

Reading

2.1 You are going to read a text about sharing flats. For questions 11-20, choose the answer A, B, C or D which best fits according to the text. Write your answers in the boxes provided. (10 marks)

ROOM TO LET

You might think that sharing a flat with other young people is a good idea. But there is one major problem: how to choose the right people? I've had at least 25 flatmates, so I should know. It seemed the sensible thing to do when I moved to London. Missing my old friends and worried about feeling lonely, I moved in with 13 other people so that I would always have someone to talk to. I did – my bed was on the landing.

Eventually I was promoted to a room with a door – the airing cupboard. It was just big enough for a single mattress and I had to leave the door open so I could breathe. Then there was the bathroom rota. Accommodating 14 people before breakfast needed a military-style operation. We started taking turns at 5:30 and the last person to join the household got the first turn. The only advantage was that he or she got all the hot water.

Sadly, the owners threw us out and I had to find a new home fast, which is why I ended up with Gina the circus performer. When I first met her, she was hanging upside-down above the stairs. She seemed nice though, and the elegant old building was ideal. While we were sipping herbal tea and she was questioning me about my diet and political beliefs, I noticed that she had lots of great books I wanted to read. However, things went sour the day I moved in when Gina refused to let me get rid of an army of ants that had moved into my room. She said that killing was against her religion. So was cleaning the bath. As if that wasn't enough, she left a note on the fridge, where we usually left messages about phone (line 16) calls and milk, stating her intention to murder me with poison. I moved out in the middle of the night.

After that I ended up with some student doctors and was happy enough until we all caught a mysterious illness. It was at this point I broke my self-made rule. After sharing a student house with two friends in Oxford – a period that ended in a fist-fight over fruit juice – I had decided I would never again put a friendship to the phone-bill test. But of course I couldn't afford a one-bedroom flat in central London so I agreed to get a place with a very neat and tidy friend from school.

The house we found had three bedrooms, a washing machine and a nice little garden. We moved in at once. I got the smallest bedroom because I wasn't going out with anyone, but my new flatmates promised we would swap round within six months. That was 18 months ago. I'm still in the small room and my belongings are still in boxes on the landing, though one of the original girls has been replaced by a banker. What we had advertised for was a female non-smoking professional, but anyone who looked even slightly interesting had always found a better place by the time we decided that they wouldn't steal our boyfriends. The banker got in by promising that being male hadn't made him incapable of washing dishes and cleaning. He lied, of course.

There are, though, advantages to the flat-sharing life. If you can forgive them for drinking the last of your milk, you get captive shoulders to cry on. If you can forget about the ring around the bath, your CD collection instantly gets three times bigger – though you won't want to listen to most of it. You get three minds to remember to put out the rubbish. Three ways to split the rent. And unlike a partner, your flatmates won't care if you wear those old clothes all weekend.

11. Why did the writer share a flat when she moved to London?

- A. She went there with friends.
- B. She wanted to have company.
- C. There were twenty five people to talk to.
- D. She had a big room to herself.

	11
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12. The newest person in the flat had to

- A. get up very early.
- B. wash with cold water.
- C. go out without breakfast.
- D. wash after breakfast.

	12
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13. She moved in with Gina because
- A. she wanted to live in a modern flat.
 - B. she was in a hurry to find somewhere to live.
 - C. Gina worked in a circus.
 - D. Gina did not ask her any personal questions.
- | | |
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| | 13 |
|--|----|
14. What does 'that' in line 16 refer to?
- A. Gina's religion.
 - B. the author's religion
 - C. the fact that Gina left a note on the fridge
 - D. the fact that Gina didn't want to kill the ants or clean the bath
- | | |
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| | 14 |
|--|----|
15. She moved out because Gina
- A. refused to pay the telephone bill.
 - B. was cruel to animals.
 - C. was always cleaning the bath.
 - D. threatened to kill her.
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| | 15 |
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16. Why did she move in with her friend?
- A. Living alone would be too expensive.
 - B. The one-bedroom flat was big enough for two.
 - C. They had already shared a flat in Oxford.
 - D. She had decided only to live with friends.
- | | |
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| | 16 |
|--|----|
17. She got the smallest bedroom because
- A. she didn't date anyone.
 - B. she had very few belongings.
 - C. she was the smallest of them all.
 - D. she had very few boxes.
- | | |
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| | 17 |
|--|----|
18. Why is she still in the smallest bedroom?
- A. Her flatmates broke their promise.
 - B. It is part of the agreement she made.
 - C. She now has a boyfriend.
 - D. It is big enough for her and her things.
- | | |
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| | 18 |
|--|----|
19. Why did the banker move in?
- A. He was the kind of person they had advertised for.
 - B. He was the writer's boyfriend.
 - C. He had a lot of money.
 - D. He said he would do housework.
- | | |
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| | 19 |
|--|----|
20. One reason she likes flat sharing is that
- A. it is better than owning a flat.
 - B. someone else will clean the bath.
 - C. it is much cheaper than living alone.
 - D. flatmates encourage each other to dress well.
- | | |
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| | 20 |
|--|----|

