

HeLP ENGLISH EXERCISE

SECTION A

*Item 1. You are the financial advisor of the business partnership for which you are a member. You want to advise the partners on the importance of using digital banking to its maximum advantage. Some of the active partners like arguing a lot and you are not ready for this. Fortunately, there is an article you recently read whose ideas can help. The article is given below. Read it and write out what you will say to the partners in not more than **150** words.*

Uganda has earned reputation as one of Africa's most entrepreneurial countries, consistently ranking high on the Global Entrepreneurship index – a reflection of its supportive environment for new business ventures.

Despite the entrepreneurial spirit, many businesses in Uganda face significant challenges, with many struggling to survive beyond their second year of operation. This is largely attributed to financial management challenges and limited access to adequate resources.

In today's fast-paced business environment, digital banking has emerged as a powerful tool for businesses seeking efficiency and growth to remain competitive.

Equity Bank has integrated a digital and banking approach into its operations through digital banking solutions that enable the transfer of funds to other accounts, mobile wallets, and utility bills, providing business owners with the necessary tools to stay competitive, manage finances, and scale their operations. By harnessing the power of digital banking, businesses can streamline their operations and make informed financial decisions from the comfort of their homes and locations.

Here is why you should leverage digital banking to fuel growth of your business.

Digital banking solutions enable businesses to access real-time financial data and statements, helping them make informed decisions.

Automated features, such as tracking, help minimize errors while saving time.

With the ability to monitor cash inflows and outflows from anywhere, business can closely monitor growth trends and ensure their financial health remains intact.

One of the most significant advantages of digital banking is the ease of accessing funds.

Businesses can perform payments, transfers and other transactions at the tap of a button, improving cash flow management.

The availability of real-time transaction options ensures that money available when needed, contributing to smoother business operations.

Businesses can enjoy a seamless payment experience through options such as the e-wallet and online payment options for utilities and bank transfers.

The convenience that comes with digital banking not only improves customer satisfaction but also attracts new customers who prefer the convenience of digital payments.

Many digital banking platforms offer businesses quicker access to funding through loans and credit.

These platforms streamline the loan application process, reducing bureaucracy and allowing businesses to take advantage of growth opportunities without delays.

Item 2

2. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follows it.

The Plight of Kampala Street Children

It is 8:00 p.m. and the streets are buzzing with different activities and heavy traffic. I keenly observe five youngsters carrying old sacks, which I later learn are used as beddings during the night.

David Akampulira, a 16- year-old orphan and the eldest of the five street children met at Mukwano Mall, were planning on where they were going to spend that night. He described his five-year life on the city streets as a roller-coaster of emotions, saying that he and his colleagues are always involved in running battles with city authorities.

“We are always roaming from place to place seeking accommodation because authorities do not want to see us on the streets. At times, they find us sleeping in the night and beat us, saying that we are not supposed to sleep on the city verandahs. This makes our life hard,” while displaying bruises on her body which he alleges are a result of several beatings. Akampulira’s ordeal is shared by a host of other street children. Some of the street children have lost hope of re-uniting with their families because they were born on the streets and abandoned by their parents in Kampala.

Majority of street children claim that motorists often beat them up. They mistake them for thieves of car parts. Others hurl insults at them whenever they ask for food or money.

“One day, a man found me seated next to where his car was parked along Wilson Road and he started beating me, accusing me of being a thug. My pleas fell on deaf ears and was only rescued by passers-by who pleaded with the man to let me go,” recounts a 13-year-old Richard Okello. He told us that he lives with his mother in Katwe and although he would love to go back to school, his mother, who is the breadwinner of four children, cannot afford to foot his school bills. He does not know their father’s whereabouts.

While some street children were pushed to the city streets by poverty, others, especially born in Kampala, found themselves on the streets because of domestic violence and loss of a parents.

Questions:

- a. What reasons are given in the passage that lead to the increased number of street children?

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- b. Majority of the street children claim that motorists often beat them up. They mistake them for thieves of car parts. (join the two sentences with an appropriate conjunction)

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- c. People in Kampala are described based on what they do, say to the street children and what other people say about them. Based on the story, describe the people in Kampala.

