

BRIDGE



**I DON'T
OWN MY
FACE**

LIVING
AS A MEME

**EXTRA
B2
PRACTICE**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE DILEMMAS
ON YOUR PLATE



**PEOPLE,
PRIESTS
AND PIXIES**

TRADITIONAL IRELAND

**EXTRA
16
PAGES**

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KEY TO ICONS



LISTENING ON CD



EXTRA MATERIALS
IN THE TEACHERS' FILE (TF)



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Language in Use, Reading, Listening

Dear Readers,

March brings rain and the green of new spring growth, so it's appropriate that St Patrick's Day falls in this month (as nothing says "Ireland" like the combination of "rain" and "green"). We're marking the occasion with a visit to Ireland's second city, Cork, and the lovely Clare Island, as well as with a look at Irish traditions and St Patrick's Day celebrations around the world. *Sláinte!* (That's "cheers" in Irish.)

What else is lined up for you? We've finally taken on the difficult and controversial topic of Brexit. We've tried to be as balanced as we can, but it's not a question that any Brits in Europe can regard calmly – and two of the Bridge editorial team are British, so for us this is a very emotional time.

We also have food for discussion when we look at some of the controversies around diet choices. These are issues that some people feel passionate about and others roll their eyes at. Where do you stand? Which issues matter to you, and which do you think are a lot of fuss about nothing?

Elsewhere we have an article looking at those Australian fires and what they mean – climate change may have warmed our winter, but on the other side of the world it's helped to destroy thousands of homes, and more.

More cheerfully, we have a traveller's view of Guatemala, a look at how some random people had their lives changed by becoming memes, some tips on upcoming live music... Oh, you know what to do: turn the page, and read on!

**Paul Farrington-Douglas
& the Bridge team**

MARCH BONUSES

for subscribers who receive 11 or more copies of the magazine



FOUND ON THE INTERNET

Paul Farrington-Douglas (UK)

It's Raining Iguanas

"Falling iguanas possible tonight" is a pretty bizarre weather forecast, right? But that's what Floridians were told in January.

The reason? Iguanas are cold-blooded and need warmth to stay active, and when the temperatures drop below a certain point – as they did in south Florida at the beginning of this year – they lose the ability to move. Their bodies stiffen (= get hard) and they can appear to be dead, falling from wherever they sit.

Since iguanas often sit in the trees, this can mean that they start dropping from above. Pavements and gardens end up scattered with these apparently dead iguanas, making a strange and scary scene. They are rarely harmed by the experience and they wake up and run off after a little time in the sun. Picking them up can be dangerous, as body heat may wake a frozen iguana and make them bite or scratch in self-defence, so Floridians (mostly) know to leave them alone.

TASK

Could you think of two other conjunctions (= linking words) which could be used instead of *since* in the third paragraph?



Scan the QR code or go to youtu.be/_Qnk3CxXffU to see the cold-stiffened iguanas.

You Are Fake News

We all worry about being given false information, right? Well, I have some bad news for you (and this isn't fake): you're probably creating fake news yourself.

Researchers at The Ohio State University gave people some simple and accurate statistics on controversial issues (such as the number of Mexican immigrants in the US in two different years), then tested their memory of what they'd read. They found out that people very often changed the numbers dramatically to fit their own expectations.

The people in the study weren't lying. They genuinely believed that they were accurately recalling the statistics they had read. Worse, the researchers discovered that when people were asked to share their "knowledge" with others, the information grew more and more different as it was passed from person to person.

Neuroscientists have long known that our brains tend to "re-write" our memories inaccurately, which is why people usually remember the same events slightly differently (or in some cases very differently). It's disturbing, though, to learn how easily and quickly we do the same to the information that we use to form our understanding of the world.



TASK

Which of these does the article not say?

- A People often remember experiences incorrectly.
- B People incorrectly remember information that goes against their beliefs.
- C People accidentally create false information when they are trying to persuade others.
- D People can often be wrong even when they are very sure that they are remembering correctly.



The Wrong House to Rob

In Rochester, New York, a violent robber broke down the front door of an 82-year-old woman named Willie Murphy. Bad, huh? But Mrs Murphy's not your average 82-year-old. She works out. And we don't mean a little light yoga and the occasional jog around the park: she's a bodybuilder who can lift over 100kg. Oh, and do one-handed pull-ups, one-handed push-ups and fingertip push-ups.

"I'm old, and I'm alone, but guess what? I'm tough," she said afterwards. "He sure picked the wrong house to break into." Mrs Murphy picked up a table and started beating the burglar with it. When the table broke – yes, she *broke a table over him!* – she went and got a bottle of shampoo and squirted it in his eyes so he wouldn't be able to see. Then hit him with a broom. When the police arrived, they arrested him. Then they called an ambulance.

To be totally clear: violence and clobbering people with tables are bad. But when it's a 152cm, 48kg granny who was born before the second world war, and she's beating up a 29-year-old man who attacked her in her home? Well, just this once we can cheer.

TASK

In the context of the article, what do the following words mean?

- A light (line 5)
- B sure (line 11)
- C squirted (line 17)
- D clobbering (line 21)
- E cheer (line 26)



Scan the QR code or go to youtu.be/ahBdqIRZIMQ to hear Ms Murphy describing the event herself.

S Solutions in the TF and next month on the Bridge website



Silliness at CES

The Consumer Electronics Showcase (CES) is where new tech first gets shown to the public. Most of it is new phones, TVs, vacuum cleaners and so on. But what we really look forward to every year are the pointless and bizarre inventions that we hope will *never* make it into our homes.

The Kohler Setra "smart tap" is a hands-free device, voice-operated via an Alexa, and it can measure out the amount of water you want. "Alexa," you might say, "tell Setra to measure out two cups of water." A few seconds later, Alexa says, "Setra is ready to pour two cups of water. Please move your hand across the sensor." A \$560 device to complicate the process of pouring a cup of water? No, thanks.

Mosquitoes. Annoying, right? The Bzigo uses a camera to scan for mosquitoes in a room, sends you a notification on your phone to tell you it has spotted one, then points to exactly where the mosquito is with a laser. Well, as long as it's in direct line of sight of the camera (which seems a pretty big limitation). The expected price tag of \$169 seems pretty high given that you still have to kill the mozzies yourself – but just imagine if the laser could shoot 'em out of the air!

If you've got a problem with a fat cat, maybe you need to put it on an exercise programme. The Little Cat is a high-tech exercise machine for cats. In theory, cats are tempted to run by chasing a built-in laser. But knowing how uncooperative cats usually are, we're sceptical, and even in the official video the \$1,800 device seems pretty useless.

TASK

1 With which expression could you replace *pointless and bizarre* ['pɔɪntləs bɪ'zɑ:(r)] in the first paragraph?

- A useful and advanced
- B useless and strange
- C stupid and beautiful

2 What do the slang expressions *mozzies* and *'em* in the third paragraph mean?



Scan the QR code or go to youtu.be/AktWllrmjSM to watch the official Little Cat video.

HAVE YOU GOT

ST PATRICK'S DAY AND IRISH FOLKLORE

It's coming up to St Patrick's Day, the Irish national holiday that is celebrated all over the world. So let's take the opportunity to learn a bit about Irish traditions.

Paul Farrington-Douglas (UK)



Snakes and Shamrocks

Who was St Patrick? Well, the first surprise is that he was not a native Irishman. He was born in either Scotland or Roman England in the second half of the fourth century. When he was 14 or so, he was captured by pirates and sold into **slavery**¹ in Ireland. After six years he escaped and went to France, where he joined a **monastery**² and eventually became a **bishop**³. Then he set out for Ireland and started converting the **pagan**⁴ Irish to Christianity.

There are two famous stories of St Patrick. One is that he **drove out**⁵ all the snakes in Ireland. (It's true that Ireland has no snakes, but this is because it's an island – it's never had them.) The other is that he explained the Christian idea of the Holy Trinity (the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit) by using the three-leafed shamrock: God, like a shamrock, is both three and one. This is why people wear shamrocks on St Patrick's Day.

The Fairy Folk

Every country has its own magical inhabitants, but Ireland seems to be particularly busy with them. On one level it's kind of surprising. It's long been a Catholic country, after all, and the Catholic Church is not particularly keen on folk **superstitions**⁶. But as anyone who has been lucky enough to visit Ireland will tell you, there's a real sense of magic in the Irish air. (Mostly rain, to be honest – Ireland has more rainy days than any other country in Europe – but magic, too.)

Ireland's magical folk are commonly grouped together as fairies, though you shouldn't think of them as tiny, cute girls with wings. There's the banshee, who appears as a screaming woman, all in white and with white hair, when someone is about to die. There's the Pooka,

who appears after dark and can change into bats, eagles, dogs, goats or black horses. And the Dullahan, the headless horse-rider who carries his **glowing**⁷ head and uses a human **spine**⁸ as a **whip**⁹. Worst of all are the changelings, who are the damaged children of fairies that are left behind when a human child is stolen. With such terrifying figures, it's no wonder the Irish thought it unlucky even to talk about the fairies directly. Instead, some were known as the "little people", some known as the "good people" and some as the "gentle people".

Most Europeans stopped believing in fairies a long time ago, but in some parts of Ireland, people still believed in and even left milk out for them until well into the 20th century.



