

ENGLISH ASSESSMENT TEST



Katy, TX Language Center

2501 S. Mason Road Ste. 215

Katy, TX 77450

Phone: (832) 437-9864

Fax: (281) 665-3812

E-mail: t.foster@crossingbordersgroup.com

The Woodlands, TX Language Center

25329 Budde Rd. Suite 204

The Woodlands, TX 77380

Phone: (281) 466-2638

Fax: (281) 466-2638

E-mail: t.estrada@crossingbordersgroup.com

This English Assessment test will help us identify your level of understanding of the English language. This will allow us to place you into a language course according to your current ability.

Please attempt only the questions that you are sure about, do not guess. The test should take 30 – 45 minutes to complete. Once complete, please send your test to the location you would like to attend – see location information above. You may e-mail, fax, or drop your test off at your chosen location. Refer to locations and addresses listed above.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____ Responsible Party: _____

Please let us know how you heard about Crossing Borders Language Center:

- Referral Local Magazine Local Newspaper Other: _____
 Crossing Borders Website Learn 4 Good Internet Search

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GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Where are you from? _____

Are you single, married, widowed or divorced? _____

How many nieces and nephews do you have? _____

What is your favorite time of the year? _____

What is your favorite hobby? _____

What is your profession? _____

How many languages do you speak? List the languages you speak: _____

Why do you study English? _____

READING:

Read the following passages and answer the questions.

Passage 1: What are you doing this weekend?

Mara: Sunday is the day when I usually have lunch with my friends downtown. But this weekend there's a concert on Saturday, so I'll see my friends then. Sunday I'm staying at home.

1. This Saturday Mara's going to _____.
- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. stay at home | B. go to a concert |
| C. have lunch downtown | D. fix lunch for her friends |

Passage 2: The Scot and the Teakettle

According to one story, a Scottish boy watched the steam lift the top off his mother's teakettle and realized the power of steam to make machines work. That boy, James Watt, would then go on to invent the modern steam engine in 1769. Actually, the history of steam technology records the successful work of several scientists and engineers before Watt. For example, in 1698, Thomas Savery had introduced a simple steam pump to remove water from mines, and 14 years later Thomas Newcomen invented a better pump. But these pumps weren't efficient because they used so much fuel. In 1769, the Scottish boy, James Watt, figured out a way to save three-quarters of the fuel, to honor him, his last name became the name of a unit energy.

2. The example of the boiling teakettle shows that steam is _____.
- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. useful | B. efficient |
| C. powerful | D. necessary |
3. The first steam engines _____.
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. didn't pump water | B. cost too much to build |
| C. were difficult to make | D. used too much fuel |

Passage 3: A vacation postcard

Dear Millie,

You wouldn't believe Costa Rica! It's really peaceful. Judy and I have been staying in a tent at a campground on the beach. We're studying a little Spanish with a cute guy who teaches Spanish in a school here, but I think he's learning more English than we are Spanish. Judy brought her guitar, so we enjoy singing around the campfire at night. Love, Sheila

4. Sheila and Judy are _____.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. traveling with Millie | B. taking guitar lessons |
| C. camping at the beach | D. learning lots of Spanish |

Passage 4: Wide open spaces

Visitors to the United States, especially those from Japan or the smaller countries of Europe, are likely to comment on the size and scale of everything. Although the downtown sections of some of the older cities such as Boston and Philadelphia may look similar to their own larger cities, other aspects are likely to appear "out of scale." For example, the average American farm is huge in comparison with the typical family farm of Europe and Asia. Across the Great Plains, farmers use great machines to plant and harvest enormous quantities of wheat. Such farms offer a dramatic contrast to the tiny farms of Europe or Asia, where intense human labor is more important. The main cities of the United States are connected by a vast system of highways and superhighways moving endless streams of cars and trucks, while on the edge of the cities, suburban developments and shopping centers with huge parking lots stretch for mile after mile. It's as if Americans made everything larger, just to use up the available space.

