

In conversation

Lösungen zum Konversationskurs Englisch B1/B2

Hier finden Sie die Lösungen zu den *Topics* und *Files*.

Getting to know each other

1a

Personal answers

1b

If I were an animal, I'd be a (tiger).

If I were a place, I'd be (London).

If I were a book, I'd be (a thriller).

If I were a food, I'd be (a pizza).

If I were a colour, I'd be (blue).

2

Personal answers

3

Students' own input

4

Personal answers

Topic 1 Who do you think you are?

1

Personal answers

2a

1d, 2g, 3h, 4f, 5a, 6b, 7c, 8e

2b

Personal answers

3

Students' own input

4

Personal answers

5

Some possibilities:

- Because they get married.
- Because they dislike their given name.
- Because they are an author and use a pen name.
- Because they are an actor and use a stage name.

6

1. She was upset because she didn't have the same surname as her children anymore.
2. It means your name doesn't define who you are.
3. She didn't like her nickname. Freddy sounded too much like a boy's name to her.
4. *Personal answers*
5. Because she feels that her name is part of who she is.
6. *Personal answers*

7

Students' own input

8

Students' own input

9

Personal answers

10a

[1], [5], [8], [3], [9], [7], [2], [4], [6]

10b

True: 2, 5, 6

False: 1, 3, 4

10c

- The interviewer probably asked her what she feels her identity is: British, Indian or something else.
- Probably because she wanted to know how someone feels who was born and brought up in Britain but whose parents weren't.

11

Students' own input

Topic 2 Music

1

Students' own input

2a

Personal answers

2b

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. angry | 9. warm |
| 2. anxious | 10. relaxed |
| 3. sad | 11. stressed |
| 4. lonely | 12. comfortable |
| 5. happy | 13. calm |
| 6. excited | 14. bored |
| 7. irritated | 15. depressed |
| 8. afraid / fearful | |

2c

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. happiness | 6. sad |
| 2. sadness | 7. depressed |
| 3. relaxed | 8. stressed |
| 4. bored | 9. irritated |
| 5. lonely | |

2d

Students' own input

3

Personal answers

4

Students' own input

5a

Students' own input

5b

Personal answers

5c

Personal answers

Topic 3 Happiness

1a

Personal answers

1b

Some possibilities:

Happiness for me is (watching the ocean, enjoying the beauty of nature or doing things with my friends).

2a

Students' own input

2b

File 3, page 47

True: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

False: 6

3a

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. thankful | 7. pleasures |
| 2. good | 8. time |
| 3. deed | 9. relax |
| 4. family | 10. Forgive |
| 5. friends | 11. laugh |
| 6. enjoy | |

3b

Students' own input

3c

Students' own input

4a

Words connected with happiness are:

cheery, content, in seventh heaven, pleased, smile, thrilled

4b

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| [1] a swing | [7] a loving family |
| [2] ketchup | [11] a picnic |
| [5] a cup of tea | [8] a helmet |

4c

- Happiness is whatever you want it to be, ... (Val)
- My tip would be avoiding debt. (Sandra)
- There is nothing like sitting by the fire on a cold, rainy night, ... (Adrian)
- Stop reading newspapers! (Zack)
- Being a grandparent, having a loving family ... that's happiness. (Jim)
- I find happiness when I walk through the city in any weather really. (Jenny)

5

Personal answers

Topic 4 How to be a neighbour

1

Students' own input

2

Students' own input

3

Students' own input

4

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| 1. talk | 6. go |
| 2. know | 7. make |
| 3. be | 8. leave |
| 4. move | 9. greet |
| 5. say | 10. break |

5

1b, 2e, 3a, 4c, 5d

6

2, 3, 4, 5

7

Students' own input

8

Students' own input

Topic 5 Charity

1a

[3], [5], [2], [1], [4], [6]

1b

Students' own input

2a

1. Whale Watch
2. Safe Child
3. Life begins at 60
4. StreetWise
5. Excel
6. Relief

2b

1. volunteers
2. lobby

3. donation

4. mission

2c

Students' own input

3a

1. donated
2. raised
3. signed
4. volunteered
5. written
6. been
7. handed out
8. boycotted

3b

Students' own input

4a

Their ideas include:

- raising money for the local dogs' home.
- doing a sponsored swim.
- organizing a jumble sale.
- asking famous people to open the event for them.
- getting a Chelsea football player to open the jumble sale.
- getting the football club to sponsor the event.
- going to a newspaper to ask them to write an article about the event.

