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5 MODULE 2: Communication
Writing

Key words
industrial design, mechanism, reliable, socket

Reading

1 Read the article about the history of ballpoint pens and answer these questions.



a When were the first biros produced?
1943

b How much did the first American ballpoint pens cost?
ten dollars

c In which country were Bic pens first produced?
France

d How does a ballpoint pen work?
As the pen moves the ball revolves in its socket and transfers quick-drying ink on to the paper.

Ballpoint pens: a short history

In the early 1940s, a Hungarian journalist called Laszlo Biro visited a newspaper office. He watched the production process and was amazed at how quickly the printing ink dried on the paper. It was then that Biro decided to design a pen which used quick-drying ink instead of the normal ink which traditional fountain pens used and which took a long time to dry.

In 1943, Laszlo and his brother, who was a chemist, produced the first 'biros'. The pens became an instant success – mainly because the ink dried quickly and they were stronger than normal ink pens, but also because they worked in planes at high altitude. The pens were so effective that they were adopted by the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom, whose crews found them far more reliable during flights than older fountain pens.

Two years later, an American company produced similar pens, but because of the technology involved, these first ballpoint pens were very expensive, at $10 each.

In 1949, Marcel Bich, who had previously purchased the patent to the Biro pen, produced the first cheap ballpoint pens in France. These 'Bic' pens eventually sold on the American market for only 10 cents each. The Bic company has been successfully making ballpoint pens ever since. So successful was Bich's product that the Bic pen has become a recognised icon of modern industrial design, even appearing in museums and galleries as an object of cultural significance.

The most important part of a ballpoint pen is the ball. As it moves across a piece of paper, the ball revolves in its socket and transfers quick-drying ink onto the paper. This mechanism is very important. If the ball is too tight in the socket, the ball will not move. If it is too loose, the ink will dry up. Ballpoint pens can write in many different situations, but they cannot write upside down, because the ink needs gravity to move down on the ball.

Although the successful design of the ballpoint is generally attributed to Laszlo Biro, many other attempts were made in the years preceding Biro's design. It has even been argued that Galileo Galilei produced a design for the ballpoint pen in the 17th century.

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2 Read the article again. Are these statements True (T) or False (F)? Justify your answers.

a Laszlo Biro was a journalist. True

b 'Normal' pens were more durable than biros. False
- Biros were stronger than 'normal' pens.

c The first American ballpoint pens were not cost prohibitive. False
- The first American ballpoint pens were very expensive.

d Americans could purchase Bic pens for one tenth of the cost of the first American ballpoint pens. False
- Americans could buy Bic pens for one hundredth of the cost of the first American ballpoint pens.

e The Bic company has ceased production of these inexpensive pens. False
- The Bic company still produces these cheap pens.

f In a ballpoint pen, ink is conveyed to the paper by the rotation of the ball. True

3 Choose the correct answer to these questions.

a Who produced the first ballpoint pen?
1 Marcel Bich
2 Galileo Galilei
3 Laszlo Biro
4 The Royal Air Force

b Why was the first ballpoint pen produced?
1 As a faster and more durable alternative to fountain pens
2 To make lots of money
3 To showcase new technology
4 To help pilots flying at high altitude

c Ballpoint pens are useful because they...
1 are iconic examples of industrial design.
2 can write everywhere.
3 were invented by Galileo Galilei.
4 use rapidly drying ink and can write in most situations.

4 Match words a–j from the article with their meanings. The paragraph number is in brackets. Then, write ten sentences of your own using the words below.

a altitude (2) 7
b amazed (1) 10
c eventually (4) 4
d instant (2) 1
e loose (5) 8
f process (1) 3
g revolve (5) 5
h socket (5) 6
i tight (5) 2
j transfer (5) 9

1 immediate
2 unable to move
3 method / system
4 in the end
5 go round
6 hole where ball revolves
7 height above the ground
8 moving too freely
9 move from one place to another
10 very surprised

Over to you

5 Discuss and explain the meaning of this quote in your notebooks.

"The pen is the tongue of the mind." – Miguel de Cervantes

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Language practice

1 Complete the short paragraph below using words from the box.

calligraphy	ancient	ink
alphabet	tortoise shells	brush
symbols	characters	scribes
traditionally	decorative	stylised

Chinese writing is made up of letters called (1) characters. These letters combined to create the Chinese (2) alphabet. Originally, (3) scribes and other educated people would record important information on (4) tortoise shells. This (5) ancient system of Chinese writing has changed little over the centuries, and many of the old (6) symbols are similar to those used today. (7) Traditionally the Chinese wrote with (8) ink and a (9) brush and these are still used today. (10) calligraphy the process of producing (11) decorative art from the letters of an alphabet, is an extremely important practice in China, and because of this Chinese is often regarded as a (12) stylised system of writing.

2 Correct the tenses in bold so that the sentences make sense.

a I **have made cakes** all day and I'm still not finished.
have been making cakes

b John **will avoid work** this week and is now feeling the consequences.
has been avoiding

c I **have learned to play** the violin since an early age, but I still struggle with difficult pieces.
have been learning to play

d I **have been practising** all last night so I could go out today.
practised / was practising

e I **have been reading** my notes several times, but I'm worried I have forgotten everything already.
have read

Grammar assistant

Present Perfect

- Use the present perfect to talk about actions and situations that started in the past and continue up to the present.
- Use ***for*** with a period of time or time expressions.
  *He has lived in Paris **for** fourteen years.*
- Use ***since*** with a specific date or time expression.
  *I've played the piano **since** I was a child / **since** 1989.*
- Use the present perfect continuous to talk about actions that were in progress at a time in the past, and are continuing in the present or have just recently finished.
  Why are you crying?
  ***I've (just) been watching** a drama.*
  ***I've been looking** after my younger brother all afternoon.*

3 Complete these sentences with *for* or *since*.

a We've lived in this flat since 2002.

b I've been reading this novel for nearly three weeks.

c My father has worked for the same company for nearly twenty years.

d We've been waiting here since 7 o'clock this morning.

e He's been able to swim since he was three years old.

f The children have been playing on the beach for half an hour.

