

# LANGUAGE TEST

**Name:**-----

**My English Level**(*please underline the level you consider corresponds to yours*):

Basic

Intermediate

Upper Intermediate

Advanced

**Other languages spoken:**-----

**Part 1: replace the following prepositions in the text (some will be used more than once):**

as / by / for / in / to

Dieter Rams, 86, is one of Germany's foremost industrial designers. Born (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Wiesbaden, south-west Germany, in 1956 he began to design products for Braun becoming the company's head of product design and development in 1961, its design and product manager in 1968 and eventually its executive director in 1988, retiring in 1997. Rams' products are known (2) \_\_\_\_\_ their pared back aesthetic and the inventive way they offer clear solutions to complex design problems. They are highly influential to contemporary creatives, including Jonathan Ive of Apple. Since 1971 Rams has lived in Kronberg, a town close (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Frankfurt, Germany.

How did you come to design (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the first place? My grandfather was a carpenter and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a child I would often visit his workshop. He had no machines – he refused to use them – but would make small pieces of furniture by hand using carefully selected wood for each design. I took in everything and never forgot his ideals while also forming my own simplicity and clarity. So it seemed natural to train in a design-related profession. Then, after only two terms studying interior design, I left to spend three years as an apprentice carpenter, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ I preferred the practical to the theoretical aspect of design.

I did eventually return to finish my studies but, during the course, I began to take an interest (7) \_\_\_\_\_ architecture, attending lectures that left a lasting impression on me. I began working for Frankfurt-based architect Otto Apel and while there a friend told me that Braun was looking for an in-house architect. Erwin Braun and I instantly shared a rapport and it was not long after starting at Braun that my remit grew from not only working on architectural projects but also to becoming involved with new designs (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Braun's radio-phono cabinets. The job of product design simply grew from there.

What drew you to this area? I studied interior design (9) \_\_\_\_\_ my hometown of Wiesbaden but after graduating my first big job was with Apel in Frankfurt, collaborating with the American practice Skidmore, Owings and Merrill on the US consulate building. Then in 1955, I began working for Braun, who, at that time, were based in Frankfurt. In 1968 Braun moved to Kronberg, the town where I now live.

How would you describe your home? The house represents the basic intentions behind my designs: simplicity, purity and openness. There are three floors and it is both my home and my place of work. The heart of the house is the living room, where the [model 620] chairs I designed for Vitsoe have created my version of a seating landscape.

Do you use many of your own products you designed for Braun? I have only ever designed products that I myself would like to live with so it goes without saying that we live with Braun products and Vitsoe furniture. As a designer, it is only (10) \_\_\_\_\_ using your products daily that you are able to tell what sorts of improvements may still be needed.

### Part 2: circle the word closest in meaning to the underlined words:

1. Foremost – leading / supreme / first
2. Head – top / chief / peak
3. Pared back – reduced / clipped / cut back
4. Clear – clean / transparent / easy
5. Carpenter – woodworker / artisan / binder
6. Train – learn / educate / instruct
7. Lasting – ongoing / timeless / last
8. Remit – responsibility / abate / submit
9. Practice – office / rehearsal / building
10. Improvements – enhancement / setback / breakthrough