

## Functional Skills Level 2 Reading

### Question 10, Level 2 Reading: Language Features

Question 10 on the Level 2 Functional Skills Reading paper is about language features. Using the sample papers as a guide, let's have a look at what is required.

#### The Questions

**10** Using Text C, identify **two** language features used to persuade the audience to consider a career in IT.

Give an example to support each answer.

Language feature ..... (1)

Example ..... (1)

Language feature ..... (1)

Example ..... (1)

**(Total for Question 10 = 4 marks)**

In this instance, the candidate needs to identify two language features used to persuade in the text with actual examples.

**10** Using Text C, identify **two** language features used to advise readers how to reduce device use.

Give an example to support each answer.

Language feature ..... (1)

Example ..... (1)

Language feature ..... (1)

Example ..... (1)

**(Total for Question 10 = 4 marks)**

In this example the candidate needs to identify two language features used to advise in the text with actual examples.

## The Texts

### Text C

A transcript of a speech about working in IT

Thank you for inviting me to your college to talk about how I started working in the IT industry. I love my job and am passionate about encouraging young people to follow in my footsteps.

When I was a teenager, I loved gadgets and spent endless hours playing on my phone. Technology was much more basic then, but the thrill of taking pictures and sending messages to my friends was enough for me. I never really considered a career in IT, because I thought that you had to be brilliant at maths to work with computers.

After school I started working in sales for a local company and, while I was no computer expert, I was the most computer-literate person in my workplace and so often ended up giving support to colleagues with technology problems. This was something I enjoyed and when a position came up with the IT Helpdesk I applied and was successful, much to my astonishment. It was my experience of helping others that got me the job.

Working with computers all the time made it obvious to me how much I didn't know and I started taking evening courses in programming and web design. The skills and qualifications I gained from these courses added to my work experience and strengthened my CV - this all helped me to get my current job as a web designer. What I find inspiring about my work is that no two days are the same and I am constantly developing my knowledge, getting to work on many different projects and with a huge range of people.

If you are thinking about taking the plunge into the IT industry, then I would highly recommend it. The sector is expanding rapidly and there are lots of different roles you could work in, with more than 1.5 million people employed in IT in the UK. You will find the work interesting, challenging and rewarding and the remuneration is usually quite generous, reflecting the fact that computer professionals are in high demand. As college leavers looking for a job, you will find an opening in IT. You just need to be enthusiastic about technology and prepared to work very, very hard to develop your skills and knowledge.

Good luck for the future.

Direct Address,  
e.g. Thank you

First person /  
Use of I or my,  
e.g. I never  
really  
considered

Hyperbole /  
Exaggeration,  
e.g. endless,  
constantly

Repetition, e.g.  
very, very hard

Positive  
Language, e.g.  
love,  
enthusiastic

Numbers /  
Figures /  
Percentages /  
Statistics, e.g.  
1.5 million  
people

Rule of Three,  
e.g.  
interesting,  
challenging  
and rewarding

**Article**

**Time to dial down digital use?**  
By Jonathan Wells

Are you completely dependent on your screens? Do you spend so much time in front of them, you don't have time to pursue other hobbies and interests? The average person spends a mind-boggling ten years of their life watching television. Although people, especially young people, are watching less traditional TV, viewing a box set rather than one episode of a show is now commonplace. People check their smartphones up to 200 times a day and most people say they might struggle to go for 24 hours without connecting to the internet.

The availability of different devices means we use them for work and play, to communicate with others and to keep ourselves informed. This can have a negative impact on our relationships: we may be too engrossed in our phones to have a conversation at mealtimes or immersed in doing our own thing on different devices, even when relaxing in the living room with family or friends.

If you think you and your family need to review your screen time, and make some adjustments, follow these guidelines. First of all, list all the gadgets you use and compile a record of how much time you are spending on them – there are apps to help. Then decide what activities you enjoy doing but don't have time to do currently. Finally make a plan: you must be resolute and self-disciplined to reduce your technology use, but here are some strategies to help you succeed. Remember – no pain, no gain.

- ◇ Set yourself realistic targets that you can keep to.
- ◇ Schedule your viewing / social media use and keep to the times you have specified.
- ◇ Remove phones from your bedroom to improve your sleep patterns, and prohibit devices during mealtimes so everyone can focus on enjoying conversation.
- ◇ Put phones and tablets away when you are socialising and give people your full attention.
- ◇ Try leaving your phone at home when you go shopping or to the gym. It's important to keep phones on silent to avoid annoying distractions at other times, and turn off notifications.
- ◇ Change one thing at a time and persevere with it for at least a week.
- ◇ Consider a digital downtime holiday where you leave technology behind and concentrate on living in the present and just appreciating your surroundings.

Rhetorical Question, e.g. are you completely...

Modal verbs, e.g. they might, you must

First person, e.g. we use them, in our phones

Direct address, e.g. if you think you and your family...

Repetition / rhyme, e.g. no pain, no gain

Idiom / slogan, e.g. no pain, no gain

Alliteration, e.g. dial down

Command, e.g. set yourself realistic targets

Numbers / Figures / Percentages / Statistics, e.g. 200 times a day

Use of steps / stages, e.g. first of all...

Informal / colloquial language, e.g. digital downtime holiday, doing your own thing

**The Mark Schemes**

The mark schemes for these questions state:

- Award 1 mark for each valid language feature identified, up to a maximum of 2 marks
- Award 1 mark for each valid and linked example, up to a maximum of 2 marks

In other words, the language feature and the example must match up.

In addition, other valid language features not highlighted here can be accepted, but note layout features, such as heading, bullet points and paragraphs are not accepted.