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2ND EDITION

WORKBOOK

**B2+**

Pre-Advanced

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## READING

**1** Find these words in the first and last paragraphs of the article. Then match the words with the definitions below (1–6). What do you think the article will be about?

**first para:** commercial indie sophisticated  
**last para:** admit begged officially

- 1 accept a new idea
- 2 something which is produced by a small, independent company
- 3 made an urgent and strong request for something
- 4 having good knowledge about socially important things such as art and culture
- 5 publicly or formally
- 6 something which is popular with most people in society

**2** Read the first and last paragraphs of the article quickly and answer the questions.

- 1 What was Josh excited about in the first paragraph?
- 2 Has his opinion changed by the end?

**3 e** Read the article and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- 1 In the first paragraph Josh emphasises
  - A how dull he believes modern film culture is.
  - B how suitable the film was for him.
  - C how hard it can be to find a good film.
  - D how keen he was to go out that night.
- 2 Josh felt it was worth making the journey to see the film because
  - A he wanted to improve his reputation.
  - B he believed the ticket price was value for money.
  - C he thought the bus was fairly convenient.
  - D he knew he could meet others there.
- 3 Josh ordered the coffee because he wanted to
  - A warm himself up.
  - B walk through a café.
  - C stay awake during the film.
  - D fit in with others around him.
- 4 What did Josh dislike most about the film?
  - A It was too depressing for his taste.
  - B It was spoilt by others in the audience.
  - C It was too poorly written to appeal to him.
  - D It was less interesting than the marketing suggested.
- 5 During this experience, Josh came to the conclusion that
  - A he liked particular film stars more than others.
  - B it was important to be more selective of indie films.
  - C he preferred films dubbed in his own language.
  - D it was pointless trying to influence how others perceive him.
- 6 How did Josh feel about his brief passion for indie movies?
  - A He was left feeling disappointed in the decisions he had taken.
  - B He felt relieved that he could still return to childhood comforts.
  - C He was distracted from real concerns about his future.
  - D He regretted spending time on the interest.

## Extend

**4** Match the words in bold in the sentences with the highlighted words in the article.

- 1 That was a **really bad** idea!
- 2 It took a long while but I **realised in the end**.
- 3 My parents regularly give me **some money to spend** on whatever I need.
- 4 **Surprisingly**, I was in the right place at the right time.
- 5 I watched **one** TV show **after the other**.
- 6 The **computer graphics** in this film were amazing!



# How I lost my passion for art films

It was a regular Thursday evening and I was surfing through the never-ending stream of animal photos, as all sixteen-year-olds do. Suddenly, an advert popped up on my screen. It was for a limited release indie art film. Everything about it said, 'I am for culturally educated people! Only smart people should even consider buying a ticket for me.' This was not for the commercial movie goer. Oh no, it was for people with a very sophisticated taste in films. It was as if the director and producers had asked themselves, 'What would Josh want in a film?' We were meant to find each other that day, and I had to get to it.