2.2 You are going to read a magazine article about chewing gum. Eight paragraphs have been **removed** from the article. Choose from the paragraphs (A-I) the one which fits each gap (21-27). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0). (14 marks)

- A The acid which forms when we eat can damage our teeth. This is especially true when the acid is allowed to stay on the teeth for a long time. But there is a solution.
- B Today, a few chicle collectors (or chicleros, as they are known) still remain. But the job is dangerous and poorly paid.
- C For centuries, the ancient Greeks chewed a gum-like substance called resin, obtained from the mastic tree found mainly in Greece and Turkey.
- D Meanwhile, the world’s gum producers are finding clever ways to market their product.
- E The chiclero must then carry the sap on his back to a forest camp where it is boiled until sticky. It is then made into brick-shaped blocks for easier transport. Although the work is unprofitable, chicleros now fear that their form of income is in danger.
- F Research continues on new flavours and textures. Most new flavours are artificial, but some still rely on natural ingredients.
- G Modern chewing gum has its origin in the late 1860s with the discovery of chicle, a resin produced by the sapodilla tree of the Central American rainforests. Making gum from chicle resulted in a smoother, more satisfying and more elastic chew. Soon a huge industry grew, based on this rainforest product.
- H According to Wrigley, the world’s biggest chewing gum manufacturers, the flavour today is better than ever. Chewing gum keeps its flavour for 20 minutes or more. But even this achievement isn’t enough for them.
- I Manufacturers still receive complaints from people who find used gum stuck to the bottom of their shoe and claim it is a form of pollution.

Chewing Gum Culture

In Britain today, one in four people buy chewing gum regularly, spending some £120 million on the product every year. It’s fashionable, appealing to all levels of society – a modern icon, in fact. Yet the origins of chewing gum reach far back into history. 0 C

Grecian women especially liked to use mastic gum to clean their teeth and sweeten their breath. On another continent, American colonists found the Indians of New England chewing a similar resin, and took up the habit themselves. 21

Yet despite repeated attempts, it has proved impossible to cultivate the sapodilla commercially. The supply of chicle therefore depended on collectors travelling for miles to tap the sapodilla tree. 22

Conditions are terrible: highly poisonous snakes and insects lie hidden in the trees and the atmosphere is hot and humid. Carrying only a rope and an axe, the chiclero must climb high into the tree and make a cut to allow the chicle to drip down into a bag below. 23

The natural substance is being used less and less. As the sale of chewing gum rises, manufacturers have turned to synthetic substances so that they are guaranteed a regular supply and reduced costs. 24

The goal of the chewing gum industry is to make the flavour last even longer, according to Chris Peville, Wrigley’s spokesman. “It is the chemical properties of the gum base which hold the flavour.” Exactly how this works remains a Wrigley secret, the result of a century of continuous chewing and testing, and the improving of production processes. 25

They claim it helps you relax and eases tension. Indeed, soldiers during both world wars were regularly supplied with gum, because it was said to reduce their stress. However, chewing gum’s greatest benefit is – so manufacturers say – that it reduces tooth decay. 26

Our saliva, which neutralizes acid and supplies minerals such as calcium and fluoride, is the body’s natural defence. Gum manufacturers say that 20 minutes of chewing can increase the quantity of saliva. Sugar-free gum, in particular, may be a useful dental aid. 27

In America alone, 137 square kilometers of land is used solely to grow mint for flavouring Wrigley’s Spearmint and Doublemint, the most popular gums in the world.

KEY:

2.1 Room to let

11 **B**

12 **A**

13 **B**

14 **D**

15 **D**

16 **A**

17 **A**

18 **A**

19 **D**

20 **C**

2.2 Chewing Gum Culture

2 POINTS FOR EACH ANSWER!!!

21 **G**

22 **B**

23 **E**

24 **H**

25 **D**

26 **A**

27 **F**