

## **БЛОК 1. ВАРИАНТ 18**

### **Внимательно прочтите текст:**

Writing a new book about a place is a rewarding job, but one that's becoming a rarity. Publishers are more considered with keeping existing books up to date than bringing out new ones in an already crowded market. This is understandable, since every guidebook is actually out of date as soon as it is published. It may have been researched a year before being printed and it could have sat on the bookshop shelf for a year or two, so its information might be three years old by the time the reader uses it in practice. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that some publishers are investing almost as much in updating and redesigning their books as they did creating them. Updating guides is nowadays a good way for new writers to get started.

But if the Internet via a mobile phone can deliver information just as well as printed paper but much faster, at almost no cost, is there a future for the printed guidebooks? Other books you read at home, but a travel guide's main purpose is for urgent reference when you're desperate to find accommodation or somewhere to eat. Using a modern cellphone, any traveller can now enjoy a "paperless holiday". Want to know the opening times of the museum? Look them up online. Need some information on the ancient building you're standing in? Download it.

Although sales of some guidebook series are not doing so well, the effects of the IT revolution may not prove as serious as they first seem. People get excited about new technology and forget to think clearly. "I saw one tourist couple who were carrying around all their downloads in a pile of neat plastic envelopes," observed Nick Rider, author of Cadogan's Yucatan and Mayan Mexico guides, after a recent trip. "The fact that people print things out means that the printed word is still very useful, though a good book would actually be much easier to carry around." And books still have some advantages over computers and mobile phones. Not everyone likes looking at a screen, particularly in bright sunlight. Not everywhere on earth has a reliable internet connection. And who wants to spend all that time in a hotel room recharging batteries?

The Internet's strength of total democracy, enabling anyone to write whatever they like, is also its weakness. "A huge amount of what's around on the net is boring, unedited, untested, uninformed and untrustworthy," says Rider. "Another large percentage of net material is basically advertising, and so equally untrustworthy. Also, internet searches about destinations often produce facts and figures that are years out of date."

The travel guide will have to adapt to changing travel habits but it isn't finished yet. "The guidebook is not going to disappear – at least not for a considerable amount of time. That's the general opinion among our members," says Mary Anne Evans of the Guide of Travel Writers. "Publishers themselves really do not know what the Internet is capable of, and currently the thinking is that the two will coexist." Let's hope I'll be "on holiday" for a good while yet.

### **Ответьте письменно на следующие вопросы:**

1. Why does the author claim writing guidebooks is becoming a rarity?
2. What are the advantages of books over computers and mobile phones?
3. What does Mary Anne Evans say about the future of traveler information?

### **Выразите свое мнение на английском языке (150-200 слов) на тему:**

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet and guidebooks for a traveler?

**БЛОК 2. ВАРИАНТ 11**

**Выберите один правильный вариант из предложенных в скобках:**

Approximately one airline passenger in every thousand arrives 1 (to, in at) their destination to find that some or all of their baggage 2 (did not arrive has not arrived does not arrive) with them. For many passengers it means a wait of hours or days with all the associated inconvenience, while the missing item is 3 (being located, is located, has been located) and forwarded. Others, less fortunate still, have to resign themselves to the fact that their bags are actually lost and, as the days turn 4 (to, into, in), face the fact that they are unlikely ever to see their luggage again.

5 (To prevent, To resist, To discourage) loss, or at least assist recovery, passengers 6 (are urged, have been urged, will be urged) to make sure that identification tags are secure and up-to-date, an itinerary with addresses is enclosed and that their bags are distinguishable from others of the same make. Airlines recommend the use of coloured tape or large elasticated straps made specifically for this purpose.

Lost or delayed luggage actually costs the world's airlines over 6 billion pounds per year. They get some of this back, however, by 7 (selling off, selling out, selling away) those items which are never claimed by their rightful owners. After months of intensive tracking, airlines send hopelessly lost luggage to companies which sort the contents and then put them on sale 8 (on, for, at) bargain prices. At one such company in Alabama, the leftovers of flying are laid out in a vast store, 9 (what, which, that) has itself now become an attraction for tourists from all over the world. Who knows, they 10 (must, may, should) even come across some of their own stuff.

Из представленных в беспорядке предложений восстановите исходный текст. Обратите внимание на логическую и смысловую связь предложений.

### Hercules

3. 0 According to the Greeks, Hercules was the son of a woman named Alcmene and the god Zeus. He was a great hero, and very strong.
3. \_\_\_\_ 1. When Hera let Hercules come to his senses, he screamed, "What have I done?!" He needed to find some way for the gods to forgive him for this terrible crime.
3. \_\_\_\_ 2. As he was dying, Nessus told Deianira that if she smeared his blood on Hercules it would make Hercules love Deianira forever.
3. \_\_\_\_ 3. When Hercules was done with the twelve labors, Apollo said he was free again, he was done being sorry for having killed his wife and children; Hercules married another woman, Deianira, and they were happy for a short time.
3. \_\_\_\_ 4. He went to Delphi and asked Apollo what to do. Apollo said the gods would forgive Hercules if he did twelve hard jobs for Eurystheus, the king of Argos - we call these the twelve labors of Hercules.
3. \_\_\_\_ 5. Even when he was only a few days old, Hercules was very strong. The goddess Hera was angry, because Zeus was her husband and she didn't want him to have children with other women.
3. \_\_\_\_ 6. Deianira smeared the blood all over Hercules' new cloak, and then she gave it to Hercules as a present. But when Hercules put on the cloak, the centaur's blood began to burn him all over! It turned out to be a poison really.
3. \_\_\_\_ 7. But Hera was still angry at Hercules. One day she sent a madness on him, so that he went crazy. He was so crazy that he killed his own children, and also his wife Megara.
3. \_\_\_\_ 8. But when Hercules grew up, he was really the strongest man in the world. He married a woman named Megara and they had two children, whom he loved very much.
3. \_\_\_\_ 9. So she sent two huge snakes to strangle the little baby. But Hercules just sat up and grabbed those snakes and strangled them!
3. \_\_\_\_ 10. But then a bad centaur, Nessus, kidnapped Deianira. Hercules got Deianira back, of course, and shot Nessus dead with an arrow.
3. 11 Hercules suffered and suffered, and could not find a way to stop the burning. Finally he decided to kill himself and end the pain. He went up to Mt. Olympus and became a god.