

Read the following text and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

### **Trapped: the former couples who can't afford to move on**

Middle-income couples, recently identified by the Conservatives as the "struggling middle", are increasingly unable to afford to separate when their relationships end, according to a new study.

5 Almost half the counsellors surveyed at Relate, the charity that specialises in relationship counselling, say an increasing proportion of the 150,000 clients they see each year are being forced to remain living together despite having decided to split up. Couples with children are more likely to find themselves trapped than those without, but both groups are increasingly finding it impossible to bear the cost of setting up different homes.

10 "When we talk about Relate's clients, we are not talking about people on low incomes. We're talking about people in employment, on average to above-average incomes," said Ruth Sutherland, the charity's chief executive. "These are people who could previously afford to move away from each other when their relationship broke down," she added. "But now, they find they can't afford two mortgages, on top of the cost of running two homes."

15 Sutherland said that for parents, the cost of childcare was another devastating factor. Parents in the UK spend an average of 27% of their salary on childcare, compared with a European average of 13%. "To pay for the increased childcare demands that come with being a single parent has become a pipe dream for many people, even those in well-paid jobs," said Sutherland.

20 At least 40% of Relate counsellors said they were seeing more couples split up than two years ago, with money worries cited as a major cause. Which is why, said Sutherland, she was so concerned by another finding in their survey: that separated couples are increasingly unable to afford to complete their counselling courses. At least 80% of counsellors said increasing numbers of clients were unable to afford to "properly start or conclude" their counselling programmes, despite being offered short, intensive courses. They also confirm that money problems including debt, a lack of disposable income, unemployment and rising living costs had worsened for their clients in the last two years.

25 "Let's all be clear about the real cost of austerity: the impact of being in a relationship that isn't working is toxic. It is harmful to your children and it permeates every other aspect of your life," said Sutherland. "If the government wanted to protect the mental health of the country, both now and in the future, they would target these cuts differently."

30 Campbell Robb, chief executive of Shelter, a charity working for the homeless, said that they are hearing from couples moving in together too fast to help with housing costs but then unable to move out if things go wrong because they can't afford to live on their own. "With wages stagnating, higher risk of redundancy, spiralling living costs, and many families without any savings to speak of, it can be simply unachievable for a separating couple to afford to run two homes rather than one. The only alternative for some families is to continue living in the same home but as separate households."

35 "Our research also shows that more and more people are putting off having children because they can't find an affordable home," he said. "Something is badly wrong when people who are working hard still face a constant struggle to get a decent place to live."

Robb quotes an example. Adela and Tanek married in Poland in 2002 and came to Britain with their two children four years later. For a few years, they lived comfortably: Adela worked full-time as an administrator, and Tanek in a factory. "Our finances were fine – more than fine," said Adela.

40 Two years ago, however, the couple broke up. Adela moved into a studio flat. The parents shared custody of the children but Tanek had returned to university and, soon afterwards, Adela's office closed down. Money became tight.

"We found that we just couldn't run two households, no matter how cheaply we lived. I didn't want to move into a single room because I wanted the children to live with me for half the week", said Adela.

45 "It was a difficult decision and a terrible step backwards, but we eventually decided we had no choice but for me to move back into the family home. We get on well as friends but this situation is terribly awkward and very wrong. We want to get on with our lives and meet new people but, for the moment, we're stuck together.

## A. Circle the correct answer for each question

1. What is this text mainly about?

- a) The burden of childcare for poor families.
- b) The effect of the economic crisis on the housing market.
- c) The impact of recession on couples who want to lead separate lives.
- d) The increase in the number of marriage break-ups.

2. With the economic crisis more couples decide to...

- a) continue to live under the same roof, even after the relationship has finished
- b) fight for shared custody of their children after their marriage has failed.
- c) postpone breaking their relationship.
- d) share the cost of childcare.

3. In the last two years, Relate counsellors have found that more couples split up because they...

- a) are too busy looking for a job.
- b) are under financial pressure.
- c) can't afford the time to start a counselling course.
- d) do not finish counselling programmes.

4. According to the text, a direct consequence of the government's austerity measures is that...

- a) children tend to harm each other more.
- b) couples with marital difficulties are also having drinking problems.
- c) house prices are going up faster.
- d) the population's mental well-being may suffer.

5. Campbell Robb, from Shelter, warns that...

- a) couples find it increasingly difficult to move in together.
- b) many couples decide not to have children nowadays.
- c) running two homes is not an option for some separating couples.
- d) some families have to share their accommodation with other families.

## B. Which of these statements are true (T) and which are false (F)?

\_\_\_\_ 1. Childless couples that split up are more likely to have problems to pay up their mortgage.

