# Reading comprehension

## Signal words in the Present Simple for intermediate level

Read the following texts about Betty, Kate, Harry and Travis. After reading fill in the table on the second page and answer the questions.

**Betty** is a waitress. She is only thirty-four. From Monday to Friday she serves drinks, but on weekends she doesn't like working. She has to work a lot, but it is important for her to have enough free time to relax.

She has quite tiring weekdays. She has breakfast at half past 6 every day.

She works from 8am to 5pm. After work she prepares the dinner for her family. They have dinner at 7 o'clock.

Once a month she goes to the hairdresser's, and has her hair cut.

She has to travel by train in some cases, once or twice a year when she visits her aunt in the capital.

**Kate** is twenty-eight. She works as a scientist. She generally gets up at quarter to 6 because she starts work at half past 7. Her workplace is rather far from her home. That's why she can sometimes watch late night films. She has little free time. When she has enough time she plays the guitar. But unfortunately it rarely happens.

She is a health minded woman. She eats an apple a day because she thinks an apple a day keeps the doctor away.

She doesn't have a family. She lives alone. She wants to have a kitten in case she can more often stay at home. Her dream is to have a big family in ten years. But now she has not got a boyfriend.

**Travis** is a writer. He is fifty-five. His daily routine depends on the inspiration. But it is a routine that he cleans his teeth every morning. He starts writing when he has a good idea. It frequently comes up he can't go out because he has to work, so he stays at home.

His friends understand this because Travis is a friendly man indeed.

He is a successful writer. He has lots of bestsellers. He writes a book every year.

It's a pity, he got divorced. He has two daughters who are married and live near Travis's house. Travis can meet them and their family when he wants because their relationship is good.

He has already two grandsons, Jim and Patrick. He is very proud of them.

**Harry** is a teacher. He is also thirty-four. His life is full of work as well.

He always goes to work by bus. He almost never misses the bus.

His evening program is correcting the students' tests. It's not a really interesting activity.

He mainly drinks mineral water. He thinks it's important to drink at least 2 litres a day.

Harry has got a car in his garage. But the petrol is so expensive that he only uses it when it is really necessary. So every Sunday he washes his car because in the afternoon he meets his girlfriend, Mina. They usually meet four times a week unless they have too much work.

He has one great hobby. He likes going to the theatre with Mina. But he has only little time and money to see a play. He can afford this luxury only about 5 times a year.

## Task 1 - Fill in the chart according to the four texts.

| Frequency | Name | Activity |
|---|---|---|
| always | | |
| daily | | |
| hardly ever | | |
| in the afternoons | | |
| in the evenings | | |
| in the mornings | | |
| monthly | | |
| never | | |
| normally | | |
| occasionally | | |
| often | | |
| once in a while | | |
| regularly | | |
| seldom | | |
| sometimes | | |
| usually | | |
| weekly | | |
| yearly | | |

**Task 2 – According to the four texts answer the following questions in maximum of five words.**

1) Who is a grandpa?
_____

2) Whose relative live in the capital?
_____

3) Who has got a kitten?
_____

4) Why doesn't Harry often use the car?
_____

5) How often does Harry usually meet Mina?
_____

6) Who has dinner at seven?
_____

7) Who lives alone?
_____

8) Who hasn't got a fixed daily schedule?
_____

**Task 3 - On the basis of the four texts who can you write the following pieces of information to?**

1) S/he needs a computer to his/her work.
_____

2) S/he will soon marry.
_____

3) S/he has got a son.
_____

4) S/he will change his/her job.
_____

5) S/he used to have music lessons as a child.
_____

6) S/he won't retire because his/her work is his/her life.
_____

7) S/he works in a café.
_____

8) S/he does research on bacteria.
_____