




**5** Complete the sentences with the words/phrases in the box.

loads of bit couple little a little few  
a few much

- I have very \_\_\_\_\_ information, so I'm afraid I can't help you.
- I have \_\_\_\_\_ time to meet you tomorrow. Would 11a.m. be OK?
- Unfortunately, \_\_\_\_\_ children are interested in reading nowadays.
- He doesn't have \_\_\_\_\_ experience in the field of marketing.
- The soup needs a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of salt.
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ apples on the tree, but not many.
- I last saw Gary a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of weeks ago.
- She spends \_\_\_\_\_ money on clothes.

**6**  5.2 Underline the words that include the sound /ə/ in connected speech. Listen and check.

- He gave a few of us maths classes.
- We got loads of replies.
- She had a lot of cats.
- I said a couple of words.

## WRITING

### A SHORT BOOK REVIEW; LEARN TO OFFER PRAISE AND CRITICISM

**7** Underline the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

- The autobiography was written by *world-famous/well-researched* Formula One racing driver Graham Hill.
- The writing style is very *old-fashioned/badly-researched*, so it has little appeal for teenagers.
- Readers will be convinced by the *compelling/dull* arguments against modern business practices.
- Although the action is sometimes *well-written/slow-moving*, the city is beautifully described.
- We are left with a *powerful/charming* image of the tragic consequences of war.
- The ending of the story was *persuasive/unconvincing* as the murderer was never found.
- The constant changes from the past to the present made the plot very *difficult/original* to follow.
- I found the scene of the two abandoned brothers so *persuasive/moving* that I nearly cried as I was reading.

**8** Read the review of the book *The Miniaturist*. What does the miniaturist make?

# The Miniaturist

by Jessie Burton



Jessie Burton, a British writer who studied at Oxford University and the Central School of Speech and Drama, <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. *The Miniaturist* is her debut novel, written on a creative writing course. The book has been published in thirty-eight languages and it has sold over a million copies.

Set in Amsterdam in the seventeenth century, the novel was inspired by Petronella Oortman's dollhouse in the Rijksmuseum. All the pieces inside this perfect replica of a house were made of the same materials as the real objects, in exactly the right proportions. This fictional story follows the creation of a dollhouse and the mystery of how the maker of the miniature furniture and dolls seems to know intimate details about the family. Incredibly atmospheric, the book <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, but most significantly, the role of women in the home at the time.

The book has been written for adults, but <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and has also been made into a drama for the BBC. It is dark and mysterious and, at the heart of the book is the sensation of dread when the characters realise the power of the miniaturist – the shadowy figure who makes the tiny pieces for the dollhouse.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys intrigue and psychology. It is totally absorbing and, like any good thriller, it <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. It beautifully portrays Amsterdam at that time, with vivid descriptions and a view of the realities of daily life. The main female character, Nella, <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ because she is probably a bit too modern in her way of thinking, but in the end the reader wants her to succeed.



**9** Complete the review in Exercise 8 with phrases a)–e).

- explores the themes of feeling out of place and loneliness
- is a little unconvincing
- is also accessible to teenage readers
- is both an author and an actor
- has an unexpected ending

**10** Write a short review (200–250 words) of a book you enjoyed. Include information about the author, the audience, the argument (main themes) and your assessment of the book.

## VOCABULARY

### TYPES OF PEOPLE

#### 1 Match people 1–8 with sentences a)–h).

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 bookworm            | 5 couch potato |
| 2 computer nerd       | 6 foodie       |
| 3 beach bum           | 7 news junkie  |
| 4 rebellious teenager | 8 sports fan   |

- He refuses to do what his mother asks.
- She loves reading recipe books and trying out new restaurants.
- He spends all day surfing and when he's not in the water, he sits around chatting to friends.
- He watches the 10 o'clock report on one channel, then switches to another for the 11 o'clock bulletin. He also reads two online papers.
- She likes almost every genre, but historical novels are her favourite. Her mum sometimes worries about her eyesight.
- He spends all day in front of a screen, programming.
- She gets home from school and straightaway she's on the sofa with the TV on, eating snacks. I can't get her to do anything else.
- He can tell you who won the European Cup in 1988, who is the new badminton champion or even the names of the players in the women's hockey team.



#### 3 Read the texts again and answer the questions.

Which person/people (A, B, C or D):

- doesn't often have the chance to live her perfect day? \_\_\_\_\_
- would probably like to change her normal routine? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- makes friends when she's enjoying herself? \_\_\_\_\_
- sometimes does things her parents don't like? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- doesn't like some aspects of her work? \_\_\_\_\_
- enjoys team work? \_\_\_\_\_
- is very active? \_\_\_\_\_
- likes to be indoors? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- enjoys cultural activities? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- likes to be alone? \_\_\_\_\_

## READING

#### 2 Read the texts and match photos 1–4 with paragraphs A–D.

My perfect day would be to spend all day gaming with my online community. People seem to think it's lonely being me, but I have a **wider range** of friends, some of whom are techies, some who are more 'normal', than most people I know. We have a lot in common and tend to share ideas and exchange secrets about how to get to the next level or when a new version of a game has been **released**. I meet new people all the time and I think we learn a lot of good values as we often need to work together to score a goal or help each other improve. My mum complains that I don't go out and meet people, but at least she always knows where I am!

