

Name _____ Seat Number _____

MSU-CELC

Certificate of English Language Competency

Practice Test 1 (Revised Format)



Michigan State University
English Language Center

Do not turn the page
until you are told to do so.

Notes for Test of English Writing Ability

You may use this space to write notes or an outline for the essay. However, you **must** write the essay on the separate, lined paper provided.

Think about it, write about it!

MSU-CELC Test of English Writing Ability

Instructions


For this section of the test, a proctor has given you a special answer form.

Using a **Number 2 pencil only**, write as much as you can, as well as you can, in an original composition on **one** of the two topics below. You have 35 minutes to complete the composition.

1. Many students participate in school clubs or team sports. These activities can be fun but are also time consuming. Write about whether or not it is beneficial to spend the extra time and effort to participate in clubs or team sports. Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

OR

2. These days, many people assume that everyone needs a mobile phone. However, as recently as 20 years ago most people lived comfortably without one. Explain whether you think having a mobile phone is actually necessary or whether it is something that is just nice to have. Be sure to support your answer with examples, reasons, and explanations.

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Listen to this!

MSU-CELC Test of English Listening Ability

This section of the test is designed to evaluate your listening ability.

You should have three things in front of you:


- a test answer sheet
- a test booklet
- a Number 2 pencil

If you are missing any of these things, raise your hand now, and a test proctor will assist you.

Instructions for the Listening Ability section

This section has three main parts. Part 1 has short conversations and Part 2 has longer conversations. Part 3 contains a speech and a long conversation.

- There are 30 questions on the listening test. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

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Part 1—Short conversations

For each question in your test booklet, you will hear a short conversation. Each conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, “**Here is the situation.**”

You will listen to the conversation and choose the letter of the choice that best answers the question that appears in your test booklet. You will not hear the question; you will see it and read it. You will read it quietly to yourself. Use your pencil to mark your answer on your answer sheet.

Example X:

<p>X. A missing textbook</p> <p>Here is the situation: You are visiting your friend at his home in the evening. He is getting his things ready for school the next day, and asks his mother about one of his school books.</p>	<p>When did the boy last have his math book?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. in the morning b. in the afternoon c. a few days ago
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1. Friday night party

Here is the situation: Sarah sees her friend Chris getting ready to leave school at the end of the day on Wednesday. Another student, Mike, is having a party on Friday. Sarah asks her friend Chris about Mike’s party.

What is Chris not sure about?

- a. where the party will be
- b. whether he can go to the party
- c. whether he is invited to the party

2. Buying concert tickets

Here is the situation: Henry and Jane are both fans of the same rock band. They are discussing how to get tickets online for an upcoming concert.

Why does Henry ask Jane to buy him a ticket?

- a. He does not have enough money for a ticket yet.
- b. The tickets might be sold before he can buy one.
- c. His boss should not know he is going to a concert.

3. Getting ready for dinner

Here is the situation: Meg and her father are talking in the kitchen before dinner. Meg’s dad asks her to help.

Why does Meg want to avoid the kitchen?

- a. She prefers to spend time with her sister.
- b. She might eat the food before it is ready.
- c. She does not want to be asked to help.

4. Looking for a book

Here is the situation: Josh is at the library and wants to check out a book, but he cannot find it. He goes to the desk to ask the librarian for help.

Why is Josh unable to find the book?

- a. It is on the shelf.
- b. It is not at the library.
- c. It is on the librarian’s desk.

5. Rescheduling a test

Here is the situation: Susie is talking to her teacher, Mr. Bennet, after class in the hallway. She would like to change her test date.

Why does Mr. Bennet refuse to give the test on Monday?

- a. He wants to score all the tests before Monday.
- b. He is too busy to give another test on Monday.
- c. He wants Susie to take the test with her classmates.

6. Asking a friend for help

Here is the situation: Valerie is talking to her friend Justin at the end of class about an after-school event. She has just received a text message and then speaks to Justin.