4b

1. How about
2. Let's
3. Why don't
4. should
5. wouldn't – bad idea
6. might – worth

4c

Students' own input

5a

Some possibilities:

Andre Agassi, Bono from U2, Leonardo di Caprio, Bill and Melinda Gates, Bob Geldof, J. Paul Getty, Steffi Graf, Angelina Jolie, Annie Lennox, Sir Paul McCartney, Bette Midler, Oprah Winfrey

5b

File 6, page 48

Name of Charity:

Cause:

Sightsavers International
helping people with eyesight
problems

Way of raising money: auctioning famous spectacles
Stars involved: Sir Michael Caine, Ewan
McGregor, George Michael

File 15, page 51

Name of the Charity: Stars for a Cause
Cause: donating money to each
star's favourite charity
Way of raising money: stars design jewellery which
is then auctioned
Stars involved: Robyn Rhodes, William
Shatner, Goldie Hawn, Jesse
McCartney

5c

Students' own input

5d

Students' own input

Topic 6 Time

1

Students' own input

2a

This person could be:
well-informed, introverted, miserable, obsessed,
sensitive.

1. and 2.

- He watches TV.
(I have five television sets.)
- He counts his belongings.
(The whole text tells us that he counts his
belongings.)
- He listens to the radio.
(I listen to the same radio station all day.)
- He reads newspapers.
(I read three dailies, four weeklies, five
monthlies ...)
- He eats over the sink.
(I eat over the sink.)
- He makes lists.
(I have a laundry list of things that need cleaning.)

3. His kids are important to him.

2b

Personal answers

2c

Students' own input

3a

Personal answers

3b

File 8, page 49

1d, 2a, 3d

3c

- Everyone is talking about time management these
days ...
- I've read dozens of articles on how to organize my
life at home and at work ...
- I'm getting tired of all those experts who tell you to
have a shower before going to bed ...
- The downside of all this is, of course, that you'll be
awake longer in the evening getting ready for the
next day.
- I think it isn't a bad idea to have a shopping list, ...
- I've often noticed that ideas just pop into my head
when I'm 'wasting time'.

4

Students' own input

Topic 7 The fame game

1

Students' own input

2a

Possible answer:
[4], [1], [3], [6], [5], [2]

2b

Some possibilities:

- hit – a big success
- all the rage – extremely popular or fashionable
- has-been – someone who was famous once but not
any more
- minor celebrity – someone who is fairly well-known
but not really famous
- household name – someone who everyone
knows of
- mobbed – being surrounded by fans
- up-and-coming star – someone who will be very
famous in the near future
- make a name for himself – to become famous
- was in all the papers – was involved in a story that
was reported in all the newspapers

2c

Students' own input

(Hier bieten wir keinen Lösungsschlüssel an, da der Bekanntheitsgrad von Stars länderspezifisch ist und sich sehr schnell ändert.)

3a

Students' own input

3b

1. *Personal answers*
2. There are TV channels and magazines dedicated to the lifestyles of the rich and the famous. There are TV shows which turn normal people into celebrities overnight.
3. *Personal answers*
4. Young people might turn away from schoolwork. Education might no longer be important to them. Children might waste the opportunity of getting a good school education.
5. *Personal answers*

3c

Students' own input

4a

[2], [6], [1], [3], [4], [5]

4b

1. Vicky is only interested in the money that fame brings.
2. She thinks it would get a bit tiring to be loved by millions of fans.
3. Brian would love to be famous because it would give him a chance to do things that normal people don't have the chance to do.
4. He would like to be famous for being a great sportsman but at 45 this might be a bit difficult.

