

Getting Ready for a Holiday

Reading Passage, Comprehension & Practice Questions

Getting Ready for a Holiday

Packing a bag is exciting — but it can also be stressful! Before you read, think about these two questions: **What do you always take on holiday?** And **do you pack early or at the last minute?** Keep your answers in mind as you read about Fatima and her trip.

Reading Passage: Fatima's Big Packing Day

Fatima's holiday starts tomorrow. She is going to Porto, Portugal, with her sister Nadia. They have a small apartment near the beach for five days. Fatima is very happy, but she is also a little nervous because she always forgets something.

Today, Fatima is packing her suitcase. She puts in clothes for warm weather — shorts, T-shirts, and a light jacket for the evenings. She also packs her sunscreen, a good book, and her camera. Nadia sends her a message: *"Don't forget your passport and your travel card!"* Fatima checks her bag. The passport is there, but the travel card is on the kitchen table. She puts it in her bag quickly.

Fatima also needs to do a few things before she leaves. She buys some snacks for the plane journey. She calls her neighbour, Mr. Costa, and asks him to water her plants. Then she checks the weather in Porto — it is sunny and 28 degrees all week. Fatima smiles. She is ready for a great holiday.

Key Vocabulary in Context

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech	Definition	Example Sentence
holiday	noun	a period of time when you travel or relax away from home or work	We are going on holiday to Spain next week.
suitcase	noun	a large bag with a flat bottom that you use to carry clothes when you travel	She puts her T-shirts in the suitcase.
nervous	adjective	a little worried or not relaxed about something	He is nervous because it is his first flight.
passport	noun	an official document you need to travel to another country	Don't forget your passport at the airport!

sunscreen	noun	a cream you put on your skin to protect it from the sun	I always pack sunscreen for a beach holiday.
journey	noun	the time you spend travelling from one place to another	The train journey takes two hours.
neighbour	noun	a person who lives near you	My neighbour takes my letters when I am away.
checks	verb	looks at something carefully to make sure it is correct or there	She checks her bag before she leaves the house.

Reading Strategies & Comprehension Tips

Skimming for the Main Idea

Read the passage quickly — in about 30 seconds. Do not stop at every word. Ask yourself: *What is this text about?* You can see from the title and the first sentence that it is about a woman preparing for a trip. This is **skimming**.

Scanning for Specific Details

If a question asks "*Where is Fatima going?*", scan the text for a place name. You can see **Porto, Portugal** in the first paragraph. You do not need to read every sentence to find this. This is **scanning**.

Understanding Sequence

Notice the order of events. Fatima packs first, then she gets a message from Nadia, then she buys snacks, then she calls her neighbour. Words like *also* and *then* help you follow the order. Look for these small connecting words in questions about what happens first or last.

Using Context to Guess Words

If you do not know a word like *sunscreen*, look at the words around it. It is with *shorts*, *T-shirts*, *beach*, and *warm weather*. You can guess it is something for a sunny, hot place. This strategy helps with unknown vocabulary.

Common Reading Pitfalls & Traps

Trap 1: Confusing the Two Sisters

Fatima and Nadia are both in the story. Fatima is packing the bag. Nadia sends the message about the passport. Students sometimes confuse who does what. Read carefully — the subject of each sentence tells you *who* is doing the action.

Trap 2: The Travel Card

A question might ask: "*Is the travel card in Fatima's bag at the start?*" The answer is **no** — it is on the kitchen table. But at the end, she puts it in her bag. Be careful about *when* something happens in a story.

Trap 3: The Word "nervous"

The text says Fatima is "*a little nervous*." This does not mean she is unhappy or scared. She is excited but also slightly worried. Do not choose an answer like "*Fatima does not want to go on holiday*" — that is not correct.

Trap 4: How Long Is the Holiday?

The text says "*five days*" — not one week. Students sometimes read "*all week*" in the last paragraph (about the weather) and think the holiday is seven days. Read the numbers carefully and check what they refer to.

Quick Summary

In this passage, you read about Fatima, who is packing her suitcase the day before her holiday to Porto with her sister Nadia. She packs clothes, sunscreen, a book, and a camera. After a reminder from Nadia, she finds her travel card on the kitchen table. She also buys snacks, asks her neighbour to water her plants, and checks the weather. The text uses simple present and present continuous tenses, everyday vocabulary, and a realistic, relatable situation — all typical of A1-level reading tasks.

Now read the passage carefully and complete **Exercise 1 (Multiple Choice)** and **Exercise 2 (Fill-in-the-gap dropdown)** below.

Getting Ready for a Holiday – Practice Test

A1 | Reading Comprehension Exercises: Multiple Choice & Fill-in-the-Gap Dropdown (20 Questions)

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 Where is Fatima going on holiday?

