

6.4 Reading

Gapped text

I can understand the structure of a text.

- 1 Look at the ways of changing one's appearance. Put ✓ if they are reversible and X if they are irreversible. Which changes would/wouldn't you consider?

bleach or dye your hair ☐ change your hairstyle ☐
draw a mole/beauty spot/scar ☐ go on an extreme diet ☐
have a fake/real tattoo ☐ have plastic surgery ☐
wear colour-change contact lenses ☐ wear a wig ☐

- 2 Read the introduction and first paragraph (lines 1–12) of the article. Explain the link between Nicholas Barclay and Frederic Bourdin.

- 3 Read the rest of the article and answer the questions.

- Why did Bourdin try to make people believe he was Nicholas?
- How certain was Bourdin that Carey would realise it was a trick?
- What solemn promise did Carey make in Spain?
- What made Parker suspect that Bourdin wasn't Nicholas?
- When did Bourdin stop pretending that he was Nicholas?
- What suggestions does the writer make about the family's motivations?

EXAM FOCUS Gapped text

- 4 Read the article again. Choose from the sentences (A–F) the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence.
- A In spite of Bourdin's brown eyes and French accent, she was in no doubt that this was her long-lost family member.
- B In fact, he managed to live as Nicholas for three and a half months, moving into the teenager's bedroom and even attending a local school.
- C Conversely, the boy claiming to be him had dark features and spoke with a French accent.
- D His mother's health prevented her from making the trip, so Nick's older married sister Carey flew to Spain in order to be reunited with her brother.
- E Initially he was puzzled by the boy's accent, but it was when he came across a photo of the missing teenager that he realised something was very wrong.
- F Having seen a photo of Nicholas on a missing person's flyer, Bourdin bleached his dark hair.

- 5 Complete the table with the underlined linkers in Exercise 4.

Function	Linker
Showing contrast	despite = <u>'in spite of</u> in contrast = <u>2</u>
Giving a reason	because he had = <u>3</u> so that = <u>4</u>
Adding more information	what is more = <u>5</u>
Sequencing events	at first = <u>6</u>

- 6 Complete the sentences about the article with one word in each gap.

- Bourdin wanted a new identity in order _____ run away from a home in Spain.
- Bourdin had the wrong coloured eyes. _____ is more, he had a French accent.
- _____ Bourdin thought Carey would reject him but she swore he was her brother.
- Bourdin was twenty-three when he adopted his new identity. _____, Nicholas would have been much younger.
- _____ Bourdin's deception, the Barclay family happily accepted him as their son.
- Parker analysed Bourdin's ears _____ that he could prove that Bourdin was an imposter.

- 7 Match the phrases in blue in the article with these definitions.

- continue to pretend – keep up the lie
- hiding the truth about sth – _____
- making people believe he is sb – _____
- realise the truth about sth – _____
- solemnly promised – _____
- wasn't deceived – _____

- 8 Complete the text with the correct form of the phrases in Exercise 7.



Frederic Bourdin

Born in June 1974 near Paris, Bourdin was abandoned by his parents. Raised by his poor grandparents, he _____ the truth about his family and claimed his dad was a British secret

agent. From the age of sixteen, Frederic Bourdin _____ an orphan. Orphanages, hospitals and schools _____ by his stories. Authorities in more than sixteen countries failed to _____ more than forty false identities. In particular, he used to lie about his age and he was so good at _____ that when one doctor examined him, she confirmed that he was in his teens, although he was thirty years old at the time. Bourdin finally got married and _____ that he would never pretend to be anyone again.

- 9 In pairs, discuss who you would choose to be if you could be anybody for one day.

WORD STORE 6F

- 10 **CD-2.43 MP3-96** Complete WORD STORE 6F. Add particles to complete the phrasal verbs from the article. Then listen, check and repeat.