4c

- I'd love to be famous.
- I'd quite like to earn a lot of money but that's all.
- I wouldn't mind being in the papers occasionally.
- I wouldn't be very keen on being loved by millions.
- I wouldn't want to be famous for something silly.
- I'd hate to be stalked.

5a

Personal answers

5b

Students' own input

Topic 8 Big screen, small screen

1

Students' own input

2a

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| 1. on | 5. at |
| 2. about | 6. on |
| 3. in | 7. for |
| 4. by | |

1g, 2f, 3b, 4a, 5d, 6c, 7e

2b

Students' own input

3a

Some possibilities:

Action film, thriller, adventure film, western, horror film, mystery film, drama, science fiction, romantic comedy, soap opera, documentary, sit com, comedy film.

3b

Students' own input

3c

1. modern songs
2. unexpected twist
3. flashbacks
4. unknown actors
5. dubbed dialogues

3d

Personal answers

4

Students' own input

5a

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. sports programme | 6. the news |
| 2. film | 7. sit com |
| 3. series | 8. quiz show |
| 4. reality show | 9. documentary |
| 5. soap opera | 10. comedy show |

5b

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. premiere | 5. blockbuster |
| 2. hit | 6. comedian |
| 3. friendly | 7. kickoff |
| 4. viewers | 8. episode |

5c

Students' own input

Topic 9 A sense of adventure

1

Students' own input

2a

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| [1] sledge | [2] canoe |
| [5] tuk-tuk | [3] jet pack |
| [6] wet sub | [4] hovercraft |

Canoe is stressed on the final syllable.

2b

Students' own input

3a

Students' own input

3b

The news report is about a flying car.

3c

Name of invention:	Skycar
Top speed on road:	180 km/h
Top speed in air:	130 km/h
Cost:	35,000
First trip:	from London to Timbuktu (a distance of 6,000 km)

3d

Some possibilities:

- Why did you invent a flying car?
- How did you come up with the idea?
- How did you prepare yourself for the trip?

3e

Students' own input

4a

Students' own input

4b

Some possibilities:

similar

- Both involve a travelling partner.
- Both travel a similar distance.
- They both have to get on well with their travelling partner.

different

- Stafford's journey is on foot, Cardozo's is by aircraft.
- Stafford needs survival skills, Cardozo needs more technical skills.

- Stafford will need more time than Cardozo to cover the distance of 6,000 km.
- Stafford's trip is more expensive than Cardozo's trip.

4c

Some possibilities:

1. The person should be adventurous, reliable, good-natured and cooperative.
5. Because they want to see the world and because they are interested in other countries and cultures.
6. It's convenient and less expensive. They like the comfort of their own home. They might be scared of travelling.

2., 3., 4. *Personal answers*

4d

File 13, page 50

1. hit it off
2. deal with
3. fall out
4. walk out on
5. keep someone company
6. get on

- (1) keep ... company
- (2) hit it off
- (3) got on
- (4) deal with
- (5) walked out
- (6) fell out

Topic 10 Pets – To have, or not to have

1

Students' own input

2a

Students' own input

2b

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. keep | 6. meet |
| 2. sign | 7. write |
| 3. make | 8. care |
| 4. take | 9. take |
| 5. consider | 10. benefit |

2c

1e, 2d, 3a, 4c, 5b

- The government would probably agree with statements 1, 2, 4, 5.

- It seems unlikely that the government would agree with statement 3 because individual discussions of such matters are usually not the normal procedure.

3a

1. unusual
2. make-believe
3. baby
4. fast
5. dangerous

3b

Personal answers

4

Students' own input

5

Students' own input

6a

Pets As Therapy

DOGS	4,000
CATS	100
PEOPLE VISITED	126,000

- Volunteers that belong to 'Pets As Therapy' have always visited hospitals, residential care homes, nursing homes and schools for children with special needs. These days they also go to children's hospitals.

