### Reading Comprehension 1

**TASK** short answer questions

Read the text about the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, then complete the sentences (1-5) using a maximum of 4 words. The first one (0) has been done for you.

**Edinburgh Fringe by the numbers**

While many large cities in Europe empty out in August, that's when Edinburgh fills up - with mimes, musicians, actors, artists, and the hundreds of thousands of people who come to watch them perform as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

This year, from August 3 to 27, the giant arts celebration will feature more than 3,000 free or ticketed shows at 300 spots around the city. It is an open access performing arts festival, meaning there is no selection committee, and anyone may participate, with any type of performance.

An adventurous spirit is key for attendees. You never know what you're going to get - but then again, that's more than half the fun.

**1947:** Fringe started as eight shows in five venues back in 1947. Last year's event played host to a total of 3,398 performers, who put on a total of 54,232 performances over three weeks.

**2,696,884:** tickets issued last year, a record-breaking number. Fringe attendance has grown at an average of 7.3% over the last three years.

**520:** pages in this year's festival programme, which includes descriptions of each show, maps and venue information. Download it at edfringe.com.

**1981:** year the prestigious Edinburgh Comedy Award was first given. The inaugural prize - 1,500 pounds - was given to the then little-known quartet of Emma Thompson, Hugh Laurie, Stephen Fry and Tony Slattery.

**62:** countries with performers at last year's Fringe. Awareness of the festival is so widespread that last year its website was visited by people from every nation across the globe with one exception: North Korea.

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<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td>The Edinburgh Festival Fringe takes place every year during the month of</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>This year's edition starts on</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>The total number of shows performed in the first edition was</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>The total number of places where shows are usually performed is</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>The Fringe is for people with</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>In its first edition, the Edinburgh Comedy Award was a prize which consisted of</td>
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Reading Comprehension 2

Read the text about the passion for Scrabble that Professor Martin Hayward has, then answer the questions (1-7) using a maximum of 4 words. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Word up

Professor of Mathematics Martin Hayward is truly a man of letters – especially the kind found on Scrabble boards. Professor Hayward has been playing the famous word game since high school, for fun and in recent years for competition, and next month will return to one of its signature events, the National Scrabble Championship, which will take place in Cardiff from Sept. 4-8.

It will be the fifth time Hayward has been to the tournament, which is divided into four divisions: Elite, Expert, Intermediate and Novice. Professor Hayward will make his debut in the Intermediate category this go-round. Although relatively new to competitive Scrabble, he’s played in some 40 tournaments over the past decade.

Every player plays 31 rounds at the tournament, which works out to eight games and roughly eight hours a day for the first four days. Three games make up the final part of competition. “I enjoy the thrill of the game. I know there’s prize money for finishing first but I don’t mind. What is really important to me is to give the best performance I can,” he explains. “I also really like being around others who share my love for Scrabble. It’s a small, tightly-knit community so over time you get to know quite a few people.”

Introduced to the game by “a very smart colleague of mine”, a linguist (“I only beat him once in ten games”), Hayward discovered through Scrabble an interest in language and a fascination with unusual words. And of course he also enjoys the mathematical and analytical aspects of the game, and the strategies which go with them: “You have to work out how playing a particular word will affect your opponent’s moves and your own following moves.”

There’s even a visual appeal to Scrabble, Hayward adds. “As a game progresses you become aware of the beauty of the spatial patterns that appear on the game board.”

As someone who takes the game seriously enough to play it on a weekly basis, Professor Hayward studies the Scrabble Dictionary for a half-hour every day. But it’s not a random scanning of pages: “It helps to have a study programme. Some look for long words that may not actually appear. I look for ‘high probability’ words, with an emphasis on learning or reviewing seven- or eight-letter words, as well as ‘fives’ – there are about 9,000 of them.”

