

ENGLISCH **4**

Schularbeits-Trainer

Kompetent
AUFSTEIGEN ...

4. Klasse AHS·NMS

Tapescripts

TAPESCRIPTS
Kompetent AUFSTEIGEN Englisch 4
Schularbeits-Trainer
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Test 1: Crime – A news story about a robber

A robber who left his phone at the crime scene was caught by the London police yesterday. The 24-year-old man attacked a woman who was walking home from the cinema at night. The man did not have a weapon and he did not try to hide his face. He just grabbed the woman's handbag and wanted to run away. The woman didn't let go of the bag and was pulled to the ground by the robber. Because she was still holding on to her bag the young man hit her. The woman finally realised that the robber was too strong for her and let him have her bag. The man ran away and left the woman lying on the ground. She was not badly hurt but was taken to hospital because she had a shock.

Later the robber realised that he had dropped his mobile phone while he had been fighting for the bag. So he telephoned the police to find out if someone had handed it in. That made it easy for the police to find the criminal and arrest him.

A spokesman of the police said that they had probably caught the most stupid robber in Britain.

Test 2: Teenage Issues – A family therapist talks about teenage issues

The teenage years are hard for both the parents and the children. Teenagers will often argue with their parents, usually as a result of the fast and intense changes they are experiencing. Teens are trying to learn how to manage their own lives. This is a healthy step, but that also means that parents have to deal with disrespect in the meantime.

What are some of the most common teenage problems?

Firstly, many teenagers cannot imagine life without their smartphones. Teens use their smartphones to listen to music, to access social networks, to stay in touch with their friends. While it's important for teens to stay in contact and develop a strong network, this should not get in the way of other aspects of their life such as schoolwork, for example. Some parents keep computers in a common area of the house, so it's easy to supervise activity. Others set limits on when electronic devices can be used.

Secondly, a teenager's mood can change very quickly. One moment they seem sweet but then they suddenly start to act very disrespectfully, talking back, rolling their eyes, or ignoring instructions. Friends suddenly seem to be more important than family. While the idea of focusing on friends more than family is normal, this behaviour can hurt. Much of this will pass, but one should not tolerate behaviour that is extremely rude.

Thirdly, everything parents say seems to annoy their teenagers, causing them to shout or cry. In many cases, this is simply a result of the intense emotional and physical changes the child is going through, but it can be hard to deal with. Teens often feel that their parents do not take their problems seriously, which can make them stop sharing their thoughts with their parents. Parents should make a point of listening to their teens and taking their problems seriously. Parents should offer sympathy rather than advice

Teens will often test limits, and part of this will usually be to stay out later than agreed on. If parents are worried that their teen is doing something dangerous when he/she stays out late, then there should be consequences. However, curfews, that means the times when teenagers have to be home, should be age appropriate. A 15 or 16-year-old should be allowed to stay out longer than a 13-year-old.

Some parents think that some of their teen's friends dress inappropriately or are a bad influence, but this is not always a cause for alarm. A teen often has a very strong relationship with his friends, so criticizing his friends can be like criticizing the child personally. In many cases, it's best to keep quiet.

Test 4: Food – An interview with a famous chef on healthy food

I = Interviewer, B = Ben

I: Ben, you have just written a new book on healthy eating. It's called "Super Food". What motivated you to write the book?

B: Well, some years ago I realised that I wasn't as healthy as I'd like to be. I realised I wasn't getting nearly enough sleep, which meant I often felt tired and kind of lazy. Now, I feel great. I know a lot more about the effects that the food I eat has on my body. The world has never been more unhealthy, and this generation will probably live shorter lives than their parents. I wrote this book to help people get things right, at least most of the time.

I: What is Super Food?

- B:** It is a bit difficult to explain what ‘Super Food’ means because there’s no one food that has everything – there’s no magic bullet. But, it is an expression that people use a lot. They think of nutritious food that is cooked in a really balanced way. This is exactly what I’ve tried to do with this book.
- I:** Does that mean I can no longer eat spaghetti carbonara because it is unhealthy?
- B:** Not at all. You’d think it’s about taking things away, but it’s often actually about giving the dish a bit of balance. I’m not saying don’t eat a carbonara, or a biscuit or anything else that you really enjoy, I’m just saying that it’s important to look for a balance – everything in moderation is the key.
- I:** What do you mean when you talk about a “balanced plate”?
- B:** It’s about making sure you’re getting a varied diet and a wide range of nutrients. Make sure your body is provided with all the tiny little things that make your hair beautiful, your eyes shine, your teeth and bones strong, your brain work and so on.
- I:** What was the biggest surprise for you when writing the book?
- B:** When writing the book I visited some of the healthiest places in the world and looked at communities with the largest number of people living into their late 90s and even to over 100 years old. What surprised me was that they can still have a conversation, they can still move, they can still cook for themselves, they sleep well, and they definitely don’t have stress! A lot of them have a little drink every day – just one glass, to chill out with friends. Being with friends, being part of a community and being with their families plays an important part in their lives. It is what makes them want to get up each morning, it makes them want to do something. It’s probably seeing the importance and the power of social contacts that surprised me the most. Leading a healthy life is obviously not just about eating the right food but watching your diet is definitely a step in the right direction.
- I:** Thank you, Ben, for talking to us.
- B:** No problem.