6b

Personal answers

Topic 11 A working life

1

Students' own input

2a

1. commute
2. colleagues
3. salary
4. promotion

2b

1. Because flexible hours are useful when you've got young kids.
2. He needs the time to relax and get away from work for a while.
3. They agree on long holidays in the end.

2c

1. between
2. wins
3. comparison
4. not nearly
5. much ... than
6. agree - it is

2d

Students' own input

2e

Personal answers

3a

1. He doesn't like the long commute to work.
2. They dream of getting away from it all. They dream of moving to Spain.
3. First of all, they would have to hand in their notice. Then they would have to find new jobs and new accommodation in Spain.
4. It could be difficult for them to find good jobs. Their children might have problems with the language at first.
5. *Personal answers*

3b

- He no longer has a long commute.
- He sees his children all the time.
- He's on holiday for three months of the year.
- They now have a job which they really like.

3c

Students' own input

3d

1c, 2e, 3a, 4b, 5d, 6f

4a

1. in - in
2. in
3. away
4. up

4b

Students' own input

4c

Students' own input

Topic 12 Moving between cultures

1

- He was born in Iraq.
- His family left Iraq when he was still a child.
- He now lives far away from where he was born.
- He can't forget his past and the sound of the guns.
- He feels torn between two worlds.

2a

Students' own input

2b

Students' own input

3a

Some possibilities:

Advantages

- The couple have (alternative: has) got their families to support them.
- You don't have to look for a husband yourself.
- It's easier to make a good decision when you're not madly in love.

Disadvantages

- You don't know the other person at all.
- You might not get along with your partner.
- You might never fall in love with the other person.

3b

1.

- An arranged marriage ensures a solid future. It means financial security.
- The parents and family also work on the marriage staying together.
- The couple come (alternative: comes) from a similar educational and economic background.
- The couple have (alternative: has) got the same religious beliefs.

2.

- *Personal answers*

3.

- *Personal answers*

4.

- It will be quite difficult for her parents to find a suitable husband for her because most Pakistani men think she is too old-fashioned and she does not fit their idea of what is attractive.

3c

1d, 2b, 3h, 4e, 5a, 6g, 7f, 8c

4

Students' own input

Topic 13 A global warning

1

Some possibilities:

- wall, an, in, go
- a, go, bin, warn
- goal, inn, bag
- go, bar, gin, wall
- war, no, a, gig
- on, ball, grin, a
- bill, raw, nag, no

There are always only a maximum of 4 words possible because there are only 4 vowels available (A - A - I - O).

2a

[6], [1], [5], [2], [4], [3]

2b

Students' own input

2c

1. She may be an older woman who is not really sure what to think about global warming.
2. He may be an older man who doesn't take global warming seriously.
3. She may be a younger woman who is really worried about the development of the world climate.
4. He is a young father who thinks that global warming is a natural phenomenon and that nothing can be done about it.

2d

1. Terrance
2. Polly
3. Ian
4. Doris

2e

Students' own input

3a

1. teacup
2. hot
3. calm
4. weather
5. rainbows
6. wind

3b

5a, 1b, 2c, 6d, 4e, 3f

4a

Personal answers

Some possibilities:

electricity, a fridge, a washing machine

4b

Students' own input

4c

Introduction

- carbon footprints
- CO2 emission

Student A

- increasing numbers of electric machines
- save energy by turning off your electric devices
- cars and CO2 emission
- reduction of food miles
- buy and eat local produce

Student B

- planes as terrible polluters
- take your holidays locally
- take reusable bags for shopping
- recycle things
- no outdoor heaters
- turn off central heating, wear an extra jumper

4d

Students' own input

4e

- use solar and wind energy
- insulate your house
- collect rain water for garden use

Topic 14 Unusual experiences

1

Personal answers

2

Students' own input

3a

- She felt **self-conscious** about her figure and the way she looked.
- The inflatable bra felt **a little uncomfortable** at first.

- She was **excited** about the new bra she got from her mother.
- She was **delighted** with her new look.
- She was **puzzled** when she felt a strange pressure on her chest when she was on a plane near the Andes Mountains.
- She was **desperate** as the inflatable bra started to expand.
- She was very **embarrassed** when it exploded.
- She got very **annoyed** with her mother for telling all her friends about it.

