

Boy asks White House to give more money to NASA

Most boys, and even some girls, dream of being an astronaut. The idea of travelling into space or discovering an asteroid has been a child's dream for many years. Connor Johnson from Colorado, who is just six and a half years old, is one of those dreamers. He says: 'The whole reason I want to be an astronaut is so I can discover, like, new worlds.'

But that dream might never come true for Connor if the US government's plans for NASA are approved in the US Congress. The government wants to reduce funding to NASA by \$200 million. The cuts will affect NASA's Planetary Science Division, which, among other projects, plans to visit an asteroid and put a monitoring station on Mars.

When Connor Johnson heard about the US government's plans, he decided to make a donation to NASA to help them out. He gave his \$10 allowance to them and then later agreed to donate his entire piggy bank. However, the current NASA budget is over \$1 billion, so Connor's parents encouraged him to go even further.

Now Connor has turned to the internet for help. He has started a petition on the official White House website. The objective is to get the US government to increase funding for NASA so that, 'We can discover new worlds ... and make dreams come true.' He needs 100,000 signatures before the end of the year.

A Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage.

1 According to the text, girls never want to become astronauts.

2 Connor Johnson gave all his savings to NASA.

3 Connor has started a petition so that he can become an astronaut.

B Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text.

1 Why is Connor Johnson giving money to NASA?

2 What is Connor doing through the internet?

C Find words in the text that mean:

1 accept or allow to do something (paragraph 2)

2 money given by the government for an activity (paragraph 2)

3 give money to help a person or organisation (paragraph 3)

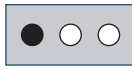
4 the money you have that you can spend on something (paragraph 3)

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 If the US government doesn't give more money to NASA, Connor's dream will definitely never come true.
Unless _____.

2 The cuts will affect an important division of NASA.
An important division _____.

3 Connor wants to help NASA. However, the NASA budget is over \$1 billion.
Although _____.

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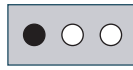
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Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 What is the main reason Connor wants to be an astronaut?
 - A He wants to discover an asteroid.
 - B He wants to find new planets.
 - C He wants to go to Mars.
 - D He wants to join NASA.
- 2 The US government
 - A plans to increase NASA's budget.
 - B is going to eliminate the Planetary Science Division.
 - C wants to stop a mission to Mars.
 - D plans to reduce the amount of money it gives to NASA.
- 3 Connor first
 - A gave a small amount of money to NASA.
 - B asked his parents to give money to NASA.
 - C gave away all his savings to NASA.
 - D donated \$1 billion to NASA.
- 4 Connor's parents
 - A did not support him.
 - B asked him to stop giving money.
 - C told him to keep going with his campaign.
 - D taught him how to use the internet.
- 5 The main aim of the petition is
 - A to get the US government to give more money to NASA.
 - B to organise NASA missions to new planets.
 - C to make over 100,000 people sign it.
 - D to donate more money to the White House.



Parrots give names to their chicks

For a long time it was thought that humans were the only creatures to give their babies names. However, recent research shows we are not alone in this behaviour. Scientists who study parrots in the wild have discovered that parrots don't only copy the speech of human beings but they also name their chicks.

Previous research had shown that parrot parents called out to their chicks in different ways, indicating that each one had a particular family name. But were these names given to them by their parents or did the chicks come up with their own names, based on the name of their biological parents? By switching eggs in different nests, researchers discovered that adult parrots give their chicks a family name, based on their own name, before the chicks can make a sound. The baby parrots learn their names by mimicking the adults who are bringing them up. They also found that parrots, like humans, will often make small adjustments to their own names when they're older.

So why do they do this? Scientists think that it has something to do with the fact that baby parrots depend on their parents for longer than other creatures. Giving their chicks names will help the parents to find them when these parrot families are in big groups looking for food.

A Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage.

1 Scientists have discovered that parrots don't copy human speech.

2 Chicks learn their names from their parents.

3 Young parrots separate from their parents at a very early age.

B Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text.

1 What does this new study of parrots reveal?

2 Why do scientists believe parrots name their chicks?

C Find words or phrases in the text that mean:

1 in their natural environment, independent of humans (paragraph 1)

2 suggesting or showing (paragraph 2)

3 copying the way a person speaks or behaves (paragraph 2)

4 changes (paragraph 2)

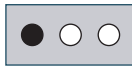
D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 'Why do parrots give names to their chicks?' scientists wondered.

Scientists _____.

2 The birds can't talk, so the researchers can't interview them.

If the birds _____.

**Parrots give names to their chicks**

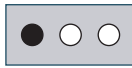
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So why do they do this? Scientists think that it has something to do with the fact that baby parrots depend on their parents for longer than other creatures. Giving their chicks names will help the parents to find them when these parrot families are in big groups looking for food.

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 Human beings
 - A are not alone in naming their babies.
 - B are copied by parrot chicks.
 - C learn to speak the same way that parrots do.
 - D give names to parrot chicks.
- 2 Research had already demonstrated that
 - A baby parrots invented their own names.
 - B parrot chicks all had the same name within a family.
 - C adult parrots gave their chicks individual names within their family.
 - D parrots sometimes switched eggs with other parrots.
- 3 Parrot chicks are given names
 - A after they are able to make sounds.
 - B after their eggs are switched.
 - C before they are able to make sounds.
 - D which are completely different from their parents' name.
- 4 Parrots are similar to humans in that they
 - A have first names and surnames.
 - B copy their parents' names.
 - C invent their own names.
 - D make small changes to their names.
- 5 Parrot chicks
 - A hunt for food alone.
 - B stay with their parents for a relatively long time.
 - C can find their parents in big groups by using their parents' names.
 - D help their parents look for food.



Eat nuts and live longer

There are a lot of theories about healthy and unhealthy food. These theories often become fashions which come and go. So-called 'experts' say that a certain food is good for your health, then two years later, the same food is considered bad for you. But there's one food that causes no such confusion: nuts.

Research had previously shown that nuts reduced the risk of heart disease, but now new, long-term research has shown that regular consumption of nuts in your diet can help you to live longer.

The research followed 119,000 Americans over a period of thirty years. The results showed that those people who regularly included nuts in their diet showed less risk of dying from any cause. For example, they had a lower risk of death due to heart disease, which is the top cause of death in the USA. They also showed less risk of cancer and respiratory disease.

Nuts are rich in fibre, vitamins and antioxidants, so people who eat nuts are generally healthier, less prone to obesity, have lower cholesterol and lower blood sugar levels. They even have smaller waists.

One thing to remember: the nuts you eat should be raw or dry roasted, that is not roasted in oil or fried.

A Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage.

1 Food experts are not sure about the health benefits of nuts.

2 This new study shows that people who eat nuts have longer lives.

3 The research shows that nuts only prevent certain medical conditions.

B Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text.

1 What are the main results of the research into nuts?

2 What are some of the benefits of eating nuts?

C Find words in the text that mean:

1 used to show that a word is not correct or suitable (paragraph 1)

2 danger, possibility of something bad happening (paragraph 2)

3 the amount used or eaten (paragraph 2)

4 likely to suffer from something (paragraph 4)

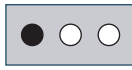
D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 Experts have proven that eating nuts is good for you.

It _____.

2 You'll become obese if you don't stop eating fatty food.

Unless _____.

