

EFL National Competition for 8th Grade Primary School students
6th May 2006

Part I : Reading comprehension:
(Time limit 35 minutes)

Students' CODE _____ Overall total points: _____

Can you believe it?

The truth matters. Honesty is important. And from a very young age we are taught the consequences of lying, such as a few extra centimeters of nose in the case of Pinocchio. But we all tell lies sometimes: in business dealings, in personal relationship, in awkward social situations. We also enjoy story telling, which involves imagination, invention and stretching the truth. So it is no surprise to find that a competition to find the World's Biggest Liar, held each November in the village of Santon Bridge in Cumbria in the English Lake District, is becoming increasingly popular. Last year's winner was a 49-year-old local man who beat eleven other competitors to win the title. Has he always had a talent for telling untrue stories?

Mike Naylor: "No, no, no. I only told one lie and that was at the last year's competition-that's the only one I've ever told in my life! It `s just never happened before! "

Naylor was born in nearby Wasdale Head, close to Wasdale Head Inn, home of the original "Biggest liar". It was here, in the nineteenth century, that a popular pub landlord, Will Ritson, used to entertain people by making up tales and local legends. He claimed to have bread a foxhound with a golden eagle so that the resulting winged dog could fly over stonewalls more easily. Another one of his famous "lies" was that the local turnips were big enough to use as sheep sheds.

The local council set up the competition, originally held at the Wasdale Head Inn in the 1970s, but its corporate sponsors moved it at the Bridge Inn, Santon Bridge, some years later.

The rules for the competition are simple: each competitor has between two and five minutes to tell an untrue tale. No props are permitted. A panel of judges assesses the story for imagination, believability, language delivery and audience response. Politicians and lawyers – two professions famous for stretching the truth are not allowed to enter the competition.

So what does it take to make a good story: is it a question of a good writing or a good delivery?

Mike Naylor: "I think it is a question of both. I mean you've got to have a story which keeps them interested for five minutes and throw a little bit of humour in a few one-liners and stuff like that. I told them quite a believable story really. I think you `ve got to make it, you know, the best lie but the most believable, if you like. "

I. Answer the questions about the story.

1. Where is the World's Biggest Liar competition held?

2. When is it held?

3. Who is the last year's winner?

4. Why are the politicians not allowed to enter?

5. Which other professional category is excluded?

(10 points) / _____

II. Multiple choices. Choose the correct answers:

1. The World's Biggest Liar competition is becoming increasingly popular because:

- a) There is a great prize offered
- b) The stories are often absolutely hilarious
- c) We all tell lies on occasion and we all enjoy stories

2. The competition current venue was chosen by:

- a) Will Ritson
- b) The corporate sponsors of the event
- c) The local council

3. The winner:

- a) Has never told lies
- b) Tells lies all the time.
- c) Told his first lie at the competition.

4. According to the winner, the best lies are:

- a) Ridiculous, but make the audience laugh.
- b) Credible, amusing and contain more than an element of truth.
- c) Funny and imaginative but totally unbelievable.

(4 points) / _____

III. Read the sentences carefully. Write “True” or “False” next to the sentences.

1. We are taught the consequences of lying. _____
2. The competition is held annually. _____
3. It was set up in 1960s. _____
4. It was moved from Wasdale Head Inn to Bridge Inn by the local authority.

5. The competition is not very popular. _____
6. No prompts are permitted. _____
7. Each competitor has ten minutes to tell the story. _____
8. The audiences access the story for imagination. _____

(8 points) / _____

IV. Find the words and expressions in the text that mean the following:

1. Evaluates _____
2. Is important _____
3. Uncomfortable _____
4. Skill _____
5. Inventing _____
6. Short funny remarks _____
7. Amuse _____
8. Audience reaction _____

(8 points) / _____

Total 30 points/ _____

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Part II: Use of English
(time limit 60 minutes)

Student's CODE _____

I. Present Simple or Continuous

Complete the sentences using present simple or present continuous.

