

Nice to meet you!

Reading Platform

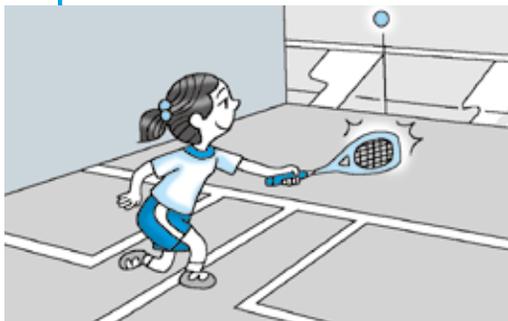
Read the following speech and answer the questions.

Hello, everyone. My name is Carla.
Let me tell you a little about myself. I
studied at Athens Primary School last
year. It is a great school and I really
5 enjoyed my time there.



I live with my parents and two **siblings**.
I am the oldest child in the family. My
dad is a web designer. He got a new job last year and he now designs for
advertising agencies. I really like the work he does and I plan to follow in
10 his footsteps. My mum is an illustrator. She does the art work for graphic
books. She works at home, so she can take care of us all the time. My
younger brother is called Kevin. He studies in Primary 3. My sister Rachel
is only nine months old. She is good fun but sometimes she cries at night
and keeps us all awake.

15 My favourite sport is **squash**. I like it because it teaches me to be aware of
the **consequences** of my actions — as I am the only player in the game,
if I hit the ball against the wall too hard, I may not be able to hit the ball
back again and continue the game. Besides squash, I also like swimming.
I go to the pool every weekend.



20 When I have time to relax,
I love watching the cartoon
channels with my brother and
baby sister. The best thing is
that mum often watches with
25 us and she does drawings of
the characters and then we can
colour them in.

Vocabulary highlights

sibling (n)
squash (n)
consequence (n)

That is some information about myself. I hope we can all become great friends soon.

30 Thank you.

A. Answer the questions using information from the speech.
For multiple-choice question, blacken the circle under the corresponding letter.

1. Which school did Carla come from?
 - A. Athens Primary School
 - B. Athens College
 - C. Athens Secondary School
 - D. Athens School

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. How many people are there in Carla's family?
 - A. 3
 - B. 4
 - C. 5
 - D. 6

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. What does Carla mean when she says 'I plan to follow in his footsteps' (lines 9–10)?
 - A. She plans to have children in the future.
 - B. She plans to be a web designer.
 - C. She plans to work for advertising agencies.
 - D. She plans to try a new job.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. What does Carla's mother do?
 - A. She writes novels.
 - B. She is a housewife.
 - C. She designs clothes.
 - D. She does drawings.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Grammar Corner

Definite and indefinite articles

We use the definite article *the*:

1. Before a noun if there is only one of its kind.
The principal will visit our class today.
We must recycle to save the planet.
2. Before a person, place or object that was talked about earlier.
Which marker should we use? I think the blue marker is best.
3. When the audience already knows the person, place or object being talked about.
I passed the ball to our captain.
The teacher went to get his coffee cup.

We use the indefinite articles *a* and *an*:

1. Before a singular countable noun.
There is a lunchbox inside that locker.
I never miss an issue of the magazine.
2. When a person, place or object is first talked about.
He will install a clock on that wall.
Eating an apple every day is good for your health.



Watch out!

Singular, plural, countable and uncountable nouns can all be used with the definite article *the*.

Bonus

A is used before nouns that begin with a consonant sound, and *an* is used before nouns beginning with a vowel sound (*a, e, i, o, u*).

When a word starts with a consonant but it makes a vowel sound, *an* is used before it.

I arrived at school an hour early today.

When a word starts with a vowel but it makes a consonant sound, *a* is used before it.

They are going to build a university here.

Watch out!

A and *an* cannot be used with plural and uncountable nouns.

✗ *An apples*

✗ *A water*

A. Underline the correct articles in the brackets to complete the sentences.

1. Freddy has (a / an) pet cat he loves very much.
2. Mr Mak easily lifts (a / the) heavy books covering (a / the) papers we are looking for.
3. (A / The) manager of that bookstore always greets her customers with (a / the) smile.
4. Susan prefers (a / an) omelette for breakfast instead of (a / an) boiled egg.

B. Put a tick (✓) in the blank if the article in the brackets can be used correctly in the blank. Otherwise, write the correct article in the blank.



