

## The Qwerty Keyboard (B1)

### A – Before you start

*Answer the questions with a partner.*

1. Do you normally type with two fingers or with ten?
2. Are you a fast typist? If so, are you accurate?
3. Can you type without looking at the keys?
4. Have you ever wondered why the letters on a keyboard are placed as they are?

### B – Listen and answer

*Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and complete them.*

1. The Qwerty keyboard is the standard keyboard for the \_\_\_\_\_ alphabet typewriter.
2. Primitive typewriters appeared in the \_\_\_\_\_ century.
3. Christopher Latham Sholes invented a practical typewriter in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. On Sholes's typewriter the keys were in \_\_\_\_\_ order.
5. In \_\_\_\_\_, Sholes patented a new Qwerty keyboard.
6. Some experts think that keyboards and \_\_\_\_\_ will soon disappear.

### C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. How did the Qwerty keyboard get its name?
2. What often happened when fast typists used a sequence of keys that were placed close together?
3. What did the Remington company make besides typewriters?
4. What was different about the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard of 1932?
5. What reasons are given for the failure of the Dvorak keyboard?
6. What will keyboards probably be replaced by in the future?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

*Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)*

1. This cupboard needs repairing. Sometimes it \_\_\_\_\_ and I can't open it.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the house is rather unusual. The bathroom is a long way from the bedrooms.
3. Unfortunately, our team \_\_\_\_\_ to qualify for the football tournament.
4. It's best to put medicines on the \_\_\_\_\_ shelf so that small children can't reach them.
5. Amy asked her parents to buy her a scooter, but they \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I can't find the fault in this system. I need more \_\_\_\_\_ from users.

### E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

*Write one word only in each space.*

Nowadays, people are increasingly using their laptops and phones to write with and writing <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ hand is becoming less common. However, handwriting is <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ to disappear completely, since there are a large <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of situations in which it's <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ needed; for instance, when writing an essay during a class test, or when <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ gap-filling exercises in a school textbook. Besides, studies have <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ that handwriting is good for your brain, as it improves your memory and helps you to organise your thoughts.

**F – Talk about it**

*In pairs or groups.*

1. What kinds of texts do you usually write by hand?
2. What kinds do you usually type out on a computer keyboard?
3. Do you find it easier to remember things if you write them down? If so, why do you think this is?

## **Answers**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. Latin 2. early 19<sup>th</sup> 3. 1868 4. alphabetical 5. 1878 6. touch screens

### **C – Read and answer**

1. It got its name from the first six letters in the top row of keys. 2. The keys jammed 3. It made guns. 4. The keys for the most common letters were in the middle row of the keyboard. 5. The reasons given are that people are accustomed to the Qwerty keyboard and it has not been shown that other systems produce faster typing. 6. They will probably be replaced by voice input or messages sent to computers directly from our brains.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. jams 2. layout 3. failed 4. top 5. refused 6. input

### **E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?**

1. by 2. unlikely 3. number 4. still 5. doing 6. shown/demonstrated/proved