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4 Choose the best form of the verb, either the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous, in conversations a–d.

a
A ***Have you had / Have you been having*** a busy morning?
B Not really, ***I've talked / I've been talking*** to my friends on the phone.
A ***Have you done / Have you been doing*** your homework yet?
B No, ***I've sent / I've been sending*** a few e-mails, and I've ***tidied / been tidying*** my room.

b
A What's wrong with your hand?
B ***I've cut / I've been cutting*** my finger. The knife slipped while I was peeling an apple.
A ***I've told / I've been telling*** you before to be more careful with knives.

c
A What ***have you done / have you been doing*** at school all afternoon?
B ***We've had / We've been having*** exams in English and history.
A How well do you think ***you've done / you've been doing***?
B I should do quite well. ***I've revised / I've been revising*** all week.

d
A Why is your brother looking so happy?
B ***He's just heard / He's just been hearing*** that ***he's passed / he's been passing*** his driving test.
A Was it the first time?
B No, ***he's taken / he's been taking*** it three times already.

5 Match the start of these statements about a sportsperson's experiences with the correct endings. There are more endings than you require.

a I started ..5..
b After a few years ..1..
c Sometimes I won ..8..
d It's only recently ..3..
e I can still remember 4
f My coach was ..7..
g These days ..6..

1 I began to take part in competitions.
2 I would like to become a successful archery coach.
3 that I really started to excel at my sport.
4 the first major competition I won.
5 doing archery at an early age.
6 I am a professional archer and an hoping to qualify for the next Olympics.
7 very proud of me.
8 but more often I lost.
9 I wish I'd become a bowler.

6 Write appropriate beginnings to these sentences so that they are true for you.

a ---------- since I was seven years old.
b ---------- for 3 years.
c ---------- since last week.
d ---------- for 6 hours.

7 Choose the correct words in these sentences.

a When he became ***an amateur / a professional*** footballer, he gave up his job at the bank.
b It's ***practical / impractical*** for me to go to work on foot. It would take three hours.
c The questions in the maths exam were so ***complicated / simple*** that I couldn't even understand them.
d Gold and silver are ***precious / worthless*** metals.
e Air travel is ***an ancient / a modern*** form of transport.

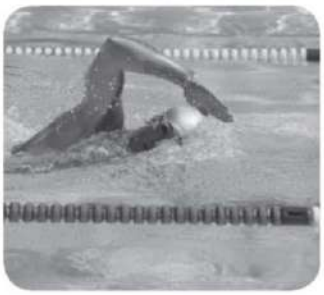
Self-assessment

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Writing Interview questions

1 Read interview questions Q1–Q10, then find the appropriate answer for each question in the list A–J below.



Questions

Q1 Can I start by asking you when you started swimming? J
Q2 When did you take part in your first serious race? H
Q3 Do you remember the outcome? J
Q4 Could you tell me about the first race you took part in as a professional? B
Q5 Can you remember how you felt? A
Q6 Have you ever had an accident in one of the competitions? D
Q7 And how long did you desist from swimming? G
Q8 Did you enjoy this long break? F
Q9 What do you like most about being a swimmer? C
Q10 And finally, can I ask you about your plans for the future? E

Answers

A Yes, excited and at the same time terrified.
B Yes, it was a competition in a nearby town. I came second in the end.
C I love the game itself – and it's a good way to keep fit.
D Actually, yes. It was two years ago. I accidentally broke my leg diving during the warm-up. It was a big disappointment for me.
E Well, I hope to go on swimming for as long as possible. After that I'd like to be a sports journalist, or maybe a swimming coach.
F Not really! It was hard for me to wake up every morning, hoping to carry on swimming and knowing that I couldn't do that. However, I kept going to all my team-mates' races to show my support.
G I had to stop practising for exactly a month.
H When I was about eight. I was still at primary school, but I took it very seriously.
I I can't remember exactly, but my father says he remembers taking me to the pool when I was two years old.
J Yes. My team lost overall, but I came first.

2 Read the interview questions again.

a- Can I/ When did you/ Do you/ Could you/ Can you/ What do you / Have you ever / How long / Did you

a How many different question beginnings does the interviewer use? _____

b How does the interviewer begin his first and last questions? Can I start by asking you / And finally, can I ask you about

c What does the interviewer ask about in:

- Q1–8? the past
- Q9? the present
- Q10? the future

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3 Imagine that you are a sports reporter. Write an interview with your favourite athlete. Imagine the questions you would ask and his/her replies. Write about 170-200 words. You may use the questions on page 36 to help you.

Q1 .....

A .....

Q2 .....

A .....

Q3 .....

A .....

Q4 .....

A .....

Q5 .....

A .....

Q6 .....

A .....

Q7 .....

A .....

Q8 .....

A .....

Q9 .....

A .....

Q10 .....

A .....

Q11 .....

A .....

Q12 .....

A .....

Q13 .....

A .....

Q14 .....

A .....

Q15 .....

A .....

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