THE BLARNEY?



Kisses in the Castle

Ireland is a country of strange and wonderful stories, and the Irish do love a good storyteller. If you don't have the talent, though, you're in luck. There's a magical stone that is part of Blarney Castle in Kerry, in the South of Ireland. It is said that if you kiss this stone you get the gift of being able to speak well, and a good talker is often referred to as having "the gift of the blarney".

To kiss the stone, you have to lie on your back with your head down a hole. People have been kissing the stone for hundreds of years, and these days around 400,000 visitors do so every year. Just think how many lips have been there before yours – no wonder it's been called "the world's **germiest**¹⁰ attraction". Add in the high prices and long queues (which can be over an hour), and we have to think that whoever convinced everyone that this is a great idea must *really* have had the gift of the blarney.

VOCABULARY

- 1 **slavery** ['slevəri] – otroctví
- 2 **monastery** ['mɒnəstri] – klášter
- 3 **bishop** ['bɪʃəp] – biskup
- 4 **pagan** ['peɪɡən] – pohan, pohanský
- 5 **to drive out** – vyhnat
- 6 **superstition** [ˌsuːpə'stɪʃn] – pověra
- 7 **glowing** ['gləʊɪŋ] – zářící
- 8 **spine** [spain] – páteř
- 9 **whip** [wɪp] – bič
- 10 **germy** ['dʒɜːmi] – plný baciů

ST PATRICK'S DAY TRADITIONS

St Patrick's Day celebrates St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It takes place each year on March 17th, the anniversary of his death. All over the world, Irish people (and many who are not Irish) join in carnival-like parades, listen to Irish music, drink Guinness and wear green or dress up as leprechauns. Many landmarks get lit up with green lights, some pubs serve green beer and the city of Chicago even dyes its river green.

When we say "all over the world", we really mean it. Major St Patrick's Day celebrations are held in dozens of countries and on every continent. New York has the world's largest, with more than two million people gathering for the grand parade. Dublin in Ireland has a four-day celebration. On the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat, St Patrick's Day falls on the same date as their independence day, and celebrations are a mix of local and Irish traditions. Tens of thousands of people take part

in Tokyo's St Patrick's parade. Buenos Aires, sometimes called "the Paris of South America", looks more like Dublin as it hosts the biggest St Patrick's Day celebration in South America. Other big celebrations take place in Birmingham, Munich, Moscow, Auckland, Kuala Lumpur and of course many cities in North America.

You might be surprised to know that it's not really a very Irish tradition. St. Patrick's Day was a religious holiday when people went to church, and in the villages men would pin a shamrock to their clothes and head off to the pub to get drunk (a tradition called "drowning the shamrock"), but it wasn't a very important festival until Irish emigrants to America made it one in the 17th century. The Irish in Ireland only started holding parades in the 20th century, and originally these were quite political and connected to Irish nationalism. These days, in Ireland as everywhere else, they are more like carnivals.





OFF THE BEATEN

Dolores Connolly (IR)

Cork City

Cork City, in the beautiful south-west region of the Republic of Ireland, is a port city on the Celtic Sea (part of the Atlantic Ocean). With a population of 400,000, it's Ireland's second-largest city, after Dublin. It is smaller, friendlier and the pace is more leisurely.

The City on the Water

Visitors can walk along the harbour or river, enjoying the smell of the sea and watching the many boats. The centre of the city is on an island in the Lee river, and at its eastern end, docks along the river lead out to Cork Harbour. This is one of the largest natural harbours in the world, and it was the last place that the Titanic stopped before its first – and final – voyage. The oldest yacht club in the world was founded here in 1720, and boating and sailing are popular to this day.

You can also walk through the city's many parks. Narrow streets have interesting shops, cafes and cosy pubs, while the covered 1788 English Market is famous for its delicious local produce*. Cork people are very friendly, and sellers happily offer customers samples of their food and have a chat.

Music in the Air

Music can be heard from the pubs, even during the day. There are lots of buskers on the streets playing all kinds of music and there are even dancers. Tens of thousands of music fans come to the Cork Jazz Festival each year, and that's far from being the city's only music festival. With all that music it's very difficult to be in a bad mood in Cork City!



Great food and genuine smiles: Cork is famously friendly.



There's music everywhere you go in Cork City.



The sculpture *Kindred Spirits* remembers a gift sent to the starving Irish by Native Americans.

Even the voices are musical: the Cork accent almost sounds as though people sing rather than speak. And a Cork English language school was voted the best English language school in Ireland in 2019. It would definitely be fun to study English here. Students stay with local host families.

Have you ever rung church bells? You can in Cork if you visit the Shandon Bells. On the first floor, visitors can view the workings of the clocks and are allowed to ring the eight bells (the largest weighs 1.5 tons). They can then climb the 132 steps to see the bells themselves and to look out over the spectacular views of the city.

An American Connection

In the 1840s, Ireland suffered a terrible famine* and over a million people died. Somehow – and no one knows how – news of this disaster reached a Native American tribe, the Choctaw. The Choctaw raised money and sent US\$170 (worth thousands of dollars today) to the people of Cork. Each year members of the tribe come to visit, and a beautiful steel sculpture of six-metre-high feathers honours the gift.

GLOSSARY*

off the beaten track – not very well known, not much visited
famine – a time where there is not enough food
abbey – a building where monks or nuns live

LANGUAGE POINT*

The verb to **produce** [prə'dju:əs] is roughly synonymous with make or create. The noun for the action is **production** [prə'dʌkʃən], and the thing that is made is a **product** ['prɒdʌkt]. The noun **produce** ['prɒdju:s] refers specifically to agricultural products as opposed to manufactured goods.



TRACK IN IRELAND

Clare Island

Clare Island, in the stormy seas of the Atlantic Ocean, is 5.5 kilometres off the coast of County Mayo in the west of Ireland. It's only 8 kilometres long and 3 kilometres wide and is definitely off the beaten track for tourists, though you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Cliffs and Beaches

You can reach Clare Island by ferry from Roonagh Quay on the mainland. The crossing takes about 25 minutes and, if you're lucky, you might see the dolphins which often follow the boat.

Clare Island is mountainous, with 450-metre high sea cliffs, which are some of the most spectacular in Europe. There aren't any guard rails, so it's better not to go to the pub before heading for the cliffs. There are also many beaches. Some aren't suitable for swimming as they are rocky with huge waves crashing in (which are great to watch), but there's a super swimming beach right by the harbour. Nobody seems to mind that the Atlantic water is quite cold (averaging 12°C).

Small Place, Big Fun

Only about 150 people live on the island, but there's plenty to do. It's famous for music and there are lots of intimate but welcoming music festivals throughout the year. There's a film festival too.

Since the island is so small and there's no traffic to worry about (there are only a few cars), one of the best ways to see the island is to hire a bike to visit the cliffs, beaches and lighthouse. For some history, there is a Napoleonic tower, a 12th-century abbey* and Granuaile's Castle, which was the home of Ireland's famous 16th-century female pirate, Grace O'Malley. There are also boat trips, kayaking and yoga classes – something for just about everyone.

Island Patience

Everyone on the island relies on the ferry for supplies and sometimes they run out of things. If you order food at the island's two pubs and they have run out of what you want, they will look out the window to see how close the ferry is and tell you how long you will have to wait. Or if you are staying in one of the island's guesthouses you can even fish and catch your own dinner, which the owner will happily cook for you.

You can finish the day off by watching the island's famously spectacular sunset over the Atlantic Ocean.



FACT FILE

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

NOTE: The Republic of Ireland, or Éire, occupies 83% of the island of Ireland. Northern Ireland, which has a population of 1.9 million, is a different country and a part of the UK.

Population: 4.9 million

Land area: 70,273 km² (from the island's total of 84,421 km²)

Currency: Euro

Political system: Parliamentary republic with a president as the ceremonial head of state and a prime minister (the Taoiseach [ˈtʰiːʃəx]) as the head of the government

Capital city: Dublin (1.2 million)

Top five languages: English, Irish (official languages), Polish, French and Lithuanian

Physical geography: Low central plains. Coastal mountains, of which the tallest is Carruntoohil (Irish: Corrán Tuathail; 1,041 m). The Western coastline has many islands, peninsulas and bays. The longest river is the Shannon (360.5 km). Very wet (up to 3 metres of rain per year in the mountains).

Clare Island lighthouse is now the island's most unique guesthouse.



PROBLEMS ON YOUR PLATE

SEVEN CONTROVERSIAL FOODS

Each of these foods is controversial. This isn't the "list of foods to avoid", though. Rather, it's an invitation to think more about what we eat. That's why each one highlights a different problematic aspect of our relationship to food.

Paul Farrington-Douglas (UK)



OCTOPUS

KEY ISSUES: eating intelligent species

Surprisingly, eating octopus may not be too bad from an environmental perspective: they are short-lived animals and we normally eat adults who have already reproduced. On the other hand, they are highly intelligent – possibly among the most intelligent animals on earth. Many people feel uncomfortable with the idea of eating animals with higher intelligence and emotion, such as dolphins and great apes, but don't worry too much about the very alien-seeming octopus.

- Does the idea of eating an "intelligent" species bother you?
- Are there any animals you'd refuse to eat on moral grounds?

