

Exercise 5

Read the following article about fog catchers, which are nets that collect water from fog.

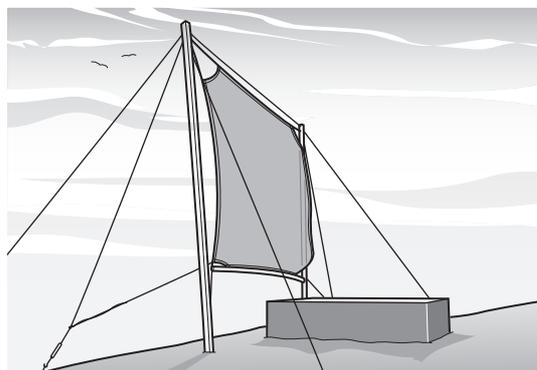
Write a summary about the benefits of using fog catchers.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Water from fog

The Atacama Desert in Chile is one of the driest places on Earth, with an average rainfall of less than 0.1 millimetres per year. In fact, there are many regions in this part of the world that have not had any rainfall at all for a number of years. However, where the cold waters which are found off the coast of South America meet the dry hot air along northern Chile, a thick fog rises up off the Pacific Ocean and is blown inland away from the coast. This fog is made up of tiny drops of water that are so light that they do not fall as rain. A clever invention has allowed people to collect water from the fog. This water is clean and safe to drink.

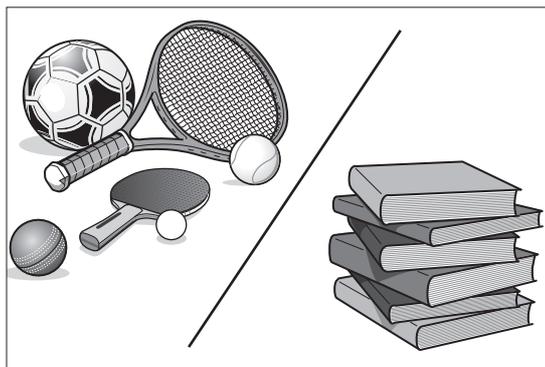
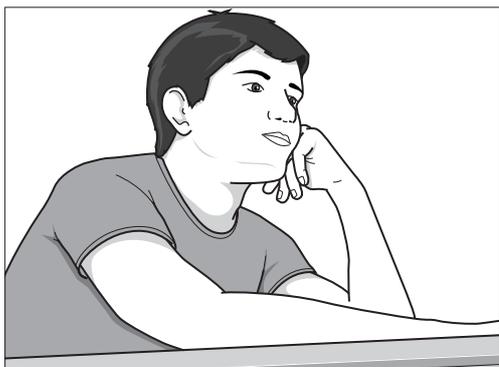


During a particularly severe water shortage in 1956, Carlos Espinosa Arancibia, a scientist working at the University of Chile, came up with an idea. He carried out a series of experiments in the highest hills near the Chilean city of Antofagasta, and was the first person to create what is known as a fog catcher. A fog catcher is a net with tiny openings of approximately 1 millimetre across, attached to poles in the ground. The holes in the net are so small that the drops of water cannot pass through the net, and become trapped. The poles which support the net can be carefully hidden in the vegetation, so the fog catching equipment has very little impact on the local environment. After the net captures the water drops in the fog, these tiny drops gather and form a bigger drop, which eventually runs off the net into a small channel underneath. The water then flows naturally down the hill in a pipe, and due to the effect of gravity, there is no need for electrical pumps to transport the water to the tanks at the bottom. It is stored in these tanks, and is then available for different purposes.

Fog catchers can be made out of lots of different materials. They can be designed to be as efficient as possible in different conditions, and scientists are involved in studying the results of using these materials in a range of settings. In addition, an area in Guatemala has a centre which studies the effectiveness of using a large number of fog catching nets. The water that is collected has supplied the surrounding area so that crops can grow in what was previously a dry desert. Experiments have shown that by using water collected from fog, an area can be transformed, provided that suitable weather conditions exist, and where the occurrence of fog can be relied on. The area where the system is to be constructed must be carefully chosen with this in mind if the project is to be successful. At a local level, many rural communities like the system as the netting is easy to find and cheap to install, and the water collected can be used to support small farms.