What does Valerie ask Justin to do?

- a. help her plan a birthday celebration
- b. help with ticket sales at a sporting event
- c. meet up to study with classmates at the library

7. Working in a grocery store

Here is the situation: Tom and Mary are working early one morning in a grocery store. Tom has a question for Mary.

Why does Mary want Tom to put the bananas in the front of the store?

- a. The apples are old and need to be thrown away.
- b. Bananas attract customers better than apples do.
- c. She hopes that people will be more likely to buy them.

Part 2—Longer conversations

In this section you will hear longer conversations. Each conversation has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, “**Here is the situation.**” Before listening to each conversation you will read 2 to 4 questions. Listen to each conversation and answer the questions that appear in your test booklet.

8-11. A surprise at the bike rack

Here is the situation: Questions 8 through 11 are based on the following conversation. Mike is a student who rides his bike to school nearly every day. Megan is a friend of his who attends the same school and often rides with him. They have just gotten out of school for the day and are walking toward the bike rack.

8. What does Megan notice?
 - a. Mike’s bike is missing.
 - b. Part of Mike’s bike is gone.
 - c. Mike cannot ride his bike today.
9. What do Mike and Megan believe happened?
 - a. His property was stolen.
 - b. His property was broken.
 - c. His property was forgotten.
10. What is Mike thankful for?
 - a. He has enough money for a new bike.
 - b. He still has a way to get home today.
 - c. He noticed the problem right away.
11. What will Mike do next?
 - a. buy new parts
 - b. get a new bike
 - c. walk home

12-15. Ordering a gift online

Here is the situation: Questions 12 through 15 are based on the following conversation. You are watching a TV show about one of your favorite characters, Anna Green, a high school student who is talking to her father while doing her homework on her computer. Anna and her father are in the kitchen discussing a possible birthday gift for Anna’s mother.

12. What gift idea does Anna have for her mother?
 - a. a new desk
 - b. a cup to keep pencils in
 - c. a small machine
13. How does Anna describe the gift?
 - a. expensive and fancy
 - b. typical of things her mother likes
 - c. something new for her mother to try
14. What does Anna’s father especially like about the gift?
 - a. It has several functions.
 - b. It can be used by the whole family.
 - c. It has a low price.
15. Why does Anna say she wants to order the gift right away?
 - a. to get the best price
 - b. only a few are left
 - c. to allow enough time for delivery

Part 3—Extended discourse

In this section you will hear a speech and a long conversation. Before listening to each passage, you will have time to read the questions. Each passage has a short title to tell you what it is about, followed by a brief description of the situation that is also printed in the test booklet after the words, “**Here is the situation.**” You will listen to each passage twice, and then you will answer a series of questions that appear in your test booklet.

16-23. School hiking club

Here is the situation: You have been interested in spending more time outdoors. The other day, you saw a poster at your school advertising a hiking club. It looked interesting, so you decided to attend the first meeting of the year. At the beginning of the meeting, the club president is giving some important information about the club.


16. Why were some club members unable to attend the meeting?
 - a. They did not receive the text message.
 - b. The choir was performing at the same time.
 - c. They were promoting the club somewhere else.
17. What did the club’s previous president, Jim, specialize in?
 - a. drawing maps
 - b. publicizing the club
 - c. finding new hiking trails
18. In what way is the hiking club different from other clubs?
 - a. It has existed for seven years.
 - b. Boys and girls are equally represented.
 - c. It involves physical activity without expensive gear.
19. Where do the hikers go after leaving the school?
 - a. They climb a nearby hill.
 - b. They take a shortcut through a park.
 - c. They do warm-up exercises in the parking lot.
20. What is each person given before each trip?
 - a. an energy bar
 - b. a bottle of water
 - c. a map of the route
21. What does the club do during the Baker’s Dozen event in October?
 - a. collect money for the club
 - b. attend a regional meeting of hiking fans
 - c. take a long hike, then go out for a meal together
22. What should you do if you want to hike less than five miles?
 - a. come to the club a different week
 - b. speak to the group leader right away
 - c. take a different route back to the school
23. What does the woman say is the main goal of the hikes?
 - a. having fun outdoors
 - b. improving your health
 - c. traveling as far as you can