**Eat nuts and live longer**

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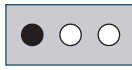
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Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 Many theories about food
 - A don't take consumption of nuts into account.
 - B have been around for a very long time.
 - C are like fashions that only last for a short time.
 - D cause a lot of confusion among experts.
- 2 This new research
 - A was carried out only among people who eat nuts.
 - B studied people over a long period of time.
 - C followed people who suffered from heart disease.
 - D demonstrates that nuts can reduce the risk of cancer only.
- 3 Heart disease
 - A kills more people in the USA than anything else.
 - B was not affected by eating nuts.
 - C can be cured by eating nuts.
 - D is related to cancer and respiratory diseases.
- 4 Nuts do not contain a lot of
 - A fibre.
 - B vitamins.
 - C sugar.
 - D antioxidants.
- 5 The nuts you eat should be
 - A cooked in a special way or uncooked.
 - B raw or roasted in oil.
 - C low in sugar.
 - D fried.



Get out and get wild

Children in the UK are being told to get away from screens and get out into nature. Today's children spend much more time indoors than previous generations. More traffic on the streets, the attraction of TV and computer screens, not to mention parents' anxieties about letting their children out of their sight is causing children to disconnect with the natural world, which some experts refer to as 'nature deficit disorder'.

Now health, environmental and children's organisations are trying to convince parents to substitute thirty minutes of screen time for outdoor play. They want children to get out into their back gardens, parks or into the countryside, to reconnect with nature and the natural environment. 'Children can learn an awful lot from playing in nature,' said one expert. 'It can do wonders for their development, creativity and independence.'

It's not just for developmental reasons that health experts agree outdoor play is important. 'Britain is now experiencing growing levels of obesity among its population and psychological disorders like ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) are becoming a major problem.'

What's more, evidence shows that children behave better when lessons are given outdoors, their attention improves and they are happier being active outdoors than using technology. Fiona Reynolds, Director-General of the National Trust is clear. She says: 'As a nation, we need to do everything we can to make it easy and safe for our children to get outdoors.'

A Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage.

1 New technologies are one reason why kids don't get out as much as previous generations.

2 Health and other organisations want children to have thirty minutes more of screen time.

3 Children's mood can be improved by going out more.

B Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text.

1 What is 'nature deficit disorder'?

2 What are the benefits of outdoor play?

C Find words or phrases in the text that mean:

1 existing before something else (paragraph 1)

2 nervousness or worries (paragraph 1)

3 improve or have a very positive effect on (paragraph 2)

4 very important or big (paragraph 3)

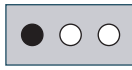
D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 'Children can learn a lot from playing in nature,' said one expert.

One expert _____.

2 Although we have wonderful parks here, not many children use them.

Despite _____.

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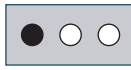
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What's more, evidence shows that children behave better when lessons are given outdoors, their attention improves and they are happier being active outdoors than using technology. Fiona Reynolds, Director-General of the National Trust is clear. She says: 'As a nation, we need to do everything we can to make it easy and safe for our children to get outdoors.'

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 Children in the UK
 - A spend too much time in the street.
 - B are making their parents anxious.
 - C are not spending enough time in the natural environment.
 - D are suffering from different disorders.
- 2 Child experts recommend
 - A that children play only in their gardens.
 - B swapping screen time for time outdoors.
 - C that children use computers more.
 - D that parents take away children's computers.
- 3 Playing in nature
 - A doesn't teach children anything.
 - B improves children's growth.
 - C can happen only in parks.
 - D is good for children's development.
- 4 Obesity
 - A is becoming an increasing problem in Britain.
 - B is a problem only for children.
 - C can be cured by getting outside more.
 - D can affect people's behaviour.
- 5 It has been shown that
 - A it is not safe to play outside.
 - B lessons held outside can improve children's attention.
 - C using technology makes children happier.



Does gold come from space?

In English, as in most languages, gold is good. A 'a heart of gold' means 'generous' and 'as good as gold' means well behaved. In pre-Columbian America, people believed that gold contained the power of the sun god and that it would protect them. But where did gold come from? The Earth was formed about 4.5 billion years ago. When the outer part of the Earth, the crust, began to cool and change into rock, gold and other metals sank beneath the crust to the Earth's mantle. These metals were not able to remain at the surface, it is believed, because they were too heavy.

So why is there still gold on the Earth's surface? Some scientists believe that the world's supply of gold came from outer space. About 3.8 billion years ago, the Earth and the Moon were struck by meteorites. The meteor shower brought gold and other precious metals, which then mixed with the Earth's rock over millions of years as the continents were formed. These form the gold deposits that we use today.

However, recently another theory has emerged. A group of scientists studied rocks of different ages and concluded that a lot of gold did sink into the mantle, but not all of it. A small proportion of the Earth's gold came back to the surface due to volcanic activity. This is the gold we wear on our fingers and around our necks today.

A Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage.

1 Gold was present on Earth from the beginning.

2 The Earth was formed by being bombarded by meteors.

3 Scientists don't agree on why gold is found on the Earth's surface today.

B Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text.

1 What happened to gold and other metals when the Earth cooled? Why?

2 How do some scientists think gold came from space?

C Find words in the text that mean:

1 to become colder (paragraph 2)

2 the top or outer part (paragraph 2)

3 a layer of something under the ground (paragraph 3)

4 became known (paragraph 4)

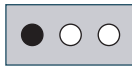
D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 A large number of meteorites struck the Earth.

The Earth _____.

2 'We will probably find lots of gold here,' the expert claimed.

The expert _____.

**Does gold come from space?**

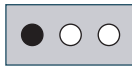
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Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 Gold
 - A is good when it is used to describe people.
 - B protects you from the sun.
 - C comes from the heat of the sun.
 - D comes from pre-Columbian America.
- 2 Gold and other metals
 - A were mixed together when the Earth was formed.
 - B sank below the Earth's surface.
 - C came up from the mantle when the Earth was formed.
 - D are not as old as the Earth itself.
- 3 The meteorites
 - A were made entirely of gold.
 - B contained gold.
 - C fell from the Moon.
 - D formed the Earth.
- 4 In a recent study, scientists
 - A have proved that the previous theory is incorrect.
 - B have shown that rocks contain parts of meteorites.
 - C have shown that no gold sank into the mantle.
 - D analysed rocks from different periods.
- 5 These scientists believe that
 - A there were no meteorites.
 - B gold isn't as valuable as we think.
 - C some gold returned to the surface of the Earth because of volcanoes.
 - D meteorites caused volcanoes on Earth.



Do we really hate Mondays?

You would think that everyone really hates Mondays. It's the first day of the working or school week, after a relaxing and fun-packed weekend and it's the day we return to 'normality' and routine. But do we really hate Mondays more than the other days of the week?

On the one hand, one research project has found that there is no basis whatsoever for calling Monday the most depressing day of the week. It seems we don't hate Mondays any more or less than we hate Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. That is to say that there are people who find Tuesday to be the most depressing day of the week, while others would go for Wednesday or Thursday.

According to this research done via telephone interviews, it seems that the idea of Monday being more depressing than other days is a cultural myth, which focuses far too much attention on Mondays over and above the other days of the week. The research did, however, show that most people agree that by the time Friday comes around, we are generally happier than on other days and our bad mood disappears.

However, another piece of research claims that one in three people hate Mondays more than any other day of the week and will spend on average about fifteen minutes more complaining on Monday morning than the rest of the week. So which is your least favourite day of the week?

A Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage.

1 One study shows that we hate Mondays as much as other days of the week.

2 Phone interviews revealed that we are generally happier by the end of the week.

3 Another study shows that we complain less on Mondays than on other days of the week.

B Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text.

1 According to the text why would it be normal to hate Mondays?

2 What is 'a cultural myth' according to the writer?

C Find words or phrases in the text that mean

1 enjoyable, full of entertaining activities (paragraph 1)

2 to choose (paragraph 2)

3 happens as usual (paragraph 3)

4 saying something is wrong or you are not happy with it (paragraph 4)

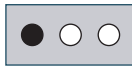
D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 'Do you really hate Mondays?' she asked him.

