

READING

- 7 Read the text and choose from the sentences (A–E) the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence.

AT THE BEIJING DANCE ACADEMY 舞蹈學院

from *Mao's Last Dancer*, by Li Cunxin

Those first few weeks at the Beijing Dance Academy were an agony of loneliness. Nights were the worst. I couldn't wait to get to bed so I could clutch onto my niang's* quilt, my only security.

I knew I had no choice but to stay in Beijing. My parents, my brothers, relatives, friends, my old school teachers and classmates, my village and commune, all of their wishes and expectations made it impossible for me to go back. ¹ My success was my parents' only hope of breaking that vicious cycle of poverty. I couldn't let them down, even if I did feel trapped in a cage of rules and routines. Every day I couldn't wait for the year to end so I could return home to see my family and roam the streets and fields once more.

I wasn't alone in missing home. I witnessed many teary eyes among my fellow classmates. The girls sobbed more than the boys. ² The boys would be told that crying was a sign of weakness. [...]

Our first weeks weren't made any easier when a virus swept through the school. I was among those who had the severe cough, sore throat and high fever. ³ I offered to share it with some of my classmates but it was as though I'd offered them poison. I lost a few friends over that, but I did notice that their symptoms lasted much longer than mine. [...]

One of the treats at the academy once a month was watching documentaries and occasionally a movie. All the foreign films were from other communist countries. A North Korean movie I remember particularly well was about a young man who had lost his ambitions for the communist cause, and a beautiful girl, a Communist Youth Party member, who helped him and fell in love with him. What I enjoyed most about this movie wasn't the politics but the love story. ⁴ I imagined that if I performed badly enough in class, the political head might send this girl to help me, but the longed-for love never materialised.

*niang: grandmother

- A Naturally, I did what my niang would have done – I took out a few pieces of my precious dried snakeskin and wrapped a green onion in them.
- B We knew what we had to do – and there was a great determination amongst every boy and girl to succeed.
- C The loss of face would be unbearable. It would damage my family's reputation forever.
- D Our political heads and teachers showed more tenderness towards the girls.
- E For the next couple of weeks I started to behave differently towards the captain of the girls' class, a pretty Qingdao girl with big, bright eyes.

LISTENING

- 8 CD•1.25 MP3•25 Listen to four people talking about classes they attend. Choose from the list (A–F) what each speaker says. Use the letters only once. There are two extra letters.

Speaker 1: ☐

Speaker 3: ☐

Speaker 2: ☐

Speaker 4: ☐

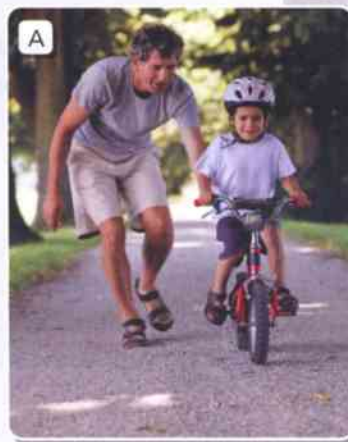
The speaker:

- A wants to develop a professional goal.
- B is struggling with the amount of work on the course.
- C is motivated by feedback from the tutor.
- D is concerned about other students' motivation.
- E is thinking of quitting the course.
- F is surprised by the attitude of the tutor.

SPEAKING

- 9 In pairs, complete the speaking task.

Student A, your photos show people of different ages learning new things. Compare the photos and say how difficult it can be to learn new things at these ages.



Student B, do you prefer to learn by studying or by doing?

- 10 Now go to WORD STORE page 23 and complete another speaking task.

WRITING

- 11 Complete the writing task.

You are the student representative for your class. You recently attended a meeting about plans for a new cafeteria for the school. Write a report of the meeting for the website. Your report should:

- include some information you learned about the plans.
- ask for suggestions from the students for the new cafeteria.

Write your report in 140–190 words.