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**‘WRITING’ FOR CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH:  
PRELIMINARY (PET)  
A MOCK PROPOSAL**

**INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>**

The aim of this proposal is to provide both students and teachers with supplemental material for the Cambridge English: Preliminary also known as PET (Preliminary English Test). For the elaboration of this ‘mock proposal’, we have focused on the information provided by Cambridge ESOL in its website to create new material in accordance with its examination clauses<sup>2</sup>.

**PAPER 1 READING AND WRITING**

**SECTION B: WRITING**

**PART 1**

**Questions 1-5**

Here are some sentences. For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. **Use no more than three words.** Write only the missing words on your answer sheet. You may use this page for any rough work.

1. He asked, “Have you been working with my friend Luke for two years?”

**He wondered if I ..... with his friend Luke for two years.**

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<sup>1</sup> In the field of ELT (English Language Teaching), there has been an increase in interest in corpora in the last few years and how teachers can introduce them in the classroom from a didactic point of view. In fact there is a deluge of papers that have been focused on how corpora can be utilised in the classroom (either as a teaching aid or as a database to design ELT materials). Therefore, the motivation of this teaching tip is to provide a useful illustration of how to make use of available materials stored in corpora (we have used *The Corpus of Contemporary American English* (COCA) in this teaching tip). As teachers of English as a Foreign Language (EFL), we should strive to discover new ways of improving our students’ management and control over the language.

<sup>2</sup> As noted, in the PET format, part 1, the context involves the same theme or main idea. In this teaching tip, we have chosen to present the exercise with emphasis on corpora so that each pair of sentences is an entity onto itself.



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**KEY: ... had been working ...**

2. Rose decided to leave the project today.

**Rose stopped ..... project today.**

**KEY: .... working on the ....**

3. I would prefer not going to the beach tomorrow.

**I would rather ..... the beach tomorrow.**

**KEY: ... not go to ...**

4. Many people like to look at that painting.

**Many people enjoy ..... that painting**

**KEY: ... looking at ...**

5. Adrian Smith designed the Burj Khalifa.

**The Burj Khalifa ..... Adrian Smith**

**KEY: ... was designed by ...**

## **PART 2**

### **Question 6**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016, I was eating at McDonalds around 14:00. I used my mobile in the restaurant, but after I left the restaurant, I did not have it. Write a note to the manager of the restaurant. In your note you should:

- describe your mobile phone
- tell how you lost it and the last time you saw it
- say what you will do in case the mobile phone is found by an employee of the restaurant

Write **35-40 words** on your answer sheet.

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## PART 3

Write an answer to **ONE** of the questions (7 or 8). Write your answer in **100 words** (approximately). Tick the box (Question 7 or Question 8) on your answer sheet to show which question you have answered.

### Question 7

This is a letter you have received from an English friend.

Hi Jim,

Yesterday my grandmother and I were talking about the past. She told me that your grandmother and my grandmother were friends during their childhood. She told me some funny stories about the two of them. I wondered whether you could ask your grandmother about her memories of the same thing, and then we could recreate the whole story. What do you think?

Best wishes,

Charlotte

- Now write a letter to your friend giving your grandma's part of the story.
- Write your **letter** in 100 words (approximately).

### Question 8

- Your teacher has asked you to write a short story about your future life.
- This is the title for your story:
  - o **My future ten years from now.**
- Write your **story** in 100 words (approximately).

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**PART 5**

**Question 9**

Read the text below and choose one word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet.

**COCA**

*The Corpus of Contemporary American English* (COCA) is (26) ... largest freely-available corpus (27) ... English, and the only large (28) ... balanced corpus of American English. COCA is probably the most widely-used corpus of English, and it (29) ... related (30) ... many other corpora of English that we have created, which offer unparalleled insight (31) ... variation in English.

The corpus contains more (32) ... 520 million words (33) ... text (20 million words (34) ... year 1990-2015) (35) ... it is equally divided (36) ... spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic texts.

- |    |                |               |             |                |
|----|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 26 | A with         | B <b>the</b>  | C at        | D a            |
| 27 | A off          | B in          | C <b>of</b> | D with         |
| 28 | A <b>and</b>   | B but         | C or        | D yet          |
| 29 | A will be      | B was         | C be        | D <b>is</b>    |
| 30 | A in           | B of          | C <b>to</b> | D with         |
| 31 | A above        | B <b>into</b> | C between   | D behind       |
| 32 | A <b>than</b>  | B of          | C besides   | D onto         |
| 33 | A <b>of</b>    | B during      | C almost    | D since        |
| 34 | A by           | B between     | C for       | D <b>each</b>  |
| 35 | A until        | B <b>and</b>  | C till      | D when         |
| 36 | A <b>among</b> | B between     | C onto      | D betweentimes |



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## REFERENCES

- Cambridge English. *Cambridge English Preliminary: Handbook for Teachers for Exams from 2016*.  
Available at: <<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/images/168150-cambridge-english-preliminary-teachers-handbook.pdf>>
- Corpus of Contemporary American English: 450 Million Words, 1990-present*. 2008– ongoing.  
Project leader: Mark Davies.  
Available at: <<http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>>