

Exercise walk-through

# 1.2

## Countries and Cultures

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GAC Academic English

## Method — Key knowledge: predict a possibility, then verify it

The **gist** 大意 is the main message, not a list of every detail. Read a question to decide what information you need. A **prediction** 预测 is a possible topic or answer based on a title or situation; check it against the text rather than keeping it because it sounds likely.

A **context clue** 上下文线索 helps you infer an unfamiliar word from nearby information. Use the surrounding contrast, example or explanation. Keep uncertainty if several meanings remain possible. A transcript supports a reading inference; it cannot show that you recognised an unheard word in audio.

## Method — Source A: text or task brief

Guide: Our museum visit is still going ahead on Saturday, but the morning route has changed. The riverside entrance is inaccessible because a fallen tree blocks its path. We will use the hill entrance instead. Meet at the school gate at 08:40; the bus leaves at 08:50. The museum has agreed to admit us at 09:30. The outdoor garden tour may be cancelled if the weather becomes unsafe. That decision will be made on Saturday morning. The indoor exhibition is still available. Bring a raincoat and lunch, but leave large umbrellas on the bus because they cannot enter the exhibition rooms. If you cannot join the visit, tell your class tutor by Friday afternoon.

## Method — Source B: response or review record

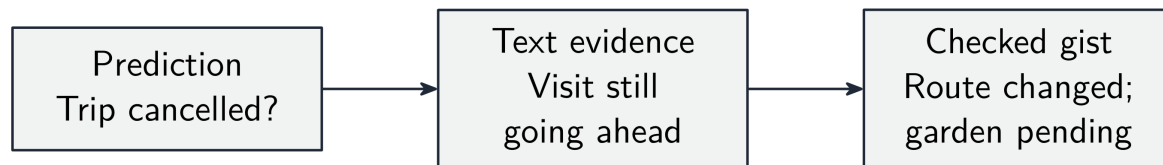
A title card reads “Changes to Saturday’s visit”. Before reading, Rui predicts that the whole museum trip has been cancelled. After reading, he writes, “The riverside entrance is inaccessible, so the museum must have closed. The garden tour is definitely cancelled, and nobody can take an umbrella anywhere.”

Mei’s notes read: “Trip still on; different entrance; school gate 08:40; bus 08:50; museum 09:30; garden decision on Saturday; indoor exhibition available; large umbrellas stay on bus.” The transcript supplies no later weather report or final garden-tour decision.

## Method — Worked example: test a predicted cancellation against the message

Known: the title says only that arrangements changed. The guide then explicitly says the visit is going ahead. Why reject Rui's prediction? A prediction is not evidence when the actual message contradicts it.

The fallen tree blocking a path explains inaccessible here: people cannot use that entrance. It does not establish that every museum entrance is closed. The garden tour is conditional on Saturday's weather decision, whereas the indoor exhibition remains available. A short gist should preserve this difference before listing individual times.



*A prediction is checked against the actual message before it becomes a summary.*

## Exercises 2.1-2.3

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**2.1** State the main message about the whole visit and the morning route. [2]

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**2.2** Infer the meaning of inaccessible here and identify the clue supporting it. [2]

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**2.3** Distinguish the meeting time, bus departure time and museum admission time. [3]

## Exercises 2.1·2.3

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**2.1** State the main message about the whole visit and the morning route. [2]

**2.1** The Saturday visit is going ahead; the entrance/route has changed.

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**2.2** Infer the meaning of inaccessible here and identify the clue supporting it. [2]

**2.2** The entrance/path cannot be used or reached; a fallen tree blocks the path. Do not infer a whole-museum closure.

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**2.3** Distinguish the meeting time, bus departure time and museum admission time. [3]

**2.3** School gate at 08:40; bus departure at 08:50; museum admission at 09:30.

## Exercises 2.4·3.1

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**2.4** State ONE confirmed indoor arrangement, ONE conditional outdoor arrangement and ONE fact not yet supplied. [3]

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**3.1** Evaluate THREE of Rui's conclusions: whole-museum closure, definite garden cancellation and a ban on umbrellas everywhere. Give the supported correction and a reason for each. [6]

## Exercises 2.4·3.1

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**2.4** State ONE confirmed indoor arrangement, ONE conditional outdoor arrangement and ONE fact not yet supplied. [3]

**2.4** Indoor exhibition available. Garden tour may be cancelled if weather becomes unsafe. Saturday's weather/final garden decision is not yet supplied.

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**3.1** Evaluate THREE of Rui's conclusions: whole-museum closure, definite garden cancellation and a ban on umbrellas everywhere. Give the supported correction and a reason for each. [6]

**3.1** Award correction B1 and reason B1 per conclusion. Only the blocked riverside entrance is inaccessible; the hill entrance and admission remain planned. Garden cancellation is conditional, with a later decision pending. Large umbrellas stay on the bus rather than enter exhibition rooms; the text does not ban every umbrella everywhere.

## Exercise 3.2

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**3.2** Write an 80–110 word update to an absent classmate. Start with the gist, preserve the three time roles and entrance change, explain the weather uncertainty and give an accurate preparation or absence instruction. [8]

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**3.2** Local analytic rubric,  $8 \times B1$ : whole-visit gist; changed entrance and tree reason; meeting/departure distinguished; museum admission time; conditional garden decision timing; indoor provision retained; accurate preparation and absence instruction; coherent truthful 80–110 word response. Example: “Saturday’s museum visit is still going ahead, but we will use the hill entrance because a fallen tree blocks the riverside path. Meet at the school gate at 08:40 for the 08:50 bus; the museum will admit us at 09:30. The garden tour could be cancelled if the weather becomes unsafe, with a decision due on Saturday morning. The indoor exhibition remains available. Bring a raincoat and lunch, and leave large umbrellas on the bus before entering the exhibition rooms. If you cannot attend, tell your class tutor by Friday afternoon. Please do not assume the whole trip is cancelled.”