- ☐ A Madrid, Spain
- ☐ B Lisbon, Portugal
- ☐ C Porto, Portugal
- ☐ D Paris, France

2 Who is travelling with Fatima?

- ☐ A Her friend Nadia
- ☐ B Her sister Nadia
- ☐ C Her neighbour Mr. Costa
- ☐ D Her mother

3 How long will Fatima and Nadia stay in Porto?

- ☐ A Three days
- ☐ B Four days
- ☐ C Five days
- ☐ D Seven days

4 Why is Fatima a little nervous before the holiday?

- ☐ A Because she does not like flying
- ☐ B Because she always forgets something
- ☐ C Because the weather will be bad
- ☐ D Because her apartment is far from the beach

5 What clothes does Fatima pack for the holiday?

- ☐ A Jeans, jumpers, and a coat
- ☐ B Shorts, T-shirts, and a light jacket
- ☐ C Dresses, sandals, and a hat
- ☐ D Trousers, shirts, and a raincoat

6 What does Nadia remind Fatima to bring?

- A** Her sunscreen and camera
- B** Her book and travel card
- C** Her passport and travel card
- D** Her snacks and passport

7 Where does Fatima find her travel card?

- A** In her suitcase
- B** In her handbag
- C** On the kitchen table
- D** Next to her passport

8 Why does Fatima call Mr. Costa?

- A** To ask him to buy some snacks
- B** To ask him to water her plants
- C** To check the weather in Porto
- D** To tell him about her holiday apartment

9 What is the weather like in Porto during Fatima's holiday?

- A** Cloudy and 20 degrees
- B** Rainy and windy all week
- C** Sunny and 28 degrees all week
- D** Hot and 35 degrees at the weekend

10 What does Fatima buy before she leaves for the airport?

- A** A book and a camera
- B** Sunscreen and a travel card
- C** Snacks for the plane journey
- D** A light jacket for the evenings

Part 2: Fill in the Gap Dropdown (Questions 11–20)

11 Fatima is going to Porto, Portugal, with her sister ____.

- A** Nadia
- B** Sara
- C** Layla

12 They have a small ____ near the beach for five days.

- A** apartment
- B** hotel
- C** house

13 Fatima is a little nervous because she always forgets ____.

- A** something
- B** everything
- C** nothing

14 Fatima puts in clothes for warm weather — shorts, T-shirts, and a light ____ for the evenings.

- A** jacket
- B** coat
- C** scarf

15 She also packs her sunscreen, a good book, and her ____.

- A** camera
- B** laptop
- C** phone

16 Nadia sends her a message: 'Don't forget your passport and your ____ card!'

- A** travel
- B** credit
- C** library

17 The passport is there, but the travel card is on the kitchen ____.

- A** table
- B** shelf
- C** counter

18 She buys some ____ for the plane journey.

- A** snacks
- B** magazines
- C** tickets

19 She calls her neighbour, Mr. Costa, and asks him to ____ her plants.

- A** water
- B** move
- C** sell

20 Fatima checks the weather in Porto — it is sunny and ____ degrees all week.

- A** 28
- B** 18
- C** 35

Answer Key & Explanations

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Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **C** **Correct Answer: Porto, Portugal**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says "**She is going to Porto, Portugal**". This is the city and country where Fatima's holiday takes place. The other cities are not mentioned in the passage.
2. **B** **Correct Answer: Her sister Nadia**
✓ **Explanation:** The text clearly says "**with her sister Nadia**". Nadia is Fatima's **sister**, not her friend. Mr. Costa is her neighbour, not her travel companion.
3. **C** **Correct Answer: Five days**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says they have "**a small apartment near the beach for five days**". This tells us the exact length of their stay.
4. **B** **Correct Answer: Because she always forgets something**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Fatima is "**a little nervous because she always forgets something**". This is the reason given in the passage for her nervousness.
5. **B** **Correct Answer: Shorts, T-shirts, and a light jacket**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Fatima packs "**shorts, T-shirts, and a light jacket for the evenings**". These are clothes suitable for **warm weather**.
6. **C** **Correct Answer: Her passport and travel card**
✓ **Explanation:** Nadia's message says "**Don't forget your passport and your travel card!**" These are the two specific items Nadia reminds Fatima about.
7. **C** **Correct Answer: On the kitchen table**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says "**the travel card is on the kitchen table**". Fatima finds it there and quickly puts it in her bag.
8. **B** **Correct Answer: To ask him to water her plants**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Fatima "**calls her neighbour, Mr. Costa, and asks him to water her plants**". This is something she needs to arrange before she leaves home.
9. **C** **Correct Answer: Sunny and 28 degrees all week**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Fatima checks the weather and sees it is "**sunny and 28 degrees all week**". This good news makes her smile.
10. **C** **Correct Answer: Snacks for the plane journey**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says "**She buys some snacks for the plane journey**". This is one of the last things she does before leaving. The book and camera were already packed in her suitcase.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** **Correct Answer: Nadia**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Fatima travels with her sister **Nadia**. *She is going to Porto with her sister Nadia.*
12. **A** **Correct Answer: apartment**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says they stay in a **apartment**, not a hotel or house. *They have a small apartment near the beach.*
13. **A** **Correct Answer: something**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Fatima is nervous because she always forgets **something**. *She always forgets something when she travels.*
14. **A** **Correct Answer: jacket**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says she packs a light **jacket** for the evenings. *A light jacket is useful for cool evenings.*
15. **A** **Correct Answer: camera**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Fatima packs her **camera** along with sunscreen and a book. *She takes her camera to photograph Porto.*
16. **A** **Correct Answer: travel**
✓ **Explanation:** Nadia reminds Fatima to take her **travel** card. *A travel card is used for transport on a trip.*
17. **A** **Correct Answer: table**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says the travel card is on the kitchen **table**. *Fatima finds it on the kitchen table and puts it in her bag.*
18. **A** **Correct Answer: snacks**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Fatima buys **snacks** to eat on the plane. *Snacks are small food items you eat between meals.*
19. **A** **Correct Answer: water**
✓ **Explanation:** Fatima asks Mr. Costa to **water** her plants while she is away. *Plants need water to stay alive.*
20. **A** **Correct Answer: 28**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says the temperature in Porto is **28** degrees all week. *28 degrees is warm and good for a beach holiday.*

Score Guide

18–20 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
15–17 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
12–14 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–11 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.