A \_\_\_\_\_

Every day my two little girls wake me up at **the crack of dawn**. So, I suppose my perfect day would be any day where I'm allowed to sleep past 6a.m.! But if I had to choose, first I'd have a leisurely breakfast while listening to the radio, followed by a walk around town, just window shopping. As I'm surrounded by kids and staff members all day at work as well, I wouldn't choose to see anyone that day. Maybe I'd eat a sandwich in the park and then, in the afternoon, I'd probably go to the cinema and I'd choose to watch something quite arty, like an old black and white movie.

C \_\_\_\_\_

Strangely, my perfect day would involve being at work. I'm surrounded by books and share many of those hidden stories and fascinating facts with customers. I love the smell of books, the **rustle** of pages as you turn them and the way they give readers the chance to imagine a completely different world. The peace and quiet of the place is something you can't find anywhere else, although it's true I would prefer to spend the day **wandering** round the different sections and looking through the new additions rather than checking books in and out.

B \_\_\_\_\_

In my case, my perfect day would definitely be spent outdoors. I live near the sea and although some people might call me a beach bum, I'd call myself a sports enthusiast. I don't just sit on the beach – actually, I can't stand sitting **still**. I surf, I love to play beach volleyball and I never **miss** a tournament. So, perhaps I'd get up with the sun, get down to the sand and spend the day there with friends. My parents aren't always keen on the amount of time I spend out of the house, but it could be worse: I could be spending all my time on my computer!

D \_\_\_\_\_

4 Look at the words/phrases in bold in the texts. Underline the correct alternatives to complete the definitions.

- 1 wider range: more *varied/limited*
- 2 released: *made available for the public/produced for testing*
- 3 rustle: a *soft/loud* sound
- 4 wandering: *thinking/walking* in a relaxed way
- 5 the crack of dawn: very *late/early*
- 6 still: without *moving/talking*
- 7 miss: *lose/not attend*

## GRAMMAR

### -ING FORM AND INFINITIVE

5 Underline the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

- 1 I'm looking forward to *meeting/meet* your cousin.
- 2 Now I've left home, I really miss *to chat/chatting* to my parents at meal times.
- 3 They agreed *to finance/financing* the new magazine.
- 4 We bought a cheap camera *to take/taking* photos underwater.
- 5 She promised *to not ask/not to ask* any questions.
- 6 They used the GPS *to find/finding* the hotel.
- 7 Can you imagine not *having/to have* access to internet for a week?
- 8 I gave up *having/to have* sugar in my coffee years ago.

6 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Do you fancy \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) out tonight?
- 2 He refused \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) to the police.
- 3 She apologised to her friend \_\_\_\_\_ (clear) the air after their argument.
- 4 She's interested in \_\_\_\_\_ (go) abroad to study.
- 5 The cat managed \_\_\_\_\_ (climb) in through the window.
- 6 I wish \_\_\_\_\_ (inform) you of the changes we have planned.
- 7 My boyfriend doesn't mind \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for me after work.
- 8 My cousins enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) time together.

7 Find and correct the mistakes in the sentences. Two sentences are correct.

- 1 Play tennis is something I only do in the summer.
- 2 Can you imagine being lost in those mountains?
- 3 The school decided giving us a day's holiday.
- 4 They went out for celebrating his birthday.
- 5 He isn't keen on have friends to stay at his house.
- 6 We look forward to hearing from you soon.
- 7 She's sometimes expected working on Saturdays.
- 8 The best thing about to do sport is the way you feel afterwards.

## VOCABULARY PLUS

### FORMAL VS INFORMAL REGISTER

8 A Replace the words/phrases in bold in the sentences with the words/phrases in the box.

try-hard chatty hacked off slob fit go-getter  
hassle loaded veg out chill

- 1 When he lost his job, he was really **annoyed and upset**.
- 2 She can start a conversation with anyone. She's so **into talking**.
- 3 They've got a huge house and two sports cars. They must be **very rich**!
- 4 I'm exhausted. All I want to do is go home and **sit in front of the telly doing nothing**.
- 5 His shirt isn't clean and his desk is covered in empty cola cans. He's such a **lazy person**.
- 6 She's a **very ambitious person** and wants to be a manager by the time she's twenty-five.
- 7 I have to get a train and two buses to get to work. It's a real **struggle**.
- 8 She's a **person who tries to impress others too much**, so she's always talking about her great salary.
- 9 Can't you just **relax** a little and stop worrying?
- 10 The man in the perfume advert is really **attractive**.

B Complete the sentences with the words/phrases in the box in Exercise 8A.

