Albion 2026

Wojewódzki Konkurs Języka Angielskiego

Półfinał (90 min)

Result: _____ / 70

imię _____ **nazwisko** _____ **klasa** ___ **szkoła** _____

Listening (10 pts)

Why Boredom is Good For You!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKPwKFigF8U

Fill in the gaps.

1) Boredom is when none of the options you have available

_____

2) Boredom is characterized by lack of concentration, restlessness, but also

_____

3) Many people reach for their phones to _____

4) Are we losing anything by _____

5) This mind wandering is _____

6) The paradox of boredom is that it makes you feel tired

_____

7) In the absence of boredom, one would remain trapped

_____

8) Studies have also shown that boredom may make you

_____

9) The silver lining is _____

10) When you avoid boredom, you limit your ability to

be c_____ , a_____ , and to s_____ g_____

Reading (10 pts)

A stroke of yellow – Van Gogh

His skies are **yellow**. His fields are **yellow**. In one of his most famous works, Self-Portrait as a Painter (1887-1888), even his eyebrows are **yellow**. To Dutch Post-Impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh, colour wasn't a reflection of the world, but of feeling. "He compared colours to musical tones," explains Edwin Becker, Head of Exhibitions at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. "He saw them as abstract, expressive forces – just like music – that transcend reality." That belief runs like a thread through his lifelong correspondence with his brother Theo, **(1)** ____ . In one 1885 letter, van Gogh confessed: "A painter does well if he starts from the colours on his palette instead of the colours in nature." Through these letters to his brother Theo (quoted here in translation and sometimes lightly paraphrased for readability), we see not only his artistic struggle, but also how **(2)** _____ .

"I spent six hours in a mine"

April 1879

Van Gogh was a late bloomer. At 25, he had already tried to be an art dealer, a schoolmaster and a bookseller, but none of these paths felt like his calling. Finally, he moved to Belgium, settling in a coal-mining region as a lay preacher, determined to bring a touch of light to the harsh reality of the miners. Van Gogh immersed himself in their world. "I spent six hours in a mine," he wrote. "It's a sombre place." It was a colourless chapter in his life, both literally and figuratively.

When, after a year and a half, his contract as a preacher wasn't renewed, it was Theo who offered a crucial suggestion: **(3)** ____ And so began a life in which colour could at last creep in.

"**What a great thing tone and colour are!"**

23 December 1881

At the age of 33, van Gogh moved to Paris to join Theo **(4)** ____. "It had an enormous impact on van Gogh's use of colour," says Becker. "Upon arriving, he immediately visited the Louvre to look at a ceiling painting by Eugène Delacroix; its contrasting colours inspired van Gogh immensely. However, he did not feel well there. “It seems to me almost impossible to work in Paris, unless you have a refuge in which to recover and regain your peace of mind and self-composure," he wrote, shortly after arriving in Arles: the southern village where his love of colour (especially yellow) would reach its peak.

"**I'm always wishing that the day will come when you'll see and feel the sun of the south"**

12 August 1888

"How beautiful yellow is!" he wrote, referring to the summer heat. "I'm always wishing that the day will come when you'll see and feel the sun of the south." The dazzling landscapes of Arles inspired him immensely, resulting in **(5)** ____ .

In winter of 1888, however, a violent quarrel took place between him and Gauguin. Van Gogh was threatening his colleague with a razor blade. Gauguin fled. In a state of breakdown, Van Gogh famously cut off his own ear and was hospitalized.

While the famous painter is long gone, his legacy lives on in the form of an influence that began not long after his death, and can be seen in works by others who were touched by his unique style and, of course, the use of yellow.

The Yellow Hill (1903) by Cuno Amiet is one such example. Amiet was a pioneer of Swiss Modernism who, as van Gogh encouraged, emphasised colour over realism. It was a trailblazing theory that would in turn inspire Piet Mondrian, the pioneer of abstract art and one of the 20th century's greatest artists. And so, that first stroke of yellow, a colour born of one man's palette, a colour once associated with dark themes, became a beacon for the art world.

Adapted from *Holland Herald*, Feb 2026 by Malu de Bont

Fill in the gaps with the following phrases.

A. Yellow gradually became his colour of warmth, clarity and faith in life

B. Why not become a painter?

C. His most important anchor, mentor and mirror.

D. In the artistic capital of Europe

E. His famous *Sunflowers* painting (1888-1889)

Use of English (20 pts)

Choose the right option: a), b), c) or d).

1. He _____ the crime. He was abroad at the time it happened.

a) must committed **c)** could committed

b) can't have committed **d)** could have committed

2. She said she _____ to the USA twice.

a) has been **b)** have been **c)** had gone **d)** had been

3. When you say "it's not my cup of tea", you mean:

a) I don't care **b)** I don't mind **c)** I'm not interested **d)** I don't drink hot beverages

4. They rarely do any housework. They _____ ever help their parents.

a) hardly **b)** hard **c)** seldom **d)** frequently

5. First year in high school is hard. I'm still adjusting to getting up early.

a) I'm used to getting up early **c)** I used to get up early

b) I'm getting used to getting up early **d)** I'm getting up early

6. Ben isn't into sports. _____ , he decided to compete in the school team-sports tournament.

a) Although **b)** However **c)** Instead **d)** Moreover

7. My cousin decided to _____ up his own business.

a) set **b)** put **c)** make **d)** take

8. The verb from the noun "success" is:

a) successfully **b)** successful **c)** successive **d)** succeed

9. He gave me a lot of useful _____ :

a) advises **b)** advices **c)** advice **d)** advising

10. She said, “Please don’t touch that sculpture.”

a) She told them don’t touch that sculpture.

b) She told them didn’t touch that sculpture.

c) She told them not to touch that sculpture.

d) She told them doesn’t touch that sculpture.

11. They will arrive at the cinema at 8:15. The film starts at 8:00.

a) By the time they arrive at the cinema the film had started.

b) By the time they arrive at the cinema the film will started.

c) By the time they arrive at the cinema the film started.

d) By the time they arrive at the cinema the film will have started.

12. I avoid _____ by cash. I prefer using my card.

a) to paid **b)** paying **c)** to paying **d)** to pay

13. Please use this lift. The _____ is out of order.

a) other **b)** another **c)** one **d)** others

14. I always look forward to _____ time with my grandparents.

a) spend **b)** spent **c)** spending **d)** spenting

15. Which adjective has the opposite meaning to “valuable”?

a) worth **b)** worthless **c)** worthy **d)** worthful

16. Would you mind if I _____ the window?

a) opening **b)** will open **c)** opens **d)** opened

17. If I’d known about last week’s meeting, I _____ come.

a) would have **b)** would **c)** had **d)** have

18. About 5% of American people think the Earth is flat.

a) The Earth is think to be flat by about 5% of American people.

b) The Earth is thought to be flat by about 5% of American people.

c) The Earth is thinking to be flat by about 5% of American people.

d) The Earth is thinked to be flat by about 5% of American people.

19. I remember _____ this film before. It is a very good movie.

a) to watched **b)** to watching **c)** watching **d)** watched

20. One of the characteristics of a good nurse is being _____ .

a) patiently **b)** patience **c)** patients **d)** patient

Writing (30 pts)

Please, choose one of the following topics (150-180 words):

1) Should social media be banned in Poland for kids and teens below a certain age?

2) Describe the city or the house of your dreams (you can choose one or write about both the city and the house).