

Exercise 3, Intelligent Key

1B

The recent enforced immobilisation has seen me imprisoned in front of the television for what feels like an eternity. However, it has also given me a chance to catch up on what types of programme people are watching these days. It has been a revelation.

B ✓ W pierwszym zdaniu Sally pisze o tym, że została przymusowo zatrzymana w domu, ale w drugim zdaniu przyznaje, że miało to swoje dobre strony – miała szansę nadrobić zaległości dotyczące popularnych programów telewizyjnych. W kolejnym zdaniu stwierdza, że było to ('It') dla niej jak objawienie.

2A

Having little to occupy my mind, I set out to think about just why these programmes have become so popular, and I have come to a few conclusions. The first one is that much of this is down to people's basic curiosity about looking inside other people's homes. I have a friend who regularly checks out local houses for sale...

A ✓ W zdaniu poprzedzającym lukę Sally pisze o kilku wnioskach, które nasunęły jej się po obejrzeniu programów wnętrzarskich. W kolejnym zdaniu podaje pierwszy z nich, a w następnym ilustruje go przykładem z życia swojego znajomego.

3E

Secondly, I believe people are interested in what these programmes can teach them about what is and what is not possible as far as renovation is concerned. In addition to this, many of the shows offer a certain amount of drama when there are unexpected hitches in the plans like leaky pipes or blocked drains. Thirdly, there are also some interesting life stories.

E ✓ Zdanie pasujące do luki podaje dodatkowe informacje do drugiego argumentu, który w swoim tekście przedstawia Sally. W kolejnym zdaniu natomiast prezentuje ona już trzeci swój argument.

4C

So, after an initial exasperation over the number of these shows, I have to admit that I have been studying my own surroundings and taking notes about what I could change here. The kitchen wall could definitely be taken down, creating an open-plan dining area, and an extension across the patio (with planning permission, of course) could give me a bigger study. And as for the garden – well, there is so much scope...



Zoom in

- 1 Work in pairs. House renovation programmes are becoming popular nowadays. Why do you think this is? Do you have a favourite one?

Practise

GET SMARTER

Gdy rozwiązujesz zadanie polegające na dobieraniu zdań do luk w tekście, pamiętaj, że zdanie wyjęte z tekstu może rozwijać myśl wyrażoną w zdaniu poprzedzającym lukę lub zawierać przykłady, które ilustrują coś, o czym wspomniano ogólnie.

- 2 Read the text and choose which sentence (A or B) is most suitable for each gap. Explain your choice.

ARTICLE

Are you looking to rent or buy a property and feel intimidated by the time you will need to spend viewing places that may not meet your expectations? (1) It is a shift away from being physically shown around by an estate agent, to going virtual. And this is a move that will be relevant to everyone involved, from students looking to share a flat to the prospective buyers of a substantial house. (2) Do the bedroom dimensions feel right for you? Is there enough storage space in the kitchen? 360-degree 3D tours of a property can also highlight any defects in the structure – cracked plaster, ill-fitting shutters and so on. (3) So, if you are seriously considering making an offer on a house or putting down a deposit for a rental, a physical visit is always advised. Although much more convenient than the way our parents would check out a house years ago, a virtual tour will not tell you about the incessant noise of a busy street, how superbly located it actually is (or isn't), or whether there is rising damp hidden behind the wardrobe!

- 1 A Then the most recent trend in checking out possible new homes will be of interest.
B As a result, a new activity is becoming fashionable.
- 2 A Some people, in spite of this, will not be happy using technology to look round a property.
B Virtual viewings are now becoming commonplace, and it is possible to 'walk through' places on your short list at your own pace, and see how suitable they are.
- 3 A You can also go round the property with an estate agent and see for yourself, when you have the time.
B However, it must be pointed out that these tours should serve mainly to eliminate possible choices, saving everyone precious time.

C ✓ W zdaniu poprzedzającym lukę autorka przyznaje, że programy telewizyjne zainspirowały ją do przemyślenia możliwych zmian w swoim własnym domu. W następnym zdaniu wspomina o dwóch takich potencjalnych zmianach (likwidacja ściany w kuchni, dobudówka powiększającego gabinet), a w kolejnym zdaniu o zmianach w ogrodzie.

DOBIERANIE

- 3 Przeczytaj tekst, z którego usunięto cztery zdania. Wpisz w każdą lukę (1–4) literę, którą oznaczono brakujące zdanie (A–E) tak, aby otrzymać spójny i logiczny tekst. Uwaga: jedno zdanie zostało podane dodatkowo i nie pasuje do żadnej luki.
- 2 A The first one is that much of this is down to people's basic curiosity about looking inside other people's homes.
- 1 B However, it has also given me a chance to catch up on what types of programme people are watching these days.
- 4 C It's about time the kitchen wall was taken down, creating an open-plan dining area, and an extension across the patio (with planning permission, of course) could give me a bigger study.
- D In spite of my initial reservations I have come to admire and respect what has been achieved.
- 3 E In addition to this, many of the shows offer a certain amount of drama when there are unexpected hitches in the plans like leaky pipes or blocked drains.

