

Worksheet with listening comprehension

by Marcus Lachmund

For the article:

Britain's libraries provide more than just books

Read On, February issue 2025, page 7



Topics: UK • libraries • community • social work

Skills: listening comprehension • reading comprehension • vocabulary • grammar

Answers: see page 6

Listening comprehension

1. Listen to the first part of the text (paras. 1–4). This version contains 11 mistakes. Underline each wrong word, and write your corrections in the right column. You will hear the text twice.

In Matt Haig's 2020 novel, The Midnight Library, a struggling Jewish	(01)	
teenager is saved from a nervous breakdown by her school librarian, Mrs	(02)	
Elm. That's not as unrealistic as one might think: both school and public	(03)	
libraries in the UK serve a proud tradition of keeping their customers	(04)	
instructed, connected – and indeed healthy. If it weren't for them, many	(05)	
communities in the UK would probably go into shutdown.	(06)	
The cost of living crisis has hit the British autonomy hard, and many	(07)	
people are in survival mode. The crisis has also affected public services,	(08)	
including about 800 libraries that were closed down in the UK over the last	(09)	
few years. Yet walking through the door of one of Britain's 4,000 or so	(10)	
remaining public libraries is like mentoring a model of inclusion:	(11)	
membership is free, and everyone is more than welcome.	(12)	
But not everyone enjoys reading, so libraries these days have turned into	(13)	
community centres and social pubs. Some months ago, the Guardian	(14)	
journalist and editor Aida Edemariam spent several days researching for	(15)	
an article at Battle Library in Reading in the north of England. She found it	(16)	
not so much a library as "a business development centre, a community	(17)	
centre and a mental health care provider ..." and so much more.	(18)	
This is not an idealisation. LibraryOn.org, that is funded by Arts	(19)	
Council England and helps libraries online and off, lists the various things	(20)	
that people living in England or Wales can expect their local libraries to	(21)	
to do for them, and it's impressive.	(22)	

2. Listen to the second part of the text (paras. 5–9), and answer the following questions by taking notes.

a) Why is working at a library quite demanding nowadays?

b) What does the text say about British librarians' salaries?

c) What are the core tasks of librarians?

Reading comprehension

1. Read the first part of the text (paras. 1–5), and decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or not mentioned (N). Check the correct box.

Statement	T	F	N
a) In the UK, both school and public libraries keep extensive files about their customers.			
b) The cost of living crisis hasn't really hit British libraries.			
c) British public libraries are very affordable and customer-friendly.			
d) Libraries have become places where people meet and socialise with each other.			

e) Finding out what libraries do for their customers is quite difficult.			
f) Modern British libraries are also interesting for gamers.			

2. Lies die Absätze 6–9 des Textes und beantworte die folgenden Fragen (stichpunktartig) auf Deutsch.

a) Womit muss sich das heutige Bibliothekspersonal auseinandersetzen? Nenne zwei Beispiele.

b) Warum sind britische Bibliotheksangestellte eher unterbezahlt? Erkläre.

c) Sind die Kunden mit ihren Bibliotheksangestellten zufrieden? Begründe deine Antwort.

Vocabulary

1. Find a word or expression that means the same as (SY = synonym) or the opposite of (AT = antonym) each of the words or expressions (a–j) below. The paragraphs where you can find the words in the article are indicated in brackets.

a) credible (AT, para. 1)	
b) ill (AT, para. 1)	
c) to have no effect on (AT, para. 2)	
d) centre (SY, para. 3)	
e) remarkable (SY, para. 4)	
f) chance (SY, para. 5)	
g) competence (SY, para. 5)	
h) assistance (SY, para. 6)	
i) unfitting (AT, para. 7)	
k) bad (AT, para. 8)	

2. Look at the text again. Find words in the text that match the following definitions on the right.

Word	Definition
a)	a person who uses the services of a business (para. 1)
b)	containing a part of the whole (para. 2)
c)	still existing, present, or in use (para. 2)
d)	to give money to a programme, project, etc. (para. 4)
e)	different (para. 4)
f)	chance or possibility (para. 5)
g)	emotional or practical help (para. 6)
h)	to make something necessary (para. 8)

Grammar

Complete the text. Use the correct form of the words in brackets, and find suitable words to replace the question marks.