She _____.

2 We pay far too much attention to Mondays.

Far _____.

**Do we really hate Mondays?**

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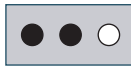
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Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 It is natural to hate Mondays because
 - A it's worse than other days of the week.
 - B bad things happen to us on Mondays.
 - C it means returning to a routine after the weekend.
 - D we hate working or going to school.
- 2 The first study reveals that we
 - A hate Mondays more than other days of the week.
 - B hate Mondays less than other weekdays.
 - C hate Mondays as much as other weekdays except Friday.
 - D we don't hate Mondays at all.
- 3 It is a 'cultural myth' that
 - A we are depressed on Mondays.
 - B Mondays are more depressing than the rest of the week.
 - C we view each day of the week in the same way.
 - D Mondays are too important.
- 4 The same study shows that
 - A we feel happier by the end of the week.
 - B we're happier when we have fun at the weekend.
 - C we get even more depressed near the weekend.
 - D we only enjoy ourselves at the weekend if we're in the right mood.
- 5 The other study
 - A says that we complain a lot.
 - B says that a third of the population work on Mondays.
 - C shows that we complain about Mondays all week.
 - D disproves the previous study.



Thirty-five years of news programmes

Marion Stokes liked watching the news. In fact, she like watching the news so much that she used to record the news programmes on VHS tapes at her home in Philadelphia, USA. She recorded the news every day from 1977 until the day she died in 2012.

Mrs Stokes made recordings of the national news channels and then, later in her life, twenty-four-hour cable news. She often had several machines recording at the same time in different rooms of her house and even in the hall! At one stage she had eight VHS recorders running twenty-four hours a day.

Her hobby became an obsession. At night she put a six-hour tape into a machine and then got up early in the morning to change it. Sometimes she left restaurants in the middle of a meal to go home and change a tape. Her family and friends often tried to convince her that her efforts were useless, but Mrs Stokes continued and her family came to realise how important it was to her.

Her collection of 140,000 tapes showing thirty-five years of history has now been given to the Internet Archive. It is truly unique because old TV news programmes from the 1970s are very difficult to find nowadays. TV channels used to wipe tapes clean or record over the programmes they had previously recorded because it was impossible to store so much material. The 140,000 tapes will now be digitalised and, the Internet Archive hopes, become an archive that users will be able to search. You'll be able to see the news on the day you were born. Do you know what happened that day?

A Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text.

- 1 Marion Stokes recorded news programmes from local news channels only.

- 2 She used different rooms in her house for the video recorders.

- 3 For a time, her family thought there was no point in what she was doing.

- 4 TV channels deleted news programmes from their tapes because the internet was invented.

B In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following questions.

- 1 What evidence does the text give to prove that Mrs Stokes was obsessed?

- 2 Why is her collection so special?

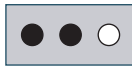
- 3 What is the Internet Archive going to do with all the tapes?

C Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the ones below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 many or some (paragraph 2)
_____ | 4 save or put something in a special place (paragraph 4)
_____ |
| 2 persuade (paragraph 3)
_____ | 5 a collection of historical records (paragraph 4)
_____ |
| 3 special or very unusual (paragraph 4)
_____ | |

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

- 1 Marion Stokes recorded news programmes for over thirty-five years.
New programmes _____.
- 2 This is the first time anybody has seen the entire collection of tapes.
Nobody _____.



Thirty-five years of news programmes

Marion Stokes liked watching the news. In fact, she like watching the news so much that she used to record the news programmes on VHS tapes at her home in Philadelphia, USA. She recorded the news every day from 1977 until the day she died in 2012.

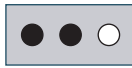
Mrs Stokes made recordings of the national news channels and then, later in her life, twenty-four-hour cable news. She often had several machines recording at the same time in different rooms of her house and even in the hall! At one stage she had eight VHS recorders running twenty-four hours a day.

Her hobby became an obsession. At night she put a six-hour tape into a machine and then got up early in the morning to change it. Sometimes she left restaurants in the middle of a meal to go home and change a tape. Her family and friends often tried to convince her that her efforts were useless, but Mrs Stokes continued and her family came to realise how important it was to her.

Her collection of 140,000 tapes showing thirty-five years of history has now been given to the Internet Archive. It is truly unique because old TV news programmes from the 1970s are very difficult to find nowadays. TV channels used to wipe tapes clean or record over the programmes they had previously recorded because it was impossible to store so much material. The 140,000 tapes will now be digitalised and, the Internet Archive hopes, become an archive that users will be able to search. You'll be able to see the news on the day you were born. Do you know what happened that day?

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 Marion Stokes
 - A built a collection of news programmes over 35 years.
 - B recorded news programmes when she could.
 - C became obsessed with news channels.
 - D died while watching the news.
- 2 She recorded the news
 - A on the same tapes.
 - B from cable channels only.
 - C from many different channels.
 - D later in her life.
- 3 Sometimes she
 - A got up in the middle of the night.
 - B left restaurants without finishing a meal.
 - C recorded herself while she was out.
 - D asked her family to help her.
- 4 Marion's family
 - A always supported her.
 - B helped her from the beginning.
 - C initially tried to persuade her not to do it.
 - D persuaded her to stop.
- 5 Her collection is special because
 - A it is so big.
 - B TV channels haven't saved their old news programmes.
 - C the Internet Archive has got it.
 - D it was difficult to store.
- 6 The Internet Archive's plans are to
 - A search for the news on the day you were born.
 - B make the tapes available to everyone.
 - C find a place to store all the tapes.
 - D put all the news programmes on the internet.



Real Madrid to change the name of its stadium

The Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in Madrid, home of the world-famous football club Real Madrid, is the second most popular place for visitors to Madrid after the Prado Museum. However, 'el Bernabéu', as it is called, is about to change its name. Real Madrid's stadium is named after a man who was a football player and then president of the club from 1943 to 1978. Bernabéu took the club to the top of the list of European clubs by signing world-famous players from all over the globe. The stadium was inaugurated in 1947 and has been renovated several times since then. It now holds over 85,000 spectators and is one of the biggest stadiums in Europe.

Now the club's current president, Florentino Pérez, is negotiating with the technology giant, *Microsoft*, to change the name of the stadium. Some reports say that the change will bring €25 million to the club, which will help with the club's massive debts. According to the club, the stadium will probably be called 'Microsoft Estadio Santiago Bernabéu'.

Many fans, however, have expressed their opposition to the proposal. Changing the name of such a famous stadium is a sensitive issue. One fan on *Twitter* sarcastically suggested 'The Gates Ground' as a possible alternative name!

Other big clubs in Europe play in 'sponsored' stadiums, so the idea should not come as a surprise to Real Madrid supporters. Arsenal play at the Emirates Stadium in London, Bayern Munich play at the Allianz Arena and the Aviva Stadium in Dublin hosts football and rugby matches for the national teams of Ireland.

However, some name changes have remained unpopular. When Newcastle United changed the name of their stadium to the Sports Direct Stadium, the city council refused to change the names on the official street signs near the stadium. It remains to be seen how Real Madrid will resolve this issue.

A Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text.

- 1 The Prado Museum is the most popular tourist site in Madrid.

- 2 Santiago Bernabéu was a world-famous player for Real Madrid.

- 3 Many Real Madrid fans are against changing the name of the stadium.

- 4 In Newcastle, the city council opposed changing the name of the Newcastle United stadium.

B In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following questions.

- 1 Why was Real Madrid's stadium named after Santiago Bernabéu?

- 2 Why does the current president want to change the name of the stadium?

