

# SMART Skills

Cambridge B1 Preliminary & for Schools

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2020  
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## Self-Study Guide



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING BOOKS

Andrew Betsis Maria Windsor Linda Lethem

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Andrew Betsis, Linda Lethem, Maria Windsor

**Contributors:** Lawrence Mamas, Marianna Georgopoulou

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# Model Answers

## for all the Writing & Speaking Tasks

### UNIT 1

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WRITING

Exercise F

To: susie\_21@email.co.uk  
 From: john\_birch@mail.com  
 Subject: Holiday Booking

Dear Susie,  
 Thank you for your email regarding my holiday booking. Unfortunately, since we last spoke, my situation has changed. Due to family illness, I will have to put off my holiday until after the summer. By then, I hope the situation will have improved. I'm sorry not to be able to book a holiday at the moment. However, I really appreciate the time you spent looking up information and helping me. I hope to use your company again in the future.

Kind regards,  
 John Birch

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SPEAKING Part 1

1. I particularly like walking and adventure holidays, as I love sport and nature. I'm not someone who likes expensive hotels and staying in comfortable accommodation. For me, what's important is to have fun and to be active outdoors. I think that these types of holiday are a lot healthier and interesting than the beach or cruise holidays that many people choose.

2. I really hate travelling by bus and train. You can't rely on either to get you where you want on time. The trains are usually delayed and the buses arrive late, too. Also, trains and buses are often dirty, with litter on the floor and drinks spilt on seats. The worst thing of all, though, is that both these forms of transport are frequently crowded and you can rarely find a seat to sit on when everyone is going to work or returning home.

3. Last summer I went backpacking with my best friend around Greece. I had a great time and have lots of really wonderful memories. The best thing about it, was meeting so many people on the way, who were doing the same as us. We were able to share experiences and make friends with people from different countries and cultures. Every day was different as we were always moving around, staying in new hostels and meeting new people. By the end, I felt really exhausted but I would definitely do it again!

4. A few years ago I was returning from holiday in Spain with my parents. We had all gone to the airport two hours before our flight, but as soon as we got there we were told our flight was delayed. Although I didn't have to deal with the problem myself, as I was very young at the time, I remember getting very bored and crying a lot. I'll never forget how patient my parents were and how they tried to entertain me by playing games and telling me stories. It was good that they did, as our flight was delayed by eight hours, in the end!

5. Until last year, I always went on holiday with my parents. Now that I'm older, I always go on holiday with my best friend. We have so much in common that we hardly ever disagree about where to go and what to do. He loves being outdoors and doing water sports, like me and likes to try new things, so it's great fun going on holiday with him.

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About yourself

1. As I mentioned earlier, I love being outdoors, so yes, I love camping. It's a great way to be close to nature and to feel really free. Also, unless you go to a campsite, you don't have to pay for accommodation. This is a great advantage when, like me, you're young and you don't have much money to spend.

2. I think that camping is safe if you go with a friend or group of friends. I wouldn't recommend camping alone in the countryside. It's unlikely that anyone would attack you, but it's always better to be safe than sorry! Also, it's a good idea to have company as you might get ill or have an accident, and have no one to help you or any transport to take you to a hospital or doctor.

3. Without a doubt, it's on my grandfather's farm! He has a huge farm with lots of wide, open fields surrounded by beautiful scenery. What makes it such a great place to go camping, is that there is a forest, with a river running through it. I can put my tent up by the river and listen to the birds and the sounds of nature. Sometimes I even swim in the river, but it's usually freezing! What I like best, though, is that if the weather's really bad, I can always stay overnight indoors, in my grandfather's house on the farm.