- 1 It was a real \_\_\_\_\_ trying to get here because all the bus drivers are on strike.
- 2 Even if the interview went badly, you can't do anything about it now, so \_\_\_\_\_ and talk to me about something else.
- 3 She's a \_\_\_\_\_. She leaves her clothes on the floor and never clears up in the kitchen.
- 4 He's in his fifties, but he's got all these younger friends, so he's bought a sports car and dyed his hair. He's such a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 It's so boring. All he wants to do at the weekend is \_\_\_\_\_ and watch sport on TV.
- 6 My new neighbour is very \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, she never stops talking!
- 7 She was totally \_\_\_\_\_ when she found someone had stolen her phone.
- 8 I can't afford to go on a safari. I'm not \_\_\_\_\_, you know.
- 9 The new manager is really \_\_\_\_\_. I love those tall dark-haired types!
- 10 Jack is determined to get a promotion. He's a \_\_\_\_\_.

## VOCABULARY

## SOCIETY

## 1 Complete the conversation with the words in the box.

housing unemployment sanitation healthcare  
network media evasion poverty

- A:** Have you seen the news? The <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ figures have gone up. There are now 2 million people without jobs. And the government is cutting the <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ budget, so we'll have to wait longer to get an appointment with the doctor.
- B:** Well, it's not as bad as some other countries, where there is real <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. You know, where people have no money and children are dying of hunger.
- A:** I suppose we do have enough to eat and decent <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ so we don't have diseases like cholera. But I can't stand the corruption here. Another politician has been accused of tax <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. I don't know why he can't pay like the rest of us!
- B:** You're right. And did you see the report on the latest <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ situation? There aren't enough houses for people living in the city but they can't build outside the metropolitan area because they haven't got the rail <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to enable everyone to get to work.
- A:** They never seem to plan in advance! What's more, the <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ manipulate the information according to the political party they support, so I never know who to believe.
- B:** I know. Perhaps you shouldn't watch TV anymore!


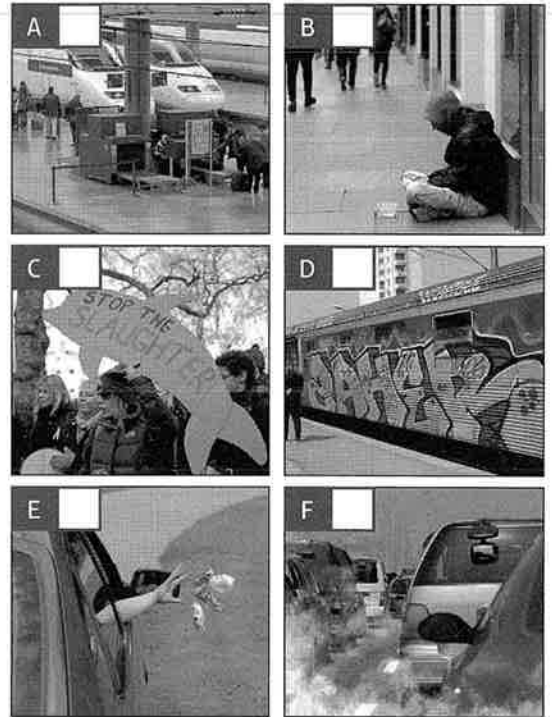
## 2 Match descriptions 1–6 with issues a)–h). There are two extra issues.

- Even though we live in a developed country, there are still families who cannot afford to feed their children. Schools are providing free meals in these cases but we also need to look at their housing situation.
- Several blogs and websites have been blocked and people who want to make their voice heard have to use illegal means. There have also been arrests of those who openly criticised the government.
- Security has been increased in airports, stations and public buildings after the recent events and the government has called on citizens to immediately report anything suspicious they might see.
- The project involves creating a filter which can be manufactured cheaply, providing a sustainable solution to the problem of diseases caused by bacteria in the untreated water supply.
- This crime affects everyone. If the authorities don't have money to provide essential services, then we all suffer and it is unfair that some people cheat the system.
- Since the factory closed, the job situation has become critical in the area. Many young people are leaving to find work in other places and those who cannot because they have family commitments are struggling to make ends meet.

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| a) child poverty                        | e) freedom of speech |
| b) unemployment                         | f) tax evasion       |
| c) terrorist threats                    | g) power cuts        |
| d) access to sanitation and clean water | h) healthcare        |

## FUNCTION

## EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION

3 A  5.3 Listen and match conversations 1–6 with photos A–F.

## B Complete the words in the extracts from the recording. The first letter of each word is given. Listen again and check your answers.

- A:** Yes, but I'm not c \_\_\_\_\_ that's the best solution. I think they should improve the public transport.

**B:** That's a good p \_\_\_\_\_.
- A:** What s \_\_\_\_\_ we do about all this vandalism?

**B:** I s \_\_\_\_\_ they should put security cameras in.
- A:** If you a \_\_\_\_\_ me, people who drop litter should be fined.

**B:** You may be r \_\_\_\_\_.
- B:** Shouldn't s \_\_\_\_\_ give him a blanket?

**A:** It s \_\_\_\_\_ to me they should provide more homeless shelters.
- A:** They've increased security at the station.

**B:** As I s \_\_\_\_\_ it, that won't stop terrorists. They only check suitcases.

**A:** T \_\_\_\_\_ a fair point.
- A:** I f \_\_\_\_\_ that there are more important issues than worrying about animals.

**B:** I'm not s \_\_\_\_\_ about that. We have to protect nature.