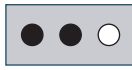
- 3 Why, according to the text, should Real Madrid supporters not be surprised by the proposal?

C Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the ones below.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 employing a football player (paragraph 2)
_____ | 4 that might easily upset people (paragraph 4)
_____ |
| 2 repaired and improved (of a building) (paragraph 2)
_____ | 5 it is not certain yet (paragraph 6)
_____ |
| 3 something, especially money, which you owe to someone else (paragraph 3)
_____ | |

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

- 1 Real Madrid is going to change the name of its stadium in the near future.
The name _____.
- 2 I'm not the president of Real Madrid, so I can't keep the original name of the stadium.
If I _____.



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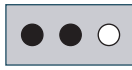
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However, some name changes have remained unpopular. When Newcastle United changed the name of their stadium to the Sports Direct Stadium, the city council refused to change the names on the official street signs near the stadium. It remains to be seen how Real Madrid will resolve this issue.

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 The Prado Museum
 - A is not as popular with tourists as the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.
 - B is more popular with tourists than the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.
 - C is about to change its name, like the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.
 - D is located near the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.
- 2 Santiago Bernabéu
 - A was a player at the club before he became president.
 - B built the club's stadium for over 85,000 people.
 - C is proposing changing the name of the stadium.
 - D played for Real Madrid because he was a world-famous player.
- 3 In 1947
 - A the stadium was renovated for the first time.
 - B Santiago Bernabéu became club president.
 - C the stadium was officially opened.
 - D the stadium held 85,000 people.
- 4 'The Gates Ground' is
 - A a joke name.
 - B a serious proposal by a fan.
 - C the name of a *Twitter* user.
 - D is the name that *Microsoft* wants.
- 5 What 'should not come as a surprise' to Real Madrid fans?
 - A The fact that other clubs play in sponsored stadiums.
 - B The fact that Arsenal play in the Emirates Stadium.
 - C That Real Madrid want to get a sponsor for their stadium.
 - D That the proposed new name is not popular with Real Madrid fans.
- 6 In Newcastle
 - A the city council wanted to change the name of Newcastle United's stadium.
 - B Newcastle United changed the street signs near their stadium.
 - C Newcastle United asked Real Madrid for help with their stadium.
 - D the city council did not want to change street signs around Newcastle United's stadium.



The fastest man on earth and chicken nuggets

Usain Bolt, the Jamaican athlete, is the fastest man in the world right now. He holds the record in both the 100m and 200m. In fact he's the first man ever to do this. He's also the first athlete ever to do what's called a 'double-triple', that is, he has won gold medals in the 100m, the 200m and the 4 x 100m in two consecutive Olympic Games, in Beijing in 2008 and in London in 2012. Many people have wondered how he is such an outstanding athlete. In his recently published memoirs, Bolt confesses his love of chicken nuggets. He describes how, in Beijing, he wasn't a big fan of Chinese food so he decided to live on nuggets. Initially he ate a box of twenty nuggets for lunch and another box for dinner. After that day he ate even more. He was in Beijing for ten days and he calculates that he ended up eating about 100 nuggets a day. That's a lot of chicken nuggets! Bolt claims in his memoirs that he should have got a medal for eating nuggets as well as the three gold medals he won for running. What Usain Bolt perhaps doesn't know is that chicken nuggets aren't a very healthy choice of food. A recent study, published in *The American Journal of Medicine*, reveals that chicken nuggets are less than 50% chicken. The rest is 'mechanically separated meat', which is a kind of purée made up of muscle, tissue, skin and bones – yes, bones! The resulting nugget is high in fat, salt and sugar. However, eaten occasionally nuggets can be a good source of protein, which is probably why Usain Bolt ate so many of them. Then again, it's unlikely he knew what they were made of either!

A Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text.

- 1 Usain Bolt won three gold medals in both the Beijing and London Olympics.

- 2 In his memoirs, he says that he didn't like Chinese food.

- 3 He also got a gold medal for eating so many chicken nuggets.

- 4 It is likely that Usain Bolt ate so many chicken nuggets because they contain a lot of protein.

B In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following questions.

- 1 Which two things is Usain Bolt the first man to do?

- 2 Which two reasons does the text give for Usain Bolt eating so many chicken nuggets?

- 3 According to the text, what are chicken nuggets made of?

C Find in the text words which mean the same as the ones below.

- 1 that follow one after the other (paragraph 1) _____
- 2 clearly much better than anyone else (paragraph 2) _____
- 3 a book about a famous person's life (paragraph 2) _____
- 4 a thick, smooth sauce (paragraph 3) _____
- 5 the place that something comes from (paragraph 3) _____

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

- 1 'I ate about 100 nuggets a day,' claimed Usain Bolt.
Usain Bolt claimed _____.
- 2 'You shouldn't eat too many nuggets,' the doctor said.
The doctor recommended _____.


The fastest man on earth eats chicken nuggets

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Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 A 'double-triple' is
 - A winning three gold medals in 100m, 200m and 4 x 100m.
 - B holding the world record in the 100m and 200m.
 - C winning three gold medals in two successive Olympics.
 - D something nobody has ever done.
- 2 In his memoirs, Usain Bolt
 - A explains why he is such a great athlete.
 - B describes how he ate up to 100 chicken nuggets every day in Beijing.
 - C claims he got a medal for eating so many chicken nuggets.
 - D describes how he likes Chinese food.
- 3 He ate so many nuggets because
 - A he thought they were similar to Chinese food.
 - B he didn't like Chinese food.
 - C he wanted to win a medal.
 - D he was in Beijing for ten days.
- 4 Over half of a chicken nugget
 - A is not actually chicken.
 - B is made of chicken.
 - C is made of vegetables.
 - D is protein.
- 5 'Mechanically-separated meat'
 - A contains a lot of chicken.
 - B contains a lot of protein.
 - C is made from a purée.
 - D contains some bones.
- 6 Usain Bolt
 - A probably knew what nuggets were made of.
 - B definitely ate nuggets for the protein.
 - C probably didn't know the contents of nuggets.
 - D definitely knew that nuggets contained a lot of sugar and fat.



European languages originated in Turkey

In 1786, William Jones addressed the Asiatic Society in Calcutta in India. He set out a theory that was to revolutionise how people thought about languages. Jones explained that there were similarities between Greek, Latin and an ancient Indian language, Sanskrit, that could not be merely coincidental. He proposed that the three languages were somehow related and that they had a common ancestor – a single language that was the origin of all European and Indian languages. We now call that language Proto-Indo-European (PIE).

Now researchers have proposed a location and time for the birth of this ancient, first language. In their study, they provide evidence that the languages we now speak in Europe and India originated in Turkey about 9,000 years ago. William Jones’s original suggestion led linguists to study cognates – words in one language with forms and meanings similar to words in another language. From these cognates linguists discovered proto-languages. These are ancient languages, now no longer spoken, from which the cognates originally derived. Then, by studying key words in the proto-languages, such as family members, body parts and some basic verbs, linguists were able to build a kind of family tree of closely related languages going back thousands of years.

Finally, using a special scientific technique, researchers were able to pinpoint the original location and time of PIE. Basic words, like DNA, are passed down through generations. Therefore by working backwards and analysing the language family tree, the researchers have confirmed the region of Anatolia – modern-day Turkey – as the original location of the first speakers of PIE between 8,000 and 9,500 years ago. It is from there that all European languages spread and developed to become the languages we speak today.

A Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text.

- 1 William Jones proposed that European and Indian languages have developed from one single language.

- 2 Researchers have now discovered where the first Europeans came from.

- 3 Studying cognates enabled researchers to recreate languages that are now extinct.