\_\_\_\_ 2. According to Sutherland, the accommodation issue mostly affects job seekers.

- \_\_\_3. The cost of looking after children in Britain is significantly more expensive than on the continent.
- \_\_\_4. After their parent's separation, Adela and Tanek's children still lived with both of them.
- \_\_\_5. Having moved back into the family home, Adela and Tanek have realised they want to have a life together.

|                           |  |           |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>TASK 2: CLOZE TEST</b> |  | <b>10</b> |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|

Read the text below and fill the gaps with the words provided. Every word can only be used ONCE. The first gap has been done as an example. There are 9 words that you don't need to use.

### Standing Room On Aeroplanes: A Possibility

The (0) \_\_\_\_\_ cost-cutting idea from budget airlines is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ passengers to stand. Michael Ryan, the CEO of Ryanair, is seriously considering this option. Ryanair is one of Europe's biggest airlines. It carried 5.84 million passengers in June, which is 13% more than a year (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Mr. Ryan says his airline is so popular because it is so cheap. Most of Ryanair's flights are short hops to Europe. This (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of standing for an hour or so on an aeroplane a workable one. Ryan said that many people stand for over an hour on a train, so it (4) \_\_\_\_\_ be no problem on an aeroplane. He told reporters he would (5) \_\_\_\_\_ be prepared to offer flights for free to passengers who stood. He said he could squeeze in 50 per cent more people and cut costs by 20 per cent.

Michael Ryan has changed the way many people think about air travel. His focus is on cutting out unnecessary services and so reducing (6) \_\_\_\_\_. One idea he is still thinking about is to ask passengers to pay one euro (around a dollar) to use the toilet. He said he could (7) \_\_\_\_\_ two toilets on board the aeroplane and put in extra seats. The extra revenue would reduce costs and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the price of airline tickets. He said asking passengers to pay would (9) \_\_\_\_\_ them to use the toilets at the airports. Ryan has also talked about a "fat tax" on overweight travellers. His standing room idea, however, might not take off. All airlines must (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to strict international safety standards. Everybody over the age of two must have a seat.

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|       |         |          |      |         |
|-------|---------|----------|------|---------|
| After | Animate | Business | Does | Earlier |
|-------|---------|----------|------|---------|

|           |          |       |        |           |
|-----------|----------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Encourage | Even     | Fares | For    | Latest    |
| Makes     | Moreover | Ought | Remove | Retake    |
| Should    | Spending | Stick | That   | Therefore |

**ANSWERS:**

|          |        |  |           |  |
|----------|--------|--|-----------|--|
| <b>0</b> | Latest |  | <b>6</b>  |  |
| <b>1</b> |        |  | <b>7</b>  |  |
| <b>2</b> |        |  | <b>8</b>  |  |
| <b>3</b> |        |  | <b>9</b>  |  |
| <b>4</b> |        |  | <b>10</b> |  |
| <b>5</b> |        |  |           |  |

## TASK 1 / VIDEO LISTENING

10

**You are going to watch a video about Andy Warhol.**

**On the following statements, spot the mistakes and give the correct information. Do not use more than 4 words. The first question (0) has been done as an example. You will watch the video 3 times in total.**