Part 3—Extended discourse, continued

24-30. Taking the bus to Chapel Hill

Here is the situation: You are riding the bus home from school and hear the following conversation between a brother and sister in the seats next to yours. You are curious, so you listen to what they are saying.

24. What has prevented the brother from being in a school play?
 - a. He is afraid to be on stage.
 - b. He does not have the right skills.
 - c. He does not want to wear a costume.
25. How did the brother know his sister needed help?
 - a. She was in a hurry to get on the bus.
 - b. She was behaving differently than usual.
 - c. She often asks for help on the school bus.
26. What does the sister want to get in Chapel Hill?
 - a. some costumes to use as examples
 - b. some musical instruments for the play
 - c. some inexpensive materials for the play
27. Why is the brother unable to drive to Chapel Hill?
 - a. He does not know how to get there.
 - b. He does not have gas money.
 - c. He is too young to drive.
28. What are the brother's plans for Saturday?
 - a. giving a music lesson
 - b. rehearsing for a show
 - c. writing a song
29. What business does the brother like in Chapel Hill?
 - a. a pizza store
 - b. a movie theater
 - c. a music store
30. What will the brother ask Simon?
 - a. whether he will go to Chapel Hill
 - b. whether he likes Zippo's pizza
 - c. whether he can drive a car

 You have now finished the listening test. Please wait for further instructions.

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Grammar you can use!

MSU-CELC Test of English Grammar

Instructions


- This grammar test has 30 questions.
- You have 20 minutes to answer all 30 questions. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

Example

Bob is a good student. He _____ every day.

- a. to study
- b. is study
- c. studies
- d. studying


The correct answer is c. You would mark “c” on your answer sheet.

 Do not turn the page
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31. When _____ your friends?
a. are we meeting
b. we meet
c. have met
d. meeting
32. This book is _____ one in the store.
a. most expensive
b. most expensive as
c. the most expensive
d. a most expensive
33. The chalkboard _____ by the janitor yesterday.
a. cleans
b. cleaned
c. is cleaned
d. was cleaned
34. Thomas and Patrick _____ a video game last night.
a. are playing
b. were playing
c. have played
d. play
35. They found the money _____ had been stolen.
a. it
b. what
c. where
d. that
36. I _____ that book for a week.
a. am reading
b. had read
c. have been reading
d. have read
37. We went for a walk after we finished _____ up the kitchen.
a. to clean
b. cleaning
c. clean
d. cleaned
38. The teacher reminded me _____ the book I had borrowed.
a. to return
b. returning
c. I return
d. return
39. My parents _____ to stay out late.
a. I am not allowed
b. are not allowing
c. cannot allow that
d. do not allow me
40. I cannot wait _____ on vacation.
a. to go
b. going
c. gone
d. go
41. I think I am starting _____ this algebra homework!
a. understanding
b. understood
c. will understand
d. to understand
42. You cannot return this sweater _____ you have a receipt.
a. without
b. besides
c. unless
d. except
43. This puzzle is _____ solve.
a. hard to me
b. hard for me to
c. too hard for me
d. more hard than I
44. I expected _____ the students to be late.
a. that some
b. some of
c. that some of
d. some