1. Why (1 you walk) _____ so fast today? You usually (2 walk) _____ quite slowly.
I (3 be) _____ in a hurry because I (4 meet) _____ my mother in law at 4 o` clock and she (5 not like) _____ to be kept waiting.
2. He usually (6 speak) _____ so quickly that I (7 not understand) _____ him.
3. My wife hopes that Jack (8 not come) _____ to the party because he always (9 get) _____ drunk.
4. "Have a cigarette!" "No, thanks I (10 not smoke) _____".

(10 points /one for each answer) / _____

II. Present Perfect or Past Simple. Are the underlined parts of the sentences right or wrong? Correct the incorrect part of the sentence if necessary or write "OK".

1. Do you know about Sue? She's given up her job. OK
2. My mother has grown up in Scotland. _____
3. How many plays has Shakespeare written? _____
4. Oh! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding. _____
5. Drugs have become a big problem everywhere. _____
6. Where have you been born? _____

(5 points /one for each answer) / _____

III. Write a, an, or the in the correct places. If nothing is needed write “/ “. One example has been given.

Shelley's a visitor from (1) _____ United States. She's in London visiting (2) _____ number of famous places. Shelley's (3) _____ architect so she enjoys looking at (4) _____ modern buildings. She knows she'll walk (5) _____ few miles today, so she's wearing (6) _____ good pair of (7) _____ comfortable shoes. She has (8) _____ old map with her. (9) _____ map's not very good, but Shelley says it is (10) _____ best one she's found.

(10 points /one for each answer) / _____

IV. Complete the text by putting the verbs into Past Simple or Past Continuous:

This morning I (1 walk) _____ to work. I (2 not want) _____ to go by bus because the sun (shine) _____. While I (4 walk) _____ pass the supermarket. I (5 see) _____ something strange. A man (6 pass) _____ me and he (7 sing) _____ a song loudly. He (8 continue) _____ for a few minutes. Then he (9 meet) _____ a friend and he (10 stop) _____.