Test 5: Jobs – Mr Miller’s unusual job

I’ve been a professional dog walker for two years now and I must say it is a nice job. Of course, it is much more than walking dogs. Sometimes it can be quite stressful and exhausting, but most of the time I really enjoy my job.

I started working as a dog walker when I was a student and needed some extra money to buy nice clothes or concert tickets or other stuff I wanted to have. When I started I did not know how much planning and organization this job requires. Just let me give you an idea of what my day looks like.

In the morning I usually start by checking my e-mails and writing mails to clients (the people whose dogs I walk). By now there are so many dogs that want to be taken for a walk that I can no longer do this alone. So I have 3 co-workers. Together we make a plan of who is going to walk which dogs that day.

In order to earn money you have to be efficient. That means that you can’t just take one dog at a time for a walk. You have to find dogs that are okay with each other, so that you can walk them in pairs. To do so, I have to plan my route carefully because I have to pick up the dogs from their owners’ homes and take them back after our walk. It is also very important to be careful when walking a dog that is not yours. So I never let them off their leash because I don’t know how they react in certain situations.

Every day I spend about 6 to 7 hours walking 10 to 12 dogs. That’s quite a lot and often I’m really tired in the evening. Being a dog walker is not an easy job. But being greeted by a wagging tail and spending my days walking and playing with my favourite animals makes it worth every second.

Test 7: Australia

Interviewer: Hi, Linda. You have just returned from a 4-months stay in the Australian Outback.

Linda: Hi, yes. I was part of a team of students working with a paleontologist.

Interviewer: Yes????

Linda: (laughing) It’s not as bad as it sounds. We were looking for fossils. You know, these very, very old remains of animals or plants.

Interviewer: How old is very old?

Linda: Well, older than 10, 000 years.

Interviewer: Fascinating! You must tell us more about this a bit later. For the moment I’d like to know what your life in the Outback was like. You are not really a country person, are you?

- Linda:** No, that's right. I am from Chicago and I'm used to the busy life of a big city. So these last 4 months were really something completely new for me. I think country life in Australia is not like anywhere else in the world. The word Outback stands for "out in the back country". That's what the inner part of Australia is called. Farms are very large there and the nearest town is often more than 100 km away.
- Interviewer:** Wow, life must be very hard there.
- Linda:** It is! Travelling by car is difficult because the roads are so bad. Sometimes it is even impossible. Many families have their own small airplanes, which they use to get to the nearest town. Many children who live in the outback get their education at home. They are taught and given their homework over the Internet. Many people live far away from doctors or hospitals. They can't just walk over to the doctor's place when they have health problems. So there are Flying Doctors who come by plane if someone is seriously ill.
- Interviewer:** Did you ever need a doctor while you were there?
- Linda:** No, fortunately not.
- Interviewer:** Now tell me, what is the climate like there?
- Linda:** It is the driest region of Australia. So the people who live there have to cope with natural disasters. You might have heard of the dangerous bush fires that happen quite often during the hotter months of the year.
- Interviewer:** Well, now let's talk about ... (fade out)

Test 8: Five teenagers talk about their favourite superheroes

Mike

My all time favourite superhero is Superman. He is an ideal of humanity but he is not perfect. Despite being an alien with godlike powers, he's as human as the rest of us. Maybe that's because he was brought up by Jonathan and Martha Kent, two humans. He is selfless and always wants to do the right thing. We should learn to be more like him in real life. I'm almost certain there'll never be a comic book or fictional character that I will like as much as Superman.

Walter

At the moment I think Batman is the coolest superhero. Batman is an example that if we set our minds to something, we can do or be anything we choose to be. Batman is an awesome character. Although he is a no compromise fighter against criminals he has a strong moral code.

Sarah

I like Wonder Woman because she is a powerful woman, a warrior and also an ambassador for peace. Wonder woman is smart, strong and independent. She is not only an interesting female character but a role model for those who don't feel perfect. She shows us that just being a better person is all that matters.