CHOCOLATE

KEY ISSUES: tropical deforestation, child labour, poverty

No, not chocolate! But yes. Most cocoa comes from small farmers in Ivory Coast and Ghana. They are paid very little, so they rely on labour from entire families, including children. Even "fair trade" certified chocolate is only slightly better, with one report saying fair-trade-certified cocoa farmers in Ghana make only \$36 a year more than others. On top of this is the issue of tropical rainforest loss: more than 90% of West Africa's original forests are gone, with demand for cocoa being one of the main reasons.

- What is a bigger issue for you: ecological damage or human suffering?
- Would you avoid products or companies you know are causing harm?





HAPPY MEAL

KEY ISSUES: child health

McDonald's food is not very nutritious, environmentally friendly or animal-friendly, but nor is it especially awful compared to many other fast-food choices. What sets McDonald's apart is the aggressive marketing of its relatively unhealthy food to young children, especially with the use of unrecyclable plastic toys (the company is the world's largest toy distributor). The company has made healthier changes to its Happy Meals, but only in countries where there is political discussion of changes to the law. In the US and UK, for example, the only drinks offered with kids' Happy Meals are water, fruit juice or milk, with fruit as a dessert. In the Czech Republic, the drinks still include sugary, caffeinated sodas, and the desserts include fattening, sugary milkshakes.

- Should food producers have a responsibility to sell healthier food?
- When is advertising to children acceptable or unacceptable?

CASHEW NUTS

KEY ISSUES: poverty, human cruelty

Cashews are popular in both Europe and America. They're delicious and healthy, being high in minerals, fibre, protein and healthy fat. So of course there's a catch (= problem). Cashews are incredibly hard to prepare. They come in a shell containing chemicals that cause severe burns. Before they can be sold, the shell needs to be removed and the nuts cleaned. Most cashews we eat are processed by hand in India or Vietnam. In India, the work is mostly done by women paid 160 rupees (about 2 euros) for a 10-hour day. Many have permanent chemical burns on their hands. In Vietnam it can be even worse, as cashews are sometimes processed by drug addicts in forced labour camps, who are beaten and subjected to electric shocks.

- Do we, as shoppers, share any blame for human-rights abuses in food production?
- Do you connect any other foods with human cruelty?



BAGGED SALAD

KEY ISSUES: food waste, plastic pollution

Bagged salad is only one of many, many products that are part of our pollution and food-wasting crisis, but it's a perfect example. The salad itself is not usually grown locally or in season, so it adds to energy and water use. It then needs to be shipped and processed, creating more pollution. It uses a lot of plastic packaging that is rarely recycled. And finally, it's the most-wasted food item of all: in the UK, about 40% of bagged salad is thrown out because it goes bad before it gets used.

- Do you think we should reduce food packaging, and how?
- Do you try not to waste food, and how?



EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

KEY ISSUES: fake food, crime

Extra-virgin olive oil is very expensive to make, but most of us don't know how to recognise it, so it's very easy to fake. It's supposed to be the purest, freshest oil, but about 80% of it is not. Most commonly, the "extra virgin" oil is virgin olive oil mixed with older, less pure oil to increase the amount of it and lower the cost. In the worst case, it is mixed with cheap soybean or sunflower oil or with low-quality olive oil that has been treated with chemicals. In 2019, a criminal gang was found with 150,000 litres of "extra-virgin olive oil" for restaurants that was actually sunflower oil, food colourings and soya. The gang of 20 people had been making €8 million every year.

- If people can't tell the difference between real and fake, does it matter?

SHARK FIN SOUP

KEY ISSUES: sustainability, animal cruelty

Shark fin soup is a highly valued dish in China. Historically, shark fins were very difficult to obtain, and the soup made from them was a festival food for the emperor's court. Modern fishing technology has made it much more available. The shark fins can be cut off as part of processing the whole fish, which can be sustainable. However, because



the fins are so much more valuable than the rest of the shark, many fishermen cut off the fin and throw the rest of the shark into the sea. This practice is called "shark finning". Demand for fins is slowly declining, but 35-80 million sharks are still "finned" every year.

- Do you worry about species loss?
- Is animal suffering high on your list of concerns?



THE BROKEN UNION

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE BREXIT BREAK-UP?

In 2016, Britons voted to leave the EU with a 52% to 48% majority vote. Now, almost four years later, Britain has officially left. Here's our quick question-and-answer guide to what happened and what it could mean for you.

WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG?

Put simply, there was a lot of disagreement over what "leaving the EU" should mean. During the campaigning before the referendum, a lot of "leavers" claimed Britain would leave the EU but keep most or all of its benefits. There was a lot of talk about a "Norway plus" option, which would basically have meant staying in the single market and getting many other benefits of the EU (like Norway) but without accepting the EU's freedom of movement and without paying into EU funds (unlike Norway). Unsurprisingly, the EU rejected this suggestion.

WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST LEAVE?

Relations between countries are arranged through treaties* on everything from trade to air travel. When there are no treaties, even simple activities become difficult and expensive. For example, importers must pay

taxes on imports from non-EU countries when there is no trade treaty in place, so "just leaving" would have meant immediate taxes on almost all imports and exports between the UK and the EU. And that's just one of many such complications.

I HEARD A LOT OF TALK ABOUT "DEAL OR NO DEAL". WAS THAT TALKING ABOUT TREATIES, THEN?

Not exactly. EU rules mean that new treaties between itself and a member country are not possible, so treaty negotiations* could not start until the United Kingdom was out of the EU. To get around this problem, countries leaving the EU can enter temporary arrangements for the time between officially leaving the EU and forming new treaties (a process that can take many years). This temporary arrangement ended up being referred to informally as "the deal", or more formally as "the withdrawal agreement".

JUST A TEMPORARY AGREEMENT? THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO HARD.

It doesn't, does it? No one wants a new economic crisis, and EU negotiators*, most politicians, most businesses and most remain-supporting voters all agreed that if Brexit had to happen, there must be a deal that would prevent a sudden, expensive "hard Brexit". The EU made it clear, however, that this could only work if Britain continued to keep to EU regulations, standards and laws.

Unfortunately, the UK government, most of the UK media and many leave-supporting politicians and voters wanted to see a "real Brexit" immediately. They had argued that there would be no downsides* to Brexit and that Britain would easily get a better deal than it had as a member of the EU. This proved to be wrong. All of the plans suggested by leave-supporting politicians were rejected by the EU and by British MPs opposed to a hard Brexit. All of the ideas



Boris Johnson's slogan "Get Brexit Done" appealed to voters frustrated by delays, though the Brexit law passed on 23rd January 2020 is probably only the start of a years-long process.

suggested by the EU and by soft-Brexit politicians in the UK were rejected by the "Brexiters".

IT SOUNDS LIKE NO ONE COULD AGREE ON ANYTHING. IF IT'S SO HARD, WHY NOT JUST STAY?

"Remainers" argued that the voters had been lied to and had voted for something different from what they were getting. They also pointed out that the population had changed. In the referendum, old people tended to be leave voters and young people to be remain voters. Since then, many elderly people have died and many young people have reached the age of 18. Based on these and other arguments, remain-supporting MPs attempted to pass a law allowing a second referendum. This also failed.

SO WHAT CHANGED?

The current prime minister, Boris Johnson, is a hard Brexiteer. He proposed a very limited deal that would be valid only until the end

of 2020. Yet again, this failed in Parliament. Then, in December, there was yet another national election. This time, Johnson's Conservatives won a big victory – and with a clear majority of MPs in Parliament, he was easily able to pass his deal.

The end-of-2020 deadline means the UK and EU now have less than a year to agree treaties covering a huge range of issues. Only some of these are likely to be agreed, meaning that the end of the year could be the start of serious problems.

WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT IRELAND?

Ireland is divided between the Republic of Ireland (Eire) and Northern Ireland (part of the UK). One of these is in the EU, the other (post-Brexit) is not. If there are different rules between the UK and Europe, there will be different rules in the two parts of the island, meaning there would have to be a "hard border" (with customs checks) between Eire and Northern Ireland. This would break the Good Friday Agreement, the peace agreement that ended terrorist activity by Irish nationalists in the 1980s and 1990s. Many people fear that a border across Ireland would lead to renewed conflict.

The former prime minister, Theresa May, guaranteed there would be "no border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain" and "no border in Ireland". This meant agreeing to the whole UK continuing to keep the same standards as the EU, which is why her deal was rejected by Brexiteers.

Boris Johnson's deal leaves Northern Ireland and the EU keeping to the same standards (so there will be no border in Ireland), but not the rest of the UK. He claims there will be no significant customs checks

between Northern Ireland and Britain even though they will follow different rules, but this is very unlikely to work.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR EU CITIZENS?

The Johnson government has promised to make EU citizens face the same immigration terms as non-EU citizens. Given that the governments of the past 10 years have been making immigration more and more difficult, EU citizens' opportunities to live, study or work in the UK will soon be very much more limited, and *much* more expensive. There are likely to be some exceptions made for people working in the National Health Service, and most EU citizens already living in the UK are being allowed to stay.