Professor Hayward will have more time for Scrabble after his retirement, which is due at the end of next academic year. He would like to continue his efforts to teach Scrabble to his grandchildren.
0. How long has Professor Martin Hayward been playing Scrabble?  
Since high school

1. How long has he been playing Scrabble at a professional level?

2. How long does the National Scrabble Championship last?

3. How many times has he already taken part in the National Scrabble Championship?

4. Which level does Professor Hayward currently belong to?

5. How did Professor Hayward discover Scrabble?

6. How often does he play Scrabble?

7. How many five-letter words are there in the Scrabble Dictionary?
Reading Comprehension 3

TASK multiple choice questions

Read the text giving tips on how to barbecue food, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1-8. Only one answer is correct. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Barbecue tips

Cooking food over fire has been a favourite method of food preparation since the beginning of time. Nothing is more irresistible than the flavour and smoky aroma of barbecue. With a few quick tips this old cooking method can be fast and easy for everyone.

5 Here are some time savers that can speed up barbecuing and let you enjoy the pleasures of the grill even in busy periods.

1 Put all you need on a tray before you start grilling. You won’t have to run back to the kitchen for a forgotten ingredient or tool. Keep seasoning, sauces and a timer handy at all times.

10 2 Keep your charcoal dry. It will light faster.

3 Food will cook faster in a covered grill because heat is more confined. Remember that every time you take the cover off the grill you lose heat, which takes time to build up again. Choose ingredients with similar cooking times that do not require frequent timing.

15 4 Nothing beats kebabs for speed. Cut boneless meat, poultry or fish into pieces and put them in olive oil and lemon juice with herbs of your choice. Kebabs can be prepared hours ahead or even the night before. All you need to do on a busy weekday is prepare them by adding vegetables and then grill them. Five to ten minutes with frequent turning is usually enough.

20 5 Use a microwave to save time. Microwaving chicken parts for three to five minutes will save about ten minutes on the grill without any loss of flavour. Use a microwave with larger cuts of meat for five minutes. This will allow you to save ten to fifteen minutes on the grill. It also makes fast work of pre-cooking spareribs to render fat. Or use a microwave to bring steaks up to room temperature for faster cooking and tender, more succulent meat.

0 Barbecuing ...
□ A was invented a few centuries ago.
□ B dates back to the 19th century.
□ C was brought to Europe from colonies.
X D is an old method of cooking food.

1 This list of advice ...
□ A could help people save time with BBQ.
□ B is for experts.
□ C also refers to a collection of traditional recipes.
□ D is for those who like grilling food in their free time.
2 Before you start barbecuing ...
   □ A assemble all you need on a plate.
   □ B check tools and ingredients are ready for use on the kitchen table.
   □ C decide what sauces you want to use.
   □ D set a clock to keep time under control.

3 The charcoal you use should be ...
   □ A already on the grill.
   □ B the same every time.
   □ C dry.
   □ D prepared the day before.

4 Keep the grill covered as much as you can to ...
   □ A keep heat outside and warmth inside.
   □ B save cooking time.
   □ C protect the food from insects.
   □ D cook all the ingredients at the same time.

5 You should uncover the grill ...
   □ A on no occasion.
   □ B to keep the right temperature inside.
   □ C if and when you really need to.
   □ D when it's about time to serve the food.

6 Kebabs are ...
   □ A made only with vegetables.
   □ B very long to prepare but taste delicious.
   □ C for people who don't like fish.
   □ D cubes of meat or fish which are marinated before grilling.

7 Use a microwave for pre-cooking food ...
   □ A only when needed.
   □ B in case of bad weather.
   □ C whenever you are in a hurry.
   □ D only with certain types of meat.

8 Ribs lose fat faster if ...
   □ A pre-cooked.
   □ B put directly on the grill.
   □ C grilled at high temperatures.
   □ D you leave them on a plate after grilling.
Community Rules and Regulations

While you are here, have fun and be considerate of the natural and serene atmosphere that helps make our island the perfect place to visit all year round. We respectfully request that all residents and guests observe the following regulations to ensure a more pleasant stay.

1. Beach towels and beach items such as coolers, toys, boogie boards, etc. should be kept out of sight of adjoining properties, golf courses, and roadways. Toys and bikes should be parked near the residence or in garages, and not left on lawns or driveways or on beach walks.

2. Exterior lights for oceanside properties: take care that lights do not shine onto the beach during loggerhead turtle nesting season (May-October) to protect young hatchlings who are drawn to the light.