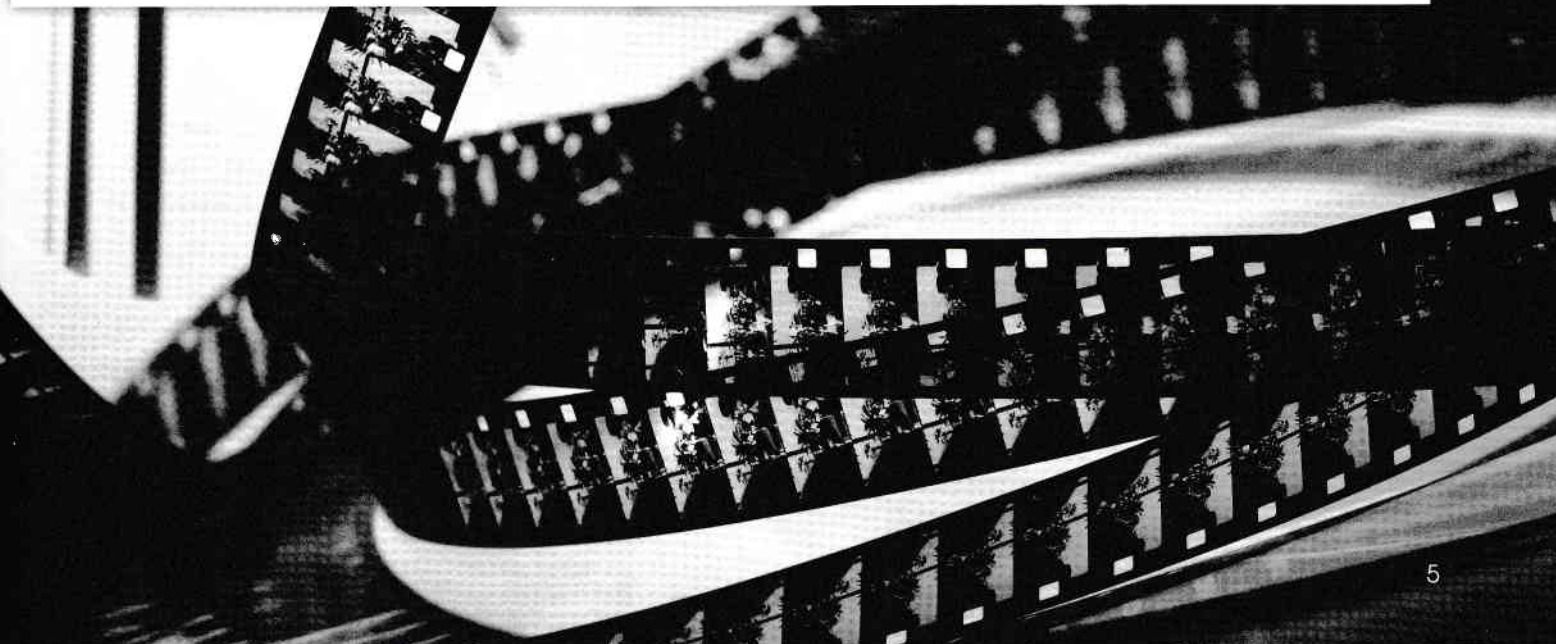
It just happened that I'd got my monthly allowance the day before. Even if most of it would be gone on that one ticket, the thought of skipping snacks for the rest of the month didn't put me off. There were a few tickets still available for the press review at an indie cinema just two towns away, and I'd only need to take three different buses to get there. It just got better! I was due to catch up with some culturally-snobby friends the following week. When they heard that I'd already seen it, they'd be forced to say, 'Dude, respect!' and never be able to intimidate me with their knowledge of culture again. So, I was off.

The day came. The last of my three bus drivers gave me a shout and pointed to a small coffee shop that looked like it went back to the 1960s. At least I don't think it had been painted since then. Apparently, the cinema part was in the basement below. After my journey I needed some refreshment, but not a bucket of popcorn and a fluorescent coloured ice slurpy in a plastic cup. Keeping up the appearance of being cool was essential, and I wanted to enjoy every moment of my independent existence. I bought a large cup of black coffee – no milk or sugar, this was proper grown-up stuff – and made my way inside. Expecting to find only a few seats left, I was surprised to see that was not the case. Perhaps there was a pre-film press meeting going on in a private room above.

The film started. Now I was no stranger to films about a future filled with despair. I'd streamed all four *Hunger Games* films back-to-back one dull and rainy Sunday. The film had a winning storyline – a post-nuclear explosion that creates an emotionally troubled generation. And the poster even had a cool man in a woolly jumper on the front, with a sad but tough looking girl, both dressed very similarly to the few others in the seats around me by his side. I wasn't sure if it was the double shot of caffeine from my yukky bitter coffee that was beginning to kick in and give me the shakes or the sheer awfulness of the script, which took the top slot in my list of objections to the film complaints. But this film was dreadful. It wasn't just the worst post-apocalyptic indie film ever made; it was the worst movie ever.

