

Oxford English (Second Edition) 1A

Simplified reading and comprehension

1 of 4

Unit 2

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You have found a personal email from an exchange student who is coming to visit your school. Read the personal email.

Text 2 Personal email

From: oscarpedersen@denmark.net

To: _____@hkmail.net

Subject: Hello from Denmark!

Hi _____,

Pleased to meet you! I'm Oscar and I'm 14 years old. I live in Copenhagen, which is the capital of Denmark. Did you know that Copenhagen is a city
5 famous for its cycling culture? About half of Copenhageners cycle to work or school!

School starts at 8 a.m. and finishes at 3.40 p.m. I always arrive ten minutes early and lock up my bike in front of the school building. Some people
10 call my school 'the cube' because it's a modern square building with lots of large windows. It's very light and spacious because there aren't any classrooms inside. There are 'learning zones' instead. There's an assembly hall next to the
15 general office, where all students can gather for important meetings. Teaching and learning take place in the open areas, so sometimes it's difficult for my schoolmates and me to pay attention

during class! We also have 'chill out zones' where students can study alone or relax
20 on the big cushions during break. My best mate Frederik sometimes falls asleep on them because they're too comfortable!



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All lessons are taught with the help of computers and tablets. Instead of spending our time at school listening to lectures, 50% of our time is spent on doing projects. Our teachers emphasize that we should be 'producers of content, not just consumers'.

25

My favourite subjects are Economics and English. Just like other Danes, Danish is my native language, so I find English a bit difficult. I still like English though because it gives me new opportunities and friendships. For example, it makes writing emails to you possible!

30 There are a total of 30 clubs at my school. I'm a member of the Debating Society. My sister says this club suits me because I'm too talkative! Which clubs do you belong to?

Write soon!

Cheers,

35 Oscar



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Unit 2

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension 2 Your brother wants to know more about Oscar. Answer his questions using information from the personal email. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.

- 1 Complete the following information about Oscar. Answers should be grammatically correct. You may write more than one word on each line.

Name: Oscar Pedersen	Age: (i) _____
Where he lives:	He lives in (ii) _____, which is the capital city of (iii) _____.
How he goes to school:	He goes to school (iv) _____.

- 2 What time does Oscar arrive at school every morning? _____

- 3 Which of the following pictures best matches the description of Oscar's school?

A



B



C



D



A B C D

○ ○ ○ ○

- 4 Why is it sometimes difficult for Oscar to pay attention during class?

- A He is not interested in learning.
B He cannot hear his teachers well.
C Classes take place in open areas.
D He has a learning disability.

A B C D

○ ○ ○ ○

- 5 Find a phrase in lines 7–21 that means 'spend time relaxing'.

- 6 What does 'them' in line 21 refer to?

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

7 Find a phrase in lines 26–29 that means ‘mother tongue’.

8 Why does Oscar enjoy learning English?

9 Oscar’s sister thinks that the Debating Society is suitable for Oscar because _____.

A he likes talking

B he is good at arguing with people

C it is the most popular school club

A B C D

D she is a member of the Debating Society

○ ○ ○ ○

10 Write ONE thing that you think is unusual or interesting about Oscar’s school.

11 Complete the following summary using information from the personal email. Use ONE word to complete each blank.

Oscar Pedersen lives in a city with a strong (i) _____ culture.
Oscar’s first language is (ii) _____, but he is also learning English.
People call Oscar’s school (iii) _____ because
of its appearance. There are no (iv) _____. Instead, students
learn in the ‘learning zones’ throughout the school.
Oscar’s school promotes e-learning. For instance, teachers use computers
and (v) _____ in their teaching.

12 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of words from Text 2.

i) Coming from a small flat in Hong Kong, John was amazed by his uncle’s
_____ (adjective) home in Canada. (lines 7–21)

ii) Yesterday, Mr Lo _____ (verb) that we must not copy information
from the Internet without citing the sources. He said that three times to make
sure we understood. (lines 22–25)

iii) Professor Chan is giving a _____ (noun) on business management.
(lines 22–25)

iv) Cindy’s black leather jacket really _____ (verb) her style and
personality. (lines 26–32)