3. Trash cans and recycling bins should be kept in designated service yards where they will be picked up by the refuse service on the designated days. Please keep garbage in trash cans to discourage animals from spreading trash.

4. Daytime parking on roads cannot impede emergency vehicles, driveways or leisure trail access. No parking is allowed on primary streets, while overnight parking and beach parking is prohibited on all roads. Please park on your driveway.

5. Motorcycles and motorized scooters are not permitted. Trailers and commercially marked vehicles may not remain outdoors overnight and must be garaged.

6. Roller blades, roller skates and skateboard shall not be allowed on the walking paths, sidewalks and roadways.

7. Golf carts are operated only by properly licensed drivers and in public areas used by motor vehicles. No golf carts can carry more persons than can be properly seated in the vehicle. If on the roads after dark, golf carts must have properly functioning headlights and taillights.

8. Pets must be leashed at all times when outdoors, except as permitted on the beach during certain times of the year. We also ask that you please clean up after your pets and dispose of waste properly. On the dog owners’ property, when outside the home, dogs are kept either on a leash or properly enclosed within a fenced area at all times.

9. For your safety please do not feed any wildlife, especially fish and alligators. The latter are wild and dangerous animals and extreme caution should be taken when near them.

10. Property owners and renters shall not place any object such as automobiles, garbage cans, material to be recycled, brush, grass clippings, leaves or other yard debris or rubbish on property not owned by themselves or their landlord without permission.
11 Please be a courteous neighbour and be mindful of noise levels of people and pets.

12 Guest passes must be displayed prominently in your vehicle while on the island.

13 Texting while driving is not allowed in the whole area. Remember to respect speed limits too.

40 14 To protect the privacy rights of residents and visitors, drones may be operated only with the written permission of each property owner over which the craft flies.

45 15 Absolutely no charcoal grilling, or other types of open fire on porches, decks, patios, or landings above ground level. Only cook/grill on ground level. Strictly enforced by the police. Electric and gas grills are permitted only if permanently attached to landing and not covered by any type of roof or awning.

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0 The Community Rules and Regulations apply to ...

☐ A visitors only.
☐ B people living here.
☒ C beach goers.
☐ D everyone.

1 If you have a bicycle you ...

☐ A cannot ride it on the beach during the day.
☐ B should always lock it when you leave it unattended.
☐ C are requested to keep it in your garage when you are not using it.
☐ D must wear a helmet when riding it.

2 Exterior lights ...

☐ A should be left on when you are at home.
☐ B can be turned off when you leave.
☐ C are prohibited as they cause problems to animals.
☐ D must be off in summer for houses facing the sea.

3 Garbage ...

☐ A must be kept in specific areas.
☐ B is collected every day.
☐ C should be disposed of individually.
☐ D can be kept in your yard or garden.

4 Parking is allowed ...

☐ A anywhere only at night.
☐ B on your private property.

☐ C along the main roads during the day.
☐ D near the beachwalk all day long.

5 It is prohibited to ...

☐ A ride a motorbike on the island.
☐ B move around in a trailer or a caravan.
☐ C park commercial vehicles near the beach.
☐ D visit the island by bicycle.

6 If you have a dog ...

☐ A check which beaches let pets in.
☐ B be aware that it is prohibited to walk it on the beach.
☐ C it must be kept in your garden or indoors.
☐ D always keep it on a leash when walking it around.

7 Local wildlife includes ...

☐ A poisonous animals.
☐ B some endangered species.
☐ C rare species of birds.
☐ D dangerous animals.

8 If you want to have access to the island ...

☐ A you need a permanent pass.
☐ B you must be a resident.
☐ C a pass is required.
☐ D an ID has to be produced.
Reading Comprehension 5

**TASK matching short texts**

Read the horoscopes for July, then choose the correct texts (A-F) to answer the questions (1-8).
You can use a text more than once.
The first one (0) has been done for you.

