

B2 First – Gapped text – Understanding reference

A. Read the excerpt from a guidebook about Iceland. Does it make you want to visit?

Iceland is home to some of the most stunning waterfalls in the world, making it a popular destination for tourists looking for an outdoor holiday. Many will be captivated by their natural beauty, which is truly a sight to behold. However, the vibrant city life in Reykjavik also provides a contrasting experience. The sound of the rushing water in one is soothing and creates a peaceful atmosphere, whereas the bustling streets of the other are a feast for the senses. The waterfalls in Iceland are surrounded by awe-inspiring landscapes, while the city offers a different type of excitement with unique cultural offerings such as Hallgrímskirkja church in the city centre. This boasts the best view of the city from its spire. Both options offer a special charm. As a result, Iceland is a must-visit for those who love either nature and outdoor adventure or urban exploration.



B. Read the text again and underline reference words and linking expressions which are used. Then add them to the categories below. An example has been done for you.

Pronouns	Demonstratives	Possessive adjectives	Quantifiers	Linking words	Linking phrases
it					

What do the words or phrases refer to? (e.g. "it" refers to Iceland)

What other words can you add to these categories?

C. Complete the exam task on the following page using the technique below.

1. Read the 7 missing sentences (A-G) and underline any reference or linking words.
2. Read the text up to the first gap, and the sentence following that gap.
3. Underline reference and linking words surrounding the gap.
4. Choose the best option which fits the gap.
5. Continue with questions 2-6.
6. When finished, reread the entire text, checking for coherence and cohesion.

You are going to read an article about natural spas in Iceland. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A-G** the one which fits each gap **(1-6)**. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Iceland's Spas

Travel writer Sarah Klein explores the best natural spas that Iceland has to offer.

I have had the opportunity to visit many beautiful places around the world, but Iceland remains one of my favourite destinations. One of the main reasons I love Iceland so much is because of the natural spas that can be found all over the island.

One of the most important natural spas in Iceland is the Blue Lagoon. Located in the Reykjanes peninsula, the Blue Lagoon is a geothermal spa that is maintained by water from nearby geothermal power plants. The water is a bright blue colour and revitalises all your senses. I had the opportunity to visit the Blue Lagoon, and it was truly a special event. **(1)** [____] All of this makes it a must-visit spot for any traveller to Iceland, and it shows from the number of tourists and locals.

(2) [____] Some critics argue that the spa's popularity has led to overcrowding, making the experience less enjoyable. Others claim that the spa's use of water from geothermal power plants is not sustainable and could lead to environmental damage in the long run. This concern is legitimate, but I feel that it is the least of our worries when it comes to the serious environmental impact of tourism.

(3) [____] Located in the north of Iceland in a beautiful natural landscape, they are surrounded by volcanic mountains. You almost feel like you are bathing on another planet, surrounded by the

volcanic peaks and dark soil. The only thing that brings you back to earth are the multitudes of other people surrounding you.

Above all, I'd personally suggest going to the Secret Lagoon. Located in the small town of Fludir, the Secret Lagoon is Iceland's oldest swimming pool, dating back to 1891. **(4)** [____] It's a peaceful oasis with fewer crowds. The spa, like others, is found in a breathtaking location to unwind after a day of exploring the nearby Golden Circle.

(5) [____] They are all set in magnificent landscapes and are fed by revitalising and healthy water from natural sources. They are also an excellent way to find your inner calm.

In my opinion, if you are planning a trip to Iceland, you should definitely make time to visit one of the natural spas. They are a wonderful form to experience the country's beauty and to loosen up and rejuvenate. Just be sure to book your tickets in advance, since they can get quite crowded during peak season.

(6) [____] They offer the perfect combination of innate beauty and relaxation, making them an ideal way to experience Iceland. As a travel writer, I highly recommend visiting one of these natural spas during your next trip to Iceland, but also be mindful of the controversy and environmental impact surrounding them.

- A. I found it to be a real hidden gem, not as famous as the Blue Lagoon or Myvatn Nature Baths.
- B. However, it's important to note that there is some controversy surrounding such a popular location.
- C. There's nothing better than relaxing in the warm waters of the spa and letting your worries melt away.

- D. All of these natural spas in Iceland offer a unique and relaxing experience.
- E. The spa also has a variety of amenities, such as a sauna, steam room, and a restaurant.
- F. Iceland's natural spas are a must-visit for any traveller looking for a unique and relaxing time.
- G. Another natural spa that I recommend visiting is the Myvatn Nature Baths.

ANSWER KEY

B.

Iceland is home to some of the most stunning waterfalls in the world, making it a popular destination for tourists looking for an outdoor holiday. Many will be captivated by their natural beauty, which is truly a sight to behold. However, the vibrant city life in Reykjavik also provides a contrasting experience. The sound of the rushing water in one is soothing and creates a peaceful atmosphere, whereas the bustling streets of the other are a feast for the senses. The waterfalls in Iceland are surrounded by awe-inspiring landscapes, while the city offers a different type of excitement with unique cultural offerings such as Hallgrímskirkja church in the city centre. This boasts the best view of the city from its spire. Both options offer a special charm. As a result, Iceland is a must-visit for those who love either nature and outdoor adventure or urban exploration.



Pronouns	Demonstratives	Possessive adjectives	Quantifiers	Linking words	Linking phrases
it one other both	this those	their its	many	however whereas while	as a result

Other words can include:

- Pronouns: he, she, it, they, him, her, etc.
- Demonstratives: this, that, these, those
- Possessive adjectives: my, his, her, its, etc.
- Quantifiers: some, any, many, a few, etc.
- Linking words: however, therefore, consequently, etc.
- Linking phrases: as a result, in addition, on the other hand, etc.

C.

1. E 2. B 3. G 4. A 5. D 6. F Not used: C