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- d. Different people in our society offer guidance and recommendation based on what is happening to them. What advice can you give to the living in the city concerning how they treat the street children?

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- e. Circumstances and people in stories arouse feelings in the reader. What are your feelings towards the street children?

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- f. The government can set up different steps to promote or stop something in a country. What do you think the government can do to solve the problem of street children in Uganda?

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The President's Backing Dog That Struggled to Find a Home After State House

In his final days, Tamale Mirundi sought to reconcile with his past. He confided in his brother about his intentions to mend fences with President Museveni, promising to quit alcohol and embrace a new start. Tragically, these hopes were dashed when he was readmitted to ICU.

By Patrick K. Ssentongo

In the words of Joseph Tamale Mirundi Sr, “I consider myself very unique because...” a line that encapsulates the self-perception of a man who believed his uniqueness was evident from his early years.

In his book, *Saving the Tongue from its Hostile Teeth*, Mirundi recounts speaking at just six months old, engaging in mature conversations, and making precise decisions – a claim that hints at his early intellectual prowess.

Published on July 25th, 2018, the book reflects Mirundi's time as a presidential press secretary. He likened President Museveni to the tongue he was defending from what he described as “hostile teeth” – those individuals he perceived as harmful forces within State House.

These “mafias”, as he called them, were the wrong characters he believed could lead to the downfall of the President. Mirundi claimed he survived multiple poison attempts while working in this challenging environment.

After that, Mirundi struggled to reconcile his dismissal from State House with his loyalty to the President, leading to profound bitterness and frustration. This discontent was visible in his media appearances and conversations, often punctuated by references to “mafias” and feelings of betrayal.

According to his elder brother, John Ssali, Mirundi's fiery disposition developed later in life, a stark contrast to their typically calm family demeanour. His mother, Molly, in a 2018 TV interview light-heartedly attributed his intense nature to his tenure with President Museveni, insisting that he wasn't always this way.

Despite the controversial public persona, Mirundi maintained a deep respect for elders, addressing them with endearing terms like, “Mukulu wange” or “Taata wange”. This respect, a testament to his upbringing, coexisted with complexities that made Mirundi a truly unique figure.

Tamale Mirundi's journey, as documented in his own words, began on June 30th, 1964. Born to Yowana and Milly Mirundi, he was the fifth child of his mother and the seventh of his father. His mother, initially of the Islamic faith, converted to Catholicism, and by the time of his birth, both parents were devout Catholics. Mirundi's baptismal name was Bulasio, but he later adopted Joseph, inspired by Saint Joseph, the patron of workers, reflecting his affinity for hard work and perseverance.

Growing up in a time of political upheaval in Uganda, Mirundi developed a keen interest in politics and journalism. This interest led him to Makerere University, where he pursued studies in communication and politics, laying the foundation for his future in journalism.

His journalism career began in the mid-1980s, a tumultuous period in Uganda. He started as a newspaper vendor for *Ngabo* before becoming a reporter at *Munno*, a Catholic daily. Eventually, he founded *The Voice* and *Lipoota*, two independent newspapers that, despite their eventual collapse, marked his entrepreneurial spirit in journalism.

Mirundi's passion for the profession also saw him take leadership roles in the Uganda Journalists Association (UJA), serving in various capacities from 1991 to 2001, including as its president. During his tenure, he ardently opposed the Press and Journalist Act, advocating for free press grounded in truth, reason and freedom of expression.

In the early 2000s, Mirundi's career took a significant turn when he was appointed the press secretary to President Museveni. His tenure was marked by his assertive and often controversial approach, navigating between State interests and public scrutiny. His fearless style and sharp wit made him a fixture on talk shows, where he used relatable analogies and humour to engage the audiences, solidifying his status as a prominent political commentator.

Mirundi's ability to demystify complex political issues and his unfiltered commentary made him both a loved figure among the public and a formidable critic of political figures. His legacy as an outspoken and influential voice in Ugandan politics remains impactful.