SPEAKING Part 2

A. Going on holiday

Candidate A

I can see a group of young people and two older people with them who might possibly be group leaders. The younger people, apart from one girl who is on her knees, are all sitting on the ground outside. A couple are sitting on a large, colourful blanket and the nearest girl, with her back to the camera, is sitting on what looks like a light green jumper. Apart from this girl, everyone is looking at the camera. Most of them look happy and are smiling and one girl is waving a milk bottle in the air while one boy has his thumb up. They are all dressed in casual summer clothes. Some of the girls are not wearing anything on their shoulders and some of the group aren't wearing shoes, so it must be quite warm. Because there is a large metal pan on the ground as well as plates and mugs, the group is probably having a picnic. It looks like the group are somewhere in the countryside. Most of the group are sitting on grass and in the background, the grass is quite long and there are some trees, so they could be in a large field. It is difficult to say where they might be exactly, as we can only see grass and no buildings around. It is unlikely that they are on a farm, as they wouldn't get permission to have a picnic, so they must be in some public space, like a country park.

As most of the group are the same age, they might be in the same class at school and are on a school trip. Another possibility is that they belong to a society or club which does outdoor activity holidays. The young people in the photo may be learning how to cook outdoor meals over a campfire and about nature. They could also be learning other useful skills, like identifying wild plants that can be used for cooking and how to read maps. All of the people in the group look like they are enjoying themselves outside in the fresh air and seem happy that they are having a break from their daily routine.

B. Doing an outdoor activity

Candidate B

This group photo was taken at a water sports centre, because the group of women in the picture are wearing wetsuits and are surrounded by lots of sports equipment. Some of the women are quite young, but some are older and look middle-aged. They all seem to be having a good time, as they are smiling and appear relaxed. Two of the younger women in the centre of the photo are sharing a joke and are pointing in the air at something, with their heads turned away from the camera. All the women probably belong to a women's team or club for water sports, as they are all wearing the same type of wetsuit, with a pattern on the



front that looks like a blue wave. Maybe they have just taken part in a competition together, or they could be having a day out at the water sports centre and getting away from it all.

The photo was taken on a beach beside what looks like a large lake, but which must actually be the sea. There is a lot of sports equipment lying on the beach and you can see a couple of boats floating on the sea. On the opposite shore, there are quite a few houses and buildings, so there must be a large village or town nearby.

Although some of the women are wearing sunglasses, it appears to be quite cloudy. So maybe the photo was taken in spring or early autumn. It's difficult to tell though, as some countries have a very cold climate, so it may even have been taken on a cold summer's day. As the group don't appear to mind the weather they are probably used to it and they probably do water sports all year round.

## UNIT 2

### Page 29 WRITING

#### Is it too late to save our planet?

Scientists regularly warn us that we are one step away from environmental disaster. Rainforests and wildlife are fast disappearing and the Earth is becoming increasingly polluted.

Cars and factories create air pollution which affects our health and also leads to climate change. Then, because of global warming, many plants and wildlife die, as they cannot live in higher temperatures. In addition, food industries produce too much plastic which then pollutes the land and sea.

There are solutions, however. We must teach businesses as well as ordinary people, to respect the environment. Environmental Action Days could be organised to encourage people to recycle plastic and to use public transport rather than cars.

If we do all these things, then there is hope for our planet. But we must all do something now, before it is too late!

### Page 35 Speaking Part 4

1. I love cycling outside, especially during good weather. If I can, I go out into the countryside and cycle along quiet country roads. I enjoy feeling the breeze in my face and breathing fresh air. It's good to get away from the town and all the pollution there and to exercise at the same time. I prefer to cycle with friends, but I often go alone, too.

2. I think I would avoid any extreme sports, particularly ones that involve climbing. I'm really scared of heights, you see, as I'm afraid of falling. That's why I never go to the mountains. I prefer to spend my free time outdoors, either at the beach or in the countryside. I think you need to be very brave to do climbing as a sport and you have to complete a lot of training before you do it, of course!

3. I once went to North Africa with my parents and I was lucky enough to go on a trip to the desert. Obviously we didn't go exploring alone! We went on a tour and had a guide to show us many wonderful and exciting new places. The most unusual place we went to, on the tour, and which is definitely the most unusual place I have ever been to, was a location right in the middle of the desert. It was used for filming 'Star Wars' as the landscape is so wild and strange. Around the area there are many large rocks which have been made into houses that are like large caves. I took many photos of the location and still remember it very well today.