0. A portrait of Marilyn Monroe, painted by Warhol, was sold for 28 million.

Warhol didn't paint it

1. The Media used Warhol's eccentric art to turn his friends into celebrities

2. Andy Warhol has influenced Facebook, music, magazines and TV ads.

3. In Pittsburg, Warhol's hometown, people do not care about him.

4. His parents lived in the suburbs during the Great Depression.

5. The presenter shows us Warhol's old poor house.

6. Life was difficult and a Campbell tomato soup became common supper.

7. When he was eight he went down with an infectious disease.

8. He was given chocolate bars when he made good collages.

9. He seldom went to church but he enjoyed looking at religious images.

10. His future works clearly showed his childhood early fears.

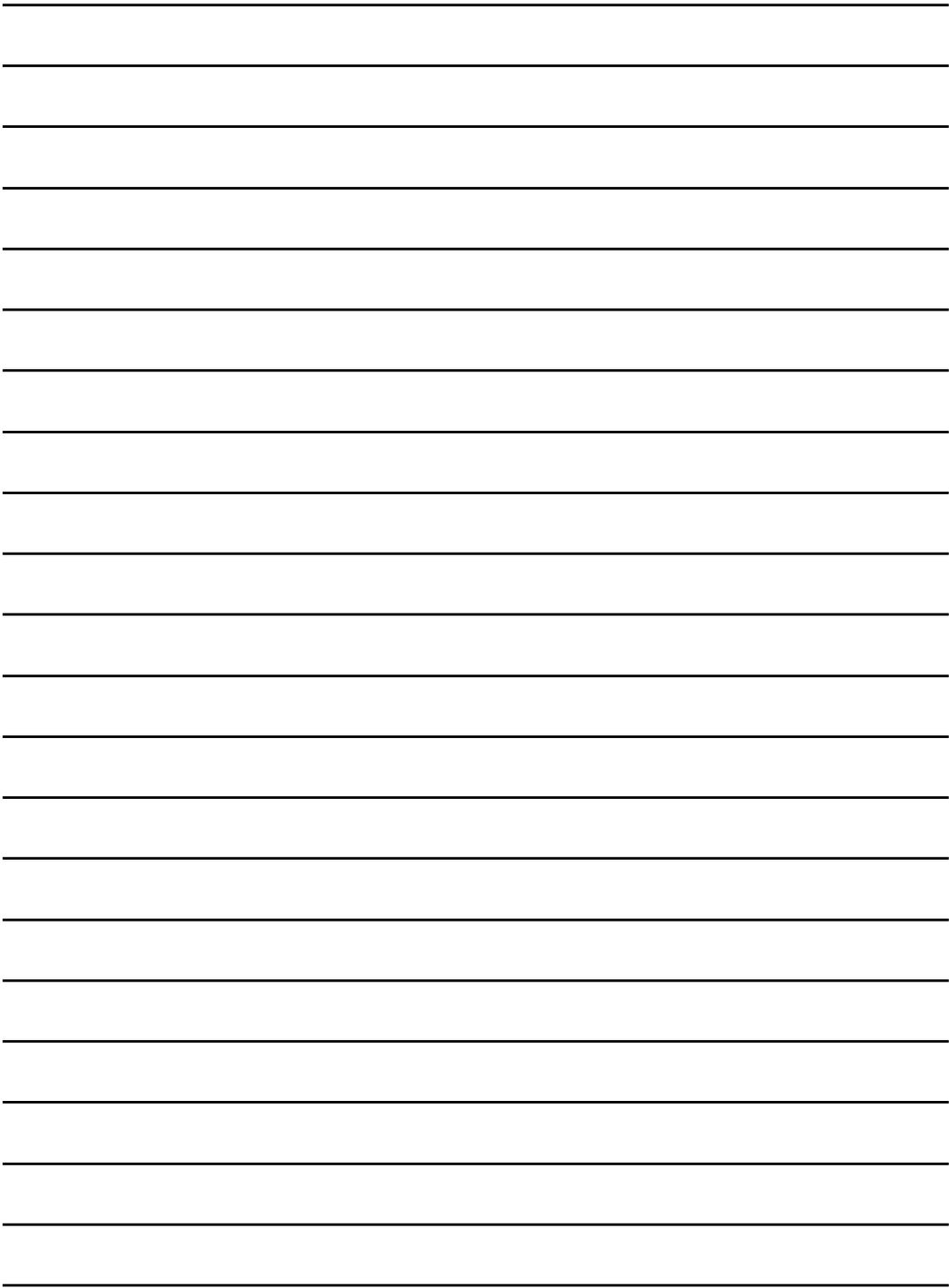
|                                 |  |           |
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| <b>TASK 2 / AUDIO LISTENING</b> |  | <b>10</b> |
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**You are going to listen to a radio extract of an interview with a war correspondent. You will hear the extract twice.**

**State if the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.**

1. Being a war correspondent is not as dangerous as people imagine.
2. If you are a journalist, the different sides in the conflict wouldn't want you to see what's going on.
3. You are really in trouble if you make a mistake because you are constantly on the front line.
4. The most dangerous incidents usually happen accidentally.
5. Once as he was driving to Sarajevo, he saw a group of soldiers counting dead bodies.
6. He gets so involved in what he sees that it interferes with his work.
7. The villages of Bosnian people were burnt so that the Serbians could start building their own towns there.
8. What he sees often makes him feel upset.
9. It's difficult to come back from a war zone to the normal world.
10. Lots of journalists get hooked on drugs when they come home back from war.





**Translate the following sentences into English.**

1. A pesar de tener 85 años, todavía cuidaba de su jardín, lo que le mantenía en forma.

2. Juan accedió en llevarme al aeropuerto, pero insistió en salir una hora antes.

3. Ya no me acuerdo de haber celebrado las Navidades en casa de los abuelos, ¿cuántos años teníamos?

4. Se negó a colaborar con nosotros y amenazó con irse a final de mes.

5. No he dormido nada bien. Ojalá no hubiese cenado tanto anoche.