Britain leaving the EU also means that the EU will have a lot less money, so there are going to be big cuts in EU funding for projects of all kinds. This is especially likely to hit poorer and rural areas (which often receive a lot of EU support) and culture. There will also be impact on business, including trade. Some changes may actually benefit EU countries – for instance, a lot of financial companies are moving from London to Paris or Frankfurt – but most will not.

Paul Farrington-Douglas (UK)

GLOSSARY*

- treaty** – a written agreement between countries
- negotiation** – discussing something in order to reach an agreement
- negotiator** – somebody who represents a group in a negotiation
- downside** – disadvantage

AMAZING ANTIGUA

EXPLORING GUATEMALA

I love to travel, and one of the countries that is most special to both me and my family is Guatemala. We visit it almost every year, and the Antigua region now feels like a second home.

Guatemala is a country of 17 million people, located just south of Mexico in Central America. Like most of the countries in the region, it used to be a Spanish colony, gaining its independence in 1821. The climate is tropical, so the temperature does not change much during the year, but there is a clear dry season from November to April and a rainy season from May to October.

Colorful Antigua

The Guatemalan capital is Guatemala City, with a population of 3.45 million people, but my favorite place is Antigua, about a one-hour drive to the west. It's a small, colorful city nestled in a valley between four volcanoes. Antigua is organized in a **grid**¹ of **cobblestone**² streets, with a plaza (= square) in the center. Along the streets are colorful buildings. If you go inside, you will often walk into a beautiful courtyard with some plants before entering the main rooms of the house.

In recent years, Antigua has become a quite popular travel destination. It has a reputation for being safe, **vibrant**³ and comfortable. It's full of cool cafes,

nice restaurants and ice-cream shops, historical buildings and guilty-pleasure* tourist attractions like the Choco Museo (chocolate museum), where you learn about the process of making chocolate and get to make your own.

For many tourists, the biggest surprise about Antigua is how comfortable it is. It feels almost European in its atmosphere and **amenities**⁴. It is still Central America, though, and drinking the tap water can make you sick. Despite this inconvenience, many foreigners end up settling here because it can quickly come to feel like home.

Villages and Chicken Buses

Only one of the surrounding volcanoes has been active in recent years, but even in sleep they form a stunning backdrop (= beautiful background) to the city, their heights rising in every direction. If you travel up their slopes, you will also find many villages where local people live. My family began to explore these surrounding villages while doing community work* with a local non-profit organization. Now, we have many friends there who we go to visit whenever we travel to Antigua.



You can only reach these isolated villages by car or bus. My family and I often travel in the back of a friend's pickup truck. It is a unique experience to sit in the back of a truck going up the **winding**⁵ roads of the volcanoes with no seatbelts!

The other option is to take a "chicken bus" from the central bus station in Antigua. These are old American school buses that were sent to Guatemala. The Guatemalans paint them in all different colors to give them a fresh look. It is uncommon for tourists to use these buses, especially to visit the smaller villages. It was funny to see all the shocked looks whenever my family and I entered one.



"Chicken buses" may be so named because they are often crammed with passengers like a truck load of chickens.



The Mayan women often wear a blouse, called a **huipil**, and a skirt.



Rising above the bright streets of Antigua is an active volcano called Volcán de Fuego (Spanish for “Volcano of Fire”).

The Maya

About 40% of the Guatemalan population are indigenous. In the Antigua region, the Mayan people and their culture are very visible. While men usually wear ordinary pants with T-shirts or button-down shirts, the women often wear the traditional dress. They wear a colorful blouse, called a *huipil*, and a skirt made of a single piece of cloth that is wrapped around their legs. Sometimes they also wear a belt made of cloth and an **apron**⁸, either made of cloth or lace. It is common to see them walking around the city to do some shopping or selling handmade products in the central plaza.

The Mayan people mainly live in the villages that surround the city. Most of their homes are made of wood or **tin**⁷, with only a dirt (= earth) floor. They maybe have a small **outhouse**⁸ for a toilet and usually

Many foreigners end up settling here because it can quickly come to feel like home.

do not have hot, running water, nor any sort of **appliances**⁹ for cooking or refrigerating food, or for washing clothes. Usually there is a big water basin in the center of the village where everyone comes to wash both dishes and clothes.

From the influence of the Spanish, even the Mayan people are very Catholic. My family and I were in Guatemala for two important events – Christmas and a wedding – and the church was central to both.

The official language of Guatemala is Spanish. However, the Mayan people

traditionally speak other languages from the Mayan language family. Many of our Mayan friends speak Spanish only as their second language. It is common for girls to stay home from school to take care of the house and family. Some of our female friends have never learned to read or write either, even as adults.

Friendships Across Continents

Even though it might seem like it would be difficult to communicate or relate to each other, my family has very close friends in the Mayan communities of Antigua. We speak to each other and even keep in touch on Facebook in imperfect Spanish. When we are together, we find ways to share and connect with each other through cooking, playing games, taking photos with funny faces, eating ice cream, swimming and laughing. Antigua and Guatemala are beautiful, but it's our love for the friends we've made that keeps calling us back.

Maríel Tavakoli (USA)



VOCABULARY

grid [grɪd] – mřížka
cobblestone [ˈkɒblstəʊn] – dlážděný
vibrant [ˈvaɪbrənt] – živý, pulzující životem
amenity [əˈmɪ.nə.ti] – vymoženost
winding [ˈwaɪndɪŋ] – klikatý
apron [ˈeɪprən] – zástěra

tin [tɪn] – plech
outhouse [ˈaʊθaʊs] – kadibudka
appliance [əˈplaɪəns] – spotřebič

GLOSSARY*

guilty pleasure – something you enjoy but are ashamed to admit to

community work – voluntary (= not paid) work intended to help people locally

BRE X AME

centre (BrE) x **center** (AmE)
colour (BrE) x **color** (AmE)
trousers (BrE) x **pants** (AmE)
mum (BrE) x **mom** (AmE)

LISTENING

PART THREE / Questions 1–8

16 points / 2 points per question

You are going to hear a person giving information about the Scottish city of Glasgow. While listening, **answer** questions 1–8. In your answers use a **maximum of three words**.

Glasgow: A City Full of Surprises

- 1 What is the second most visited city in the UK?

- 2 When did Glasgow start to become an important trading and industrial city?
In the _____
- 3 What were manufactured in the city for about half a century?

- 4 Which place should Harry Potter fans visit?

- 5 How many items are in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum?



- 6 How many cities in the UK have been named a UNESCO City of Music?

- 7 What does the Celtic word that gave Glasgow its name mean?


- 8 Which place is recommended for a quiet afternoon?

WRITING

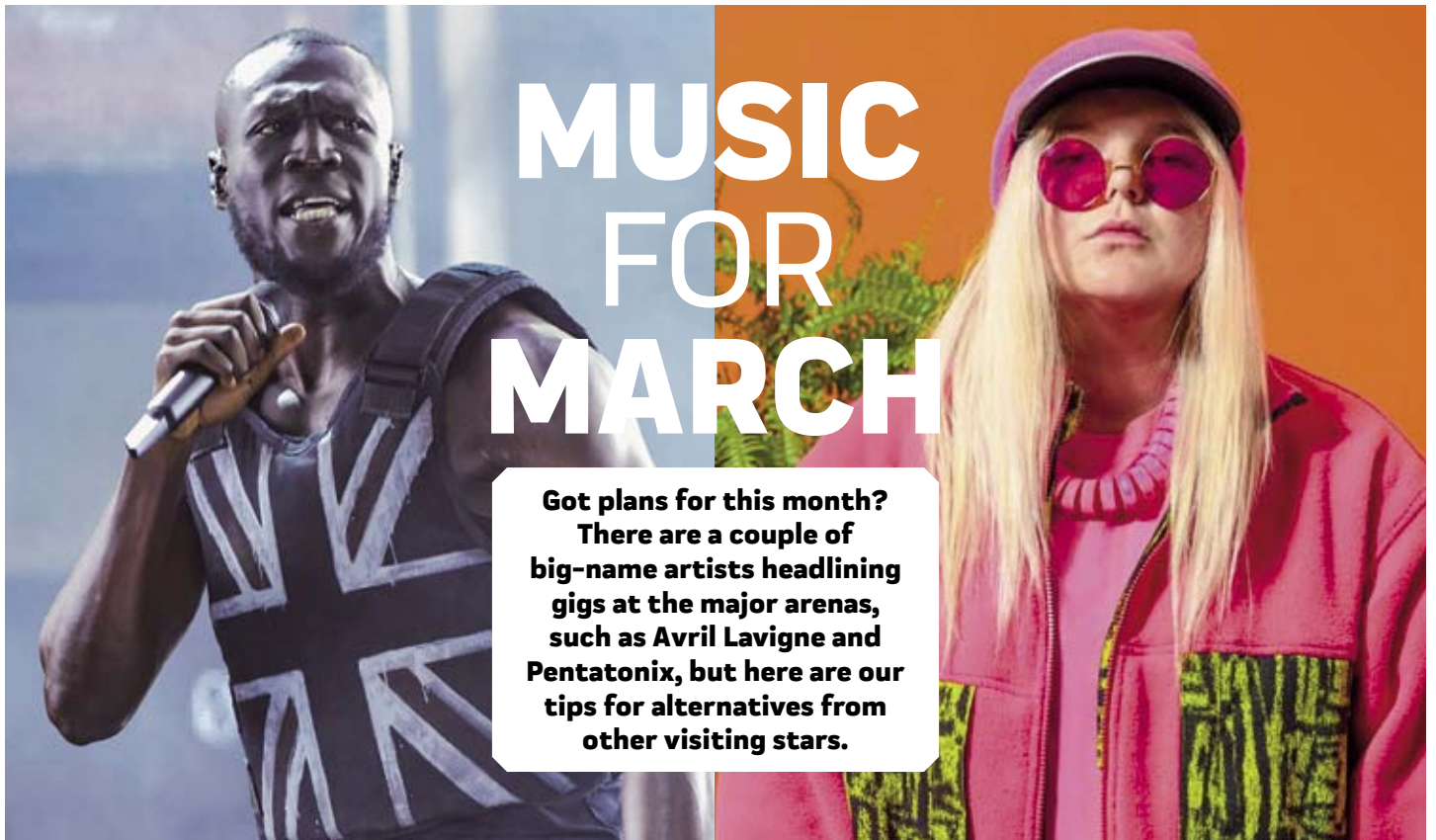
PART ONE

Last week your school organised a trip to a city in the UK. You want to inform the readers of the school website about it. Write a **news item** using 120–150 words in which you:

- **give** basic information about the trip
- **describe** the programme
- **say what** was best about it and **why**

 Solutions in the TF and next month on the Bridge website





MUSIC FOR MARCH

Got plans for this month? There are a couple of big-name artists headlining gigs at the major arenas, such as Avril Lavigne and Pentatonix, but here are our tips for alternatives from other visiting stars.

GIANT OF GRIME

The month gets off to a huge start with the Czech Republic's first appearance by **Stormzy**, one of the true giants of the UK grime scene (grime is a uniquely British rap genre). The London-based artist shot to viral fame in 2015 with "Shut Up" (currently with 100 million views on YouTube). Since then, his rise has been unstoppable. His album *Gang Signs & Prayer* reached number one on the UK Albums Chart and won British Album of the Year at the 2018 Brit Awards, he headlined the 2019 Glastonbury Festival and got his first UK number-one single with the mega-hit "Vossi Bop". And it's not just his music that fans love: Stormzy is relaxed, friendly, outspoken (=expressing strong opinions directly), charming and funny. If you want a taste of the UK's biggest contemporary music scene, you couldn't do better than this.

Stormzy will perform at Malá sportovní hala in Prague on March 4th

DANCE MONKEY

And there is another Czech first for the Australian pop musician **Tones and I** (real name Toni Watson). Unless you live under a rock, you've heard her music! Her bouncy (= happy and energetic) single "Dance Monkey" reached number one in over 30 countries and held the number one spot for the most streamed song globally for over three months, while her newest single, the equally danceable "The Kids Are Coming", is an anthem (= song of a special importance) for the teen activist generation. She might be a newcomer on the world stage but she's an old hand at live performances, having started her professional music career as a full-time busker (= street performer) in Byron Bay, NSW, Australia. With that performance background, her appearance at Prague's Roxy is sure to be a great gig.

Tones and I will perform at Roxy in Prague on March 24th

STRANGE WORLD

IT'S SAID THAT A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS. BUT SOMETIMES THEY'RE PROBABLY IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE.

Which caption do you think truly describes the picture?

- 1 A really old tattoo needle from the time of the ancient Romans, still with ink on the tips.
- 2 An arrow used by the !Kung, a San ("Bushmen") tribe of the Kalahari Desert. The San are the only indigenous people to use arrow poisons made from insects.
- 3 One of around 20,000 fake American Indian artefacts sold to nearly 60 European museums by Englishman John Patterson, who claimed to be a Sioux named Eagle Eye.



S Solution on the CD and next month here in the magazine

Last month's solution: Statements 3 and 6 (it's the blanket octopus)

NEW YORK CITY

TASK: MANHATTAN

Here are some famous places in Manhattan. Can you match the places on the map with the descriptions?

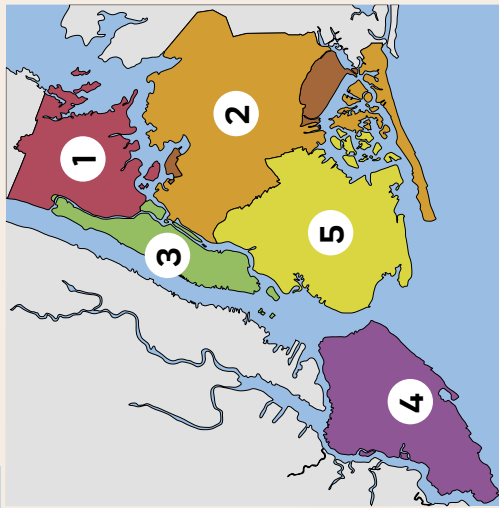
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Completed in 1931, this Art Deco skyscraper is still one of New York's tallest buildings; it offers great views from the top. | <input type="checkbox"/> | This neighborhood is famous for the flowering of black culture in the 1920s and 1930s, especially jazz music. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Established in 1754, this is one of the top academic and research institutions in the world. | <input type="checkbox"/> | This suspension bridge for both traffic and pedestrians was opened in 1883 to connect Manhattan and Brooklyn. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | This huge park covers 6% of Manhattan and contains woods, lakes, streams, a running track, ice skating rinks, an open-air theater and a zoo. | <input type="checkbox"/> | This sports arena is home to the New York Rangers ice-hockey team and the New York Knicks basketball team, as well as being a venue for pop and rock concerts. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | With 25 buildings and collections containing over 32 million specimens, this is the largest institution of its kind in the world. | <input type="checkbox"/> | This stands on Liberty Island. It was a present from France to mark the 100 th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | This is the heart of the city's entertainment district and the place to be for New Year's Eve celebrations. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Opened in 1913, this is the largest train station in the world. It has 44 platforms and serves about 750,000 people each day. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | This is one of the world's most famous concert halls, especially for classical and pop concerts. Dvořák's New World Symphony premiered here in 1893. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | This international territory contains lots of architecturally important buildings and statues, such as "Non-Violence", a sculpture which looks like a knotted gun. | | |



A street full of department stores and designer shops, this is the ultimate symbol of New York shopping. It's also home to the "Museum Mile", which has nine museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Home to the largest Chinese community outside of Asia, this is a neighborhood with many Chinese restaurants and stores.

This is the center of the financial district and home to the New York Stock Exchange.



TASK: NYC BOROUGHS

New York City is divided into five administrative sections, called boroughs. Can you find them on the map?

MANHATTAN

- the smallest but most densely populated borough
- skyscrapers and many famous landmarks

BROOKLYN

- the most populous borough
- great cultural diversity
- many beaches

QUEENS

- the largest and most ethnically diverse borough
- home to two busy airports (John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia)

THE BRONX

- the only borough that is not on an island
- home to one of the largest zoos in the US

STATEN ISLAND

- offers views of the Statue of Liberty and Manhattan
- includes parks and forests with walking trails

IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S MEME

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE INTERNET OWNS YOUR FACE?



Memes have become a part of our daily lives. We post memes to describe our mood or to express how we feel about something. Some memes are so famous and so perfectly capture a mood or feeling that they don't even need words. The meme itself says everything. But what happens to people who become memes? How do they deal with their unplanned fame?

Damien Galeone (USA)

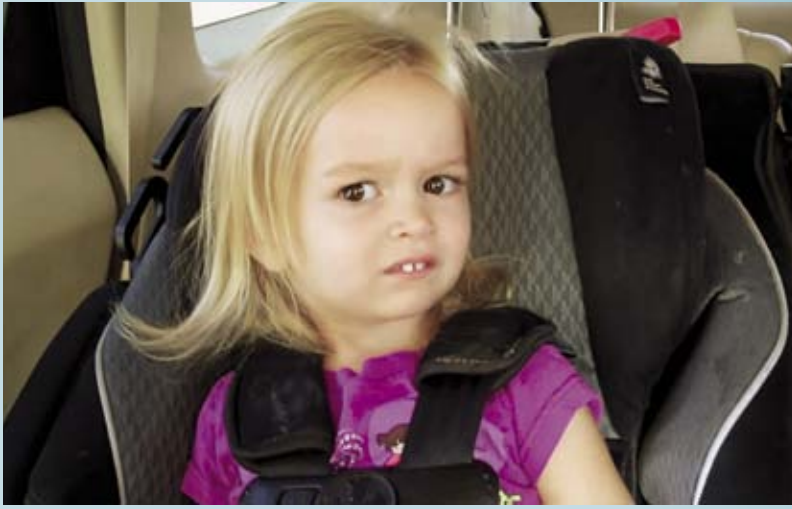
Side-Eyeing Chloe

Few people are more famous in the meme world than Side-Eyeing Chloe. Chloe Clem's mother Katie videoed her daughters' reaction to the news that they were going to Disneyland. Lily burst into tears, but two-year-old Chloe gave the camera a **wary**¹ look that quickly went viral. And Chloe was catapulted to internet fame.