**July horoscopes**

| A | ARIES – There’s every reason to feel good about yourself. You’ve been working hard and now you find it much easier to reach for what you know you’re capable of. Success at this stage has nothing to do with ambition. And now you know that the more you focus on what you really want, the more aware you’ll be of your true strength. |
| B | LEO – All of a sudden, you’re going to start coming up with your best ideas. Pay attention to what your inner genius is encouraging you to do. Keep a notebook near and write down ideas and notions throughout the day. There is energy behind your thoughts and you will come up with solutions to problems that could turn out to be beneficial. It doesn’t matter whether you feel creative, the fact is that you are innovative in a very practical way. Put that gift to use. |
| C | VIRGO – Make room for a little chaos in your life. You love order and organization but sometimes it works against you. Pick a room, a table or some part of your space to calm down. Allow things to evolve in their own way. Use this period as a fermentation tank for your future objectives, desires, and plans. In all achievements there is a measure of chance, the unpredictable, and the unusual. Let both new ideas and opportunities in. |
| D | CAPRICORN – This is a rich period for relationships. But you may feel the pressure to hold those that you meet at arm’s length, never getting too close. Instead, make a point of letting down your guard and getting to know anyone who strikes your fancy without hesitation. People are drawn to something in you. Being open to receiving is one of your major life lessons. |
| E | AQUARIUS – The coming month is an excellent time to take a bit of space all for yourself again. You’ve been through a lot lately, so it would be wise to reassess. What’s more, you will realise that your concerns were all in your imagination. There’s no lack of things to do to keep yourself busy. It’s time to give more importance to health and to minimize labour. And you’ll be surprised to see how much you get done with little effort. Rest, recreation and repair are the keys to efficiency. |
**F** Pisces – Your financial life has a tendency to move in extreme cycles, more than that of most people you know. If you figure out how to ride the waves, you can do well for yourself. This is a period of wealth. It’s great time to get into the habit of saving money and other valuables. The act of doing this will have a terrific effect – not just on your finances, but on your self-esteem.

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<th>Which sign ...</th>
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<tr>
<td>☐ 0 is advised to put money aside?</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ 1 has just come out of a difficult period of time?</td>
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<td>☐ 2 should take note of all the ideas he have?</td>
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<td>☐ 3 is giving too much importance to work?</td>
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<td>☐ 4 should take advantage of new contacts?</td>
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<td>☐ 5 now understands the importance of concentrating on specific goals?</td>
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<td>☐ 6 is capable of finding concrete solutions?</td>
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<td>☐ 7 tends to plan things well in advance?</td>
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<td>☐ 8 has a strong power of attraction?</td>
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Reading Comprehension 6
TASK matching short texts

Read the reviews of different books, then choose the correct texts (A-F) to answer the questions (1-8).
You can use a text more than once.
The first one (0) has been done for you.

Book recommendations for your summer

A  Becky and Nicholas by Rachel T. Higgins
The fantasy I have been longing for – a breath of fresh air that holds the reader captive from the opening scene. Be warned, you will fall hard for Becky and Nicholas. You will swoon, you will gasp, you will laugh, and you will cry with a story that touches on all emotions. The characters and the reader are put in intense situations which will leave you on the edge of your seat. With impressive descriptions, impactful character development and a genuine style, this debut author will have you asking for more of her words.

B  How to Be a Lion by Evelyne Hall
Leonard and Marianne are best friends. They talk on the phone every day (meow!) and spend all their free time together (napping and purring). But they have never actually met! Will they find a way? A great story of friendship that adults and teenagers will love. Vivid pictures and a refined layout will make this story a joy for your eyes, too. This story will give you a lot to think about today’s world regarding how to take care of creatures, including humans, and the environment.

C  Drawn Together by Suzanne Lang
A granddaughter and her grandmother – unable to converse – watch TV all day until the girl loses interest and turns to her violin. Grandmother then brings out her sketchbook and together they start “talking” without words. They only use notes and colors, action and excitement. This is a delightfully simple story that explores communication problems between people who are so near and so distant at the same time. A unique story with amazing illustrations which tells a lot about communication between generations. It will surely be a hit with all ages.

