

**LONG-DISTANCE CONTEST FOR LEARNERS OF ENGLISH**  
**(2017 – 2018 academic year. 10<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Doing the tasks correctly, you can score as much as 60 points and participate in the second round of the competition that is take place at Elabuga Campus of Kazan Federal University.**

**TASK ONE. (Total score –15)**

Fill in the Gaps with the Required Tense Aspect Form of the Verb (Active or Passive).

1. My parents will celebrate their Golden Wedding next year. They **(1) (marry)** for fifty years!
2. As I **(2) (enter)** the room, I **(3) (have)** a feeling that I **(4) (watch)**.
3. When we **(5) (meet)** again next month we **(6) (tell)** each other about everything that **(7) (happen)** since our last meeting.
4. I **(8) (live)** there for ten years when the war **(9) (break out)**.
5. When the ship **(10) (lose)** sight of, we **(11) (begin)** to worry.
6. What you **(12) (do)** all day tomorrow?
7. I **(13) (not be)** to the office since Monday and I only just **(14) (see)** this document. That's why you **(15) (not get)** an answer yet.

**TASK TWO. (Total score – 10)**

Complete the sentences with the Infinitive, the Participle or the **-ing** form of the verbs, given in brackets.

1. The bank robbers made the cashier (1) (open) the safe.
2. He is said (2) (jail) for stealth.
3. Mr. Adams said he had seen 6 presidents (3) (come and go).
4. I cannot afford (4) (dine) at a restaurant every other day.
5. He went to the barber's and had his hair (5) (cut) short.
6. Nobody expected the football team of Brazil (6) (lose) the final game.
7. The pilot watched the UFO (7) (fly) ahead of his plane.
8. It took the police a month and a half (8) (find) the thief.
9. She learnt about the death of her favourite actor and couldn't help (9) (cry).
10. She gave me a book (10) (write) by her father.

**TASK THREE. (Total score – 6)**

Read the text and complete the questions below.

Whether you call it a ‘gap year’, a ‘year out’ or a ‘year off’, the decision to delay going to university for a year after leaving school is a difficult, but important, one.

Becky Roberts, now studying history at the University of Warwick, doesn’t regret her decision to take a year off. ‘I’d worked so hard for my A levels,’ she says. ‘I knew it would do me good to do something totally unrelated to studying before embarking on a three-year degree course. My year off working for my dad’s company wasn’t a holiday by any means, but it was a break from the world of education, and that’s just what I needed.’

Carl Sanchez agrees. Now halfway through a biology degree at Cardiff University, Carl spent much of his gap year travelling. ‘I worked for about three months to save up enough money, then went to stay up with some friends who live in France. I ended up travelling round most of Europe, and even got over to Russia for a few weeks, which was fantastic.’

Both Becky and Carl enjoyed their year off, but do they feel it’s benefited them in terms of their university life now? ‘Definitely,’ says Carl. ‘When I left school, I was a normal, fairly irresponsible eighteen year-old. I hadn’t been anywhere, I hadn’t done anything. A year later, when I went to university, I felt much more like an adult than a child.’

‘I know a few people at Warwick who took a year off,’ says Becky. ‘Generally, we are more dedicated to our studies than those students who came straight from school. We’ve got different priorities. We want to have fun, of course, but we realise we are here to get our degrees. I don’t think some of the others have quite realised why they are at university yet.’

There are drawbacks to taking a gap year, though. Penny Cartwright went straight from school to study medicine at Imperial College, London. ‘I thought about a gap year but decided against it and don’t regret the decision for a minute. Becoming a doctor takes such a long time – I’ll be about 26 years old before I can start earning any money – that’s the sooner you start, the better, in my opinion. It might be fun, but it’s really just a wasted year in terms of career development.’

There’s also the financial consideration. If you do decide to take a year off, and you don’t want to work all the time as Becky did, you have to be able to pay for it. Susan Jenkins, a Careers Officer, points out that parents are now less likely to fund their child’s year off. ‘Twenty years ago, it was fairly common for parents to say to their son or daughter, ‘Here’s two thousand pounds, go and have fun abroad for a

few months.’ Nowadays, because parents have to pay so much more for their child’s education while they’re at university, they just can’t afford to pay for this extra year too.’

One option, of course, is to do what Carl did: work for a few months in order to save up for a trip abroad. Another option is to find casual work while travelling abroad. ‘There are now a lot of books and websites with loads of information for people who want to do this,’ says Susan. ‘It’s a great way to see the world, gain experience, and get money for living expenses all at the same time. But don’t expect to earn enough to save any money.’

So, should you take a gap year? The answer is: it depends. If you want a break from books and essays, then it’s probably a good idea – as long as you, or your parents, can afford it and as long as you’re going to do something worthwhile during your time off. Sitting at home watching TV doesn’t count! If you want to get your degree and start regular employments as quickly as possible, a gap year may not be so sensible.

**A. Becky took a year off because she**

- 1) needed to see what working for her father was like.
- 2) felt she needed a long holiday before university.
- 3) had done so well in her A level exams at school.
- 4) wanted to do something different for a while.

**B. Carl says that a year off helped him**

- 1) learn the importance of saving money.
- 2) become more mature and experienced.
- 3) make friends in many different countries.
- 4) become more knowledgeable about geography.

**C. According to Becky, students who didn’t take a year off**

- 1) are less hard-working than those who did.
- 2) probably won’t end up with a degree.
- 3) don’t want to have fun at university.
- 4) are less intelligent than those who did.

**D. According to Penny, a year off**

- 1) should be taken when you are about 26 years old.
- 2) is better once you’ve actually started your course.
- 3) merely delays the time when you can get a job.

- 4) can be enjoyable and useful for your future work.

**E. In the past, parents were more likely to**

- 1) pay for their child's education at university.
- 2) encourage their child to go straight to university.
- 3) force their child to take a year off before university.
- 4) give their child money to help with their year off.

**F. Susan issues a warning about**

- 1) information from books and websites.
- 2) low wages for casual work abroad.
- 3) paying for everyday expenses abroad.
- 4) the difficulty of finding casual work.

**TASK FOUR. (Total score - 9)**

Read the text below. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in the space in the same sentence.

Medical research has found that happiness has a strong beneficial effect on health. The healing properties of (1) (**laugh**) are such that humour is now being used alongside more **traditional** courses of (2) (**treat**) in some hospitals. In a London children's hospital, for example, two clowns are provided for the (3) (**entertain**) of patients. Doctors say that these clowns are (4) (**success**) in making the children feel better.

It seems that when we laugh, there can be a (5) (**reduce**) in both blood pressure and the amount of (6) (**tense**) in our muscles. Although it is (7) (**possible**) to prove it at the moment, this may also mean that people who feel unhappy and who are, therefore, (8) (**likely**) to laugh so much, suffer more often from physical (9) (**ill**).

**TASK FIVE. (Total score – 20)**

Write an essay on one of the given quotations (210 – 250 words). What do you think of them?

1. "The man who makes no mistakes doesn't usually make anything." (Edward John Phelps)
2. "Every generation revolts against its fathers and makes friends with its grandfathers." (Lewis Mumford)
3. "Success is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration". (Thomas Edison)

4. "Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood." (Ralph Emerson)
5. "To have another language is to possess a second soul." (Karl the Great)

**END OF ROUND ONE**