**Sample test exercises: reading**

**A : In Unit 3 you have read about Renia’s adventures in England. The famous children’s book ‘Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland’ by Lewis Carroll also tells the story of a girl in an unfamiliar place. The young Alice meets strange characters and has to learn to get on with them. Here is a scene from the book.**

**a)**  **First look at the picture and read the caption. Then write each character’s name next to the picture.**

*Alice is having tea with the Hatter, who is wearing his favourite hat. Next to him*

*are the sleepy Dormouse and the cheerful March Hare.*

**b) Now read the text.**

There was a table under a tree in front of the house, and the March Hare and the Hatter were having tea at it. A Dormouse was sitting between them, fast asleep. It was a large table, but the three were all seated at one end of it. When they saw Alice coming, they cried out:

‘No room! There is no space here!’

This annoyed Alice. ‘There’s enough room!’ she said, and sat down in a large arm-chair at one end of the table.

‘Have some wine,’ the March Hare said cheerfully.

Alice looked all round the table, but there was only tea on it. ‘I don’t see any wine,’ she answered. ‘There isn’t any,’ said the March Hare.

‘Then it wasn’t very polite of you to offer it,’ said Alice angrily.

‘It wasn’t very polite of you to sit down without being invited,’ said the March Hare.

‘I didn’t know it was your table,’ said Alice; ‘there are plates and glasses for a lot

more than three people.’

‘You need a haircut,’ said the Hatter. He had been looking at Alice for some time

with great curiosity, and these were his first words.

‘You should learn not to make such personal comments,’ Alice said with a serious face; ‘it’s very rude.’

**c) Alice doesn’t like the behaviour of the three animals. Take a read colour and highlight everything she doesn’t like in the text.**

**d) The March Hare doesn’t like Alice’s behaviour. Take a green colour and highlight what he doesn’t like.**

B: Exchange student

Being an exchange student was a great experience and Felix loved his stay in Australia but in the first few weeks he had similar problems to Renia’s. Find out what they were.

Als Austauschschüler in Australien zu leben, war eine grossartige Erfahrung und Felix liebte seinen Aufenthalt, aber in den ersten Wochen hatte er ähnliche Probleme wie Renia. Erfahre mehr darüber.

**First, look at the questions below. Then read the text and answer the questions.**

**Schau dir zuerst die Fragen an. Lies dann den Text und beantworte die Fragen.**

1. How long has Felix been in Australia for?

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2. Why did Felix have to wait for his host family when he arrived in Australia?

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3. How long did it take to drive home?

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4. When Felix returns from school, no one is at home. Why?

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5. Why does Felix only see his host brother at the weekend?

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6. Felix hasn’t made any friends yet. What is the problem?

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7. What does Felix miss about his life back home in Switzerland?

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8. What does Felix have for lunch?

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9. Where is Felix going on Saturday?

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10. Thinking about the weekend: What is Felix afraid of?

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Felix wrote:

I have been here in Australia for almost six weeks now and I am still homesick. OK, I know that Felix from Switzerland is now in Australia – down under! Imagine: down under! Yet, things have turned out to be far more different and difficult than I first thought.

When I arrived my host family was nowhere to be seen, because my flight had landed an hour early. So I had to wait for them at the airport. When they finally arrived, we got into their big suburban (that’s a huge car) and drove to their home, which took two and a half hours – Australia is such a vast country!

The family is very nice. But my host parents both go to work and I am always alone after school until they come home at about 7.30 pm. My host brother goes to university and returns home only at the weekends. I don’t see him very often, as he meets up with his friends when he is here. Besides, he is eight years older than me, so he’s not really interested in hanging around with me.

School is not much better, although I have interesting subjects and the teachers are kind and very helpful. My English is good enough to follow the lessons. However, I haven’t made any new friends yet, they don’t seem to be interested in exchange students. Everything is so different: always this ‘yes, please’ and ‘no, thank you’ and when you forget to say it, they think you are arrogant!

So I am alone at school and at home as well. I really miss all my friends and – believe it or not – Swiss food, too. My host mother prepares a lunchbox for me every day, but it’s always sandwiches and they have no taste at all. How I miss Rösti and real spaghetti, not the tasteless kind they cook here!

Next Saturday we are going on a trip to the outback with our class. Although this is a good opportunity to get to know the country, I am not looking forward to it. This means that I will be sitting on my own on the coach with no one to talk to, eating those awful tasteless sandwiches even at the weekend. I don’t know what went wrong but this is not what I imagined when I enrolled for the exchange stay.

**C: Expressing thanks.** Read the situations below and the answers in the table. Write the number of the situation next to the correct expression of thanks.

1. *Somebody helps a person in a kind way.*
2. *A student helps another student with a maths problem.*
3. *A pupil lends his USB stick to another pupil.*
4. *Somebody is invited to a party by a friend.*
5. *Somebody has bought food for a person who is ill.*
6. *A teenager picks flowers for his mother.*
7. *A family invites another family to dinner.*

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| **Situation number** | **Expressing thanks** |
| 5 | I don’t know how to thank you for doing the shopping for me. |
| 2 | Thanks a lot for explaining it to me. |
| 4 | Thanks for inviting me. I’d love to come. |
| 6 | My darling, many thanks for your nice present for my birthday. |
| 1 | Thank you so much for your help. |
| 3 | Thanks for lending me your stick. |
| 7 | Thank you very much for the invitation. Lucy is an excellent cook! |