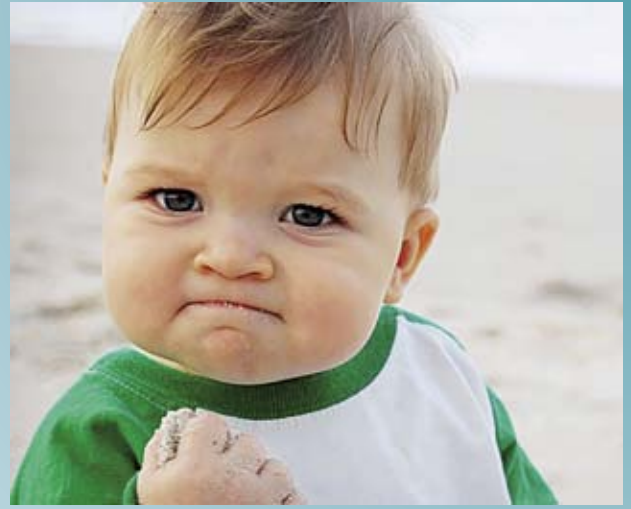
Katie said in a YouTube video that the response was overwhelming (= too much to deal with): "Overnight the whole world knows who you are." All of a sudden, Chloe's face was everywhere, friends and strangers telephoned, and people recognized her wherever she went. For a while, Katie had terrible anxiety because she didn't know how to handle her daughter's **widespread**² fame.

For Chloe the meme has led to work, fame and money. She has a YouTube channel, has been to Brazil and Mexico as an internet celebrity, and gets recognized everywhere from McDonald's to Disneyland. Though she likes the attention, it can be too much at times. Katie only hopes that people remember that Chloe is a real girl and that the video that made her famous is only "one second in time".

While Chloe is loved by the internet, Katie has been attacked and criticized by some who think she has **exploited**³ her daughter



Side-Eyeing Chloe became an internet celebrity and doesn't mind the attention and the fame.



Sammy is probably the most famous baby on the internet.

for fame. Katie has said that she had no intention of making Chloe famous and that "once a video is out there, you can't take it back, so you have to just let it go".

Success Kid

When he was six months old, Sammy Griner was sitting on the beach and he did what lots of babies do on the beach: he ate a big handful of sand. Immediately afterwards, he made the face that has made him the most famous baby on the internet.

How famous? The meme has been used in advertisements, as a stock photo*, and by President Obama's White House. It became so popular that the family had to hire a "meme manager" to stop people using it illegally. When Sammy's dad needed a kidney transplant, the family made a GoFundMe page using the meme. When websites and news outlets realized the page was for the famous "Success Kid," several of them – including *Reddit*, *Buzzfeed*, *ABC* and



Even though Alex leads a somewhat normal life now, a meme he had nothing to do with changed his life for a while.

Time Magazine – helped the family raise (= collect) over \$100,000.

Because he was so young, people don't always recognize Sammy, so he hasn't been overwhelmed by fame like Chloe. When people do recognize him, however, they often ask him to **pose**⁴ in the same way as his famous meme. This has been the biggest downside (= disadvantage). Some people treat him as though he is nothing more than an internet picture.

Sammy is an ordinary kid. He loves drawing, skateboarding, and wants to be a **beatboxer*** when he grows up. So he does get annoyed when strangers ask him to pose or only want to talk about a picture that he doesn't even remember being in. As Sammy says: "I'm more than just Success Kid."

Alex from Target

One Sunday, Alex Lee's dad dropped him off at Target, the US department store where Alex worked part time as a cashier. While Alex was working, a girl who found him attractive took a picture of him without asking or telling him and posted it on Tumblr. A week later another girl (in Britain) found the picture and posted it on Twitter, with a comment about how cute he was.

Almost overnight Alex became famous. His Twitter followers went from 144 to over 100,000 in one afternoon (eventually rising to over 730,000 Twitter followers and more than 2.3 million on Instagram).

That day he got so many messages from friends and strangers that he had to switch off his phone. His manager had to move him to work in the **stockroom**⁵ because he was getting too much attention from the customers in the store. For weeks after the meme went viral, he was the internet's perfect picture of a handsome boy. Sometimes he had to stay at home because he was getting too much attention in public. He was only in high school.

Becoming famous for being good-looking might sound great, but there were problems. Some people wrote mean (= unkind) things about Alex online and some even sent him aggressive emails. He received death threats. People destroyed his family's privacy by **leaking**⁶ their home address and phone number. Alex's life was turned upside down by someone he didn't even know. That girl who first shared his picture had no bad intentions – she just liked the way he looked – but nobody has control once a meme gets on the internet.

Eventually, Alex tried to turn his meme fame into real fame. He moved to Los Angeles and tried to become an actor. After many failed attempts and some problems with his management firm (who **allegedly**⁷ stole more than \$30,000 from him) he gave up. Even though the experience became a bit negative, Alex says he would like to take what he has learned and try to help other kids who are bullied online.

DISCUSS

- How would you feel if you were only famous or remembered for a ten-second video or a picture of you online?
- Would you share an embarrassing (or even cute) video of yourself online? Would you want your parents to share a similar video of you online? Why or why not?
- Should there be rules about taking someone's picture and posting it online without their consent?
- Who "owns" your image? Would it be OK for someone to use a picture of you in a meme? What if it was a cruel meme that made you seem stupid or bad?
- What are your favorite memes? Do you know the stories behind them?

VOCABULARY

- 1 **wary** ['weəri] – ostražitý, obezřetný
- 2 **widespread** ['waɪdspred] – široce rozšířený
- 3 **to exploit** [ɪk'splɔɪt] – využívat, zneužívat
- 4 **to pose** [pəʊz] – pózovat
- 5 **stockroom** ['stɒkru:m] – sklad
- 6 **to leak** [li:k] – prozradit, dostat na veřejnost
- 7 **allegedly** [ə'ledʒɪdli] – údajně

GLOSSARY*

- stock photo** – an image that can be used for adverts etc. by anyone who pays
- beatboxer** – someone who uses their mouth to imitate a drum machine

WHAT ABOUT



ME?

Auburn
Scallon
(USA)

DO YOU GOOGLE YOURSELF (OR THE PEOPLE YOU KNOW)?

The internet is filled with information, which can be really helpful. It can also be filled with misinformation (= wrong information). Do you know what you can find online about yourself, your family or your friends?



EMILY

I've tried googling myself,

but I have such a common name that it doesn't really help. The first five pages of search results are all athletes, writers or people with tons of followers. I don't use social media that much and I don't have a YouTube channel. Once, I looked at the Google images for my name, which was kind of funny. Anyone searching for me might think I'm a 60-year-old guy in Scotland, a tennis player or someone who shares pictures of their dog every day.

I've never googled anyone else that I know. I think it's kind of weird. I follow some of my friends on social media, but I'm not a stalker or anything. One of my teachers told us to be careful what we put on the internet if we want to get a good job. He said that most companies do an internet search before they even look at your résumé. I'm not really worried, though, because there's not much about me online.

I've tried googling my full

name – Emily Watson – but Google always thinks that I'm searching for Emma Watson. The first page of results always shows me pictures of movie premieres or articles about the actress. I always have to type my name in **quotes**¹ to find any real pages about myself.

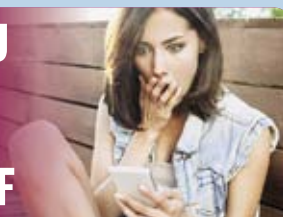
When I do search for "Emily Watson" it's kind of **creepy**² how much Google knows about me. I found a website that listed an old address where I used to live, and another one had information about my relatives. I guess that someone in my family was researching genealogy and put the names and ages of our whole family onto some website. I should probably be worried, but who is really going to search for me if they don't already know me?

I have seen movies where two people meet and then google everything about each other before going out to dinner together. That seems a bit **awkward**³. When you're having a conversation about someone and you already know the answer, what do you say? "Yeah, I know, I read that online."



ADAM

WHY YOU SHOULD GOOGLE YOURSELF



Many internet experts recommend googling yourself from time to time as a **security measure**⁴. You should check that no one is sharing personal information without your permission. Bear in mind that if you have a lot of personal information online, it may be easier for hackers to access your accounts. If you find information you want to be removed, you should first contact the website administrator. If they don't remove it, you can request that Google remove the page from search results.

DISCUSS

Would you google someone...

- ... who you wanted to meet in person for the first time?
- ... after meeting them on holiday?
- ... who started going out with your friend?
- ... who you follow on social media but don't know personally?
- Why or why not?

What would you do if you googled yourself and found...

- ... a social media account that wasn't yours but with your name and photo?
- ... pictures of yourself that you had not agreed to share publicly?
- ... a paper that you wrote for class that your teacher shared online without telling you?

VOCABULARY

- 1 **in quotes** [kwəʊts] – v uvozovkách
- 2 **creepy** ['kri:pi] – strašidelný
- 3 **awkward** [ˈɔ:kwəd] – trapný
- 4 **security measure** [si'kjʊərəti'meʒə(r)] – bezpečnostní opatření

LANGUAGE POINT•

In AmE, your **résumé** ['rezəmeɪ] is the short, written description of your education, previous jobs and sometimes also your personal interests that you send to an employer when you are trying to get a job. In BrE, this is called a **CV** [ˌsi:'vi:], short for curriculum vitae.