Fish for words

- 4 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.
- 1 If you have a problem with lifting / rising damp, you need to call in a professional.
- 2 Heating a room can be costly when there are ill- / bad- fitting shutters or window frames.
- 3 The bottom of our garden flooded because of running / leaky pipes quite deep underground.
- 4 We double-checked the bedroom dimensions / extents and found that we had not measured it correctly the first time.
- 5 People who take on large-scale / degree projects often move into temporary accommodation while the building work is underway.
- 6 Today, having enough packing / storage space is a top priority when it comes to installing a new kitchen.
- 7 On its own, broken / cracked plaster is not a big problem, but it might be a sign of some more fundamental structural damage.
- 8 The drain is blocked / connected again – you need to call the plumber!

Wrap it up

- 5 Work in pairs. Plan your ideal house. Write notes about location, house type, rooms and decoration and present it to the class.

Lesson materials

- Fish for verbs, Student's Book page 275



Reporter Sally Thatcher writes from her sofa

The recent enforced immobilisation has seen me imprisoned in front of the television for what feels like an eternity. (1) It has been a revelation.

I used to watch house design programmes on the odd occasion when I was home alone, but not that often.

Who knew that people today have become so obsessed by programmes on building renovations? And, indeed, who knew that so many people out there are actively involved in large-scale projects? It appears that the passion for giving accommodation a facelift is sweeping our nation.

Having little else to occupy my mind, I set out to think about just why these programmes have become so popular, and I have come to a few conclusions. (2) I have a friend who regularly checks out local houses for sale online just because he wants to look beyond the exteriors to see what people have done to improve their homes.

Secondly, I believe people are interested in what these programmes can teach them about what is and what is not possible as far as renovation is concerned, perhaps confirming ideas that they'd already been considering. (3) Thirdly, there are also some interesting life stories. You might have seen a series about volunteers who were helping to transform houses for people who'd been living in accommodation not appropriate for their disabilities or other special needs. The final reveal scenes of the transformations can be quite tear-jerking.

So, after initial exasperation over the number of these shows, I have to admit that I have been studying my own surroundings, my cramped little basement flat, and taking notes about what I could change here. (4) And as for the garden - well, there is so much scope...

- 1 Work in pairs. Read the tweet below. What would you do if you had a neighbour like Damien? Have you or someone you know experienced any problems with the neighbours? If so, describe the situation.



Damien
@damien_

My neighbour knocked on my door this morning at 2:30 AM! Can you believe that – 2:30 AM? Luckily for him, I was still drilling holes for my new kitchen units.

3:55 PM - Sep 7, 2023

- 2 Look at the underlined sentences in exercise 3 on page 26 and in the text *Reporter Sally Thatcher writes from her sofa* on this page. Which past tenses can be found in them? What are the rules for using these tenses? If you are not sure, check the Grammar Reference on page 230.

GRAMMAR POINT

We moved in here ages ago. It's been ages / It's ages since we moved in here.

- 3 Read the Grammar point box. Then translate the fragments in brackets into English in the text below.

I (1) had never heard (*nigdy nie słyszałam*) of European Neighbours' Day until my neighbours invited me round to celebrate it. One May morning, a perky teen boy (2) appeared/turned up (*pojawił się*) at our doorstep with an invite to a barbecue party that afternoon. I was largely taken aback by the situation, and I (3) was just getting ready to go shopping (*właśnie szykowałam się do wyjścia na zakupy*) anyway, so I mumbled that I was going to be busy and that I (4) couldn't come (*nie mogę przyjść*). After he left, I realised that I (5) had missed my bus (*przegapiłam swój autobus*) and decided to stay home. As I (6) was preparing lunch (*przygotowywałam lunch*), I was thinking about my friendly young neighbour and I (7) began/started to feel bad (*zaczęło mi być głupio*) about treating him so harshly. It dawned on me that even though we (8) had been living (*mieszkailiśmy*) in this neighbourhood for over six months, I still didn't know anyone, so I thought to myself: 'It's high time you (9) made friends (*zaprzyjaźniła się*) with the people living next door,' and decided to go. Now it's been ages since (10) we met (*się poznaliśmy*) and we've been great friends.

- 4 Work in pairs. Do you know what your neighbourhood used to look like 50 years ago? Do you think people met up more often and used to get along better than they do now? Discuss.

Exercise 2

It's about time the kitchen wall was taken down – past simple after it's about time/it's high time

I used to watch house design programmes on the odd occasion when I was home alone, but not that often. – used to, past simple

You might have seen a series about volunteers who were helping to transform houses for people who'd been living in accommodation not appropriate for their disabilities or other special needs. – past continuous, past perfect continuous
Rules: habits in the past, ongoing actions in the past, ongoing action that continued for a period of time before another action in the past

Further practice

- Grammar Reference and Practice 02 *Mówienie o przeszłości (past simple, past continuous, past perfect, past perfect continuous, used to, would)*, Student's Book pages 230–231
- On-the-Go Practice Grammar 02, MEE App

Testing

- U02 Grammar Test, Tests and Audio