- 4 The researchers discovered that language and basic words are in our DNA.

B In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following question.

- 1 What are ‘cognates’?

- 2 Why are cognates so important in researching the history of language families?

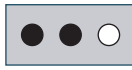
- 3 What have researchers found out about Anatolia?

C Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the ones below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 spoke to a group of people (paragraph 1)
_____ 2 the moment when something started to exist (paragraph 2)
_____ 3 came or developed from something else (paragraph 2)
_____ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4 to describe or indicate the exact position of something (paragraph 3)
_____ 5 to give something to someone who will live after you die (paragraph 3)
_____ |
|---|---|

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

- 1 We didn’t live 8,000 years ago, so we didn’t speak Proto-Indo-European.
If _____.
- 2 ‘Why don’t we study cognates in these different languages?’ Mr Jones said to his colleagues.
Mr Jones _____.



European languages originated in Turkey

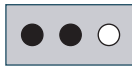
In 1786, William Jones addressed the Asiatic Society in Calcutta in India. He set out a theory that was to revolutionise how people thought about languages. Jones explained that there were similarities between Greek, Latin and an ancient Indian language, Sanskrit, that could not be merely coincidental. He proposed that the three languages were somehow related and that they had a common ancestor – a single language that was the origin of all European and Indian languages. We now call that language Proto-Indo-European (PIE).

Now researchers have proposed a location and time for the birth of this ancient, first language. In their study, they provide evidence that the languages we now speak in Europe and India originated in Turkey about 9,000 years ago. William Jones's original suggestion led linguists to study cognates – words in one language with forms and meanings similar to words in another language. From these cognates linguists discovered proto-languages. These are ancient languages, now no longer spoken, from which the cognates originally derived. Then, by studying key words in the proto-languages, such as family members, body parts and some basic verbs, linguists were able to build a kind of family tree of closely related languages going back thousands of years.

Finally, using a special scientific technique, researchers were able to pinpoint the original location and time of PIE. Basic words, like DNA, are passed down through generations. Therefore by working backwards and analysing the language family tree, the researchers have confirmed the region of Anatolia – modern-day Turkey – as the original location of the first speakers of PIE between 8,000 and 9,500 years ago. It is from there that all European languages spread and developed to become the languages we speak today.

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 What did William Jones propose to the Asiatic Society?
 - A He said that similarities between certain languages showed that they all came from one source.
 - B He claimed he had found similarities between certain languages that were probably just a coincidence.
 - C He said he had found the original language from which all European and Indian languages originated.
 - D He said researchers should look more closely at cognates to find out where all languages came from.
- 2 The 'common ancestor' is
 - A either Greek or Latin.
 - B called 'Proto-Indo-European'.
 - C called 'Anatolian'.
 - D still spoken in Turkey today.
- 3 Proto-languages
 - A are languages made up of words from different languages.
 - B were discovered by William Jones.
 - C have given us some of the words we still use today.
 - D can still be heard in some parts of Europe and India today.
- 4 Linguists found that cognates came from
 - A a language family tree.
 - B Proto-Indo-European.
 - C Greek.
 - D proto-languages.
- 5 Why are basic words 'like DNA'?
 - A They can be found in all languages and proto-languages.
 - B They are passed from one generation to the next.
 - C They help us to understand family trees.
 - D They are in our blood.
- 6 The first speakers of PIE
 - A spoke Turkish.
 - B spoke lots of different languages.
 - C lived in what is now Turkey.
 - D lived for a long time.



The sea is in danger

If you travel into space and look at the planet Earth you will see mostly blue. Water covers about 71% of the total surface of our planet and 97% of the total amount of water on our planet is in the sea. But the sea is in danger and it's not only tourism and fishing that are at risk from what we are doing to the sea – the future of our planet is at risk, too.

We humans dump a lot of waste products into the sea. Most of the pollution in the sea comes from humans dumping chemicals and other types of waste directly into the sea or into rivers. Our seas are full of plastic floating on the surface, which will never go away. This waste and dangerous chemicals, like mercury, are poisoning the water and accumulating in smaller creatures, which other bigger fish eat and which, in turn, we humans eat. It's important to remember that the waste we've dumped into the sea has a direct effect on marine creatures and, as a result, on humans.

However, the biggest threat to our seas is overfishing. As consumers, we're accustomed to having lots of different types of fish available all year round and as the world population increases, so too does our consumption of fish. It is estimated that our increasing consumption of fish has reduced populations of bigger fish to just 10% of what their populations once were. Currently we extract between 9,000 and 10,000 tonnes of fish from the sea every hour. If we continue to do this, scientists say, we won't have any fish left by 2048.

So not only are we poisoning the sea and everything in it but we're also leaving it empty of big fish, all of which is threatening the natural balance of this habitat.

A Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text.

- 1 We are putting only fishing and tourism at risk because of what we are doing to the sea.

- 2 The plastic that we dump into the sea will stay there forever.

- 3 Our health is in danger because poisons that we've put into the sea are also present in the fish we eat.

- 4 We have reduced fish populations by ten per cent.

B In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following questions.

- 1 Why is the sea so important?

- 2 In what ways do we pollute our seas?

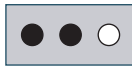
- 3 What is 'overfishing'?

C Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the ones below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 in danger (paragraph 1)
_____ | 4 used to a situation and accepting it as normal (paragraph 3)
_____ |
| 2 staying on the surface of the water (paragraph 2)
_____ | 5 the natural environment where an animal lives (paragraph 4)
_____ |
| 3 gradually increasing in amount (paragraph 2)
_____ | |

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

- 1 If we don't stop polluting the sea, our planet will be in danger.
Unless _____.
- 2 We dump a lot of plastic and other poisonous material into the sea.
A lot of _____.


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So not only are we poisoning the sea and everything in it but we're also leaving it empty of big fish, all of which is threatening the natural balance of this habitat.

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 Tourism and fishing
 - A are putting our planet at risk.
 - B will be affected by what we're doing to the sea.
 - C are important to the future of the planet.
 - D are putting our seas in danger.
- 2 Humans are
 - A responsible for most of the pollution in the sea.
 - B taking chemicals from the sea.
 - C 97% water.
 - D dumping seawater into rivers.
- 3 How do plastic and chemicals end up in our bodies?
 - A We eat fish that are too small.
 - B We eat bigger fish, which contain smaller creatures.
 - C These products are found in smaller creatures, which are eaten by bigger fish, which we then eat.
 - D They all get into our drinking water eventually.
- 4 What is causing overfishing?
 - A An increase in the demand for fish all year because of a rising human population.
 - B A demand for greater variety in the fish we eat.
 - C An increase in fish populations.
 - D A 10% increase in the amount of fish available.
- 5 What will happen by 2048?
 - A The oceans will disappear.
 - B We'll run out of fish.
 - C The global population will increase by 10%.
 - D We'll be taking more fish out of the sea every hour.
- 6 What 'is threatening the natural balance of this habitat'?
 - A Sea pollution.
 - B Poisoning sea creatures.
 - C Overfishing.
 - D All of the above.



The science of selfies

The rise in social media has brought with it a variety of fashions – some wonderful and others incredibly stupid – and new behaviour. For example, it now turns out that millions of humans are bizarrely obsessed with photos of cats! Another thing we’re obsessed with is photos of ourselves – selfies – taken with our mobile phones or tablets and posted on social networks. What could be more narcissistic?

Some people hate selfies but many of us love them, and we probably all have friends who constantly post selfies on *Facebook* or *Instagram*. However, psychologists believe that people who post selfies might have low self-esteem. What’s more, a recent study has shown that those people who post lots of selfies may have problems with intimacy and may be incapable of forming deep or close relationships with friends or colleagues. Our obsession with selfies reveals an inability to relate to other people properly.

