

ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS INGLÉS

Número de
control

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COMPRENSIÓN DE LECTURA

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LA REALIZACIÓN DE ESTE EJERCICIO:

- **NO escriba su nombre en ninguna hoja de esta prueba o de las sucesivas.**
- **Escriba su nombre SÓLO cuando se le requiera más tarde en una hoja aparte. El número de su examen es el que figura arriba a la derecha en el recuadro.**

Duración: **75 minutos**

- Este ejercicio consta de **dos tareas**. Deberá realizar ambas.
 - En la tarea 1 deberá indicar si las afirmaciones sobre el texto son verdaderas (true) o falsas (false) marcando una cruz (✖) en el recuadro que hay junto a las preguntas **1-10**. Cada respuesta correcta obtendrá 2 puntos. Se restará un punto por cada opción incorrecta que marque. No se restarán puntos por respuestas en blanco. El número 0 es un ejemplo.
 - En la tarea 2 deberá elegir **UNA palabra adecuada** de las que se le ofrecen para rellenar cada espacio numerado en blanco (**11-20**) y escribirla en la tabla que aparece debajo del texto. Puede utilizar cada palabra sólo **una vez**. Entre las opciones hay tres palabras que no necesitará. No se restarán puntos por respuestas erróneas o en blanco. El número 0 es un ejemplo.
- **No escriba en los cuadros sombreados:** son para la calificación de las tareas.
- Sólo se admiten respuestas escritas con **bolígrafo azul o negro**.

NO ESCRIBA AQUÍ:

PUNTUACIÓN DEL EJERCICIO: _____ / 40

CALIFICACIÓN: Superado No Superado

Task 1. (10 x 2 = 20 marks)

Read the following text. For questions 1-10 mark a cross (✗) in the box provided on the next page, indicating whether the statements are true or false. You will lose one mark for each wrong answer you choose. The first one has been done as an example.

MARK

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING FOR SALE?

This week, the commercial realty trust that owns and operates the Empire State Building, announced plans to offer the public an opportunity to own part of the iconic building. According to business analysts, this initial public stock opening (IPO), might raise as much as \$1 billion in capital, which will fund much needed renovations and improvements to the 80-year-old landmark. Here’s a look back at its triumphant –yet rocky– past.

The race to build the tallest structure in the world can be traced to a series of ambitious businessmen. In 1913, retail magnate F.W. Woolworth shocked the world when he opened the 792-foot-tall gothic Woolworth Building in lower Manhattan – reportedly paid for in cash with the proceeds of his five-and-dime stores. For more than a decade, this remained the standard bearer for architectural achievement. With the arrival of the technological and economic booms of the 1920s, however, the field became quite crowded. In 1929, the Bank of Manhattan building at 40 Wall Street became the new champ, but was quickly overtaken by auto industry pioneer Walter Chrysler’s new corporate headquarters on 42nd Street. Very soon one of Chrysler’s fiercest rivals in the automobile industry, John J. Raskob, a former executive at General Motors, sold his GM stock and entered the skyscraper business for himself, forming the Empire State Corporation and hiring the architectural firm of Shreve, Lamb and Harmon to design his masterwork, which he planned to be the tallest building in the world.

One of Raskob’s first goals was finding a suitable location for his new building. But the plot Raskob chose, at 5th Avenue and 34th Street was home to the original Waldorf-Astoria hotel, and before that had been the site of a Gilded Age mansion owned by Mrs. William Astor, or “The Mrs. Astor,” as she was known to 19th-century high society. The hotel was the result of a family feud between two branches of the Astor family that led to the mansion’s demolition and the construction of two separate hotel buildings, which were later connected. With its link to the social power brokers of the day and its high standard of elegance, the Waldorf-Astoria soon became one of the most popular hotels in the world. By the 1920s, however, the hotel and its surrounding area had lost its appeal as New York’s social elite moved further uptown. In 1929, the building was sold for over \$15 million to John Raskob and his partners, and the current Waldorf-Astoria was built nearly a mile to the north, on Park Avenue and 50th Street.

Eager to drum up publicity for his new endeavor, Raskob turned to Alfred E. Smith. Smith was a three-term governor of New York, who had become one of the leading lights of the progressive era and was the 1928 Democratic presidential nominee. Smith’s defeat in the 1928 presidential election left him without a job, but his close friend and adviser John Raskob had a solution: On election night, Raskob, who had been forced out of his position at GM in part because of his public support of Smith’s presidential bid, promised the dejected former governor that the two men would soon embark on a business venture that would change the city forever. Smith, who had often spoken of his childhood memories of watching the construction of another local landmark, the Brooklyn Bridge, from his Lower East Side home, became the public face of the corporation. It was Smith who decided that the official groundbreaking for the building take place on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day, to honor the city’s large Irish population, and Smith’s grandchildren who subsequently cut the ribbon opening the Empire State Building to the public in 1931.