Worried and **cross** are not used to explain how she felt.

3b

1. She felt self-conscious.
2. She was excited.
3. The inflatable bra was a bit uncomfortable.
4. She was delighted with her new look.
5. She was puzzled.
6. She was desperate just before it exploded.
7. She was embarrassed.
8. She got very annoyed with her mother.

3c

This might have happened in the 1930s because inflatable bras are no longer the fashion and because plastic surgery was not as common in those days as it is today.

3d

Personal answers

4a

- Carol started walking and riding her bike.
- She shopped near closing time when food gets reduced.
- She scavenged for thrown-away food at grocery stores and restaurants.
- Carol picked fruit from bushes and trees.
- She used free Internet access at the local library.
- She got rid of her cell phone.
- She sent e-mails instead of calling her friends.
- Carol shopped at yard sales.
- She looked for free samples.
- She house-sat for friends.

4b

Students' own input

5

Students' own input

Topic 15 Reading between the lines

1a

Students' own input

1b

	Advantages	Disadvantages
E-book	It can store hundreds of books.	You need an extra reading device.
audio book	You can listen to it while doing something else.	If you are a visual type of person, you don't take in the details.
graphic novel	If you find reading difficult, you get the chance to enjoy an interesting story.	Some people don't regard them as serious literature.
newspaper or magazine online	Younger people prefer to read online articles whereas they often don't read printed newspapers.	You need a computer and Internet access.
text messages	They offer an easy and quick way to communicate.	Very often the language suffers because of abbreviations.

2a

[7], [5], [3], [1], [2], [4], [6]

2b

1g, 2d, 3h, 4c, 5f, 6a, 7e, 8b

2c

Students' own input

2d

Students' own input

3a

Some possibilities:

A

- It could be a romantic thriller.
(danger, romantic picnic under a tree)

B

- This might be a romance.
(kiss, romantic partner)

C

- This initial paragraph might belong to a murder mystery.
(mixed up jackets, knew something was wrong)

3b

Students' own input

File 32, page 58

Here is some more information about the books in File 23, page 54:

A

Ian McEwan: Enduring Love
Genre: a psychological thriller

B

Elizabeth Gilbert: Eat Pray Love
Genre: a memoir

C

Carol Shields: Larry's Party
Genre: an episodic novel

Topic 16 Fine arts?

1a

Some possibilities:

1. You can see an alarm clock, a bed, a night stand / bedside table, a painting, a light bulb, a feather duster, a broom, a trash can, an artist, a palette, a brush, an easel, a sleeping cat, a woman wearing a pretty checkered dress with a corsage, a baby, a coat and some exposed pipes.
2. They are in the picture because the painting shows the room of a janitor who has to get up in the morning, probably likes animals and is an artist.

3. They might be domestic help. They could be related.
The woman might be his wife and the baby his child.
4. Because this is where he lives. He might not have the money for a separate studio.
5. Probably not. The woman looks as if she's posing for the painting.

1b

Personal answers

2

Students' own input

3

Students' own input

4a

Personal answers

4b

Students' own input

4c

Janet: 1, 2, 4, 9, 11
Justin: 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
doesn't say: 3, 5

4d

Students' own input

5

Students' own input

6

Some possibilities:

- Art is (a puzzle).
- Art is (something that makes you think and feel some kind of emotion).
- Art is (an expression of how the artist perceives the world around him / her).

Topic 17 The Sporting Life

1

Students' own input

2

Students' own input

3a

Students' own input

3b

True: 1, 3, 4, 5

Not mentioned: 2

4

- Anna Kournikova has featured in numerous advertising campaigns but has never been an outstanding tennis player.
- Roger Federer, on the other hand, an exceptional tennis player, is not so well-known in the world of advertising.