Lara

My favourite superhero is Catwoman. Her real name is Selina Kyle. Selina had a difficult childhood. When she was just a girl her mother killed herself and her violent father drank himself to death. She ended up on the streets of Gotham City. To protect herself, she studied martial arts. Later she also learned how to box. For a time, she was the most famous thief nobody knew

Originally Catwoman was introduced as an opponent for Batman. She has her own moral code (she hates killing) and has from time to time teamed up with Batman and other heroes against greater threats. Batman is attracted to her because she's kind of a female version of himself.

Mona

My favourite superhero is Supergirl. Her real name is Kara. She is Superman's cousin but she is older than Superman. She was a teenager when he was a baby. When planet Krypton was attacked, her parents put her in a rocket headed for Earth. Unfortunately the rocket was caught in a large meteor so she arrived on Earth years after her cousin did.

Lex Luthor used Black Kryptonite to split her into a good Kara and an evil Kara. However, the good side became dominant.

Test 10: 3 Crazy Collectors

Bob and Liz

60-year-old Bob and his wife Liz, 55, have a rather unusual collection of 240 different kinds of love dolls – they are life-sized dolls – that they dress up and take on shopping trips.

Bob says that he has always been interested in dolls, but his passion really started to develop when he used to buy dolls and other toys for his two kids. He then moved on to buying shop mannequins for a few years. However, it wasn't until he found an online forum about silicone dolls that he realized that that was what he really wanted to collect.

With the help of his wife, Bob bought his first silicone doll, Beverly, in 2007 for about \$4,000. But that was only the beginning. The couple continued to buy different kinds of love dolls, from cheap blow-up dolls, to realistic silicone dolls. All in all, Bob and Liz believe that they've spent around \$160,000 since they started collecting love dolls.

He admits that he finds most of his dolls attractive and he considers them all part of the family.

Victor

Victor owns what is thought to be the world's largest hot sauce collection. His amazing 6,000 bottle collection from around the world includes a rare bottle of "Blair's 16 Million Reserve," the hottest sauce on the planet. He keeps his bottles on shelves in the dining room of his home in Arizona, in cupboards and in the fridge.

He has been collecting bottles of hot sauce for the past 17 years and is thought to hold the world record for a private collection. Victor, who works as a staff cook at a well-known hotel, said his most expensive bottle is worth about \$900 – a one of a kind – and the most he has ever paid for a bottle is \$400.

Paul

If you could measure love in dresses, Paul would probably be the most loving husband in the world. Over the past 56 years, the German-born business man from California has given his wife Margot 55,000 dresses, all of which he picked out himself.

The first ten dresses in Paul's collection were free. He got them while working in Bremen, Germany. He gave them all to his then-girlfriend, Margot. After going steady for a while, Paul and Margot got married.

He and Margot loved dancing and went ballroom dancing every week, but Paul wanted her to have a different dress every time, so he kept buying her new ones.

Margot never liked shopping, so Paul picked out and bought the dresses all by himself. He would buy dresses before work, after work, and even during work, sometimes coming home with up to 30 different ones.

As you can imagine, most of the 55,000 dresses were never worn.

Test 11: An interview with author Miriam Mason

I = Interviewer, M = Miriam Mason

- I:** Ms Mason, you are a very successful writer. Your latest bestseller “Money and Love” came out 6 months ago. What made you decide you wanted to become a writer in the beginning?
- M:** That’s actually quite a funny story. It was 20 years ago and we had an extremely hard winter with lots and lots of snow. I lived in the country then, you know. Well, I was snowed in for a few days. After some time I was bored. I had been reading and watching TV for too long. So I decided to try out writing my own book.
- I:** Just like that?
- M:** Yes, I had always invented stories when I was bored. Now I sat down and wrote one down. And I enjoyed it! As soon as I had started writing I found out that I liked it. And since then I have not stopped.
- I:** Did you ever take a course on writing?
- M:** No, never. But I still read lots of books by authors I like. I think you cannot be a good writer without liking good stories, without *reading* good stories.
- I:** I see. Can you describe a typical day in your life as a writer?
- M:** Mmmmm, I usually get up around 8:00. After breakfast I sit down to work. I’m most creative in the morning. I work for about 3 hours. Then I take a break and go through the e-mails. If the weather is nice I take a walk because I feel fresh and full of energy when I come back. In the afternoon I usually write for another two hours or so. Then I prepare dinner and later spend the evening with my husband, watching TV or reading.
- I:** Do you use the Internet?
- M:** Yes, I do. I do most of the research for my books on the Internet. Research is so much easier now! I also like the Net for communicating with my readers. I try to answer all reader e-mails. I think it’s really important to be in contact with the people who read my books. It makes me happy to know that there are people who enjoy what I am writing and even want to tell me so.
- I:** Are you writing a new book at the moment?
- M:** Well, I’ve not yet started. I have a few ideas and I’m doing research but I don’t want to say any more at the moment.
- I:** Thank you for the interview, Ms Mason.
- M:** You’re welcome.