D  Aisha Unbound by Amal Saeda
Aisha is living a decent life in her village in Pakistan. She loves school and plans to go to college and become a teacher. But when she offends a member of the most influential family in the village, her dreams come to an end. As usual the author takes on challenging subjects – indentured servitude and the treatment of women – and makes them accessible to everyone while making the reader cheer for Aisha as she finds her way again.

E  All Summer Long by Lynne Rie
A well-balanced book that shows one young Chinese girl’s experience of settling in California with her family. Funny, imaginative, innovative, this book shows the difficulties
of starting over in a new country in a way that you will soon be able to understand.

A great book to open our eyes to the different and sometimes unseen ways people struggle and how we can make the world a better place just by being more inclusive and willing to listen to each other's stories. The stories we are told offer original and sweet insights on how to handle new experiences, make friends, and learn all sorts of fun things along the way.

40  F  Legendary by Eileen Walton

This book of riddles is itself a kind of riddle composed with all the ingredients of a true classic novel. Magic, love, and loss permeate this stunning story which in the end takes the reader full circle to begin the tale again with fresh eyes. A charming mystery with a clever and resourceful protagonist.

Which book should you choose if...

☐ 0 you would like to experience how things can be seen differently from someone else's point of view?
☐ 1 brain teasers are your passion?
☐ 2 you would like to read a story about the power of art?
☐ 3 you enjoy stories about immigrants?
☐ 4 you have never read a fantasy novel?
☐ 5 books about the condition of women in different countries are of interest to you?
☐ 6 you would like to read a new author's first book?
☐ 7 stories whose protagonists are animals are your favourite kind?
☐ 8 you like graphic novels?
Reading Comprehension 7

TASK matching gap-filling

Read the text about fireworks. Parts of the text have been removed. Choose the correct part (A-K) for each gap (1-8). There are two extra parts that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Fire in the sky

As Independence Day draws near, the nighttime sky will (0) ............... . Everywhere fireworks will explode in a dark sky to celebrate the Fourth of July.

Many people will take the Promethean power of (1) ............., lighting fireworks, sparklers and other such items in their own garden. However, we should never forget there may be risks and dangers which should be taken into account when organizing a fireworks parade.

An important suggestion to make the Fourth of July safer than ever is to (2) .............. and also remember that homemade fireworks can be deadly. Never attempt to make your own devices. Do not use kits that (3) .............. . Mixing fireworks chemicals can be dangerous work that (4) .............. .

Remember that fireworks are not toys. Do you know that fireworks that comply with the official safety regulations (5) .......... a household match, and can cause burn injuries or ignite clothing if used improperly?

Here is some more advice to help you celebrate the Fourth of July safely:

- always read and follow label instructions
- have an adult present at all times
- buy from reliable fireworks retailers
- always ignite (6) ..............
- keep water handy in case of an emergency
- never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks
- light only one firework at a time
- never re-ignite (7) ..............
- store fireworks in a cool, dry place
- never carry (8) ..............
- never throw fireworks at another person
- do not shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

A avoid fireworks that aren’t clearly labeled with the name of the item
B include a dazzling fireworks display
C be filled with fireworks across the country
D fireworks outdoors
E dangerous illegal explosives like
F fireworks into their own hands
G is best left to the experts
H fireworks in your pocket
I are advertised for making homemade fireworks
J burn at approximately the same temperature as
K malfunctioning fireworks
Reading Comprehension 8

TASK matching gap-filling

Read the text about how to access a flat.
Parts of the text have been removed. Choose the correct part (A-K) for each gap (1-8).
There are two extra parts that you do not need to use. Write your answers in the spaces provided.
The first one (0) has been done for you.

Instructions for guests

Hi Sara,

You are all set to check in on Tuesday anytime after 4 p.m. The front door code to 89 Marion Street, Brookline MA (0) .......... The elevator entrance is located on the side of the building. The side door code is 8989#. Then push the button to open the door. You will be staying in flat 17, which is located on the first floor. The code to your flat (1) ............ (include the # sign).

There's a common kitchen located on the 3rd floor if you wish (2) ........... . The equipment in the kitchen is easy to use. The manuals for the oven, dishwasher etc. can be found in the bottom drawer next to the sink.

Below is any additional information you may need during your stay. Please let me know if you have any questions at all.