A CONTINENT ON FIRE

Australia has always had a fire season, when bushfires (fires that start in a forest and spread quickly) are common, but this season has been one of the worst in history. As of the beginning of February, at least 33 people had died, thousands of homes had been destroyed, and at least half a billion animals had died (and far more had lost their habitats). Many of these animals are endangered species that only live in certain areas, so extinction is a real concern. The area consumed by fire reached nearly the size of England, while the area affected by smoke got to nearly the size of Europe. These fires spread faster than an average person can run. Though people around the world have worked to raise money in support, that can't undo the damage that has been done.

How Did It Get So Bad?

The factors behind this terrible fire season are complicated. The usual fires have been dramatically worsened by the changing climate of Australia. It has become hotter and drier, with record high temperatures and severe drought. The rain that usually falls on the continent comes across

the ocean from the northwest, but because of changes in ocean temperatures, that rain is now falling on eastern Africa. So Africa has floods, while South-East Asia and Australia have droughts. Without rain, the forests dry out and become filled with perfect kindling, which makes the fires spread quickly and travel further than ever. And, of course, all the smoke from these fires adds even more carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the air (in fact an amount roughly equal to Australia's entire annual emissions in a normal year), making climate change even worse across the entire planet.

What Can We Do?

There aren't a lot of ways to help directly if you don't live in Australia, though there are lots of ways to send money to groups like the Australian Red Cross and WIRES (Australia's largest wildlife rescue organization) to help them buy supplies and pay the people who are working so hard to fight the fires. But without major changes, this is likely to keep happening, and the future looks frightening for the people of Australia. Each of us can try to reduce our carbon footprint to help fight global

warming, but the truth is that an individual person can't do a lot, because most of the change has to come from governments. So if you're old enough, the best thing you can do is vote for politicians who promise to make real changes to protect the future – for Australia, and for us all.

Megan LeBoeuf (USA)

TASK

In the article, find expressions that mean:

- 1 a long period when there is little or no rain
- 2 dry materials used to start a fire
- 3 the situation when an animal or a plant no longer exists
- 4 the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by the activities of a person
- 5 the natural environment in which an animal or plant usually lives

S Solutions in the TF and next month on the Bridge website

A PEDICURE FOR AN ELEPHANT

The Work of a Zoo Vet

“Back... More back, more back. Heads-up, heads-up...” I’m in the elephant house at Prague zoo, watching as the keepers train Rudi, the three-year-old bull* elephant. Rudi understands every instruction, turning himself, lifting his feet and putting them through a hole in his cage one at a time. The keepers signal to Rudi with gestures and touches of a stick, with clicks on a plastic clicking device, and with vocal commands that are a mix of English words and strange, reassuring* moans*.

All the elephants work with their keepers like this. It’s amazing and exciting – but it’s not a show. I’m here with Roman Vodička, the zoo’s vet, and what I’m watching is an important part of an elephant’s care routine.

The Biggest Job in the Zoo

Looking after an elephant is, literally, a huge job. Every elephant needs to be kept clean and checked for injury. Teeth and gums* must be checked for infection. Toenails crack and need filing*. None of this can be done without the elephant’s cooperation.

That is the reason for this remarkable training. Every command has a purpose, letting the keepers wash and inspect the giant animals without difficulty. While I watch, one of the keepers works on the cracks in Rudi’s toenails while the young bull stands patiently, foot held out. They also pay special attention to his ears, touching them and holding them for a while.

The Hidden Danger

Roman, the vet, comes to visit the elephants every two weeks. Partly this is to make sure that they know him – if he ever needs to treat them, it will be much easier if he is familiar to them. He also needs to draw blood for testing. That’s the reason for the ear-holding – the best place to draw blood from an elephant is the ear, where the skin is thinner.

“When we got our adult elephant bull, no one had made him comfortable with having his ears handled,” Roman explains. “It makes him nervous, so drawing blood for testing is

much more difficult. Elephants are just like people in that way.”

The testing is very important, especially with elephants. All Indian elephants carry a form of the herpes virus. While it is usually inactive – sleeping – it can become active with no warning. An active infection is very dangerous and can kill an elephant within 24 hours.

The Importance of Teamwork

Thankfully, not many of Prague zoo’s animals are at the same risk of serious diseases. They need regular routine check-ups, like any human patients, but for the most part the zoo population is



Roman Vodička (right) prepares to draw blood from an elephant.

amazingly healthy. Since there are over 5,000 animals, I’d imagined that there must be a small army of vets. In fact, Roman is the only full-time vet, aided* by technicians and some part-timers (one for all the birds, for example, and another for the small animals).

This would not be possible without the dedication* of zookeepers. Each animal is in the special care of one or a handful of keepers, and like a pet’s owner they become very familiar with their animals. If they notice that something is wrong, they report it and a vet is called.

Doctors Without Borders

A zoo vet’s work is different from that of a domestic animal vet or a farm vet. For one thing, pets and farm animals are tame* and they are used to being handled. The vet can examine them comfortably. The animals tend to be similar, too – two dogs may look very different, but on a biological level they are basically the same.

The zoo vet must be ready to assess animals that are as different from each other as you are from your pet. What’s more, many of the animals are hard to





The zoo vet must assess animals that are as different from each other as you are from your pet.

when it comes to surgery. If you need an experienced surgeon to operate on a gorilla, for example, the best option is to get one from a local hospital – there’s not much difference between a gorilla and a human on the inside.

New Problems All the Time

One challenge for the zoo vet is that they may have no training in how to treat a specific species. A domestic vet has studied many conditions that affect cats and dogs. But when there are only a few dozen animals of a certain species in zoos around the world, it’s quite easy for a problem to be completely new.

“When a farm vet has to deliver a cow’s calf by C-section*, they can learn from thousands of previous cases,” Roman explains. “When we had to deliver one of our baby giraffes by C-section, we found only *one* previous case on record. Operating on giraffes is always very difficult anyway because of their size. They’re four or five metres tall and they weigh about a ton, which makes anaesthetizing* a giraffe one of the biggest challenges a vet can face. And we were doing this operation for only the second time in the world.” He looks satisfied. The next vet who does it will have *two* successful cases to read about.

Paul Farrington-Douglas (UK)

examine. A few, like the elephants and sea lions, get used to people and don’t mind the vet. Others are never safe: you can’t examine a tiger without a tranquilizer*. Zoo vets have to improvise and experiment, drawing on experience in similar species (though “similar” can mean like a horse and an elephant). Naturally they also share knowledge. And often they turn to some unexpected experts, especially

GLOSSARY*

- bull** [bʊl] – the male of several large animals including the cow, whale, elephant, rhino and seal
- reassuring** [ˌriːəˈʃʊəriŋ] – making you feel less worried
- moan** [məʊn] – a long low sound
- gums** [ɡʌmz] – the pink part of the mouth around the teeth
- to file** [faɪl] – to use a rough tool to smooth out a rough surface
- to aid** [eɪd] – to help
- dedication** [ˌdedɪˈkeɪʃn] – giving a lot of time and energy to something
- tame** [teɪm] – not wild
- tranquilizer** [ˈtræŋkwəlaɪzə] – a drug that makes people or animals calm
- C-section** [ˈsiː sekʃn] – an operation where a baby is taken out through a cut made in the mother’s belly
- to anaesthetize** [əˈniːsθətaɪz] – giving a patient a special substance to make them unable to feel pain

LANGUAGE IN USE

PART 1

A Sporting Friendship

For questions 1–20, read the text below.
Decide which word or phrase (A)–(D) best fits each space.
There is an example at the beginning (00).

Example: (00) – C

The Olympic Games that took place in the summer of 1936 were unlike (00) _____ of any year before or since. (01) _____ most people around the world had not yet realized it, the new leaders of the host nation, Germany, were setting out on a path that would lead to war and genocide.

Germany's Nazi regime had an ideology (02) _____ on a false science of racial superiority. What's more, they had decided to use the historically apolitical Games as propaganda to (03) _____ their ideology was correct. At first, they even (04) _____ that Jews and black people should be prevented from taking part in the Games at all. They changed this (05) _____ after other countries threatened to boycott the Games, though many top German Jewish athletes were prevented from taking part. Ironically, the Olympic Committee justified the decision to allow Germany to host the Games (06) _____ its open racism by arguing that "politics has no place in sport".

(07) _____, most people feel that allowing the Nazis to host the Games was a horrible mistake that seemed to give international approval to the Nazi project. The Olympic Committee had unintentionally let the Games (08) _____ for Nazi propaganda. Fortunately, the Olympians taking part were not so ready to be used for propaganda, and two in particular (09) _____ for showing the world what the Olympic spirit is really about.

Luz Long, a member of the German team, had won the German long-jump championship (10) _____ times and held the European record in the long jump. He was looking forward (11) _____ competing against the American champion, Jesse Owens. (12) _____ the first round, Long performed outstandingly well, even getting an Olympic best distance. Owens, (13) _____, spoiled his first two jumps. Long saw Owens' mistake and gave him (14) _____ technical advice, and Owens went on to win gold, breaking Long's own record. Long was the first

to (15) _____ Owens on his success, and the two men went to the dressing room arm-in-arm – a perfect example of sportsmanlike behaviour.