British libraries are an important part of the country's culture and history. They are places

(1)_____ (???) people can read, study, and find information. Libraries in the UK
(2)_____ (know) for their rich collections and (3)_____ (opposite:
ugly) buildings.

The (4)_____ (famous) library in the UK is the British Library in London. It is one
of the (5)_____ (large) libraries in the world and contains more (6)_____
(???) 170 million items. Books, maps, manuscripts, and even sound recordings
(7)_____ (store) there. Some of the items, (8)_____ (???) the Magna Carta
and Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks, are very old and (9)_____ (syn.: worth a lot of
money). Visitors can see these treasures in special exhibitions, (10)_____ (???) are
organized (11)_____ (regular).

Public libraries (12)_____ (can, find) in almost every city and town in the UK.
They are used (13)_____ (???) millions of people every year. In these libraries, books,
DVDs, and even e-books can be borrowed (14)_____ (???) free. There are quiet spaces for
reading and studying, and (15)_____ (syn.: a lot of) libraries offer free internet access.
Some libraries also run events, (16)_____ (???) as storytelling for children or classes for adults.

Libraries in the UK (17)_____ (often, support) by local councils, and
many volunteers help to keep them running. However, some libraries (18)_____
_____ (close) in recent years (19)_____ (syn.: because of) budget cuts.
This (20)_____ (make) it harder for some people (21)_____
(access) books and other resources.

Despite these challenges, libraries remain an important part of British life. They are used by people
of all ages and backgrounds. Many students rely (22)_____ (???) them for studying, while
others visit to relax and enjoy a good book.

In conclusion, British libraries are valuable places that provide (23)_____
(word family: know) and support to communities. They are not only places for learning
(24)_____ (???) spaces where people can connect and grow.

Answer key

Listening comprehension

1. **(1)** Jewish → British • **(3)** one → you • **(4)** serve → have • **(7)** autonomy → economy • **(9)** about → around • **(11)** mentoring → entering • **(13)** everyone → everybody • **(14)** pubs → hubs • **(16)** north → south • **(19)** that → which • **(21)** or → and
2. **a)** the staff also has to deal with social work issues (para. 6) • **b)** they earn £27,000 on average, which is relatively little because they do much more than they're trained to do (para. 7) • **c)** to know about books and how to catalogue them; front-desk work (para. 8)

Reading comprehension

1. **a)** N (-) • **b)** F (para. 2) • **c)** T (para. 2) • **d)** T (para. 3) • **e)** F (para. 4) • **f)** N (-)
2. **a)** Sie helfen Menschen, die neu im Land sind, bei ihrem Papierkram. Sie sollen auf ältere Menschen und Menschen mit Behinderung aufpassen und geben moralische Unterstützung bei kleineren psychischen Problemen (6) • **b)** Ihr Aufgabenfeld geht weit über ihre Qualifikationen hinaus. (7) • **c)** Ja, die Nutzerinnen und Nutzer sind zufrieden mit den freundlichen und hilfsbereiten Bibliotheksangestellten. (9)

Vocabulary

1. **a)** unrealistic • **b)** healthy • **c)** affect(ed) • **d)** hub • **e)** impressive • **f)** opportunity • **g)** skill • **h)** help • **i)** suitable • **j)** excellent
2. **a)** customer • **b)** including • **c)** remaining • **d)** fund(ed) • **e)** various • **f)** opportunity • **g)** support • **h)** require

Grammar

1 where • 2 are known • 3 beautiful • 4 most famous • 5 largest • 6 than • 7 are stored • 8 like / such as • 9 valuable • 10 which • 11 regularly • 12 can be found • 13 by • 14 for • 15 many • 16 such • 17 are often supported • 18 have been closed • 19 due to • 20 has made • 21 to access • 22 on • 23 knowledge • 24 but also

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Hinweis: Die Zugangsdaten zu Ihrem persönlichen Abo dürfen Sie nicht an Dritte weitergeben.