45. Keep _____. We're almost there!
- go for
 - gone
 - to go
 - going
46. Would you mind _____ this book back to the library for me?
- took
 - taking
 - take
 - to take
47. How often _____ go to the beach?
- have you
 - are you
 - do you
 - that you
48. I wish my brother _____ spend more time with me.
- tries to
 - had tried
 - will try to
 - would try to
49. The area has changed so much that I do not recognize my old neighborhood _____.
- anymore
 - ever
 - in all
 - every time
50. Our teacher _____ choose a topic for last night's assignment.
- will have
 - has us to
 - had us
 - has us
51. If I had not overslept, I _____ be on time.
- will
 - would
 - can
 - did
52. Paul _____ by his teacher to apply for a summer music camp.
- is encourage
 - has encouraged
 - encouraged
 - was encouraged
53. _____ the large number of cars on the street, I was able to make it to school on time.
- Since
 - Despite
 - However
 - Instead
54. The team lost in the final game of the championship, _____ it looks like there will not be another formal opportunity for them to play until next season.
- even though
 - however
 - where
 - and so
55. Winter carnival is this weekend. This event is a chance for people who have _____ enjoyed the snow and cold temperatures to do so.
- otherwise
 - already
 - not yet
 - ever
56. If I do not leave now, I _____ the bus.
- miss
 - will miss
 - missed
 - am missing
57. After seeing his grade, John _____ he had studied more before the test.
- wished
 - would wish
 - had wished
 - was wished

58. That guy over there looks just like my brother Aaron. But it _____ be him, because he is in Chicago this week.
- a. may not
 - b. is not
 - c. will not
 - d. cannot
59. We _____ Italy when I was 10 years old.
- a. are visiting
 - b. visited
 - c. visit
 - d. will visit
60. Do you know how easy _____ to get lost when you are hiking?
- a. it is
 - b. is it
 - c. is there
 - d. there is

 You have now finished the grammar test. Please wait for further instructions.


Read about it!

MSU-CELC Test of English Reading Ability

Instructions

This reading test has four passages. Each passage is followed by several questions.

- You have 50 minutes to answer all 30 questions. For each question, choose the **one best** answer.
- For each question, find the letter on the answer sheet that corresponds to the answer you have chosen. Use your pencil to completely fill in the circle for your answer.
- If you are not sure of the answer, take your best guess. Unanswered items will be scored as incorrect.
- You **are** allowed to write in the test booklet.

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Reading Activity 1

Here is the situation: You sometimes feel sleepy in class, so you decide to get advice from other students who have had the same experience. You find this article, written by 15-year-old blogger Briana Star. *Read the article and answer the questions that follow.*

★ Briana's Blog



Hi, everyone. Welcome to my blog.

My name is Briana, and I want to tell you a story about how I went from being a bad student to being one of the best and happiest students in my class. It all started one afternoon when I fell asleep during class. The teacher woke me up in front of everyone and put my homework paper in front of me, which had a failing grade on it. I can tell you that I was so embarrassed and started to feel like I would never succeed at anything. Fortunately, my bad mood did not last long, even though my classmates kept laughing and calling me “Sleeping Beauty.”

For some reason the situation finally became clear to me; there was a **connection** between my poor performance on school assignments and the fact that I felt tired all of the time. That night I spent an hour online getting all the information I could find on sleeping and thinking more clearly. Here are the most important things I learned:

We need to get enough sleep.

We teenagers need about 9 hours of sleep on average each night, and we need to keep the same sleep-wake schedule on weekends that we have during the week.

Take short naps.

Short naps are okay, but if you nap too long or too late in the afternoon, you will have trouble sleeping at night.

Get regular exercise.

Work out 30 to 60 minutes, at least four times a week, but not within 2-3 hours of bedtime, because that is a time when the body needs to get ready for sleep.

Do not go to bed hungry.

Have a light snack such as a glass of milk, a piece of fruit, cereal and milk, or crackers before bedtime.

Plan some “winding-down” time.

Make sure you have about an hour of quiet time before bedtime every night to do things you enjoy. Avoid screen time activities on your phone or computer. Listen to quiet music, read a book, or just relax.

