


Test your reading skills



Leseverständnis gehört zu den unverzichtbaren Bestandteilen einer jeden Sprachprüfung. Lernen Sie hier anhand eines original **telc**-Tests verschiedene Lesemethoden kennen und machen Sie die Probe aufs Exempel. **JOANNA WESTCOMBE** hilft Ihnen dabei. 

Practice makes perfect, as we all know, but to really improve your English, you need to test yourself from time to time. Taking a test is motivating. It gives you a goal. And if you choose the right test at the right level, it will tell you — and future employers — what you can do in the language.

Like most language examinations, The European Language Certificates (**telc**) tests are split into sections on reading, writing, listening and speaking. *Spotlight* has teamed up with **telc** to bring you an original reading comprehension test. The format is similar to other tests, such as the Cambridge examinations, so you'll find our tips on preparation and test-taking useful for those as well.

Here, we'll introduce the three parts of the reading comprehension section from a **telc** exam for which you have 60 minutes. This exam is at the lower-intermediate (B1) level. This level is right for you if you have a good basic knowledge of English and its grammar, and can make yourself understood in most day-to-day situations in English. In future months, we will introduce the other parts of the examination, and offer a test at a higher level.

Why not look through the next few pages and read the introduction to each section? Then, when you're ready, find yourself a quiet room, sharpen your pencil and give yourself an hour to take the test. The examination starts ... now!

What is telc?

telc is **The European Language Certificates**. **telc** GmbH belongs to the German Adult Education Association (*Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband*, or DVV). It is the government's partner for the language test for immigrants (*Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer*).

telc offers 50 different examinations in nine European languages. You can take their tests in many *Volkshochschulen* and language schools in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Go to www.telc.net for details of the examinations, extra practice material and addresses of examination centres.

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Part 1: The main message

This part tests your understanding of the main message of a text. There are five short news articles and ten headlines. Your job is to match the right headlines to the texts.

First, read the headlines and highlight the key information they contain. Then read through the texts, looking

for information that is mentioned in the headlines. The style and vocabulary of the texts will be different from those of the headlines, so you will need to read the texts and the headlines carefully. Enter your answers in the boxes at the bottom of the page.

Read the texts (1–5) and the headlines (a–j). Decide which headline goes best with which text.

1.

Manor Hotel in Highbury has reported an unusual theft. The hotel's valuable grand piano was wheeled out of the building last Tuesday afternoon. Nobody asked questions because the hotel staff thought the workmen were acting under management orders. The loss was discovered in the evening when the regular pianist arrived to provide background music for the guests and asked where the instrument was.

2.

It is known that plants can communicate with each other, but scientists now say there is evidence of plants influencing the amount of sunshine. **A certain brown seaweed on the Scottish coast does not like lying on the beach in the sun when the tide**

is out. To get some shade, the plants release an iodide compound that rises into the air and makes clouds form.

3.

A teenager heard something falling off a car when it drove past him yesterday morning. Searching the side of the road, he found a purse with more than £800 in it. He returned the purse to its owner, who gave him a generous reward. The owner had mistakenly put the purse on the car roof while loading shopping bags into the car.

4.

In a project to tidy up the countryside, volunteers collected 40 bags of litter from the sides of roads last

weekend. However, the supervisor at the local rubbish tip refused to take the bags, stating that litter was not "household waste". Instead, the volunteers were advised to take the bags home and put the rubbish into the normal weekly collection.

5.

A light tremor surprised villagers in Highbury late on Tuesday evening. Although it measured only 3.5 on the Richter scale, the tremor was felt by many. Customers at a local pub thought there had been an explosion. Other villagers rang the police to report "a strange noise". This is the second quake this year, which is a worrying development.

- a) **An honest finder**
- b) **Bags cause traffic problems**
- c) **Can plants control the weather?**
- d) **Hotel employees stop daytime thieves**
- e) **Is earthquake activity increasing?**
- f) **Musician without piano**
- g) **Police called to local pub**
- h) **Seaside sun getting weaker**
- i) **Teenage disappointment**
- j) **The wrong kind of rubbish**

1. ⇨ 2. ⇨ 3. ⇨ 4. ⇨ 5. ⇨