But why are some of us so fascinated by selfies? Scientists have known for a long time that, despite having mirrors in our houses, we humans don’t have a clear idea of what we really look like. Another experiment demonstrates that we think we are more attractive than we actually are. When we are shown various photos of our face, treated digitally to make us look better or worse, as well as a photo of our face that has not been changed, we are incapable of identifying the unaltered photo. We always choose a photo showing a better-looking version of ourselves.

So we love selfies because we think we’re gorgeous but our obsession with selfies reveals an inability to have close relationships with other people. Maybe we should just stick to posting photos of cute cats!

A Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text.

- 1 The author is not impressed by some of the fashions that social media have created.

- 2 Posting selfies may reveal a negative side of someone’s personality.

- 3 As humans, we’re absolutely sure of what we look like in reality.

- 4 The other experiment showed that we think other people are more attractive than us.

B In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following questions.

- 1 What is the author’s opinion about posting photos of cats on social networks?

- 2 How did scientists find out that we think we’re more attractive than we really are?

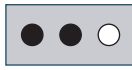
- 3 Why does the author say we should ‘stick to posting photos of cute cats!’?

C Find in the text words which mean the same as the ones below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 many different types of (paragraph 1)
_____ | 4 unchanged (paragraph 3)
_____ |
| 2 belief and confidence in your own ability (paragraph 2)
_____ | 5 very beautiful (paragraph 4)
_____ |
| 3 unable to do something (paragraph 2)
_____ | |

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

- 1 It is forbidden to use social networks on school computers.
We _____.
- 2 ‘Can you find the unaltered photo of yourself?’ asked the scientist.
The scientist _____.



The science of selfies

The rise in social media has brought with it a variety of fashions – some wonderful and others incredibly stupid – and new behaviour. For example, it now turns out that millions of humans are bizarrely obsessed with photos of cats! Another thing we're obsessed with is photos of ourselves – selfies – taken with our mobile phones or tablets and posted on social networks. What could be more narcissistic?

Some people hate selfies but many of us love them, and we probably all have friends who constantly post selfies on *Facebook* or *Instagram*. However, psychologists believe that people who post selfies might have low self-esteem. What's more, a recent study has shown that those people who post lots of selfies may have problems with intimacy and may be incapable of forming deep or close relationships with friends or colleagues. Our obsession with selfies reveals an inability to relate to other people properly.

But why are some of us so fascinated by selfies? Scientists have known for a long time that, despite having mirrors in our houses, we humans don't have a clear idea of what we really look like. Another experiment demonstrates that we think we are more attractive than we actually are. When we are shown various photos of our face, treated digitally to make us look better or worse, as well as a photo of our face that has not been changed, we are incapable of identifying the unaltered photo. We always choose a photo showing a better-looking version of ourselves.

So we love selfies because we think we're gorgeous but our obsession with selfies reveals an inability to have close relationships with other people. Maybe we should just stick to posting photos of cute cats!

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 The author
 - A thinks that social media is a stupid idea.
 - B implies that posting photos of cats is strange or stupid.
 - C thinks that we're obsessed with our mobile phones.
 - D doesn't like cats.
- 2 What does he think is narcissistic?
 - A Social networks.
 - B Photos of cats.
 - C Photos taken with our mobile phones.
 - D Posting photos of ourselves on social networks.
- 3 Posting selfies may reveal
 - A negative aspects of our personality.
 - B a mental disorder.
 - C little intelligence.
 - D a love of fashion.
- 4 Humans
 - A are absolutely sure what they look like.
 - B don't have mirrors at home.
 - C aren't absolutely sure what they look like.
 - D are very attractive.
- 5 In the experiment there were photos
 - A that made the person look worse only.
 - B of other people.
 - C that made the person look better only.
 - D that made the person look both better and worse.
- 6 Selfies are popular because
 - A we love cats.
 - B we have a high opinion of our appearance.
 - C they show us to be attractive.
 - D they help us form relationships.



No Christmas!

We know that Christmas has been celebrated in Christian countries since about the fourth century. It replaced a pagan Germanic winter festival called 'Yule'. That word still exists in modern English, and in Sweden people still say *God Jul* for 'Merry Christmas'. But do you know when and where Christmas was once banned? To find out, we have to travel back in time to the year 1620 ...

In that year, the *Mayflower* arrived on the east coast of the 'New World' (America) from England, carrying 102 passengers. The Puritans, as they were known, were fleeing religious persecution in England. They believed that the bishops of their Anglican Church had too much power and therefore they wanted to separate from the church. Many Puritans went to live in Holland but some of them, afraid their children would forget their English heritage and the language, decided to set sail and move to the New World. These first pilgrims didn't do very well in their new country and most of them died, but more came as the situation in England worsened.

It occurred to some of the Puritans in New England in the seventeenth century that Christmas and other, similar festivities were becoming far too noisy and disruptive. So, in 1659, New England officially banned Christmas and a five-shilling fine was imposed on anyone caught observing the festivity by not going to work or by feasting on that day. Coincidentally, Christmas had also been banned, at least on paper, by the English Parliament in 1645.

Back in New England, the authorities also banned traditional Christmas food like mince pies and Christmas pudding, both of which are still eaten today in the USA, UK and Ireland. Town criers, the men whose job it was to communicate with the inhabitants of towns by shouting the latest laws and decrees through the streets, were sent out to the streets of Boston on December 24 shouting, 'No Christmas! No Christmas!'

The ban in Boston lasted for twenty-two years, until the new Governor, Sir Edmund Andros, attended church services on Christmas Day in 1681. Even then, he had to be protected by soldiers! Many Bostonians did not celebrate Christmas until well into the nineteenth century. Then in 1869 the eighteenth president of the United States of America, Ulysses S Grant, made the day an official holiday. Back in 'old' England, the ban on Christmas lasted only until 1660 when the monarchy was restored under Charles II. But can you imagine life without Christmas?

A Are the following sentences true or false? Copy the evidence from the text.

1 The original Germanic word for 'Christmas' was 'Yule'.

2 The situation in England made it too difficult for the Puritans to stay there.

3 Many people in Boston didn't celebrate Christmas for a long time after the prohibition.

B In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

1 Why did some Puritans leave Holland and go to the New World?

2 How long did the ban on Christmas last in England?

C Find words in the text that mean:

1 of a religion that believed in many different gods (paragraph 1)

3 Kept safe from injury (paragraph 5)

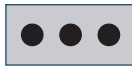
2 escaping to another country (paragraph 2)

4 returned to its original form or position (paragraph 5)

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 They had given too much power to the Anglican bishops.
Anglican bishops _____.

2 'Don't have a Christmas feast this year!' my dad said to me.
My dad warned me _____.



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Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 'Yule'
 - A was the Swedish word for Christmas in the fourth century.
 - B replaced Christmas in the fourth century.
 - C is still used in English today.
 - D comes from the German for 'Christmas'.
- 2 The Puritans went to the New World because
 - A some of them wanted to maintain their English heritage and language.
 - B the Anglican bishops no longer wanted them to be part of the Anglican Church.
 - C they were not welcome in Holland.
 - D they wanted to be independent from England.
- 3 The five-shilling fine was for
 - A being too disruptive.
 - B eating too much.
 - C being too noisy.
 - D remembering and marking the festival of Christmas.
- 4 Christmas was banned in England
 - A after the ban in New England.
 - B before the ban in New England.
 - C in 1659.
 - D because nobody celebrated it.
- 5 The ban in New England included
 - A singing Christmas songs.
 - B town criers.
 - C going to work.
 - D some traditional food.
- 6 The job of the town criers was
 - A to ban Christmas.
 - B to impose the ban on Christmas.
 - C to tell the citizens about the ban.
 - D make sure nobody went out on Christmas Eve.
- 7 In Boston, Christmas
 - A remained unpopular with many people for a long time.
 - B was made an official holiday by the new Governor in 1681.
 - C was imposed on people by the new Governor and his soldiers in 1681.
 - D was banned again by the new Governor in 1681.
- 8 Ulysses S Grant
 - A was never president of the USA.
 - B was replaced by Charles II.
 - C made Christmas an official holiday in the USA.
 - D became president of New England in 1869.