Designs for the Empire State Building began while the Chrysler Building was still under construction. The Empire State Building’s architect, William F. Lamb, unaware of how tall its competitor would be, was issued a challenge. According to legend, developer John Raskob, when interviewing Lamb, had asked him matter-of-factly, “Bill, how high can you make it so that it won’t fall down?” Lamb came through, and just 410 days into construction, it had already surpassed its rival. When the Empire was completed in May 1931, it soared 1,250

feet in the sky—200 feet taller than the Chrysler Building. It would hold the record as the world’s tallest building until the opening of the World Trade Center in 1972.

Despite its record-breaking status, Smith and Raskob still faced a problem: When it first opened, the Empire State Building was considered a flop. Located relatively far from the city’s transit hubs, and in a part of town then known more for its residential properties than commercial ones, the newly opened tower struggled to attract tenants. The skyscraper-building boom that had allowed for its construction had also coincided with the financial turmoil of the Great Depression, leaving a glut of unused office space on the market—including more than 75 percent of the Empire State Building alone. So what saved it? Tourism. Its location might not have appealed to potential tenants, but the unparalleled views available from its observation decks certainly did. In its first year of operation, it pulled in more than \$2 million dollars in ticket revenue— far more than its owners collected in rent. Eventually, the building found its financial footing and began to woo commercial tenants, but it took almost 20 years for the building to turn its first profit.

The building continued to suffer some economic downturns in the second half of the 20th century. Its occupancy levels have fluctuated, the high-priced commercial real estate market has relocated to other parts of the city and much of its office space and facilities have become outdated. In 2006, renovation for \$500 million had some success in luring tenants. The money raised in a public stock offering announced in February is believed to help complete these much needed renovations and make the structure a desirable 21st century business location.

Adapted from: <http://www.history.com/news/2012/02/14/empire-state-building-for-sale/>

Your answers

		TRUE	FALSE	
0	The general public might buy shares of the Empire State Building.	✗		✓
1	F. W. Woolworth paid hard cash for the Empire State.			
2	F. W. Woolworth owned a number of retail stores where inexpensive articles were sold.			
3	John J. Raskob designed the Empire State Building himself.			
4	The Astors were in quarrelling terms with each other.			
5	The Waldorf Astoria is located in the original spot.			
6	Alfred E. Smith took part in the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge.			
7	It was Alfred E. Smith who inaugurated the Empire State Building.			
8	Before the Empire State Building was finished, it was already taller than the Chrysler Building.			
9	Despite the Great Depression, there was fierce competition to occupy the Empire State Building.			
10	The Empire State Building’s success was a result of the good views it offered.			

Task 2. (10 x 2 = 20 marks)

Read the text and choose **ONE suitable word** from the box provided for each numbered blank (1-10). Write your answers in the box provided on the next page. Each word can be used only **ONCE**. There are three words you will not need. The first one has been done as an example.

MARK

NEW GRANDPARENTS: HINDRANCE OR HELP?

Grandparents can be a godsend for first-time parents – but they can be a cause of stress too. How do you deal with unwanted parenting advice?

The cot has been put together, the nursery has been painted and the baby clothes are neatly folded. You are about to give birth and everything is ready - **__0__** is it? Have you thought about how you will handle the "grandzillas" when your new baby arrives?

Will your parents and your in-laws be fighting through the doors of the hospital wing? Competing as to who will buy the most baby kit? Giving unwanted opinions on the name you chose for your child? Some new grandparents **__11__** go so far as to act as if the baby is their child, reborn 30 years later.

Having a baby can be hard **__12__** without dealing with over-zealous grandparents, and being tactful with an ocean full of hormones coursing through your exhausted body can be incredibly difficult. The number of times I have bitten my tongue in the last **__13__** months in my position of first-time mum has been too many to count. Often words didn't even thicken the air before tensions were raised and my belief in myself **__14__** a mother was thrown into doubt.

One young mother I know continued breastfeeding just **__15__** her mother-in-law, who had strong opinions and vocal objections to how the child was being raised, would not be able to feed the baby with a bottle.

__16__ mum had a different kind of problem: she doubted the cleanliness of her in-laws' house. She was scared to place the baby on the carpet after wondering when it was last vacuumed. Just how do you tell a grandmother not to place your freshly bathed child on a dust- and grit-littered floor without causing offence that could last a lifetime?

On the other hand, **__17__** is the grandparents I turn to for advice when my baby won't stop crying or I'm looking for a much-needed break. They are valuable and wonderful. And, of course, many grandparents are kind and dedicated full-time carers for their grandchildren.

But it is the unwanted advice and pressure over how to "be a parent" that is tricky to navigate. It is an issue that many parents-to-be don't even think about in the months leading up to the birth, and one that can cause a lot of aggravation **__18__**.

Valuable advice given to me **__19__** was to be brutally honest from the start - that way there are no surprises after. It didn't solve the problem of which granny got to hold the baby first, **__20__**! I also found that a bunch of flowers goes a long way after an argument and a frosty Sunday lunch over the wails of a newborn baby.

But the best lesson I have learned is to nod and smile - and then do it your own way. Mum knows best, after all.

Adapted from: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2012/feb/23/grandparents-hindrance-help>

The words you can choose

AFTERWARDS	ANOTHER	AS	BEFOREHAND	ENOUGH	EVEN	FEW
IT	LIKE	OR	OTHER	SO	THOUGH	WHAT

Your answers

0	or	✓
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		