4. I think that if you do a more unusual sport, like climbing or water skiing, you need special equipment. It's often very expensive to do these sports, too, as not many people do them. However, if you do a more ordinary activity, like playing tennis, football or volleyball, then all you need really is a ball and maybe a net. Also there are a lot of activities that many people do, like swimming or running, that don't need any special sportswear or equipment. It really depends on what sport you want to do, whether you need to have special equipment or not.

## UNIT 3

### Page 43 EXERCISE D Writing

To: [jackie\\_17@email.com](mailto:jackie_17@email.com)  
From: [lily\\_22@coolmail.co.uk](mailto:lily_22@coolmail.co.uk)  
Subject: My First Day at School

Hi Jackie

Thanks for your email. I'm glad you enjoyed your first day at school.

Fortunately, my first day went really well, too. However, it felt a bit strange at first. You see, I was rather anxious, as I didn't know any of the children. Luckily, I soon made a few friends and Macie, the tallest girl in the class, is now my best friend. She's very funny and intelligent and we have lots in common.

My teacher is a bit older than the other teachers and he's quite strict as well as a bit old-fashioned. However, he's very nice and friendly, just like the other teachers.

My classroom is also quite large and bright, with big windows and high ceilings. The best thing about it is that it's on the top floor, so we have a wonderful view of the town and surrounding countryside.

So that's all I have to tell you for now. Do write back soon and tell me how you are getting on.

Love,  
Lily

### Page 48 SPEAKING Part 3

**Student 1:** I think the worst job for a student, would be to work part time in an office. Most students don't have office skills, for a start. It wouldn't be much fun, either. In my opinion, I think students could earn money more quickly and easily, by doing a cleaning job. For example, they could wash people's cars or help clean people's houses for money.

**Student 2:** I agree with you. When you are a student, you don't usually have any job experience or skills, so cleaning is a perfect job for some people. But you must remember that students don't normally like cleaning - they don't even tidy up their own rooms!

**Student 1:** Well, what about working as a waiter or waitress? I think that sort of job would suit more students. You can choose the hours you want to work, which is great when you are studying. Also don't forget that you can get tips for good service, so you can earn a lot more than your usual wage.

**Student 2:** I don't think that job would suit me, though! I'm very careless and often break things, like plates and mugs!

**Student 1:** Well, of course it wouldn't suit everybody. There are lots of other jobs you and other students could do though. For example, many students don't mind working as babysitters. If you like children, this is an easy job. All you have to do is sit with the children, play with them a bit and, when they're in bed, you can watch TV or study.

**Student 2:** It's quite a responsible job though, looking after someone else's children. I don't think everyone would want to do

that job, either. All the jobs we've talked about so far are indoors. Many students like to be outdoors, especially when the weather's good. I think a job like dog walking or even gardening are better ideas.

**Student 1:** Those jobs sound fun to me! Far more interesting than the other ones we've talked about so far.

**Student 2:** I agree. The best thing about those jobs too, is that you get some exercise as well, while earning money.

**Student 1:** As far as I'm concerned, I would only do those jobs, too. I think when you're young you need a job that's fun. When you're older you have the rest of your life to do a serious job that earns a lot of money. But maybe dog walking is more fun than gardening, as looking after someone's garden and digging or tidying up a flower bed can be quite hard work.

**Student 2:** Yes, that's true. Then I suppose dog walking is the best idea after all.

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#### Exercise E

**1. All children should have a weekend job by the time they are sixteen.**

I'm not sure about that. Many children are still studying at that age and should be enjoying any free time they have, rather than working to earn money.

**2. It is better to work in the fresh air than indoors.**

I completely agree with what you just said. You are less stressed and you get more exercise, too, when you're not stuck indoors working all day.

**3. Money is the most important part of having a job.**

I don't think that's quite true. While I believe money is essential to pay for basic things like food and rent, you also need a job that makes you feel good about yourself; otherwise, you will feel depressed and probably end up giving up your job.