That is about it. I suggest you try following this advice. I did. Now I feel great, and I enjoy studying and get good grades. And, I get my “Sleeping Beauty” rest at home at night rather than at my desk at school.

61. Why did Briana decide to learn more about the importance of sleep?
- Her teacher suggested that she do so.
 - Her classmates asked her for advice.
 - She realized her habits were affecting her happiness and school performance.
 - She was writing a report on the topic of sleep.
62. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **connection** in Paragraph 2?
- relationship
 - transfer
 - contact
 - movement
63. What did Briana learn about getting enough sleep?
- It is not necessary to sleep for 9 hours most nights.
 - It is important to go to sleep and wake up at about the same time every day.
 - It is important to get extra sleep on weekends.
 - It is important to sleep for more than 9 hours at least once a week.
64. What did Briana learn about exercise?
- More than 30 minutes of exercise will interfere with your sleep.
 - It is necessary to work out every day for at least 30 minutes.
 - Exercising in the late evening is not a good idea.
 - The more you exercise, the better you sleep.
65. What did Briana learn about eating before bedtime?
- Eating a small amount of food before bedtime is better than eating nothing.
 - Eating a big meal in the late evening is better than being hungry.
 - It is best to avoid eating before bedtime.
 - It is okay if it is not a school night.
66. Which of the following activities would be best just before bedtime?
- doing homework
 - watching a music video
 - looking at relaxing pictures on your computer
 - reading a magazine
67. Why did Briana write this article on sleep?
- to let people know it is okay to be a poor student
 - to complete a homework assignment
 - to help her prepare to be in the play, "Sleeping Beauty"
 - to explain how she improved her life

Reading Activity 2

Here is the situation: Some of your friends have ridden electronic scooters recently and recommended them, so you decide to learn more about them. You find the following article on an English-language news website. *Read the article and answer the questions that follow.*

E-Scooters Hit the Streets!

By Sophia Sanderson



What was that thing that just zoomed past? If you are in a large city in almost any country, there is a good chance it was an electric scooter.

How they work

You may be familiar with how scooters work; perhaps you have ridden one yourself! The concept is simple: download an app, then scan a code on the scooter to activate it. Most companies require a small, ‘start-up’ fee, but the main charge is for each minute the scooter is ridden. When you finish, simply park it at your destination. Another person may then ride it somewhere else. At the end of the day, workers drive around to pick up the scooters and recharge their batteries.

A green solution?

Supporters of e-scooters say that they are convenient, affordable, and just plain “cool.” More importantly, they claim that scooters reduce traffic jams, especially in big cities, and thus, they decrease emissions that increase global warming. This is because charging a scooter takes less energy than driving a gas-powered car. But that only makes sense if you ride a scooter somewhere instead of driving a car. If you ride a scooter instead of walking or biking, you have not reduced any emissions.

Remember, too, that a gas-powered car is usually used to collect the scooters each night. Also, there is the additional energy cost of charging them. Walking or riding a bike are still the “greenest” forms of transport since they only require your leg power.

Safety concerns

Some people are also concerned about scooter safety. Many hospitals have reported increasing numbers of serious injuries caused by crashes involving scooters, cars, bikes, and people walking. People with disabilities, such as those who are blind or in a wheelchair, as well as parents with young children in strollers, have reported difficulty on sidewalks.

John Smith, a 17-year-old high school student, has used a wheelchair since he was 4 years old. Although he usually does not have too much trouble getting around, his trips on city sidewalks have recently become harder. “I have no problem with people using scooters,” he says. “But when people leave them lying around on the ground, I cannot get where I need to go.”

The future of scooters?

As a result, some cities have temporarily or permanently banned the use of e-scooters. Others require users to park them only in **designated** areas. What is the future of scooters? We will have to wait and see.



