

## 3 Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation

B

American  
ENGLISH FILE 3

## GRAMMAR

1 Complete the email with *a, an, the*, or – (no article).

Hi Susan,

We're having a great time here in Florence. I think  
 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Italian cities are all beautiful, but I can't  
 believe what 2 \_\_\_\_\_ lovely city Florence is!

We got here yesterday afternoon so we had time to find  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ lovely hotel and relax after 4 \_\_\_\_\_ trip.  
 5 \_\_\_\_\_ hotel isn't far from 6 \_\_\_\_\_ city center, but it's  
 very quiet.

We got up early because 7 \_\_\_\_\_ sun was shining in  
 through our window. We had 8 \_\_\_\_\_ very nice breakfast  
 (fantastic coffee!) and looked around 9 \_\_\_\_\_ city.

Later, Claire's friend Marco is taking us to 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
 best pizzeria in Florence! He's 11 \_\_\_\_\_ art student at  
 a college here.

We'll get back home 12 \_\_\_\_\_ next Sunday. See you  
 soon!

Love,  
 Gillian

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## 2 Write the comparative or superlative form.

Example: The people in Ireland are some of  
the friendliest (friendly) in the world.

- This car is \_\_\_\_\_ (economical) than my last one.
- That was probably \_\_\_\_\_ (bad) meal I've ever eaten!
- The subway in Beijing is \_\_\_\_\_ (modern) one I've ever seen.
- I think she looks much \_\_\_\_\_ (good) with longer hair!
- Are trains in your country \_\_\_\_\_ (expensive) as they are here?
- What's \_\_\_\_\_ (quick) way to get to the city center?
- Jill speaks \_\_\_\_\_ (slowly) than I do, so she's easier to understand.
- My new bedroom is \_\_\_\_\_ (tiny) as my old one, unfortunately.

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Grammar total 20

## VOCABULARY

## 3 Complete the phrasal verbs in the sentences.

Example: Watch **out** for speed cameras on this road  
 – you don't want to get caught.

- You need to slow **d** \_\_\_\_\_! The speed limit here is 30.
- I didn't have my GPS with me and I **e** \_\_\_\_\_ up in the wrong part of the city.
- You should **s** \_\_\_\_\_ off for the station at 9:00 if your train is at 9:45.
- If you need a ride back, I could **p** \_\_\_\_\_ you up here at about 8:00.
- You'll **r** \_\_\_\_\_ out of gas soon. There isn't much left.

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## 4 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

Example: Are you listening to me?

- This café reminds me \_\_\_\_\_ the one we went to in Washington, DC.
- Paula is arriving \_\_\_\_\_ Barcelona on Friday night.
- Try not to laugh \_\_\_\_\_ me when I speak Spanish – my accent is terrible!
- She used to be married \_\_\_\_\_ my oldest brother.
- It can take a long time to get to the station – it depends \_\_\_\_\_ the traffic.
- I don't think I'm really afraid \_\_\_\_\_ anything.
- My husband is fed up \_\_\_\_\_ his long trip to work.

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## 5 Complete the compound nouns in the sentences.

Example: Watch out for the speed camera when you drive out of town.

- 1 It's dangerous when drivers go through a red traffic \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 This taxi \_\_\_\_\_ always has a long line when a train arrives from Boston.
- 3 We only like riding our bikes in towns with bike \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 I try to drive to work after \_\_\_\_\_ hour because there's less traffic then.
- 5 In many city centers in the U.S., the speed \_\_\_\_\_ is now 20 mph.
- 6 Do you know where the nearest gas \_\_\_\_\_ is?
- 7 Not all drivers wore seat \_\_\_\_\_ in the past.
- 8 The \_\_\_\_\_ transportation in this city is good, but it's very expensive.

8

Vocabulary total 20

## PRONUNCIATION

## 6 Underline the stressed syllable.

Example: scoo|ter

- 1 ca|rriage
- 2 a|fraid
- 3 pe|de|stri|an
- 4 high|way
- 5 un|der|ground

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## 7 Match the words with the same sound.

lane coach bridge  
seat ~~limit~~ rush

Example: fish limit

- 1 jazz \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 train \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 tree \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 shower \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 chess \_\_\_\_\_

5

Pronunciation total 10

Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation total 50

3 Reading and Writing **B**

## READING

1 Read the article and check (✓) A, B, or C.

**A radical transport system**

As one of the world's fastest growing economies, there has been a huge increase in China's urban population. With so many more people also able to afford cars, China's cities now have some of the biggest traffic congestion problems and produce more pollution than any other country in the world.

