

FROM GRAMMAR TO READING

1 Read the article and complete the exercises which follow.

WILL THE DEAD SEA DIE?



I Some Dead Sea Facts

The Dead Sea is the lowest place on Earth. It is on the border between Israel and Jordan. It is 76 kilometres long and 19 kilometres wide. It is the deepest, saltiest lake in the world. 1 Because the Dead Sea is so different from any other sea, scientists study it, as well as the birds and animals that live in the area. People from all over world visit the Dead Sea because its salty waters are very healthy. Factories make money from the salt and minerals.

II Some Dead Sea History

This area of Israel was also famous in the past. King David hid from King Saul in Ein Gedi. King Herod built a beautiful palace at Massada. Elazar Ben Yair and his men fought the Romans on top of Massada. Later Mark Anthony gave the Dead Sea to Cleopatra. Cleopatra built the first cosmetic factory there. 2

III The Danger

The Dead Sea is dying. Slowly, it is getting smaller and smaller. 3 That is because people who live in this area are using the water sources near the Dead Sea in many ways. Farmers are growing fruits and vegetables with this water. People are drinking, showering, and washing dishes. In addition, factories are taking the salt water from the Dead Sea to make cosmetics and medicine.

IV Our Responsibility

We must act now or the Dead Sea is going to disappear in a very short time. Then the Dead Sea factories will go out of business and the hotels will close. Many people will lose their jobs. 4

On May 5, 2005, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority signed an agreement to work together to bring water back to the Dead Sea. 5 Hopefully, this project will keep the Dead Sea alive.

2 Which tense is used in each paragraph, the Present Progressive, Present Simple, Future Simple or Past Simple?

Paragraph	Tense
I	
II	
III	
IV	

3 Put these sentences back into the article.

- a. She used the Dead Sea as a spa.
- b. In addition, important plants and animals will die.
- c. The project is going to cost about 900 million dollars.
- d. Today it is 30% smaller than it was twenty years ago.
- e. It is about 400 metres deep.