Sitting in that cinema, it finally clicked. I liked mainstream action movies and the truth was out. I would never be the kind of guy who could go and watch six hours of weird acting with subtitles and a lot of dramatic face-to-camera shots. I wanted to like cool movies to make myself acceptable to the rest of the world, but that wasn't really me and nobody else cared. My passion was for movies with big-name celebrities. It didn't really matter who, and the bigger the CGI budget the better. In fact, they could spend all their money on that and not even bother paying artists, like actors or writers, as far as I was concerned.

That film made me finally admit to myself who I was. I was not turning into the man I thought, but someone very regular and predictable instead. And I was a two-hour bus ride away from home. But at least I was officially over my passion for art films and back where I belonged. There was only one thing to do. My mum was working in the next town, so I called her – after all, there was no one around me to complain. I begged her to come and pick me up. It was urgent, I lied. I had to make it sound necessary, didn't I? 'Sure,' she said, sounding quite pleased to hear from me. 'We could pick up pizza and blue slurpy on the way home, if you want?' And finally, I was truly where I belonged.



**present tenses and time expressions**

**1** Complete the examples (A) with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Then answer the questions (B).

- 1 **A** My team's very good, but every so often we ..... (lose) a match.  
**B** Which tense do we use to talk about habits? .....
- 2 **A** I ..... (enjoy) playing for the school team for the time being.  
**B** Which tense do we use for actions that are changing? .....
- 3 **A** I ..... (win) the cup! I'm the champion!  
 We ..... (train) for this game for months now.  
**B** Which two tenses do we use to talk about something that started in the past and affects us now? .....
- 4 **A** I ..... (just/buy) a new camera.  
**B** Which tense is only for recently finished actions? .....
- 5 **A** I ..... (collect) parts for my new gaming computer for weeks now!  
**B** Which tense stresses the duration of the action? .....

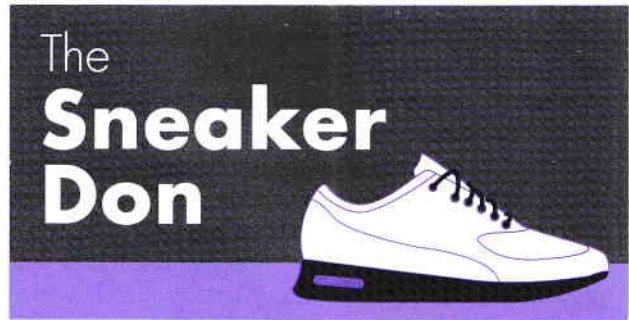
**2** Complete the article with these time expressions.

any more   at least once a week   every other year   for the time being  
 from time to time   over the previous week   still   these days

**New survey into people's favourite pastimes**

We're still choosing similar pastimes <sup>1</sup>....., but this may soon change. This survey into people's habits at the University of London takes place <sup>2</sup>....., and this year's results show that habits have barely changed. Over ninety percent of people usually watch TV in the evenings <sup>3</sup>..... . Younger people are less keen on TV though. More teenagers <sup>4</sup>..... say they enjoy reading very much, than those who say they hate it. Fewer of us are going into a public library <sup>5</sup>..... than before though. Sports are also still popular. Over half of teenagers say they have participated in at least three hours of sporting activity <sup>6</sup>..... . Perhaps the least surprising change is in music. Although young people only download tracks <sup>7</sup>....., when they do, they don't purchase music <sup>8</sup>....., preferring to use free websites.

**3** Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.



Benjamin Kapelushnik is no ordinary teenager. He <sup>1</sup>..... (manage) to turn a childhood passion into a business and is now a sneaker supplier to the stars. He <sup>2</sup>..... (work) in the business for more than five years. And since he started, his business <sup>3</sup>..... (not need) complicated marketing strategies. Store managers sell shoes to him that the footwear company <sup>4</sup>..... (not release/yet). Strictly speaking, the store managers <sup>5</sup>..... (break) the rules by doing this but for Benjamin, it <sup>6</sup>..... (mean) his sneakers are always sought-after. His best customer, DJ Khaled, <sup>7</sup>..... (help) to build Benjamin's reputation over the years and Benjamin now <sup>8</sup>..... (have) an impressive celebrity clientele as a result.