But one Chinese engineer, Youzhou Song, has designed an exciting solution: the *straddling bus* (a bus which goes across and above part of the road, like a moving bridge). This bus, which looks like a train, holds passengers on the top level while cars can continue to drive beneath. The bus, traveling at about 25 miles an hour, will not move as fast as a car, but it will never have the problems of traffic jams. It is as wide as two lanes of the road, but it won't slow down the traffic. It can carry 1,200 passengers, and replace up to 40 conventional buses, saving 860 tons of fuel and 2,640 tons of carbon emissions per year. As it also runs on a combination of electricity and solar power, it offers a much greener, cleaner, quieter and more economical form of transport. It is also three times faster and ten times cheaper to build than the same length of underground railway. Designed with a huge window in the top of the bus, it is also a lighter and more cheerful way to travel!

Youzhou Song has thought of everything. The bus will follow fixed routes and passengers will board the bus from stations above the ground. These stations will also recharge the bus with electricity. If you're worried about the bus crashing into other vehicles, don't be. A system of lights and alarms will stop this from happening. Youzhou Song has even designed escape doors which open on the side in an emergency, just like on an airplane.

If tests on the new technology go well, Song's company is talking about building over 100 miles of bus route. Los Angeles is also interested in this idea for solving traffic problems and, who knows? We may all be looking forward to a new era of elevated bus travel!

Example China's economy has grown \_\_\_\_.

- A very slowly ☐ B very fast ☒  
C faster than any other country ☐

- 1 The traffic has gotten \_\_\_\_ in China in recent years.  
A worse ☐ B better ☐ C faster ☐  
2 There are plans to build a new \_\_\_\_ to resolve the traffic problems.  
A train ☐ B bridge ☐ C bus ☐

3 Cars and buses will be able to use the same road but \_\_\_\_.

- A on different levels ☐ B at different times ☐  
C at slower speeds ☐

4 Song's design will use \_\_\_\_.

- A 860 tons of fuel ☐  
B electricity and solar power ☐  
C only electricity ☐

5 The other forms of public transportation in China are not as \_\_\_\_ as the straddling bus.

- A expensive ☐ B noisy ☐ C green ☐

6 It can be built \_\_\_\_ times faster than the underground railway.

- A four ☐ B ten ☐ C three ☐

7 Escape doors will make the bus \_\_\_\_.

- A safer ☐ B taller ☐ C more dangerous ☐

8 The company wants to build \_\_\_\_ miles of bus route.

- A 40 ☐ B almost 100 ☐  
C more than 100 ☐

8

2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

Example: Many more people live in cities in China than in the past. T

- 1 Two engineers have designed the new bus. \_\_\_\_  
2 The new bus will carry 1,200 people. \_\_\_\_  
3 It will be as wide as two roads. \_\_\_\_  
4 It costs three times more to build an underground railway. \_\_\_\_  
5 The new bus won't have as much light as conventional buses. \_\_\_\_  
6 Lights and alarms will stop crashes. \_\_\_\_  
7 Only Chinese cities are interested in this new bus system. \_\_\_\_

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Reading total

15

**3 Reading and Writing** **B****WRITING**

A foreign exchange student is coming to stay. Write an email to welcome him / her and send some information about where you live. (140–180 words)

Begin the email with this introduction:

I'm really looking forward to seeing you. Let me tell you about my town.

- How big is it?
- What is interesting about it?
- What do you like best about it?
- What is the transportation system like?

Writing total	10
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Reading and Writing total	25
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3 Listening and Speaking **B**

## LISTENING

1 Listen to an interview and complete the sentences. You may need to change the form of some of the words you hear.

- 1 The media gives the impression that young people work \_\_\_\_\_ than their parents.
- 2 Megan thinks young people do things in a \_\_\_\_\_ way from their parents.
- 3 She says that there aren't as many \_\_\_\_\_ for younger people as before.
- 4 She thinks young people now have \_\_\_\_\_ self-confidence.
- 5 The presenter says older people have always \_\_\_\_\_ about younger people.

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2 Listen to five conversations. Check (✓) A, B, or C.

- 1 What is the simplest way to get to Silicon Valley from the airport?  
A The bus. ☐ B A bus, then a train. ☐  
C Two trains. ☐
- 2 How will Zoe get to Mike's house from the station?  
A By bus. ☐ B By taxi. ☐ C By car. ☐
- 3 Why did Carol's trip take so long?  
A They set off late. ☐  
B The traffic was terrible. ☐  
C She ran out of gas. ☐
- 4 Which form of transportation are some people more frightened of?  
A Traveling by train. ☐ B Traveling by bus. ☐  
C Traveling by car. ☐
- 5 What does Tess say about Copenhagen?  
A It's amazing. ☐ B It's very surprising. ☐  
C It's very relaxed. ☐

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Listening total	10
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## SPEAKING

1 Answer your partner's questions.

Now make questions and ask your partner.

- 1 prefer / get up early / go to bed late? Why?
- 2 What / most relaxing way / travel? Why?
- 3 Who / get along best with / in your family? Why?
- 4 any / activities / afraid of?
- 5 What music / most fond of?

2 Listen to your partner talking about public transportation. Do you agree with him / her?

3 Talk about the statement below, saying if you agree or disagree. Give reasons.

"Men are better at multitasking than women."

Speaking total	15
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Listening and Speaking total	25
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