d) takes

(36) Don't forget to \_\_\_\_\_ the light when you leave the room.

- a) turn up



- b) turn in
- c) turn off
- d) turn over

- (37) She was in \_\_\_\_\_ when she heard the tragic news.
- a) crying
  - b) tears
  - c) cries
  - d) tearful
- (38) He \_\_\_\_\_ that he hadn't stolen the computer, but no one believed him.
- a) reassured
  - b) informed
  - c) insisted
  - d) persuaded
- (39) Could you \_\_\_\_\_ me that book for a couple of days, please?
- a) lend
  - b) owe
  - c) borrow
  - d) rent
- (40) Greg is \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of time at Yvonne's house these days!
- a) taking
  - b) spending
  - c) having
  - d) doing

## Section 5

Choose the best word or phrase (a, b, c or d) to fill each blank.

- (41) Who \_\_\_\_\_ in that house?
- a) does live
  - b) lives
  - c) does he live
  - d) he lives
- (42) I'll call you when I \_\_\_\_\_ home.
- a) get
  - b) 'll get
  - c) 'll have got





- d) 'm getting
- (43) If you \_\_\_\_\_ me, what would you do?  
a) was  
b) would be  
c) were  
d) have been
- (44) I don't know where \_\_\_\_\_ last night.  
a) did he go  
b) he did go  
c) went he  
d) he went
- (45) John and Betty are coming to visit us tomorrow but I wish \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) they won't  
b) they hadn't  
c) they didn't  
d) they weren't
- (46) I'm so hungry! If only Bill \_\_\_\_\_ all the food in the fridge!  
a) wasn't eating  
b) didn't eat  
c) hadn't eaten  
d) hasn't eaten
- (47) I regret \_\_\_\_\_ harder in school.  
a) not studying  
b) not to study  
c) to not study  
d) not have studied
- (48) Surely Sue \_\_\_\_\_ you if she was unhappy with your work.  
a) will tell  
b) would have told  
c) must have told  
d) had told
- (49) Our neighbours aren't very polite, and \_\_\_\_\_ particularly quiet!  
a) neither they aren't  
b) either they aren't  
c) nor are they  
d) neither did they be
- (50) We had expected that they \_\_\_\_\_ fluent English, but in fact they didn't.  
a) were speaking



- b) would speak
- c) had spoken
- d) spoke

(51) I'd rather I \_\_\_\_\_ next weekend, but I do!

- a) don't have to work
- b) didn't have to work
- c) wouldn't work
- d) wasn't working

(52) Harriet is so knowledgeable. She can talk about \_\_\_\_\_ subject that comes up.

- a) whatever
- b) whenever
- c) wherever
- d) whoever

## Section 6

Choose the best word or phrase (a, b, c or d) to fill each blank.

(53) I always \_\_\_\_\_ milk in my coffee.

- a) have
- b) drink
- c) mix
- d) make

(54) I \_\_\_\_\_ TV every evening.

- a) watch
- b) look at
- c) see
- d) hear

(55) Can you give me a \_\_\_\_\_ with my bag.

- a) leg
- b) back
- c) hand
- d) head

(56) Before you enter the triathlon, please bear in \_\_\_\_\_ that you're not as young as you used to be!

- a) thought
- b) question
- c) mind
- d) opinion

(57) The breath test showed he had consumed more than three times the legal limit of alcohol, so the police arrested him for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) trespassing



- b) mugging  
c) speeding  
d) drunk driving
- (58) The meeting was \_\_\_\_\_ and not very interesting.
- a) time-wasting  
b) time-consuming  
c) time-using  
d) out of time
- (59) After the movie was released, the main \_\_\_\_\_ point was its excessive use of violence.
- a) discussion  
b) speaking  
c) conversation  
d) talking
- (60) There have been several big \_\_\_\_\_ against the use of GM foods recently.
- a) campaigns  
b) issues  
c) boycotts  
d) strikes

### Writing

write an essay on ONE of the following topics:

1. Explain two ways that unusual type of transportation has changed urban life.
2. Argue that people should not be allowed to marry until they are more than thirty years old.

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عام التسامح  
YEAR OF TOLERANCE





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