Reading skills practice: Exam help messages – exercises

Read these messages and do the exercises to practise and improve your reading skills.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

1…….. to study
2…….. an exam
3…….. to choose
4…….. a cousin
5…….. a timetable
6…….. easy

a. a test to check how much you know about a subject
b. the son or daughter of your parent’s brother or sister
c. a plan showing when activities happen
d. to decide on the best thing
e. not difficult
f. to learn about a subject
Sam, HELP!!! It’s exam time. 😳 I need your help. You’re good at exams ... Joe 11:30

Haha! Yeah, I can help you. You’re my favourite cousin! 😊 Sam 11:31

👍 Thanks. What can I do? I have lots to learn and not much time. Joe 11:31

Don’t worry — plan your time. Make a timetable. Sam 11:31

How many hours a day do I need to study? Joe 11:32

Well ... start studying 3 or 4 weeks before your exams. The first week, study about an hour a day. Sam 11:32

That isn’t too much! Joe 11:34

No, it’s not much at all. Choose a couple of days to have free too. Sam 11:34

Free days? Are you sure? Joe 11:34

Yeah, it’s important to do other things. You need time to do your normal homework and see friends too. Sam 11:35

And play football. ⚽ Joe 11:35

Study for an hour and a half a day the second week. And the week before the exams, you can study for two hours a day. Sam 11:36

Every day? Joe 11:37

No. You can have some days free for football and TV. Sam 11:37

Joe 11:38

The important thing is to write everything in a timetable and then do it! Sam 11:38

Cool. It sounds quite easy. 😍 Joe 11:38

It is! Try it! Start now and plan your study timetable. Sam 11:39

You’re the best! Thanks. 👍 Joe 11:39

Good luck! Sam 11:39
1. Check your understanding: true or false
Circle True or False for these sentences.

1. Joe needs Sam’s help. 
   True  False
2. Joe is Sam’s brother. 
   True  False
3. At first it’s a good idea to study an hour a day. 
   True  False
4. Joe won’t have time to play football. 
   True  False
5. Joe thinks the plan is difficult. 
   True  False
6. Sam tells Joe to start the study plan now. 
   True  False

2. Check your understanding: matching
Match the sentence halves and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

1………. Joe asks                                   a. much time.
2………. Joe hasn’t got                             b. Sam for help.
3………. Sam tells Joe                              c. the plan sounds easy.
4………. Joe can choose                            d. for an hour an a half.
5………. Joe needs to study                        e. to make a timetable.
6………. Joe thinks                                f. two free days.

Discussion
Do you study a lot before exams?