

# English marathon.

Meet Kate! She will help us check our reading, grammar and vocabulary skills with her exciting life story.

**Ready, Set, GO!**

## Section #1.

Fill in the gaps with an appropriate preposition:

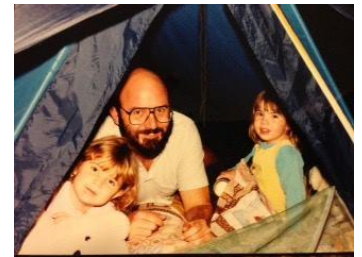
**Of in for to on into**



### A teacher, a traveler, and a runner.

These are the three things I would most identify myself as. All of these things have shaped me and made me **1**\_\_\_ the person I am today, and I could not have one without the other two. Here is my life story **2**\_\_\_ teaching, traveling, and running.

While we moved around the country quite a bit during my early years, my family finally settled **3**\_\_\_ a nearby suburb of Los Angeles, California. Sports had been a passion **4**\_\_\_ mine from a very young age. Certainly thanks to my father who was always happy to play catch, shoot hoops, or take me **5**\_\_\_ a jog around the block before he went out **6**\_\_\_ his longer runs. From a young age, I was able to outrun my classmates, even the boys. I played many sports in school, but running was the one that would stick with me **7**\_\_\_ life.



My first real trip abroad was **8**\_\_\_ Europe at the age of 14. I was lucky enough to participate **9**\_\_\_ a student ambassador program with my soccer team. Traveling around four different cultures, eating new foods, playing soccer, and living with host families gave me an entire new outlook **10**\_\_\_ life. From that time, my love **11**\_\_\_ travel and desire **12**\_\_\_ learning about the world around me continued to increase every day.



## Section #2

Word formation. Put the correct form of the word in brackets into the blank.



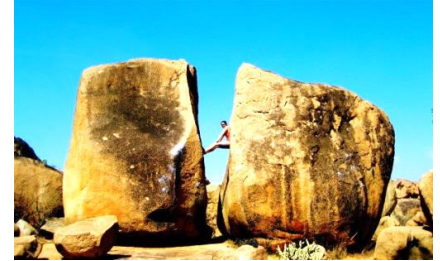
Upon **13**\_\_\_\_\_ (**enter**) university I ran on the school track team for a while, but then decided there were too many other interesting things going on, and I did not want to spend the **14**\_\_\_\_\_ (**entire**) of my university experience on the track or in the gym. My interests in the outdoors first led me to study the **15**\_\_\_\_\_ (**environmental**). I became **16**\_\_\_\_\_ (**depth**) involved in my school's outdoor leadership program, and **17**\_\_\_\_\_ (**eventual**) became a rock climbing



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instructor and a kayak guide in **18** \_\_\_\_\_ (**add**) to many other interesting roles, which took me to some spectacular places and allowed me to meet many amazing people.

Because of my interest in other cultures, I decided to get a second degree in anthropology. While my environmental classes were often quite **19** \_\_\_\_\_ (**depression**), I found my anthropology classes to be **20** \_\_\_\_\_ (**fascinate**), and always inspired me to continue my travels and learn as much about the world as **21** \_\_\_\_\_ (**possibility**). My travels that had started in high school had continued to many interesting places, and I was even **22** \_\_\_\_\_ (**ability**) to study abroad in England and India while at university.



India in particular allowed me to get a completely different perspective on how **23** \_\_\_\_\_ (**differ**) people lived. I can still remember getting off the plane in Calcutta. I was **24** \_\_\_\_\_ (**immediate**) hit with a million new smells, from spices to burning trash. Along with a couple others from my new program, we went to our hotel for a nap, passing **25** \_\_\_\_\_ (**number**) people living in the streets, cycle and auto rickshaws, and even cows walking the streets of the city. During our short rest the monsoons hit, and as we left the hotel to look for some food, we realized the streets were **26** \_\_\_\_\_ (**flood**) almost to our knees. After months of studying and traveling in this country, I only wanted more.



## Section #3

Fill in the gaps with the given words:

ended way   appealing   degree   *fit*   included   enrolled   thesis   *friends*   option

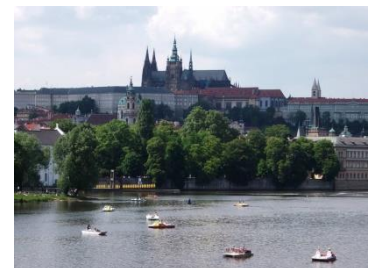
After university I wanted to continue traveling, so I thought the best **27** \_\_\_\_\_ to do that would be to teach English.

I had read about people who had seen the world this way, and because I had started to really enjoy teaching outdoor skills, I thought this seemed like a perfect **28** \_\_\_\_\_.

I **29** \_\_\_\_\_ in a one-month intensive teaching course in the beautiful Czech capital of Prague.

Initially, I had only intended to take the course, and then perhaps get a job teaching in Asia, but like many other people, the beautiful country sunk its claws into me, and I **30** \_\_\_\_\_ up staying for two years.

During this time I taught English at a university about an hour from the capital, continued some of my favorite hobbies, like rock climbing and snowboarding, made many interesting **31** \_\_\_\_\_ from countries all over the world, and ran my first couple marathons.



