

## **Reading**

**Read the following text and mark whether the statements are true or false.**

### **How to build the world's longest train tunnel**

The Alps are a vast natural barrier to movement between countries including Germany and Italy - forcing cargo freights and travellers alike on winding detours through their rocky expanse. But negotiating the mountain range will soon become quicker and easier because of an incredible feat of engineering. The world's longest railway tunnel - the "Gotthard Base Tunnel," (GBT) in Switzerland - is in its last phase of construction.

The GBT spans a route length of 57 kilometres, running directly through the mountains that lie in its path. It took a team of 2,600 construction workers, engineers and geologists to dig, blast and bore their way through 13.3 million cubic meters - and 20 different strata - of rock. It's a process that took about 14 years, and claimed the lives of eight people.

"The main reason for the construction of this tunnel was to get the goods traffic off the motorway and onto the trains," says Simon Peggs, of AlpTransit Gotthard AG, which is building the tunnel. "It's just getting more and more busy every year and it was estimated that by 2020 the roads will be so blocked that something had to be done," he added.

The region's existing rail and road routes are an important link along the north-south axis in Europe. But traffic has increased sharply in the past 30 years and they are now operating at capacity.

At present, a train from Zurich to Milan takes nearly four hours, climbing 500 meters up the Alps and through the famous 15 km-long Gotthard Tunnel, built in 1882. It's hoped that completion of the GBT, which in places runs beneath 600 meters of mountain, will cut the travel time between Zurich and Milan by an hour and provide an easier and more economical route for heavy freight trains.

The tunnel is just over three kilometres longer than the Seikan rail tunnel in Japan, which at 53.9 kilometres had previously been the longest rail tunnel in the world.

Having finished the laborious excavation work, the challenge now lies in the extensive mechanical finishing touches. "At this stage we're talking about a whole lot of electrical mechanical stuff being put in," explains Peggs. "It's like when you install a DVD player - - you've got to get all the switches in the right place and get it to work, so that's the work that's happening now."

The GBT is scheduled to be fully functioning by 2016 and will take up to 300 trains underneath the Alps every day.

Source: [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

	True	False
1. It is very unlikely that moving cargo in the Alps will be simpler in the near future.		
2. Various tunnelling technologies were used when the Gotthard Base Tunnel was built.		
3. No people were killed during the construction work.		
4. At present both rail and road routes link cities along the north-south axis in Europe.		
5. Alpine road capacity is going to be increased in the near future.		
6. At least one part of the present railway line was built in the 19th century.		
7. The old Gotthard Tunnel has 600 metres of rock over it.		
8. The GBT has broken a world record.		
9. DVD players will be installed in the trains, so that passengers can watch movies.		
10. At least 300 trains will pass through the new tunnel on a daily basis.		

## Writing

You see the following job advertisement.

Thames Telecom is looking for a

### NETWORK DESIGNER

**AT** is a multinational organization. Due to company expansion we now require a Network Engineer to work on our 21st-century development project. You will work on a wide range of networking technologies and be involved in all areas of the project.

The ideal candidate will have a university qualification in Telecommunications engineering or a related subject and some experience in switching and transmission .

Strong communications skills are necessary and you will need to work effectively in a team. Experience of working with different cultures would be an advantage.

Please send your CV and covering letter to Dominik Abraham, Network Planning Department, Thames Telecom, High Row, London, NW12 6PE.

You decide to apply for the job. Write a letter of 150 words including heading, greeting and a closing formula.

Make sure you mention:

- why you are applying for the job,
- what qualifications you have,
- what work experience you have,
- what qualities make you an ideal candidate for the job.

## Listening Comprehension Intermediate Level

Listen to a report about wind farms in Spain and decide if the following statements are true or false.

Statement	T/F
1 According to the report Spain produces more wind energy than any other country.	
2 More than six terawatt hours of electricity was produced by wind farms in Spain in January.	
3 Many gas fired power stations were replaced by wind farms in Spain in 2010.	
4 Nuclear and coal fired power stations account for over a quarter of Spain's total electricity generation.	
5 Wind farms have been built in Spain in an effort to decrease the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.	
6 In Germany wind power capacity to be added this year will exceed that installed in 2012.	
7 Wind power generation figures are to be made accessible online, on a dedicated website.	
8 In Germany the aim is to meet 40% of the country's electricity demand using renewable resources by 2020.	
9 Worldwide less than 20% of electricity comes from renewable sources today.	
10 Currently on a global level more electricity is generated by nuclear power stations than from hydro power.	

Answer key:

Reading 1.F 2.T 3.F 4.T 5.F 6.T 7.F 8.T 9.F 10.F

Listening 1.F 2.T 3.F 4.F 5.T 6.T 7.F 8.T 9.T 10.F