68. How does the author describe the popularity of scooters?
- They are popular throughout the world.
 - They are less popular now that people know the drawbacks.
 - They are not as popular as most other forms of transport.
 - They are more popular than biking or walking.
69. What mainly determines the price of a scooter ride?
- the size of the start-up fee
 - the cost of electricity
 - the time used
 - the number of people who use it
70. What happens when the scooter ride is over?
- The scooter must be charged right away.
 - The scooter must be returned to the company.
 - The scooter gets in someone's way.
 - The scooter is available for someone else.
71. Why do some people believe scooters help the environment?
- They can be recycled when they no longer work.
 - They do not cause emissions while in use.
 - They are more efficient than walking or biking.
 - They prevent traffic jams from forming.
72. Why are some people worried about scooter safety?
- Some scooter users cause traffic accidents.
 - Some people are worried about falling off the scooter.
 - Some people do not trust the scooter app.
 - Some scooter users may have a disability.
73. How are scooters a problem for John Smith?
- Scooters sometimes block his way.
 - Scooter users do not notice him.
 - He cannot ride because of his disability.
 - He was injured in a scooter accident.
74. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **designated** in Paragraph 7?
- far away
 - indoor
 - specific
 - convenient
75. What is the main idea of this article?
- Scooters are popular but have some serious drawbacks.
 - Scooters are a better form of transport than cars.
 - Scooters are dangerous and should not be allowed.
 - Scooters are not suitable for disabled people.

Reading Activity 3

Here is the situation: Your family is getting ready for New Year's Eve. You wonder how other cultures and families celebrate this occasion, and you decide to learn about how people welcome in the new year and find the following article. *Read the article and answer the questions that follow.*

Happy New Year!



The new year is celebrated around the world with a variety of different customs, traditions, and special foods. Celebrations may even take place at different times of the year, depending on the local traditional calendar. One similarity is that they all involve a meaningful welcoming of the new year while saying goodbye to the old.

Making New Year's **resolutions** is a popular tradition in many cultures. Many people see the beginning of a new year as the time to make changes or have a fresh start. New Year's resolutions can serve as promises or reminders to oneself of changes and improvements to be made over the course of the upcoming year.

In the US, parades and other festivities usually begin on December 31, New Year's Eve, and continue on into January 1, the first day of the new year. The most famous American celebration takes place in Times Square in New York City. A large crowd gathers in the streets to watch a large crystal ball at the top of a tower. At 11:59 p.m. the ball is lowered. It reaches the bottom of the tower exactly at midnight.

People in some countries have New Year's traditions that emphasize food. For example, the Dutch often eat doughnuts to welcome in the new year. Because doughnuts are shaped like a circle, they are thought to symbolize the completion of a cycle—the beginning of a new year and the ending of the previous year.

In Japan, people eat long soba noodles in celebration. Eating these noodles without breaking them symbolizes long life. In Spain, there is the tradition of eating 12 grapes at midnight. This marks successful grape harvests of the past and the hope for more in the future.

One of the most colorful New Year's celebrations takes place in China. The Chinese New Year is determined by the lunar calendar and falls between January and February. During this time, towns are decorated with colorful lanterns and flowers. People clean their homes **thoroughly** to symbolize getting rid of the misfortunes of the previous year. Parades and fireworks mark the festivities, and seafood and dumplings are traditionally eaten.

The next time January 1 approaches, take some time to consider the events of the previous year. Think about your goals and hopes for the next year. Maybe you can even start a new tradition with your family and friends to welcome in each new year!