Bella Tam

Seafood dinner in Cheung Chau with my good friend Gina!

Zach L.

Wow, what (e.g.) a (the) big plate of seafood! I wish I could go to Cheung Chau with you guys. I heard there is a lot to do on (1) _____ (the) island.

Gina C.

Hi Zach! You went to (2) _____ (a) same school as Bella, right? Bella always talks about (3) _____ (a) fun times she had in primary school.

Zach L.

Yes! It's nice to meet you, Gina. I'm happy to see that Bella made (4) _____ (a) good friend.

Gina C.

The three of us should find (5) _____ (a) weekend to go to (6) _____ (a) restaurant and chat.

Zach L.

I would love to, but I am studying in (7) _____ (an) UK right now. I plan to book (8) _____ (the) flight back to Hong Kong this Christmas though. I look forward to seeing you then!

C. Fill in the blanks with the correct articles.

1. At first it was easy to see _____ moon in _____ night sky, but _____ hour later it was covered by clouds.
2. I saw _____ bee in _____ school hall, so I don't want to go there right now.
3. Betty missed _____ train, so she sent me _____ text message saying she will be late.
4. My alarm clock plays _____ song instead of _____ loud ringing sound, so it is easier for me to wake up in _____ morning.

D. Fill in the missing articles to complete the following manual describing how to help students get used to a new classroom.

Activities to help new students in your classroom

(1) _____ first day at (2) _____ new school can be stressful for students. They are in (3) _____ new environment for the first time, and everyone is (4) _____ stranger to them. This is when (5) _____ game can be useful to help students become more comfortable. Here is (6) _____ easy game that students can play to learn more about their new classmates. Each student tells (7) _____ class two facts and (8) _____ lie about themselves. Then, (9) _____ audience tries to guess which is (10) _____ lie. It is (11) _____ simple game that is easy for students to understand, and it is much more interesting than telling students to give (12) _____ self-introduction. (13) _____ game helps students remember facts about each other, and gives them a chance to have fun by telling (14) _____ interesting lie.



Writing Platform

Personal description

When you write about yourself, you may include some of the following information:

1. Name

My name is Chris.

I am Chris Chan. (NOT I am called Chris Chan.)

2. Family

There are five people in my family: my mother and father, my brother and my sister. I am the oldest.

(NOT My family consists of five people.)

I have a big family. I live with my grandparents, parents and two elder brothers.

3. Address

You should not tell others your full address, but you can tell them the district you live in.

I live in Tuen Mun.

I live in Tin Hang Estate in Tin Shui Wai.

4. School

I study at Athens College in Pok Fu Lam.

I am a Secondary One student at Athens College.

5. Hobbies

I like playing the cello.

My hobby is playing online games. (NOT My hobby is computer games.)

I am a member of a swimming club.

6. Interesting or surprising facts about me

I have a twin brother. He is studying at another school.

I eat a lot but I am still thin compared to my height.

Use *but* to express contrast. This helps make a statement more interesting.



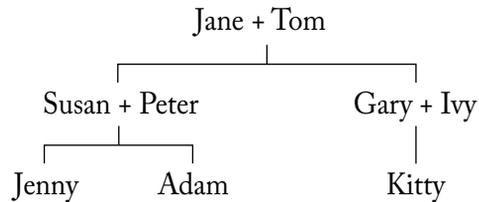
Watch out!

You should not give your telephone number or full address on the Internet.



A. Study the family tree below and complete the sentences using the right words to talk about family relationships. Use the words below to help you.

grandmother grandfather grandparents mother father son
daughter aunt uncle sister brother cousins



- Jane and Tom are Kitty's (a) _____. Jane is her (b) _____, and Tom is her (c) _____.
- Gary is Kitty's (a) _____ and Ivy is her (b) _____.
- Susan is Kitty's (a) _____ and Peter is Kitty's (b) _____. Their children, Jenny and Adam, are Kitty's (c) _____.
- Susan is Gary's (a) _____ and Gary is Susan's (b) _____.
- Gary is Jane's (a) _____ and Susan is Jane's (b) _____.

B. Kitty is writing about herself, but she has made four mistakes. Use the information on p.12 and the family tree in Exercise A to correct the mistakes. Underline the mistakes and write the corrections above.

My name is Kitty. I live in Shau Kei Wan. There are four people in my family: my parents and me. I am an only child. I have two sisters. They are Jenny and Adam. I go to play with them every Sunday.

