

B2 First Reading Part 7 - Evidence grid

A. Discuss the questions with a partner.

1. What kind of voluntary work would you most like to try? Why?
2. Would you prefer to volunteer locally or abroad? Why?

B. Read example o. Compare the notes with the highlighted evidence in the texts.

Example o. Which person would return alone at any time of year?

Both conditions must match. A can go alone, but only in summer. B needs a friend and gives no dates. C can go alone and fit any dates. D gives no return plan. Answer: C.

Detail to find	A • Sofia	B • Javier	C • Anna	D • Thomas	Answer
o Return alone + any season	<i>alone, summer only</i>	<i>needs friend, dates NM</i>	<i>alone, any dates</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>C</i>
1 Changed career + took action					
2 More physical effort than expected					
3 Needed reassurance about helping					
4 Public task despite limited language					
5 Changed opinion of materials					
6 Extra group duties done regularly					
7 Frustrated by delayed contact					
8 Quiet person shared own creation					
9 Harder emotionally than expected					
10 Same career aim + broader view					

C. Read the text and answer questions 1–10. Use the grid to compare possible answers. Scan and check the relevant sentences. Write a few words showing a match or why a similar detail does not fit. Leave irrelevant cells blank. (NM = not mentioned)

For questions 1–10, choose from the people A–D. You may choose each person more than once.

Which person...

1. took practical action towards a different career after the trip? []
2. found the work more physically exhausting than they had expected? []
3. needed reassurance that their contribution was worthwhile? []
4. completed a public task despite limited ability in another language? []
5. reconsidered their opinion of resources they had expected to be less useful? []
6. took on additional duties involving groups on a regular basis? []
7. was frustrated by having to delay contact with people at home? []
8. valued seeing a normally reserved person share something they had created? []
9. had underestimated the emotional demands of the work? []
10. gained a broader view of their profession while keeping the same career ambition? []

Volunteering abroad

A Sofia in Kenya

Having studied literature rather than education, I had underestimated the challenge of teaching forty children in a rural Kenyan school. Resources were limited, and unreliable electricity meant lessons rarely went according to plan. Daily calls kept me in touch with my family, so feeling isolated was less of a problem than I had anticipated. At school, the headteacher suggested ways of adapting activities, which helped me overcome my initial hesitation. As my confidence developed, I was given responsibility for the daily assembly and a weekend reading club, in addition to my English classes. The most rewarding moment involved a boy who had previously avoided speaking in front of others. When he volunteered to read a story he had written, I realised how much progress he had made. Although a career in publishing had once seemed the obvious choice, I am now seriously considering teaching instead. No decision has been made yet. Until I make up my mind, I'd gladly spend another summer there on my own, although work commitments rule out other times of year.

B Javier in Nepal

Instead of pursuing business studies, I have applied for an environmental science degree, a decision prompted by a conservation project in Nepal. There, we monitored wildlife using cameras positioned along forest paths. Although I valued the independence I gained, I missed having someone familiar to share the experience with. I'd be keen to make another visit, provided a friend came along. Living away from home was complicated by unreliable communications. Our messages could only be sent during visits to a town. With so much I wanted to tell my friends straight away, I found that restriction particularly irritating. The daily work brought challenges too. Despite having volunteered abroad before, I hadn't allowed for such long, steep climbs. I could barely drag myself up the final stretch each day, although my body gradually adjusted to the routine. During our breaks, a ranger helped me practise a few phrases of Nepali, though we usually spoke English. He once described tracking an animal for several hours without catching sight of it. His determination impressed me, but I had no desire to specialise in that particular role.

C Anna in Romania

The Romanian children's hospital where I volunteered as a musician has invited me back. I'm considering going by myself and arranging my work around whatever dates they offer. Before my first visit, I had expected my main responsibility to be providing cheerful entertainment. What I hadn't allowed for was how upsetting it would be to spend time with such seriously ill patients. If I'd realised what it would involve, I might have prepared differently. Although I missed my family, being able to call whenever I wanted made the separation easier to manage. A girl who regularly sang along with me, even when she was clearly suffering, made a particularly strong impression. Nevertheless, I wondered whether the children gained anything from my short sessions. The nurses put my mind at rest, pointing out that a calmer mood could help even if a child's health remained unchanged. Gradually, I replaced standard performances with sessions designed around individual patients. I still intend to earn my living on stage, but I now see possibilities for music that had never occurred to me before.

D Thomas in Peru

Giving visitors a short presentation in Spanish was an achievement in itself. Despite rehearsing repeatedly, I had remained concerned that my limited vocabulary would prevent me from getting the message across. It was one of several challenges I faced on a house-building project in Peru. With no previous construction experience, I had wondered how easily I would fit in. Dropping a bucket of clay mixture on my foot hardly improved that first impression. However, the local builders, Pedro and Javier, whose practical knowledge far exceeded mine, patiently demonstrated the techniques I needed. We worked with discarded tyres, bottles and mud, materials I'd dismissed as poor substitutes for conventional supplies. Seeing how solid the finished walls were showed me how wrong I had been. Previous volunteering trips had been enjoyable, but none had involved me so directly in a community's everyday life and activities. The experience encouraged me to question familiar assumptions and recognise the value of approaches I might otherwise have dismissed.

Answer key

A. Answers vary.

B–C. Suggested notes. Blank cells contain no useful comparison. Other short, accurate notes are acceptable.

Detail to find	A • Sofia	B • Javier	C • Anna	D • Thomas	Answer
0 Return alone + any season	alone, summer only	needs friend, dates NM	alone, any dates		C
1 Changed career + took action	considering teaching, undecided	applied for new degree	same stage career		B
2 More physical effort than expected		climbs harder than expected	emotional, not physical	accident, exhaustion NM	B
3 Needed reassurance about helping	advice on lessons		doubted benefit, nurses reassured		C
4 Public task despite limited language	assembly, language NM	practice, public task NM		completed talk, limited Spanish	D
5 Changed opinion of materials	limited resources only		music, not materials	thought weak, found strong	D
6 Extra group duties done regularly	assembly + club, regular extras		adapted sessions, same role	one talk, regular duties NM	A
7 Frustrated by delayed contact	daily calls	wait for town, frustrated	could call whenever		B
8 Quiet person shared own creation	quiet boy reads own story	ranger's story, shy NM	sings, song's writer NM		A
9 Harder emotionally than expected	less lonely than expected	hard climbs, not emotions	distress greater than expected		C
10 Same career aim + broader view	considering new career	changed degree plans	new view, still wants stage		C