Amazon's Top Reviewers

There is no doubt that online shopping is big business. Amazon, the world's biggest online retailer, had a net sales figure of over \$61 billion in 2012. This retail giant, which was founded by Jeff Bezos in 1994, started off as an online bookshop. Then it widened its product range to CDs, DVDs, software and other electronics. Nowadays, it sells everything from food and cosmetics to jewellery, toys and kitchen appliances.

However, shopping online can be a problematic experience for customers. Not being able to touch the product or at least see it properly is a big disadvantage. It is often difficult to know what a product is really like until it lands on your doorstep. And then what if you don't like it? Of course, you can send it back, but many potential customers see that as a risk.

That's why Amazon's customer reviews are so important. Reviews are written by customers who have already bought and tried out the product. They are often considered more reliable than the information that you get from the manufacturer of the product because, it is claimed, the reviews are written by real people. These people take the time to praise – or warn other customers about – a product that they have spent their hard-earned money on.

However, a recent report on National Public Radio (NPR) in the USA has revealed that the most frequent reviewers on Amazon aren't really customers like you and me. They are people who are sent thousands of dollars' worth of products by manufacturers every week to use and write about on the website. Amazon has set up a system whereby top reviewers are invited to review the products that are sold on the site. Each week, they are sent a list of products available for review. The number of products is limited so you have to choose quickly if you want to get the more interesting items. Otherwise you could end up reviewing a roll of adhesive tape. Once the reviewers have chosen what they want to review, the products are sent to them by courier for free.

These reviewers are obliged to review the products within thirty days and they are not subsequently allowed to sell or give them away. What's more, Amazon can ask reviewers to return the products at any time, although this has never happened. Nevertheless, before you dismiss the system as somehow dishonest or misleading, you must remember that Amazon are very clear about another requirement of their top reviewers – they insist on honest reviews that will help customers make better choices. The bottom line is better choices make happier customers.

A Are the following sentences true or false? Copy the evidence from the text.

1 When Amazon was first set up, it sold books, CDs, DVDs, software and other electronics.

2 Customer reviews are written by people who work for the manufacturers.

3 Amazon wants their reviewers to tell the truth about the products they write about.

B In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

1 How has Amazon grown since it was set up?

2 What do reviewers have to do?

C Find words in the text that mean:

1 shop or business that sells products to the public (paragraph 1)

3 decide that something is not important or relevant (paragraph 6)

2 can be trusted or believed (paragraph 3)

4 causing someone to believe that something that isn't true (paragraph 6)

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 I read the review so I knew this was a good product.

If I _____.

2 The reviewers do a very important job. For this reason, they get a lot of free products.

Because _____.



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These reviewers are obliged to review the products within thirty days and they are not subsequently allowed to sell or give them away. What's more, Amazon can ask reviewers to return the products at any time, although this has never happened. Nevertheless, before you dismiss the system as somehow dishonest or misleading, you must remember that Amazon are very clear about another requirement of their top reviewers – they insist on honest reviews that will help customers make better choices. The bottom line is better choices make happier customers.

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 One of the disadvantages of shopping online is
 - A always having to return the product.
 - B late delivery of the product.
 - C an inability to touch the product before you buy it.
 - D not liking the product online.
- 2 National Public Radio
 - A discovered that the top reviewers were not really normal customers.
 - B found out that Amazon reviewers don't really exist.
 - C have worked as reviewers for Amazon.
 - D contacted the manufacturers of products sold on Amazon.
- 3 The most frequent reviewers
 - A are all sent the same products to review.
 - B can choose whatever they want to review.
 - C only review really interesting products.
 - D write about the products that Amazon invite them to review.
- 4 Why do the reviewers have to choose products quickly?
 - A Because the products are sent by courier.
 - B Because Amazon sends out a list of products every week.
 - C Because the choice of products is small and not all the products are interesting.
 - D Because most of the products are boring.
- 5 Reviewers
 - A have a limited time to write their review.
 - B have to send the product back to Amazon.
 - C can sell and give away the products.
 - D can always keep the products.
- 6 Amazon's customer reviews are good for business because
 - A they are always clear.
 - B they are never misleading.
 - C they help customers to choose.
 - D they make customers happy.



Wedding traditions

Without a doubt one of the most important days in a person's life is the day they get married. Photos are framed and hung on walls and videos of the day are treasured, and every year our wedding day is remembered on its anniversary. It is at our wedding that we dedicate ourselves to the other person 'until death do us part'. Like all important occasions, weddings are loaded with rich and varied rituals around the world.

In most countries, a lot of attention is paid to the bride's dress. The pages of women's glossy magazines are crammed with photos of the wedding dresses of celebrities and choosing the right dress is so important that there are even entire TV programmes about it. In China, the bride wears three dresses on her wedding day. The first dress tends to be a traditional Chinese dress called a *qipao*, which is usually red, a lucky colour for the Chinese. For the wedding ceremony she wears a more traditional white wedding dress and finally for the wedding reception, she changes into a third, different dress. Brides in India wear red saris because red brings good luck in Hinduism too, whereas in the USA, brides always wear 'something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue'. In Brazil it is traditional for single women to write their names inside the bride's dress, which is said to help them find a partner.

The tradition of throwing rice at the bride and groom as they come out of the church will be familiar to most people. Its purpose is to wish the newlywed couple good luck and to symbolise their fertility. In Greece, wedding guests smash plates on the floor to wish the newlyweds good luck and at Jewish weddings, the groom stamps on a glass and everyone shouts *mazel tov*, meaning 'good luck'. A glass is also broken at Italian weddings and the pieces are gathered and counted, the number of broken pieces representing the number of years the couple will stay together.

In some countries, the groom has to work very hard to get his bride. In Germany, the groom's friends will 'steal' the bride and take her away to a bar for drinks. The groom then has to locate the bride and when he does he also has to pay for the drinks! In Russia, a similar tradition involves the groom performing various tasks in order to see his bride. The groom may be asked to perform a difficult task, recite a poem or do a funny dance. He is also required to pay money to the bride's family as a 'ransom' for his bride.

A Are the following sentences true or false? Copy the evidence from the text.

1 The colour red is considered lucky for Chinese people and Hindus.

2 In Greece the way the plate breaks is significant.

3 In Italy, the number of pieces of broken glass predicts the length of the marriage.

4 In Russia, brides are often kidnapped by the bride's friends.

B In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

1 Why is a couple's wedding so important?

2 In Brazil, whose names are written inside the bride's dress and why?

3 In which cultures do people at weddings break things and what does this mean?

C Find words in the text that mean:

1 a set of actions or words performed as part of a ceremony (paragraph 1)

3 the quality of being able to produce children (paragraph 3)

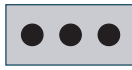
2 printed on shiny paper (paragraph 2)

4 money demanded or paid for a person who has been kidnapped (paragraph 3)

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

1 'I will live with you for the rest of your life,' Paul promised me.
Paul promised _____.