Increasingly, people all over the world are showing an interest in the potential of the system.

Fog catchers have many advantages. First of all, the water gathered is pure and suitable for drinking. Also, it can be utilized to sustain small-scale farms and enable crops to grow in what was once an arid desert. In addition to being easily obtainable and inexpensive to build, the netting can be manufactured from a variety of materials and can be designed to be as effective as possible in diverse conditions. Finally, fog catchers do not require electrical pumps to move the water to the containers and have minimal effect on the surrounding environment.

Exercise 6

You recently had to make an important decision.

Write an email to your friend, telling your friend about the important decision you had to make.

In your email, you should:

- describe the decision you had to make
- explain why it was important
- say how you felt after you reached your decision.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your email, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Dear Mostafa,

How's your diet going so far? I hope it's going smoothly. You won't believe what I'm about to say: I've finally made up my mind about a life-changing decision!

Ever since I graduated high school, I had to decide whether I'd study abroad (most probably in the US) or in my beloved home country, Egypt. Thankfully, the gap year I took gave me ample time to do lots of research about it. You know how I am—a stickler for details.

I know this may sound overly exaggerated, but this is such an important decision as all my future will depend on it. The university I'll go to, the people I'll meet, and how often I get to see my family are just some of the things that'll be affected. It's literally a new life path! Don't you agree? Yet, everyone seems to already know what they want! I guess I'm the odd one out.

I've been carrying the burden of this choice for so long; it's a decision that has always filled me with dread. And now that I've chosen . . . drum roll, please . . . my home country as my study destination, I feel an overwhelming sense of relief and freedom wash over me. It's such a wonderful feeling, isn't it? It's as if I've regained a sense of balance and well-being in my life!

Do you think I made the right choice? Write back!

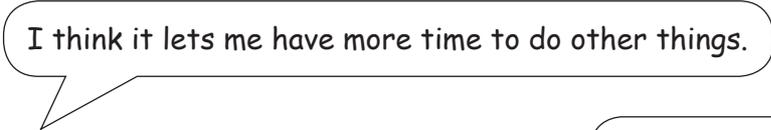
Best,

[your name]

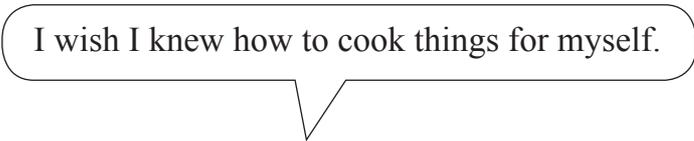
Exercise 7

Some people think that we rely too much on eating convenience food nowadays.

Here are two comments from your friends:



I think it lets me have more time to do other things.



I wish I knew how to cook things for myself.

Write an article for your school newspaper, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your article, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Nowadays, convenience food has become a staple in our diets. Its availability and delectable taste are undeniably alluring. But have we come to rely too much on it? And how much will this convenient option cost down the road?

One of the most compelling arguments favouring convenience food is the time and effort it saves. As students, we struggle to balance academics, extracurricular activities, and social lives, which leaves us with little time to spare. Our last resort for saving time, therefore, becomes pre-made food, which provides us with quick and easy sustenance without the need to prepare a meal from scratch after a long day at school.

On the contrary, our heavy reliance on convenience food, which is heavily processed and often laden with excessive levels of sugar, sodium, and fat, can potentially lead to serious health issues such as obesity, heart disease, and hypertension. Additionally, convenience food weakens family ties, as it diminishes the valuable time spent together during meals. Eating together as a family facilitates amiable conversations, shared laughter, and strengthens family bonds. However, this valuable time spent together is lost when family members eat separately according to their schedules.

After weighing the benefits and the drawbacks, it is apparent that convenience food, while palatable, may negatively impact other areas of your life; nevertheless, occasionally indulging in such food should have little to no deleterious effect.