



"Investing in Africa's Future"

(FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)

HSL 111: ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

LECTURER: (MRS. MZITE)

DURATION: (3 HRS)

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer all the questions

Read the following passage and answer questions that follow.

Aaron Ralston's Story

Aaron Ralston, a 27-year-old mountain sports fanatic from Colorado in the United States, found himself in dire straits alone in a canyon in the desert when a 500kg rock came crashing down the canyon to smash his right hand and trap it against the canyon wall. A terrible accident, but the situation was made all the more serious because on this occasion Aaron had failed to tell anyone where he was going. At the last minute the plans for a trip with his climbing partners had fallen through, and on the spur of the moment he decided to head out on his own to cycle up a long mountain trail, leave his bike and then walk down the Blue John canyon. No one had the slightest idea where he was.

After three days of not seeing or hearing any sign of life Aaron realised he would die there if he didn't do something drastic. The course of action was horrific, but there was no other way. He would have to amputate his right hand. Fortunately he had a small multitool knife with him and he had some straps that he could use to make a tourniquet to stop himself bleeding to death when he cut the arteries. The knife had two blades. When he tried with the larger blade he found that it was too blunt to cut the skin.

The following day he found the courage to try the shorter blade, and with that he managed to cut through the skin. Only when he had made a large hole in his arm did he realise that it was going to be impossible to use any of the little tools on his knife to cut through the bones. After another 24 hours of pain and despair the idea and the strength came to him in a flash on the sixth day. With a final burst of energy he broke both bones in his arm and freed himself.

The ordeal was not over, though. He was still a long way from help. He had to carefully strap up his right arm and then find a way of lowering himself down a 20m drop in the canyon with a rope and only his left arm, and then walk the 10 km back to his car. Despite his ingenuity and all his efforts he would have bled to death if it hadn't been for a very happy coincidence: the moment he got out of the canyon into the open desert the rescue helicopter just happened to be flying overhead.

One of the doctors at the hospital recalls being impressed to see Ralston walk into the hospital on his own, in spite of his injuries and the gruelling experience of being in the desert for six days with almost nothing to eat and only a couple of litres of water. He describes the amputation as remarkable. "It's a perfect example of someone improvising in a dire situation," he said. "He took a small knife and was able to amputate his arm in such a way that he did not bleed to death."

Slim and pale with short reddish-brown hair, Ralston believes that his story was not simply about an isolated individual who rose to a formidable challenge. For him there was a spiritual dimension to the experience. In his news conference he said, "I may never fully understand the spiritual aspects of what I experienced, but I will try. The source of the power I felt was the thoughts and prayers of many people, most of whom I will never know."

Answer the following questions

1. In your own words write a summary of the above passage in 150 words. (15)

2. Explain the following words as they are used in the passage. (10)

- a. Fanatic
- b. Formidable
- c. Gruelling
- d. Ingenuity
- e. Amputate
- f. Improvising
- g. Dire situation
- h. Canyon
- i. Ordeal
- j. Impressed

3. Why was Aaron alone in the desert? (1)

4. How did the accident happen? (1)

5. Why couldn't he move?(1)

6. How did he finally free himself?(1)

7. Why did the doctor refer to the amputation as being remarkable?(1)

8. How far was he from his car?(1)

9. Imagine that you are Aaron write an account of what happened in direct speech. (15)

3. Choose the correct preposition to complete each of the following sentences: (20)

a. How am I going to come _____ (= find, get) all that money?

Up with
Up to
Along

b. He came _____ (= inherited) a lot of money when his grandfather died.

On
Into
Down

c. I'm pretty sure he was coming _____ me (= flirting with me) last night.

Up with

Up to
On to

d. My favorite singer is coming _____ (= releasing) a new CD next month.

Out with
To
Up with

e. He came _____ me (= attacked me) with a knife.

By
To
At

f. I think I'm coming _____ something. (= I think I'm getting sick.)

Into
Down with
Up with

g. She came _____ (= regained consciousness) about half an hour after she passed out.

To
Off
over

h. I came _____ (= found, by chance) some old magazines while I was cleaning my room.

Up with
Across
Over

i. You have to come _____ (= think of) a better excuse than that.

Through
Up with
Around to

j. He came _____ as (= made the impression of being) arrogant.

On
Up
Off

K. There are _____ people here than in the center of the city.

a. fewer
b. less

l. I make _____ money than he does.

a. fewer
b. less

m. I'm tired. I need to ask for _____ responsibilities.

- a. fewer
- b. less

n. He travels _____ than he used to.

- a. fewer
- b. less

o. They know _____ than they pretend to know.

- a. fewer
- b. less

p. _____ children are studying French these days.

- a. Fewer
- b. Less

q. You should eat _____ meat.

- a. fewer
- b. less

r. There are _____ homeless people in the city today than there were five years ago.

- a. fewer
- b. less

s. He has _____ furniture than I do.

- a. fewer
- b. less

t. There are _____ good teachers these days.

- a. fewer
- b. less