76. What is one similarity in welcoming the new year in different cultures?
- a. lights
 - b. family activities
 - c. stories
 - d. celebrations
77. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **resolutions** in Paragraph 2?
- a. decisions
 - b. completions
 - c. results
 - d. answers
78. What do people do in New York City late on New Year's Eve?
- a. watch parades
 - b. play ball games
 - c. observe a decorated ball drop
 - d. climb a tall tower
79. Why do the Dutch eat doughnuts on New Year's day?
- a. to live long
 - b. to hope for harvests
 - c. to finish a year
 - d. to bring luck
80. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **thoroughly** in Paragraph 6?
- a. entirely
 - b. hardly
 - c. roughly
 - d. kindly
81. What is one similarity between the American and Chinese New Year's celebrations?
- a. the date of the celebration
 - b. cleaning homes
 - c. having parades
 - d. planting flowers
82. Which best summarizes the author's advice in the last paragraph?
- a. reflect on your life and create new celebrations
 - b. forget past troubles and protect the best traditions
 - c. adjust expectations and choose friends carefully
 - d. hope for a good future and enjoy your family

Reading Activity 4

Here is the situation: Your friend, Izzy, is excited about a new blog post she wrote. She called you when you were at home and asked you to read it. Read the interview carefully so you will be able to tell her what you think tomorrow at school. *Read the article and answer the questions that follow.*

Musician Interview



Hi everyone! You might remember my post last year about my friend Mason and his cool music site. This time, I **talked him into** letting me interview him. Here is the interview!

Izzy: So how did you get into writing music?

Mason: My parents wanted me to learn an instrument, so I took guitar lessons, but I was not really that excited about it at first. In middle school I started writing songs to impress girls and ended up being friends with other musicians—that is when I started writing for real. I fooled around with recording a lot in my parents' basement and realized I could sort of be my own producer. Then I started posting my songs online. I really just wanted people to know I was not only this shy, quiet guy. I mean, I had ideas and stuff to say, but I was not the best at communicating by talking. I still do not really love the guitar, but I love songwriting.

Izzy: How did you start performing live?

Mason: Oh, yeah. It was kind of an accident. I knew a friend of a friend who worked at a music place here in town. They heard some of my songs and asked me if I wanted to play. I had no clue how that all worked, but I said yes, just for the heck of it.

Izzy: That was at Club No Exit, right?

Mason: Yeah. At first, I did not even know how it worked. They told me I had to “bring the audience”. Turns out, I had to guarantee at least 40 paying customers at my first show! But, luckily, I have a huge family, and a lot of them live in the area. In the end, it really was not that hard to get 40 people to show up. All my cousins just wanted to see me make a fool of myself on stage.

Izzy: So, how has your music changed since those early days in middle school?

Mason: I do not really make music for other people anymore. I mean, I used to do it to connect with people and show everyone that I was cool and interesting. Now, I just write and play what I want to hear. I sort of promised myself I would try to share a new song on my site every month, but that is more like **a deal I made with myself**. If I break the rule sometimes, no big deal.



83. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **talked him into** in Paragraph 1?
- discussed with him
 - let him ask questions
 - convinced him
 - showed him how
84. How did Mason feel about learning guitar when he started?
- He preferred to play another instrument.
 - He had wanted to learn for a long time.
 - He thought it was very difficult.
 - He was not very interested in it.
85. Why did Mason begin to post his songs online?
- It helped him share his best ideas.
 - It helped him make more money.
 - It helped him leave his parents' house.
 - It helped him improve his guitar skills.
86. Who helped Mason start performing on stage?
- his guitar teacher
 - a club employee
 - one of his cousins
 - a close friend
87. What did Mason have to do before his first concert?
- play his songs at an audition
 - pay for the venue in advance
 - advertise his performance online
 - promise to get an audience
88. Why does Mason think his family wanted to see him perform?
- They wanted to make fun of him.
 - They had not heard his songs.
 - They were fans of his music.
 - They did not get to visit him often.
89. How does Mason describe his current reason for writing songs?
- He enjoys connecting with family members.
 - He hopes to become more well known.
 - He wants to create something he likes.
 - He thinks he could get a record deal.
90. What does Mason most likely mean when he describes **a deal I made with myself**?
- He compromises in order to write music.
 - He now writes songs for less money.
 - He wants more people to hear his songs.
 - He is not responsible to anyone else.

**This is the end of the test.
Please wait for further
instructions.**



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