Lock Instructions

To open: enter the access code into the keypad. (3) ..........., a click will sound; immediately turn the lock to open the door.

To close: enter the access code and turn the lock away from the door.

Wi-Fi Information

Rooms are fully equipped with TV and Wi-Fi access. (4) ............, log onto the network 89 Marion Guest and enter the password maverickempire.

What to Bring

Here are some suggested “check-list” items to bring with you or (5) ............:

- Coffee and coffee filters (4-cup size)
- Trash bags
- Paper products for the studio – Paper towels, napkins, etc. (Toilet paper will be replenished as needed during your stay)
- Cooking materials – Spices, condiments, oils, ingredients
- Additional toiletries – We provide travel size soap, shampoo and conditioner upon check-in. However, (6) ............ .
- Detergent and dryer sheets.

Laundry

There are coin operated washer and dryer machines located on the basement. Laundry (7) ............ .
Garden
Please clean the BBQ after every use. The cleaning utensils are located in the basement next to the laundry. If the gas runs out, please take it to a local petrol station, where you can simply swap it for a full tank.
A gardener will come and water the plants once a fortnight. Do not be alarmed if you see him, as he will let himself into the garden via the side gate. His name is Pedro.

Garbage
If you are staying short-term, you do not need to worry about the trash! Our cleaners will dispose of this for you upon your check-out. If you wish to dispose of trash during your stay, (8) ............ The trash room is located in the basement of the building. There are large black barrels for garbage. Blue barrels are for recyclable goods. Failure to comply with the City of Brookline trash ordinance will result in fines of up to $250 per offense.

Parking Lot
Parking is available free of charge in some designated spaces. Do not park in the way of the electrical motorized gate when in a fully open or half way open position as it closes automatically after a few seconds. Do not leave any valuables inside your car while it is parked.

Departure Guidelines
Check out time is 11 a.m. The cleaning crew arrives at this time so please make sure that you have collected all personal belongings, have left the unit in the condition in which you found it, and have departed. Please let us know if there are any maintenance issues prior to check out. Before leaving, please switch off all the lights, lock all the windows and doors, strip the beds and place dirty bedding on the floor next to the bed.

Remember to give us a positive review – many thanks!

Last things
Parties are not allowed and smoking inside the property is forbidden. Also remember: no loud music or noise after 10 p.m. or before 7 a.m.

Best,
Alicia
International Sand Sculpting Festival returns to Coronado Beach in San Diego, CA

Escape the city for the weekend without going too far with the 2018 San Diego Coronado Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival. See some of the world’s best sand sculptors, who will (0) .......... Two years ago the festival drew 1.5 million attendees, last year 2 million and this year’s is sure to be a great success. The festival brings together more than 30 expert sand sculptors from as far away as Bulgaria, Poland, Russia, Italy and Portugal to compete for the grand prize.

Their creations, (1) .......... will no doubt impress. This year’s theme is “Celebrating Literacy”, so sculptors will (2) .......... The festival will feature sand-sculpting lessons and amusement-park rides for the kids. Food trucks and local vendors will (3) .......... and live entertainment will enhance your experience. This year the festival will also (4) .......... on Saturday night.

There are several options for getting to Coronado Island from San Diego: driving across the beautiful San Diego-Coronado Bridge, taking a ferry or water taxi across the Big Bay or driving across the seven-mile Silver Strand peninsula.

Where to eat near the festival

Miguel's Cocina. This Mexican eatery spills out onto the tiled courtyard of the Spanish-style 1902 El Cordova Hotel. Try (5) .......... the famous jalapeño white sauce, or the grilled swordfish tacos.

MooTime Creamery. This local gathering spot is a must for dessert lovers seeking a tasty cool down. Try (6) .......... chocolate chunks.

Crown Room. If (7) .......... and looking for something to eat, Crown Room is a family-friendly restaurant with options that will appeal to the whole family, including local favourites like crab-stuffed prawns and freshly shucked oysters.

Primavera serves Italian typical dishes with huge portions and friendly service. Known for its Italian-style fresh fish plates, try (8) .......... clam sauce.