(10 points /one for each answer) / _____

V. Write the first conditional sentences by joining the two sentences.

1. I wake up early tomorrow. I go to the gym.

2. You can't go to the concert tonight. You don't buy a ticket.

3. Sue gets a job. She moves to Paris.

4. We'll win tomorrow's match. We'll have a party.

5. I go to Greece. I learn Greek.

(5 points /one for each answer) / _____

VI. Use passive transformation in the following sentences.

1. People don't use this road very much.

2. We heard the Queen's speech on the radio.

3. Someone offered me a better job.

4. The catering service didn't prepare salmon sandwiches.

5. Did they give you enough sugar?

(10 points /two for each answer) / _____

VII. Complete the sentences with the correct preposition or particle.

1. Oh, dear. I'm afraid _____ dogs.

2. What are you doing _____ Christmas day?

3. I hate waiting _____ the bus for hours.

4. See you _____ three weeks time.

5. Please be quiet. We `re listening _____ the news.

(5 points /one for each answer) / _____

VIII. Complete the sentences. Use a comparative or superlative.

1. Our hotel was _____ than all the others in the town. (cheap)

2. What's _____ way of getting from here to the station? (quick)

3. I must admit that it was one of _____ holidays we've ever had.
(enjoyable)

4. I wasn't felling well yesterday, but today I am a bit _____.
(good)

5. That's _____ joke he`s ever told. (funny)

(5 points /one for each answer) / _____

IX. Write questions for the underlined words.

1. It takes four hours to get there.

2. The bridge is built of reinforced concrete.

3. My uncle is coming at the end of the week

4. The burglar escaped by climbing the house wall.

5. The maid `s broken another of the best plates.

(5 points /one for each answer) / _____

X. Paraphrase the following sentences keeping the original meaning.

1. I don't find sport interesting.

I am not _____

2. It is easier to swim in the sea than in the river.

Swimming _____

3. Describe your brother.

What _____

4. There are no clouds in the sky, so it will probably be sunny tomorrow.

It _____

5. The last time I went to the theatre was three months ago.

I haven't _____

(5 points /one for each answer) / _____

Total 70 points/ _____

Examiner _____

**Reading comprehension:
Key:**

I. Answer the questions:

1. World's Biggest Liar competition is held in Santon Bridge, a small village in Cambria, England./ It is held in Santon Bridge (a small village in Cumbria, England)
2. The competition is held each November./ It is held in November.
3. Politicians cannot enter the competition because they have the reputation for "stretching the truth"/ They are not allowed to enter the competition because they are famous for "stretching the truth".
4. Lawyers are excluded (for the same reason)

* All the grammatically correct answers that contain the information required by the question will be accepted.

II. Multiple choices:

1.	C
2.	B
3.	C
4.	B

III. Write T or F next to the sentences.

1. True; 2. True ; 3. False ; 4. False; 5. False; 6. True; 7. False; 8. False;

IV. Find the words and expressions in the text that mean the following:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Evaluates | <u>Assesses</u> |
| 2. Is important | <u>Matters</u> |
| 3. Uncomfortable | <u>Awkward</u> |
| 4. Skill | <u>Talented</u> |
| 5. Inventing | <u>Making up</u> |
| 6. Funny remarks | <u>One-liners</u> |
| 7. Amuse | <u>Entertain</u> |
| 8. Audience reaction | <u>(Audience) response</u> |

KEY PART 2:

I. Present Simple or Continuous

Complete the sentences using present simple or present continuous.

- (1) Why are you walking / (2) walk / (3) I'm (I am) (4) I`m meeting/ (5) she doesn't like/ (6) speaks / (7) don't understand / (8) isn't coming (9) gets (10) don't smoke.

II. Present Perfect or Past Simple. Are the underlined parts of the sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary or write, "OK".

7. Do you know about Sue? She's given up her job. OK
8. My mother has grown up in Scotland. grew up
9. How many plays has Shakespeare written? Did Shakespeare write
10. Oh! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding. OK
11. Drugs have become a big problem everywhere. OK
12. Where have you been born? were you born

III. Write a, an, or the in the correct places. If nothing is needed write "/".

- (1) the / (2) a / (3) an (4) / (5) a (6) a (7) / (8) an / (9) The / (10) the.

IV. Complete the text by putting the verbs into Past Simple or Past

Continuous:

- (1) walked / (2) didn't want / (3) was shining/ (4) was walking / (5) saw
(6) passed (7) was singing/ (8) continued (9) met (10) stopped

V. Write the first conditional sentences by joining the two sentences.

1. If I wake up early tomorrow, I will go to the gym.
2. You can't go to the concert tonight if you don't buy a ticket.
3. If Sue gets a job, she will move to Paris./ Sue will get a job if she moves to Paris.
4. If we win tomorrow's match, we will have a party.
5. If I go to Greece, I will learn Greek.

VI. Use passive transformation in the following sentences.

1. This road is not (isn't) used very much.
2. The Queen's speech was heard on the radio.
3. I was offered a better job.
4. Salmon sandwiches were not prepared by the catering service.
5. Were you given enough sugar?

VII. Complete the sentences with the correct preposition or particle.

1. Of/
2. On/
3. For/
4. In/
5. To.

VIII. Complete the sentences. Use a comparative or superlative.

1. cheaper/
2. the quickest /
3. the most enjoyable
4. better
5. the funniest

IX. Write questions for the underlined words.

1. How long does it take to get there?
2. What is the bridge built of?
3. When is your uncle coming?
4. How did the burglar escape?
5. What has the maid broken?

X. Paraphrase the following sentences keeping the original meaning.

1. I am not interested in sports.
2. Swimming in the sea is easier than swimming in the river.
3. What is your brother like?/What does your brother look like?
4. It is going to be sunny tomorrow.
5. I haven't been to the theatre for three months.