Reading Comprehension: The Battle of Hastings

1   Are the sentences true, false or not in the text? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>right</th>
<th>wrong</th>
<th>not in the text</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>9</td>
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</table>

2 Who could have said it? Match the names which fit best with the right sentences. Extra names!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethan</th>
<th>Mr Davis</th>
<th>William</th>
<th>Magnus</th>
<th>a classmate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. student</td>
<td>“He is so silly.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Magnus</td>
<td>“My dad has the right to be king”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Mr Davis</td>
<td>“Read page 14 in your history book.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ethan</td>
<td>“I should go to bed on time.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3 Answer the questions. You don’t have to write complete sentences (use 3-7 words).

1. Why did Ethan fall asleep?
   *(Etan fell asleep, because ...) it was hot/it was Friday afternoon.*

2. What is special about Magnus?
   *(Special about Magnus is the fact that ...) his father should be king.*

3. Why did the English lose the battle?
   *(The English lost the battle because ...) their king was dead.*

4. What will Ethan do in the next history class?
   *He’ll present information about Magnus.*
**Use of English: Vocabulary**

1. Fill the gaps with the correct word in the correct form in English. Don’t use the words in brackets.

   1. My dad works in a big **mine** (a place where you find material und the ground).
   2. He works with a lot of tools which are made out of **metal** (= iron, copper, steel …).
   3. He isn’t scared in the **dark** (without light).
   4. Because of the dust, he has to **cough** (Dt. husten) a lot.
   5. Sometimes he goes to work by car, but there is always so much **traffic**.
   6. The streets are so **crowded**. (= very full, <-> empty).
   7. Dad is often very **busy** (to have a lot to do, but he usually has enough **energy** to play football with me.
   8. Sometimes we play chess, but he often **beats** (to win) me.

**Use of English: Structures**

1. Form one sentence out of two. What happens first? Use the **past perfect** and the **simple past**.

   1. The Celts win many fights. Then they start to build forts.
      
      *After the Celts **had won** many fights, they **started** to build forts.*
   2. The Celts feel very powerful. Then the Romans arrive.
      
      *After the Celts **had felt** very powerful, the Romans **arrived**.*
   3. The Roman army walks for many days. They arrived at the sea.
      
      *After the Roman army **had walked** many miles, they **arrived** at the sea.*
   4. The Romans fight against the Celts many times. They invade Britain.
      
      *After the Romans **had fought** many times, they **invaded** Britain.*
   5. Cesar fights against the Celts. He writes a book about his adventures.

2. Complete the text with relative pronouns. Use **who** or **which**.

   1. The King of France wanted the Vikings **who** came from the North to fight for his country.
   2. In the battle of Hastings **which** was in 1066 William defeated the Anglo-Saxons.
   3. The Anglo-Saxons were warriors **who** fought with axes.
Write sentences with who or which.

Example: John Logie Baird is a man. He presented the first TV.
John Logie Baird is the man who presented the first TV.

1. Helensburgh is on the west coast of Scotland. Helensburgh is a town.
   Helensburgh is a town which is on the west coast of Scotland.

2. A school in Helensburgh has his name. There is a school in Helensburgh.
   There is a school in Helensburgh which has his name.

3. A lot of students go to John Logie Baird School. The students wear a school uniform.
   A lot of students which go to JLB school wear a school uniform.

4. The school bus takes the kids to school. It is yellow.
   The school bus which is yellow takes the kids to school.
Ethan was very tired. It was Friday afternoon and he was in history class. The room was warm, and his teacher, Mr Davis, was talking about a battle from a long time ago.

“Now, class, the Battle of Hastings on 14 October 1066 was very important. It changed the history of England,” Mr Davis said. “In 1066, the old King Edward died, and Harold Godwinson was made King. But William, a Norman, also wanted to be king, so he decided to fight against Harold.”

Ethan’s eyes closed slowly. He slept, just for one minute. Then he woke up! He was worried that Mr Davis saw him. But Ethan wasn’t in school! Was this a dream? He was outside, on a hill, and there were people dressed in strange clothes and armour.

“Where is your weapon, soldier?” a man asked him. Ethan looked at the man.

“Soldier! Where is your weapon!” the man asked again, angrily.

“Here it is!” said a different voice. A teenager gave a big axe to Ethan. Ethan didn’t understand anything.

“Good. The Normans are coming! Get ready, Ethanlig and Magnus,” the man said and walked away. Magnus looked at Ethan. “Ethanlig, you mustn’t sleep now! We must prepare to fight the Normans, for my father, King Harold Godwinson!” said Magnus.

“Oh. OK, Magnus,” Ethan said. “When?”

Magnus looked surprised. “Is this a trick? Today, of course! The horrible William is here with his army! They sailed across the water in 1000 ships. But my father is the true king of England!”

“This is a dream,” Ethan said quietly, but Magnus heard him.

“No, Ethanlig, this is not a dream! The battle is going to start! Pick up your shield!” Magnus picked up a big shield and stood next to another soldier. They held up their shields together to make a wall.

Ethan decided it was a dream. He liked Magnus, and he wanted to stay with him. So he picked up a heavy shield and stood next to Magnus. Then Ethan looked down the hill. There were thousands of Norman soldiers, and they all had big weapons in their hands! He was scared.

Suddenly the battle began! Ethan saw the Norman soldiers ride their horses towards them, but they were at a disadvantage because of the hill, and the wall of shields was a strong defence. Magnus, Ethan and all the other English soldiers shouted: “King Harold is the true king!” It was very exciting! Later, the English soldiers shouted something different. “William is dead! William is dead!”

Ethan looked down the hill and saw a Norman soldier riding a horse, holding his helmet in the air.

Magnus shouted, “You’re wrong! That’s William! He isn’t dead!”

When the Norman soldiers saw William, they cheered and held their weapons in the air over their heads. Ethan was worried. The Normans were very excited now, and they came up the hill again. Ethan felt sick. He saw that now the English were at a disadvantage. The Normans crashed into the English wall, and into Ethan!

“ETHAN! Wake up!” said Mr Davis.

“What? Where are the Normans?” shouted Ethan. The class laughed at Ethan.

“Having a bad dream?” asked Mr Davis.

“Oh! No, I’m fine. Sorry,” said Ethan.

“Good. Now, by the end of the day, King Harold was killed. Without their King, the English felt hopeless, and they lost the Battle of Hastings. A few months later, on Christmas Day in 1066, William was made King of England,” said Mr Davis.

Ethan put up his hand. “What happened to Magnus, Harold’s son?” he asked.

Mr Davis looked surprised. “I didn’t tell you about Magnus. Did you do extra work, Ethan? Magnus and his family left England, and we think that they went to Dublin,” said Mr Davis.

“Oh, that’s good that he didn’t die in the battle,” said Ethan.

“I didn’t know that you liked history, Ethan! Perhaps you could tell us more about Magnus in the next lesson. Please give a short presentation on him,” said Mr Davis.

Ethan smiled. He wanted to learn more about Magnus too! “OK, Mr Davis!” he said.