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# Functional Skills Certificate

## FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH

Component 1 Reading Level 2

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### Insert

The three sources that follow are:

- Source A:** text from the website Sightsavers
- Source B:** a newspaper article called A Network of Eyes
- Source C:** text from the website Fight for Sight

**Please open the insert fully  
to see all three sources**

## Source A

The banner features the Sightsavers logo on the left, followed by three navigation links: 'What we do', 'How you can help', and 'DONATE'. Below the navigation is a yellow box containing the text 'A MILLION MIRACLES' in a white rounded rectangle. To the right of this box is a photograph of two men, one with his arm around the other's shoulder. Below the photo is the text 'You can help us provide one million sight-restoring operations for people living in some of the poorest parts of the world.' and 'Get involved!'.

When 19-year-old Kuala's village in South Sudan was attacked, he and his family were forced to flee across the border into Kenya.

Now living at Kakuma refugee camp, which has been open since 1989 and holds 200,000 Sudanese refugees, his life is harder than many of us can imagine. Yet on top of that, blinding trachoma – the leading cause of blindness in developing countries – has claimed the vision in one of his eyes, and reduced the vision in his other eye by 20%.

"I have been slowly losing my vision over time, but my family cannot afford for me to go to a doctor," he says. Kuala has managed to find odd jobs in Kakuma to earn small amounts of money, but often finds himself left out as his failing eyesight means he can't read or participate in games. It's a situation that makes him feel desperately sad and isolated. His condition also causes him immense and constant pain.

Kuala hears about a free eye clinic in Kakuma, so one morning he sets off early to walk there. He's examined by cataract surgeon Maurice Oduor, who explains to Kuala that while the sight in one of his eyes has completely gone, the other eye can be saved.

The diagnosis concerns Kuala, who worries he won't be able to see well enough to work. "I need to be able to earn enough to take care of my family. But I am happy that I will be able to keep the little sight I have."

After surgery, he returns to have his eyes checked, washed and dressed. "The pain has gone away," he says. "Before, my eyes were very painful, but now I am so happy I won't go totally blind."

Maurice Oduor has dedicated his working life to eliminating the disease in Kenya. "My mission as an eye surgeon is to do something unique in my country that gives me pride," he says. "I'm happy that I'm giving something back to the community."

Your donation to SightSavers:

- 👁️ £5 could protect 14 people against trachoma
- 👁️ £28 could protect an entire community against trachoma
- 👁️ £8 could pay for trachoma surgery to stop someone going blind

## Source B

### A Network of Eyes

Imagine cooking a meal, but being unable to tell one can of food from another. Or receiving a letter and not knowing if it was a bill, a wedding invitation or junk mail. Or perhaps you have taken a taxi to an appointment but can't find the correct doorbell. All of these problems can be solved by a stranger donating just a few moments of their time.



**Be My Eyes** is an app which allows you to volunteer tiny portions of your time via your smartphone. The idea is to lend your sight to a blind person, via a one-way video link, and help them accomplish a task that is simple for you but impossible for them.

All you need to do to register is download the app and set up a profile. From that point on you're available to anyone who needs assistance. When a blind user requests help, a call goes out to a random sighted volunteer. There's no pressure: if you're in the middle of something, you can ignore it, and another user will pick it up. But if you are free you can answer with a tap and help with their problem.

Careful thought has been given to security and there's no way for a volunteer to discover the location or identity of anyone they're connected to. The app also has a ratings system and people earn more points each time they help someone, showing how reliable they are. Any abuse of the system can be reported and malicious users can be banned.

Giving up 30 seconds of your day makes little difference to you – it can be done while queuing to buy coffee, in the lift or in the back of a taxi - but for the person on the other end of the line it can be the difference between independence and reliance. For you, it only takes a minute to choose the right can from the shelf, look at the expiry date on the milk or find the right thing to eat in the fridge. For the visually impaired, small domestic tasks are big challenges. Be My Eyes is changing that!

Already there have been over 23,000 such interactions – tiny portions of time donated to make someone's life easier. More than 8,500 blind users have signed up to the service, and 103,000 sighted volunteers.

The group has also set up as a non-profit organisation and is taking donations. However, the founders stress that the basic features will always be free.



*For blind and partially-sighted people, Be My Eyes is an important new development which could make a big difference to their lives.*

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**Source C**

## **The amazing human eye: Our top tips to keep eyes healthy**

Every five seconds someone in the world goes blind. Every day 100 people in the UK start to lose their sight. Regular check-ups are vital even if you have no symptoms. Have your eyes tested every two years even if you think your vision is fine.

Almost 2 million people in the UK are living with significant sight loss. The number is predicted to rise to around 2.3 million by 2020 and almost 4 million by 2050. Find out your family eye health history. Some eye conditions have genetic links which increase your risk of developing them. Share this information with your eye health professional.

Around 360,000 people in the UK are registered blind or partially sighted. An estimated 25,000 children in Britain are blind or partially sighted. Black and Asian people are at greater risk of some of the leading causes of sight loss.

86% of people in the UK value their sight above any other sense. Protect your eyes when it is sunny or when you're in high glare areas such as near snow or water. Wear safety glasses or protective goggles to protect your eyes from injury if you work with hazardous or airborne materials. This applies to home too if you are doing DIY, gardening or setting off fireworks.

Sight loss can affect people of any age but the likelihood increases as you get older. One in five people over 70 are living with sight loss. Keep fit and healthy to help your eyes stay healthy. Maintaining a healthy weight and blood pressure may help with eye health. Protect your eyes when playing sports involving flying balls.

Fight for Sight has committed £25 million to eye research since 2005. Make sure your diet includes nutrients such as Omega 3 fatty acids, zinc and vitamins C and E. And stop smoking! Smoking is harmful to your eyes and can increase the risk of sight loss.

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**Open out this page to see  
Source B and Source C**