Tamale Mirundi's tenure as the presidential press secretary may have ended in 2015, but his influence and personal brand remained as strong as ever.

Transitioning seamlessly into a political analyst, he captivated audiences through his radio and television shows, offering sharp, unfiltered commentary. Mirundi's signature blend of humour and political insight not only made him a household name but also a trusted voice for many seeking a candid take on Uganda's political scene.

Despite occasional conflicts with media hosts and accusations of unfair treatment, Mirundi adapted to the digital age by launching his own YouTube channel. His unfiltered opinions and engaging style quickly attracted a massive online following demonstrating his knack for harnessing the power of digital media.

As noted by Isaac Daniel Katende, alias Kasuku, Mirundi's appearances on the Kasuku Live YouTube channel significantly boosted viewership, with his very first video to hit 50,000 views on the channel being one of Tamale Mirundi, thanks to his compelling presence and broad appeal.

Beyond the screen, Mirundi was also an author. His books delved into Uganda's political dynamics, enriched with personal stories and sharp observations. These works provided readers with a rare glimpse into the strategic workings of the government and the manoeuvres of its key players.

Despite his bold public persona, Mirundi was a dedicated family man. A loving husband and father, he often spoke fondly of his family, emphasizing the importance of education and stability. He ensured his children received top-tier education, sometimes securing scholarships to provide them with the best opportunities.

He championed family as a stabilising force and often promoted family values in his public engagements. Countless short clips of his various media appearances will continue to resonate, ensuring his presence and voice remain vivid for years to come.

Mirundi's unfiltered approach often led to conflicts with societal norms. As a devout Catholic and a Muganda, his outspoken nature saw him challenge both Buganda Kingdom and the church. He did not shy away from criticizing high profile figures like Buganda prime minister Charles Peter Mayiga and the late Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga. Mirundi took pride in his connections, boasting about his direct blessing from the Pope and his long-standing relationship with Kabaka Mutebi, asserting his deep-rooted ties to these institutions despite his criticisms.

His complex persona included a blend of Catholicism and witchcraft, and he embraced polygamy – stances at odds with Roman Catholic teachings. His contentious relationship extended to figures such as minister Frank Tumwebaze, former NewVision boss Robert Kabushenga, and Odrek Rwabwogo, President Museveni's son-in-law, among others. Mirundi's feuds often involved his adversaries' families, and he rarely disclosed the full origins of his conflicts.

Ultimately, Tamale Mirundi was a figure of profound contradictions – both celebrated and reviled in equal measure...

(SOURCE: *Sunday Monitor*, August 18, 2024)

Tasks:

a) *Many times, people speak so well about themselves and end up misconceiving who they truly are.* What perception did Tamale Mirundi have of himself according to the passage?

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b) *When people lose jobs for which they have offered their best service and energies, they deteriorate and never recover fully from this surge.* Describe Tamale Mirundi’s feelings after losing his position at State House.

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c) *After the death of an individual, it is good manners to keep only the positive memory of the departed.* What admirable traits did Tamale Mirundi have according to the passage?

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d) Despite his bold public persona, Mirundi was a dedicated family man. He ensured his children received top-tier education, sometimes securing scholarships to provide them with the best opportunities. (Rewrite as one sentence using an appropriate relative clause).

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e) *When a person lives a full life, there are many experiences they go through that are inspirational to others.* What do you learn from Tamale Mirundi’s life as a media personality?

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f) Do you think President Museveni was right to relieve Tamale Mirundi of his duties as a Presidential Press Secretary? Give reason for your response.

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SECTION B

Item 3

Your friend whose parents are of different races is facing challenges as a mixed-race person. It has become difficult for him to decide which culture to get more inclined to because each of his parents seem to emphasize theirs and wants him to take their side. Write to your friend advising him on the most appropriate action. (Use 300 to 350 words)

Item 4

As the *Head Prefect* of your school, you are concerned about the gradual rise in *boy-girl relationships* among learners in most classes. You have shared your concern with the *Senior Woman teacher* who has encouraged you to talk about this vice on assembly with an aim of curbing it down. Write what you will say. (Use 300 to 350 words).