I study in May's Secondary School. I go to school by bus. It takes about 10 minutes.

My hobby is playing piano. I think its sound is lovely. Something interesting about me is that I write with my right hand and do everything else with my left hand!

- C. *Your class teacher has asked everyone in the class to write a personal description so that she can get to know all of you better. Write about 100 words.*

Step 1 Understanding the writing question

1. **Who** is going to read your personal description?
 My class teacher / My friends
2. **Why** are you writing it?
 To let her know more about (myself / my friends)

Step 2 Brainstorming the main points

Paragraph 1: Basic information about yourself

3. **What** is your name?

4. **Where** do you live?

In _____

5. **Who** do you live with?

Paragraph 2: Your school

6. **Where** do you study at?

7. **How** do you go to school?

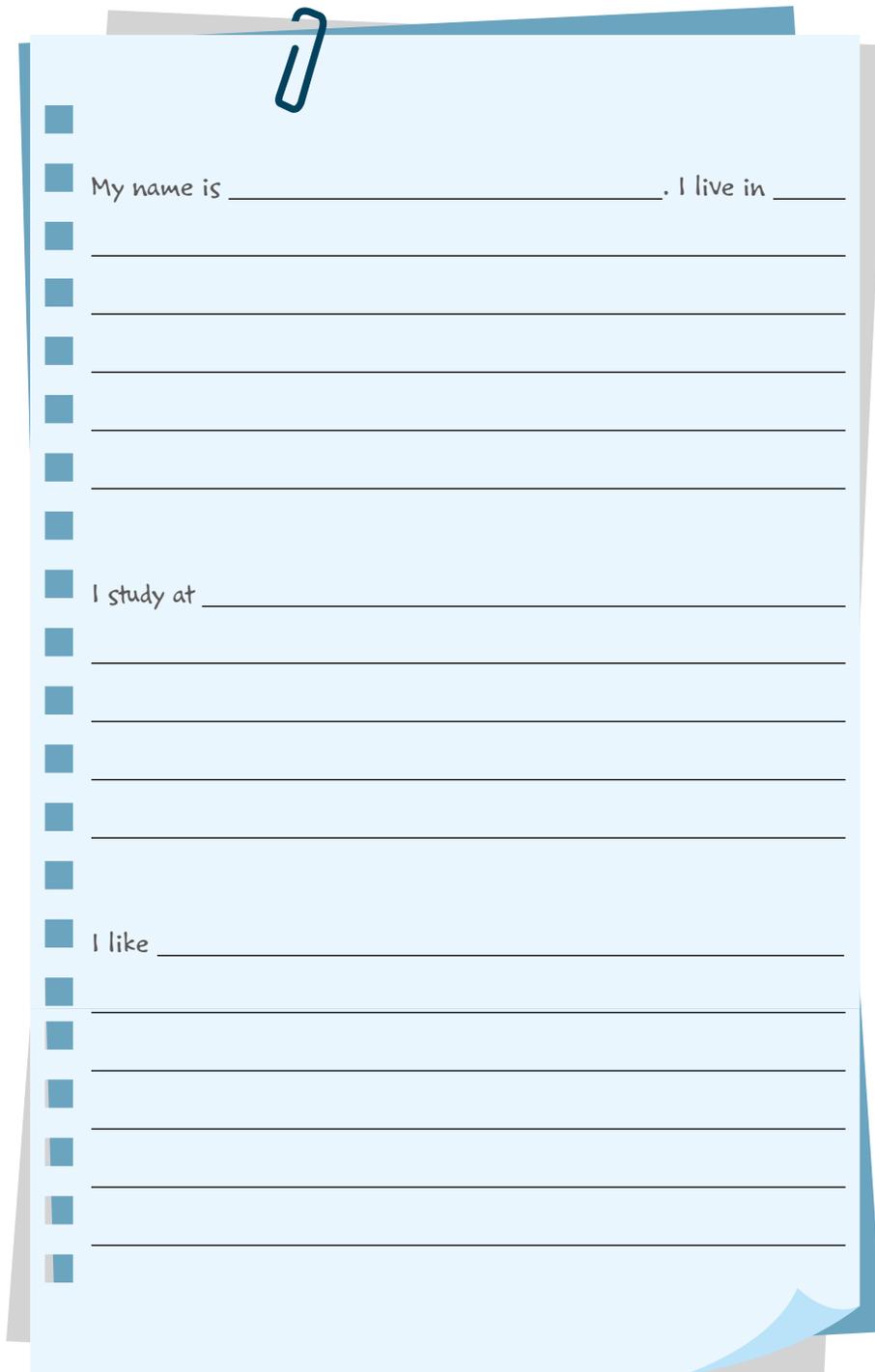
8. **How long** does it take you to go to school?