**4** Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between three and six words.

- 1 He started writing code in 2010.  
**SINCE**  
 He ..... 2010.
- 2 This game started downloading an hour ago and it's still downloading.  
**FOR**  
 This game ..... hour now.
- 3 I don't intend to change clubs any time soon.  
**FOR**  
 I ..... the time being.
- 4 The head teacher changes the after-school clubs all the time.  
**CONSTANTLY**  
 The head teacher ..... the after-school clubs.

## achievements

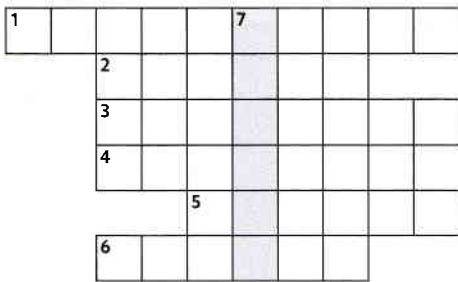
1 Match the first half of each sentence (1–6) with the second half (A–F).

- 1 I think I'm definitely on
  - 2 At drama school I can enjoy the best
  - 3 I think finding a new hobby goes hand
  - 4 I'm sure my sister will pass her piano exam
  - 5 In my virtual world I'll have to start
  - 6 I love debating as you have to keep
- A with flying colours next week.
  - B track for getting my first art exhibition ready.
  - C in hand with making new friends.
  - D your cool even though you're nervous.
  - E of both worlds, studying and acting.
  - F from scratch after deleting my account.

2  1.1 Read an extract from an interview with a young footballer and think of words/phrases to replace the words in bold. Then listen to the extract and check your answers.

My hobby definitely **uses** too much of my time, but it's important to me. I want to become a professional footballer one day, and that's always going to present some **difficulties** because it's so competitive. I've spoken to a lot of successful female footballers, though, and they've encouraged me to **follow** my dreams. They said that the main thing you need to succeed is to be prepared to **deal with** setbacks because there are plenty on the path to sports. They also say you need to keep **calm** under pressure. I reckon I've got what it takes. I just need to find a way to stay **up-to-date** with my studies and homework too!

3 Use the clues to complete the crossword. What is the hidden word?



### Across

- 1 succeed in completing a goal
- 2 fill or use an amount of time
- 3 manage to control a setback
- 4 cause or create a challenge
- 5 achieve your potential
- 6 start a new hobby (2 words)

## Extend

4 Complete the sentences with these idioms.

a piece of cake   break the ice   cross my mind  
lost track of   over the moon   take on board  
the final straw   turn a blind eye

- 1 When my essay came back with a low grade, it was .....
- 2 I was ..... with my test results – I passed both the theory and practical driving tests first time!
- 3 I'm really sorry I didn't tell you about the competition last week. It didn't ..... that you'd want to enter.
- 4 It drives me mad that my parents always ..... to the bad things my sister does.
- 5 I thought we'd start the team-building activity by playing a few games to ..... a bit.
- 6 The test was ..... I finished it in ten minutes!
- 7 I was so focused on completing my essay that I ..... time.
- 8 There was a lot to ..... in those instructions, but I think I got everything.

5 Complete the sentences with the idioms in Ex 4. Make any changes necessary.

- 1 John cheated in the test but the teacher didn't care. She ..... to it.
- 2 My team easily got through to the quarter finals. It was .....
- 3 I hate having to meet people for the first time. I'm no good at .....
- 4 I did wonder if we'd made a mistake when we found the pool empty. The thought had .....
- 5 My mum and dad got me a brilliant birthday gift. I was .....!
- 6 My teacher gave me some good advice. Now I need to .....
- 7 Everything has gone wrong today, but the awful weather was .....
- 8 Sorry I'm late. I was reading my book and completely ..... time.