2 The couple won't have good luck if we don't break this plate.
Unless _____.



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Without a doubt one of the most important days in a person's life is the day they get married. Photos are framed and hung on walls and videos of the day are treasured, and every year our wedding day is remembered on its anniversary. It is at our wedding that we dedicate ourselves to the other person 'until death do us part'. Like all important occasions, weddings are loaded with rich and varied rituals around the world.

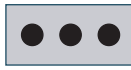
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Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 Our wedding day is special because
 - A we keep photos of it.
 - B we celebrate its anniversary.
 - C we give ourselves to another person.
 - D it's filled with a lot of rituals.
- 2 Wedding dresses
 - A are always red in China.
 - B should be based on a TV programme.
 - C should always be white.
 - D are the focus of much attention.
- 3 The colour red
 - A is lucky for Chinese people and Hindus.
 - B is typically worn by brides in the USA.
 - C is worn at all weddings around the world.
 - D is unlucky in some cultures.
- 4 Why might Brazilian women write their names on the inside of a bride's dress?
 - A To wish themselves good luck.
 - B To wish the bride good luck.
 - C To find a partner.
 - D As a symbol of fertility.
- 5 Rice at weddings
 - A is no longer fashionable.
 - B is a well-known tradition.
 - C means the couple will stay together forever.
 - D is given to the bride and groom.
- 6 At Italian weddings a glass broken into a lot of pieces means
 - A the couple will stay together for many years.
 - B the couple might have bad luck.
 - C the couple will have many children.
 - D the groom is much older than the bride.
- 7 A German bride
 - A always takes her husband's friends out drinking.
 - B will usually get drunk at her wedding.
 - C buys drinks for the groom's friends.
 - D will be taken away by the groom's friends.
- 8 A Russian groom
 - A buys his wife.
 - B pays money to see his bride.
 - C always dances with his bride.
 - D buys all the drinks at his wedding.



What do you do in your sleep?

Most people would think it odd to be asked the question 'What do you do in your sleep?' The obvious answer would be 'Well, just sleep!' or possibly 'I think I snore'. However, more doctors are asking patients this question and the answers they are getting are increasingly bizarre. Sleep disorders are on the increase in the USA and the UK, with some of those disorders incorporating some very strange behaviour. Doctors have been treating sleepwalking for many years and it is a reasonably common disorder. However, extreme cases exist where the act of sleepwalking has put the lives of sufferers at risk. Recently, a woman in Boston fell asleep at an underground station while waiting for a train. Images captured by security cameras show the woman standing up and walking to the edge of the platform. What happened next was terrifying. Rather than stopping at the edge, the sleeping woman fell onto the tracks. Luckily, no train was entering the station at the time and she suffered only minor injuries. She remembers nothing! In another case, a woman in New Hampshire awoke in the middle of the night, left her house and went for a swim in a nearby river. She had to be taken to hospital with hypothermia. Doctors say it is common for people with sleep disorders to do things in their sleep that are routine for them during the day. Over 90% of people in the UK have mobile phones so texting while asleep is becoming more common. 'Sleep-texters' wake up during the night, reach for their mobile phones and begin writing texts. Fortunately for them, because they are asleep, they usually write utter nonsense. Other sleep disorders involve people getting up during the night to eat something. The next morning, dirty dishes, empty packets and an untidy kitchen reveal their nocturnal activities but they have no recollection of doing anything. In extreme cases, sufferers have even managed to cook food, with the obvious dangers that this entails. But sleep disorders don't always mean that sufferers get up and sleepwalk, sleep-swim or sleep-eat. A common condition, called apnoea, causes people to stop breathing in their sleep. It is more typical among people who are obese and is usually accompanied by loud snoring. The pauses in breathing can last for up to twenty seconds or more and can be extremely dangerous. Very little research has been carried out into sleep disorders as it is extremely difficult to reproduce nocturnal activities in controlled experiments in a sleep clinic. However researchers claim that they now have the right equipment to carry out detailed research in sufferers' homes, so more light will be shed on the problem in the future.

A Are the following sentences true or false? Copy the evidence from the text.

- 1 It appears that the number of people who do strange things in their sleep is rising.

- 2 A woman in Boston was run over by a train when she fell asleep on the tracks.

- 3 With sleep disorders, night time behaviours are closely related to activities in our daily lives.

- 4 People with a weight problem are more likely to suffer from apnoea.

B In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

- 1 Why are more people texting in their sleep than before?

- 2 What is apnoea?

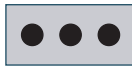
- 3 Why are researchers into sleep disorders hopeful for the future?

C Find words in the text that mean:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 very strange and unusual (paragraph 1)
_____ | 3 happening in the night (paragraph 4)
_____ |
| 2 having little importance or influence (paragraph 2)
_____ | 4 very noisy breathing while you sleep (paragraph 5)
_____ |

D Complete the second sentence. It must mean the same as the first sentence.

- 1 A train was not entering the station so the woman was not badly injured.
If _____.
- 2 Although sleep disorders are common, very little research has been carried out into their causes.
Despite _____.



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Doctors say it is common for people with sleep disorders to do things in their sleep that are routine for them during the day. Over 90% of people in the UK have mobile phones so texting while asleep is becoming more common. 'Sleep-texters' wake up during the night, reach for their mobile phones and begin writing texts. Fortunately for them, because they are asleep, they usually write utter nonsense.

Other sleep disorders involve people getting up during the night to eat something. The next morning, dirty dishes, empty packets and an untidy kitchen reveal their nocturnal activities but they have no recollection of doing anything. In extreme cases, sufferers have even managed to cook food, with the obvious dangers that this entails.

But sleep disorders don't always mean that sufferers get up and sleepwalk, sleep-swim or sleep-eat. A common condition, called apnoea, causes people to stop breathing in their sleep. It is more typical among people who are obese and is usually accompanied by loud snoring. The pauses in breathing can last for up to twenty seconds or more and can be extremely dangerous.

Very little research has been carried out into sleep disorders as it is extremely difficult to reproduce nocturnal activities in controlled experiments in a sleep clinic. However researchers claim that they now have the right equipment to carry out detailed research in sufferers' homes, so more light will be shed on the problem in the future.

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

- 1 Doctors
 - A think that snoring is the most common sleep disorder.
 - B believe that sleep disorders are increasing.
 - C are being asked about their sleeping habits.
 - D are carrying out a survey into people's sleeping habits.
- 2 A woman in Boston
 - A fell asleep on a train.
 - B drove a train while asleep.
 - C fell onto the train tracks while asleep.
 - D was hit by a train whose driver was asleep.
- 3 Another woman in New Hampshire
 - A drove to a river while asleep.
 - B got very cold because she swam in a river while asleep.
 - C could not sleep so she went swimming.
 - D fell asleep while working at a hospital.
- 4 The majority of people in Britain
 - A send text messages while they're asleep.
 - B cannot sleep with a mobile phone.
 - C do daily routines while they're asleep.
 - D own a mobile phone.
- 5 'Utter nonsense' describes
 - A Text messages written while asleep.
 - B 90% of text messages sent in Britain.
 - C The idea that people send text messages in their sleep.
 - D What people write in text messages in Britain.
- 6 People who eat in their sleep
 - A take their food to bed.
 - B keep everything in the kitchen tidy.
 - C always cook something.
 - D don't remember preparing or eating anything.
- 7 Apnoea is
 - A when you stop breathing in your sleep.
 - B very loud snoring.
 - C not at all dangerous.
 - D something that only obese people suffer from.
- 8 Researchers
 - A can, at the moment, explain most sleep disorders.
 - B use light to solve people's sleep problems.
 - C previously didn't have the right equipment for research at peoples' homes.
 - D have been able to do a lot of research into sleep disorders.