Paragraph 3: Your hobbies and other information

9. **What** are your hobbies? **What** do you usually do during your free time?

10. **What** is something interesting about you?

Complete your personal description using information from 1–10 on p.14.



My name is _____ . I live in _____

I study at _____

I like _____

Paragraph 1.

Basic
information
about yourself

Paragraph 2.

Your school

Paragraph 3.

Your hobbies
and other
information

Express Yourself Platform

Meeting friends

Look at the following situation in which friends meet.

A. Read the dialogue and fill in each of the blanks with a suitable word below. Use capital letters when necessary.

call do from heard hope
 inviting meet mind pleased sweet

(The doorbell rings. Candice opens the door.)

Candice: Hi, Brenda. Come on in. How have you been?

Brenda: Just fine, thanks. How are you?

Candice: Not bad at all.

Brenda: Candy, I'd like you to (1) _____
 my friend, Pamela.

Candice: Hi, Pamela, nice to meet you.

Pamela: (2) _____ to meet you too. I've
 (3) _____ so much about you.

Brenda: Thanks for (4) _____ us to your party.

Candice: I'm so glad you can make it. Let me have your umbrella, Pamela.

Pamela: Thanks. But (5) _____ me Pam. Everyone does. Would
 you (6) _____ if I call you Candy?

Candice: Of course not. Even just plain 'Can' will (7) _____.

Brenda: Candy, this is for you (8) _____ the
 two of us.
 Happy birthday!

Pamela: Happy birthday, Can! We (9) _____
 you like it.

Candice: I'm sure I will. Thank you very much. You're so
 (10) _____.



Across the Curriculum

Life and Society

A. Unlike relationships with family members, friendships are voluntary. Read the following article on how to be a good friend and answer the questions that follow.

How to be a good friend

- [1] Be yourself and don't try to be a **fake**. Your friends have chosen you to be their friend because they like you for who you are. If you try to be someone else, your friends won't understand you and you will make them feel uncomfortable around you. Make sure you talk things over with your friends and share things.
- [2] Your friends should be able to trust you and you should be able to trust your friends. If your friends share a secret with you, make sure you keep the secret so that your friends see that you can be trusted. You should also feel that you can trust your friends if you share a secret with them. Never tell anyone a secret that your friends have told you, and they will do the same for you.
- [3] Don't be a **gossip**. If you know something about your friends, which is sensitive or possibly **embarrassing**, don't tell anyone. Other people may enjoy upsetting your friends. Never make up stories and always stop people who start rumours or gossip about your friends.
- [4] Give your friends plenty of opportunities to talk to you, especially if they are worried about something. Even if you are busy, try and stop what you are doing and sit down with your friends to talk things through. It is often easier to solve problems if two people discuss them, and people feel better if they can share the **burden** of a problem or worry.
- [5] Be loyal to your friends and stand up for them when they need you. Don't let other people pick on your friends or **intimidate** them. A true friend will look after you if you need help. Don't leave your friends alone when they need you most. They will always remember you when you need their help.



Vocabulary highlights

fake (n)
gossip (n)
embarrassing (adj)
burden (n)
intimidate (v)

B. Which paragraphs do the following statements refer to? Put the paragraph numbers in the spaces provided.

1. We should listen to our friends, especially when they have problems. _____
2. We should be ourselves and not to pretend to be someone else. _____
3. We should not tell our friends' secrets to others. _____
4. We should not tell untrue stories about our friends. _____
5. Be ready to help friends. _____



Record your performance in the table below.

Skill	Your score	Total
1. Reading Platform: Reading a speech		9
2. Grammar Corner: Using articles and the simple present tense		63
3. Listening Platform: Listening to survey results		14
4. Writing Platform: Writing a personal description		16
5. Express Yourself Platform: Meeting friends		10
6. Across the Curriculum: Learning about Life and Society		5
Total		117

Overall performance

94–117: Excellent	82–93: Very good	71–81: Good
59–70: Average	0–58: Need to work harder	