5. To visitors, everything in the United States seems _____.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| A. larger | B. similar |
| C. more expensive | D. interesting |

6. To Japanese and European visitors, the downtown sections of Boston and Philadelphia seem _____.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| A. out of scale | B. the right size |
| C. too old | D. very beautiful |

7. The typical American farm _____.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. is similar to farm everywhere | B. uses a lot of machinery |
| C. is run by large families | D. doesn't require much work |

8. The article implies that people in the United States are influenced by _____.

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. the amount of available space | B. the need to grow lots of food |
| C. visitors' impressions to their country | D. farming practices in Europe and Asia |

Passage 5: Biofeedback

When biofeedback was first developed a number of years ago, it caused a lot of excitement. People hoped that biofeedback could be used to cure all kinds of physical and mental problems. Biofeedback is the name for a medical technique that helps people treat certain problems by becoming more aware of their own bodies. In Biofeedback, instruments that measure bodily functions such as muscle tension, temperature, and blood flow are attached to the body. The instruments produce signals – for example, a series of sounds (beeps) or a flashing light – that the person can hear or see. The patient then uses the information to help gain control over the function. The most widely used biofeedback instrument is the electromyography, or EMG. The EMG is used to measure muscle tension. It is made up of several electrodes, which are placed on the skin near a particular area, depending on the symptom. For example, for headaches, a symptom often caused by excessive tension in the neck muscles, the electrodes are placed on the forehead or near the back of the neck. When the tension is present, the EMG produces a signal and the patient is taught to respond by relaxing the appropriate muscles. In many cases, the relaxation of these muscles causes the headache to go away. While biofeedback has not turned out to be cure-all, it has been used successfully to treat a limited number of problems – especially those caused by chronic tension.

9. At first, people were very _____ biofeedback.
- A. nervous about B. interested in
C. familiar with D. opposed to
10. Biofeedback instruments _____.
- A. act like a kind medicine B. cause people to get excited
C. are put on a patient’s body D. teach people to exercise
11. Blood flow is an example of a _____.
- A. technique B. signal
C. Function D. problem
12. The EMG _____.
- A. relaxes the muscles B. measures tension
C. causes movement D. produces symptoms
13. _____ according to the article, biofeedback.
- A. is more popular than eve B. causes chronic tension
C. cures all types of headaches D. has had limited success

LANGUAGE USAGE AND GRAMMAR:

1. “Are the bags ready?” “Yes, _____.”
- A. they’re B. there are
C. their D. they are
2. I live _____ 4040 Oak Avenue.
- A. on B. at
C. in D. next

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3. "I like to cook." " _____ do I."
- A. And
B. So
C. Also
D. Too
4. David enjoys _____ sports on TV.
- A. watching
B. watch
C. to watch
D. watched
5. _____ everyone I know plays a musical instrument.
- A. The most
B. Almost
C. All
D. Most of
6. Yesterday's game caused a lot of _____.
- A. excited
B. exciting
C. excite
D. excitement
7. We hope _____ you again soon.
- A. see
B. to see
C. seeing
D. that see
8. This apartment is _____ one we've seen all week.
- A. cheaper than
B. the cheap
C. the cheapest
D. the cheaper
9. Tom's bought a new car, _____ he?
- A. doesn't
B. isn't
C. wasn't
D. hasn't
10. The package still hasn't arrived. I wish I _____ it earlier.
- A. was sending
B. had sent
C. am sending
D. have sent
11. Can you tell me where _____?
- A. is it the bank
B. the bank is
C. it is the bank
D. is the bank
12. My suitcase would have been much lighter if I _____ all my books.
- A. don't pack
B. not packing
C. hadn't packed
D. not packed
13. I met Carl many years ago. _____ him for a long time.
- A. I'm knowing
B. I've known
C. I'd know
D. I'll know

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14. This book is interesting. It's really worth _____.

A. you read

B. read

C. reading

D. being read

15. If fewer people drove cars to work, _____ less pollution.

A. we've had

B. we'd have

C. we're having

D. we'll have

ESSAY TEST – WRITING:

Write a well-organized essay about one of the following topics. When you finish your essay, read it over and correct any mistakes you find. Return the essay and test to Crossing Borders for grading.

Topic 1: *Describe the house or apartment where you live. How is it different from the house you lived in as a child?*

Topic 2: *What foreign languages have you learned? Based on your experience, what advice would you give to someone who wants to learn a foreign language?*

Topic 3: *What are the advantages and disadvantages of marrying someone from another country?*