**4. Working from home is the best work environment.**

I like the idea of working from home, but I don't think it works for everyone. To do this, you need to be able to concentrate on your work and not let things disturb you, like phone calls or friends calling around to visit.

**5. Women shouldn't go to work once they have children.**

I'm afraid I don't agree with that. If the children are old enough to go to school or to be looked after by a friend or grandparent, then women ought to go back to work and earn money.

**6. Men and women should get paid the same if they are doing the same job.**

I couldn't agree more. If women are employed to do the same job as men, then there's no reason why they shouldn't earn the same salary, as they are working just as hard as the men.

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#### Speaking Part 4

**Would you like to have a summer job?**

Although I need to study and I don't have much free time, even during holidays, I'd like to have a summer job. It's a good way of earning money and meeting new people at the same time.

**Do you think it's good for young people to work while they are still at school or college?**

It really depends on the student and the course they are doing. If they are in their final year of college or school and preparing for exams, then no, I don't think it's a good idea to work. However, if you have some time off and you don't have too much work to do for your course, then earning some extra money isn't a bad idea.

**Do you think children should earn any pocket money that their parents give them?**

Yes, I do. Children should learn the value of money from an early age and that they need to work to earn it. If they learn this when they're young, then they will be more responsible with money when they're older and understand the importance of having a job.

**Do you do anything to help your parents around the house?**

I do help with the housework and do some cleaning and tidying up when I have free time. However, I'm studying for exams at the moment, so I don't have much spare time, usually. To be honest, I much prefer to help in the garden, as I like to be out in the fresh air, rather than indoors, as I usually am, when I study or when I'm at school.

**Do you think young people should be offered work experience as part of their school studies?**

In my opinion, that's a very good idea. Work experience prepares young people for the workplace and they know better what to expect when they finally start work. On work experience you also learn social skills and how to work as a team with other employees. Having this experience also gives you more confidence at interviews when you begin to look for work.

## UNIT 4

#### Page 59

#### Writing Task

**An enemy who became a friend**

Since last year, Jennie and I have been the best of friends. However, that wasn't always the case.

From the moment Jennie first joined my class, I disliked her. I think the rest of the class felt the same, as no one got on with her. Apart from being extremely bossy, she could be rude too.

One day, she made me very upset. She interrupted me when I was speaking to a friend and acted as if I wasn't there. I got really angry with her and told her what I thought of her. Suddenly, she started crying, went red in the face and then ran off. Later, I found her sitting on the ground, hugging her knees. She apologised for the way she had behaved and explained that she was jealous of me, as I was popular. Suddenly I felt sorry for her and we began to talk. We realised that we actually had a lot in common.

From that day we have been good friends. I can't believe it when I think how we were a year ago.

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#### Exam Practice A Speaking Part 1

**1.** I like my best friend as she has all the qualities that I admire. She is honest and I can always depend on her for anything. In addition, she is easy to get on with and very relaxed and I feel as if I could tell her anything. Apart from everything else, we also have a lot in common, so I never get bored in her company.

**2.** I live in a two-bedroom apartment on the second floor of a block of flats. It is quite central and is only 10 minutes' walk from the town centre. The design of my apartment is quite modern, with large windows and high ceilings. In the lounge there is a nice, cosy red sofa and wooden tables and chairs. We don't have much furniture in this room as there isn't a lot of space, but we have lots of very large, colourful rugs on the floor and some paintings of landscapes and town scenes hanging on the walls. There is a lovely big balcony, too, at the back of our apartment where I sometimes sit when I want to have some fresh air, but not go outside into the street below.

**3.** I recently went on a trip to Amsterdam with my parents. It was only for 3 days, but we managed to do lots of different things in that time. I think I enjoyed the cruise along the canals, best. On the cruise we saw all the beautiful houses and bridges that Amsterdam is so famous for. We also saw many colourful boats floating on the canal that people live in. In the evenings we walked around the beautiful city squares which are full of lively cafes and bars. I bought lots of souvenirs to remind me of that trip and I hope one day to go back there and spend more time visiting the museums and taking more photos.