When I decided to go back to school in pursuit of a master's **32** \_\_\_\_\_, going back to the US did not sound very **33** \_\_\_\_\_. I decided to go for a more interesting (and cheaper) **34** \_\_\_\_\_ and studied anthropology at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. Some highlights of my time there **35** \_\_\_\_\_ riding a bicycle everyday as my main form of transport, getting decked out in orange to celebrate Queen's day, and of course my research for my **36** \_\_\_\_\_, which took place in rural Uganda over the course of three months.



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## Section #4

Write one word in each gap to complete the sentences.



My passion **37**\_\_\_\_\_ running becomes stronger and stronger every year. Not a year goes by without at least a **38**\_\_\_\_\_ races marathon distance or longer. I love pushing myself to **39**\_\_\_\_\_ harder, though of course it is not **40**\_\_\_\_\_ easy! No one likes it when the alarm goes off at 5am and you look out into the dark winter sky to see that you will be **41**\_\_\_\_\_ your morning workout in the snow. **42**\_\_\_\_\_ how difficult it seems at times, I have never regretted a **43**\_\_\_\_\_ of it. I have now run in many beautiful **44**\_\_\_\_\_

around the world, met some inspiring people and life-long friends, and competed in all types of races, from mud-runs, to multi-day relays, many marathons including the Boston marathon and I've **45**\_\_\_\_\_ won a few ultra-marathons.

After living and teaching in Asia and traveling to **46**\_\_\_\_\_ seven continents, these days you can find me back in the Czech Republic. I now not **47**\_\_\_\_\_ teach English at Charles University, but I also teach people who want to become English teachers in a course **48**\_\_\_\_\_ to the one I took years ago. While I didn't always see myself **49**\_\_\_\_\_ being a lifelong teacher, now I can't imagine doing anything else. Having the chance to teach and work so **50**\_\_\_\_\_ with people from all over the world on a daily basis, is not only rewarding, but I never stop learning either.



Your score \_\_\_/50





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## The key.

A teacher, a traveler, and a runner

These are the three things I would most identify myself as. All of these things have shaped me and made me **into** the person I am today, and I could not have one without the other two. Here is my life story **of** teaching, traveling, and running.

While we moved around the country quite a bit during my early years, my family finally settled **in** a nearby suburb of Los Angeles, California. Sports had been a passion **of** mine from a very young age. Certainly thanks to my father who was always happy to play catch, shoot hoops, or take me **for** a jog around the block before he went out **for** his longer runs. From a young age, I was able to outrun my classmates, even the boys. I played many sports in school, but running was the one that would stick with me **for** life.

My first real trip abroad was **to** Europe at the age of 14. I was lucky enough to participate **in** a student ambassador program with my soccer team. Traveling around four different cultures, eating new foods, playing soccer, and living with host families gave me an entire new outlook **on** life. From that time, my love **for** travel and desire **for** learning about the world around me continued to increase every day.

Upon **entering** university I ran on the school track team for a while, but then decided there were too many other interesting things going on, and I did not want to spend the **entirety** of my university experience on the track or in the gym. My interests in the outdoors first led me to study the **environment**. I became **deeply** involved in my school's outdoor leadership program, and **eventually** became a rock climbing instructor and a kayak guide in **addition** to many other interesting roles, which took me to some spectacular places and allowed me to meet many amazing people.

Because of my interest in other cultures, I decided to get a second degree in anthropology. While my environmental classes were often quite **depressing**, I found my anthropology classes to be **fascinating**, and always inspired me to continue my travels and learn as much about the world as **possible**. My travels that had started in high school had continued to many interesting places, and I was even **able** to study abroad in England and India while at university.

India in particular allowed me to get a completely different perspective on how **differently** people lived. I can still remember getting off the plane in Calcutta. I was **immediately** hit with a million new smells, from spices to burning trash. Along with a couple others from my new program, we went to our hotel for a nap, passing **numerous** people living in the streets, cycle and auto rickshaws, and even cows walking the streets of the city. During our short rest the monsoons hit, and as we left the hotel to look for some food, we realized the streets were **flooded** almost to our knees. After months of studying and traveling in this country I only wanted more.



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When I decided to go back to school in pursuit of a master's degree, going back to the US did not sound very **appealing**. I decided to go for a more interesting (and cheaper) **option** and studied anthropology at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. Some highlights of my time there **included** riding a bicycle everyday as my main form of transport, getting decked out in orange to celebrate Queen's day, and of course my research for my **thesis**, which took place in rural Uganda over the course of three months.

My passion **for** running becomes stronger and stronger every year. Not a year goes by without at least a **couple** races marathon distance or longer. I love pushing myself to **train** harder, though of course it is not **always** easy! No one likes it when the alarm goes off at 5am and you look out into the dark winter sky to see that you will be **doing** your morning workout in the snow. **Despite** how difficult it seems at times, I have never regretted a **minute** of it. I have now run in many beautiful **places** around the world, met some inspiring people and life-long friends, and competed in all types of races, from mud-runs, to multi-day relays, many marathons including the Boston marathon and I've **even** won a few ultra-marathons.

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