5

Students' own input

6

1. playing an opponent
2. whether you win or lose
3. keep playing
4. ran out of time
5. score goals
6. hard to beat
7. practise

Questions:

Personal answers

Topic 18 A healthy lifestyle

1a

Some possibilities:

- A good piece of advice!
- Trust me!
- Sunscreen!

1b

File 27, page 56

sunscreen

benefits

meandering

dispense

fade

recall

grasp

reckless

floss

jealousy

insult

berate oneself

Sonnenschutzmittel

Vorteile

abschweifend, beiläufig
(Beide Vorschläge sind eine
sinngemäße Übersetzung.)

austeilen, erteilen

verblassen

sich an etw. erinnern

etw. begreifen, verstehen

rücksichtslos

Zähne mit Zahnseide reinigen

Eifersucht

Beleidigung

sich selbst tadeln

Questions:

Personal answers

2

Students' own input

3a

Students' own input

3b

get basic information / not a lot of context /
 to a conclusion
feel well / worse / better / scared / confused
become a cyberchondriac / convinced

4

Students' own input

5

Some possibilities:

1. Consumers should be informed that the manufacturers' products aren't always what they claim to be.
2. Because it's easier, less time-consuming and trendier.
3. The health products industry nowadays is so powerful because people are more stressed and they believe these products will help them to be more effective and successful. There has been a boom in the sale of health products in recent years since people are increasingly concerned about their fitness and performance. I think it should be more strictly controlled to protect the consumers.

6

Students' own input

Topic 19 Taste

1

Students' own input

2

Students' own input

3a

1c, 2a, 3b, 4e, 5d

3b

Students' own input

4

1. ... started the Slow Food movement in 1986.
2. ... was the beginning of the Slow Food idea ...
3. ... it was also destroying a tradition: ...
4. ... that the answer was to motivate people ...
5. Slow Food was born that way.
6. Twenty years after it all began, ...

5

Students' own input

Topic 20 You are what you wear

1

Students' own input

2

outdoor wear	coat, jacket, hat ...
indoor wear	trousers, jumper, shirt ...
sportswear	track suit, T-shirt, shorts ...
underwear	vest, pants, bra ...
footwear	shoes, sandals, boots ...
jewellery	earrings, brooch, necklace ...
make-up	mascara, lipstick, blusher ...
accessories	scarf, umbrella, sunglasses ...

3

- 6a Handtasche
- 3b Unterhose
- 1c Hose
- 5d Geldbeutel
- 7e (Fein-)Strumpfhose
- 4f Weste
- 2g Unterhemd

4

Students' own input

5a

Because they were expected to do the jobs that were traditionally done by men.

5b

early 20th century

It generally wasn't acceptable for women to wear trousers.

World War I

Women started to wear trousers.

1960s

Yves Saint Laurent designed elegant trousers for professional women.

1971

Trousers became fashionable for special occasions.
Bianca Jagger wore trousers for her wedding.

beginning of the 70s

Queen Elizabeth II first appeared publicly in a trouser suit.

1999

Female workers on the Eurostar trains had to wear skirts because they didn't look feminine enough.

nowadays

The idea that men wear trousers and women wear skirts is still very much alive. Common icons use this stereotype, for example on the doors of Gents' and Ladies' toilets.

6a

Some possibilities:

Arguments for uniforms

- It's practical.
- You don't have to think about what to wear in the mornings.
- It lowers the overall cost of clothes.
- There is less competition among kids.

Arguments against uniforms

- The school uniform is expensive.
- If kids don't have the newest uniform, other kids laugh at them.
- Kids still need fashionable clothes for the evening and weekends.
- The uniforms are old-fashioned.
- Some kids feel ugly and stupid wearing them.
- Everybody looks the same.

6b

Students' own input

7

Students' own input

8

1. True (It was done to honour the gods.)
2. True (according to an online poll in 2008)
3. True (possibly for therapeutic reasons because many of them are on acupuncture points)
4. False (84% do not regret having them.)
5. True (according to a GMTV survey in January 2008)
6. False (mainly because it makes them feel good about themselves)
7. True (There is a saying 'Right (hand) for your head, left (hand) for your heart.')