It was also a very political (16) _____, because Jesse Owens was not only an American, he was black. For a black person to beat the best of Germany's athletes was a threat to Hitler's (17) _____ of racial superiority. For a German sportsman to then publicly (18) _____ his opponent was even worse. Owens understood (19) _____ importance: "You can melt down all the medals and cups I have," he said, "and they wouldn't be a plating on the twenty-four karat friendship that I felt for Luz Long."

Sadly, Owens' own countrymen proved less accepting: all the white American Olympic medallists were invited to meet (20) _____ President Roosevelt, but the American team's most successful member, Owens, was not.





- 00 (A) some (B) that (C) those (D) these
- 01 (A) Although (B) However (C) Whereas (D) Because
- 02 (A) rooted (B) based (C) developed (D) trained
- 03 (A) justify (B) verify (C) see (D) prove
- 04 (A) wanted (B) demanded (C) made (D) tried
- 05 (A) politics (B) policy (C) political (D) politic
- 06 (A) in spite (B) despite (C) because (D) due to
- 07 (A) At the moment (B) These days (C) In this time (D) At this point
- 08 (A) be used (B) to be used (C) use (D) to use
- 09 (A) set up (B) stand out (C) come in (D) step up
- 10 (A) few (B) couple (C) some (D) several
- 11 (A) to (B) for (C) to be (D) to being
- 12 (A) While (B) On (C) During (D) At
- 13 (A) in contrast (B) contrarily (C) coincidentally (D) instead
- 14 (A) a (B) a few (C) some (D) any
- 15 (A) congratulate (B) cheer (C) gratify (D) signal
- 16 (A) event (B) act (C) occurrence (D) meaning
- 17 (A) goals (B) tactics (C) hopes (D) theories
- 18 (A) befriend (B) pair up (C) friend (D) connect
- 19 (A) its (B) an (C) it's (D) that's
- 20 (A) their (B) the (C) -- (D) some



LANGUAGE IN USE

PART 2

A Mysterious Friend

Read the following article about wolves.

For questions 21–30, change the word given in capitals at the end of the line to complete the article.

There is one example (00) at the beginning of the text.

Example: (00) – endangered

The word “charismatic” is often used for describing people. But have you ever thought of an animal this word might be perfectly suitable for?

You might be surprised to learn that there are 12,000 wolves in Europe (not including Russia, which has many more). Poland and Romania have the biggest numbers, but most other populations are small and they are often (00) _____. But how much do we know of our wolves? We hear the phrase “lone wolf” used to describe human killers, which might make us assume that wolves are antisocial, (21) _____ animals. The truth is very different.

Probably the strongest feature of a wolf’s personality is its capacity for emotional (22) _____ to other wolves. Such bonds form quickly and (23) _____, and they begin to develop when wolf pups are just a few weeks old. This results in the formation of the pack as the unit of wolf society. When wolf pups are raised by human beings, this social (24) _____ is especially (25) _____.

A second characteristic of a wolf’s personality might surprise many people who think of wolves as savage. In reality, wolves have a strong aversion to fighting each other. This is necessary for their (26) _____, because a pack wouldn’t function well if its members were unable to co-exist. Under certain circumstances, however, a wolf can become aggressive, (27) _____ in situations that make it feel insecure or threatened.

The personal character traits of wolves can vary, just as they do with humans. People who have been in the company of wolves have described different individuals as confident, tolerant, generous, (28) _____, natural leaders, playful, supportive or easy-going.

Wolves are intelligent, not aggressive, and they even form (29) _____. It is no wonder that so many people feel such an affinity and (30) _____ with this beautiful and complex animal.

00 danger

21 friend

22 attach

23 firm

24 tend

25 notice

26 survive

27 special

28 invent

29 friend

30 connect



LANGUAGE IN USE

PART 3

More Than Just a Piece of Cloth

Read the text below and fill in gaps 31–40 with one word. There is an example at the beginning (00).

EXAMPLE: (00) – to

What is the first thing that comes **(00)** _____ mind when you hear the word “Scotland”? We might have plenty of jokes about Scots being penny-pinching, but still, for most people it would be the bagpipes and the famous, ever-so-cool kilt.

The history of this garment goes as far back **(31)** _____ the 16th century. But that doesn't mean that it **(32)** _____ looked the way it does today. The original piece of clothing was much bigger and was worn across the left shoulder, resembling a cloak. There was no tailoring involved and a belt was used to secure it at the waist. It was specific to the Highlands and not worn in the rest of Scotland.

In the early 18th century, a tailor in northern England developed a new style of kilt that only kept the lower section. This lighter garment was easier to work in, so it came to be adopted **(33)** _____ the Highland clans. That's when it **(34)** _____ to resemble the kilts worn today. Together with the pouch known as a sporran, it has remained popular **(35)** _____ since.

Highland dress (including the kilt) was banned for 35 years **(36)** _____ the mid-to-late 18th century. This was part of an attempt to suppress Highland culture following anti-English uprisings. Many proud Scots wore kilts anyway as a form of protest, helping to firmly fix the garment's status as a nationalist symbol.

During the history of the kilt, an important question has been raised many times: what is the right thing to wear under it? Researchers say that around 55 per cent of kilt wearers use underwear, while around 7 per cent wear shorts or **(37)** _____ else. And the remaining 38 per cent? They say that by not wearing anything under a kilt, you prove that you are a “True Scotsman”. This is such a strong

tradition in the Scottish military that wearing no underwear is sometimes **(38)** _____ to as “going regimental”.

The kilt remains popular to this day, though mainly as part of Scottish formal wear. Kilts are a favourite of fashion designers from Gucci to Alexander McQueen, too, and can very **(39)** _____ be seen on the catwalk. And not just on men: kilts have jumped the gender gap to become **(40)** _____ more popular as skirts for women.



READING

PART 1

The Mystery Around Us

Read the article about the universe.

Fill in gaps **01–07** with the correct sentence (**A–J**).

There are **three extra sentences** that **will not be used**.

How much do you know about the universe? From time to time, we are all struck by how little we know, and we wonder how much our life is shaped by forces and events beyond our understanding and experience. As science advances, we learn so much, and yet so many mysteries remain.

The universe began with the Big Bang about 13.7 billion years ago. What came before that is beyond our knowledge, but we believe that at the moment of its birth, the entire universe was infinitely smaller than a pinhead. **(01)** _____ This tiny, hot point exploded, and in a fraction of a second the universe grew from smaller than a single atom to bigger than a galaxy. **(02)** _____ Many believe this process will not end until all the energy in the universe has been lost.

(03) _____ This is because light from some stars takes a very long time to travel to earth. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope can see as far back as 13 billion years ago, almost to the time of the Big Bang. The Hubble Space Telescope was launched in 1990 and orbits 600 km above the earth. **(04)** _____

Although we can see so far, most of the universe remains unobserved – even in the parts we can see. **(05)** _____ We think the other 96 percent is made up of substances that cannot be seen, which we call dark energy and dark matter. Astronomers believe these must exist because we can observe their gravitational effects (similar to the earth's gravity) on the parts of the universe that we can see. **(06)** _____

Even our closest space neighbour still holds many mysteries. It's 51 years since the first man set foot on the moon, and 47 years since we last walked there. Our robots have been where we have not, however – most recently in 2013, when a Chinese mission landed on the far side of the moon – and we have learned much from them. **(07)** _____ And yet with all we know, the dream of colonising the moon, which once seemed so close, remains as far away as ever. As to the rest of space? So far, not only do we not understand it, we can't even truly imagine it.

- A** Of the six flags that humans have planted on the moon, five are still standing.
- B** It is about the size of a large school bus.
- C** At the same time, it was hotter and denser than we can imagine.
- D** We don't know what happened.
- E** It is still expanding today and the temperature is still falling.
- F** So far, though, we have only theories to describe them.
- G** We've also mapped almost all of it using earth- and space-based telescopes.
- H** This discovery was closely followed by the media.
- I** When you're looking at the night sky you are actually looking into the past.
- J** That's because stars, planets and galaxies make up only four percent of the universe.



READING

PART 2

Nighthawks

Read the following text about *Nighthawks*, a painting by the American artist Edward Hopper.

Decide whether statements 08–12 are (A) true or (B) false.

For each statement, you should also write the letter (a–e) of the paragraph that supports your answer.

- a** Many people fear art because they are afraid of not being able to understand it. We often forget that one of art's functions is to give us pleasure, and another, to make us think. As long as we are not afraid of our own curiosity, there is no reason to be ashamed of not understanding art. Some paintings have so much atmosphere that it is easy to break this barrier of fear. Such is the case of *Nighthawks* by Edward Hopper.
- b** It shows four people in an all-night restaurant in an urban area late at night. Even though they are sitting at the same bar, the loneliness of each is obvious. The whole scene is shown through the glass window of the bar itself, so the observer is actually watching them from the street. That makes the feeling of being separated even stronger.
- c** The restaurant is cheap rather than fancy. A girl is eating a sandwich and a man, elegantly dressed, is holding a cigarette. We can see the name of the restaurant and an advertisement for the cigars you can get there. The painting has become inseparable from the idea of the United States at a certain moment of its history. It captures the paradoxes of a particular lifestyle born in and characteristic of this country.
- d** *Nighthawks* was painted in 1942, when Hollywood produced hundreds of films every year but cinema wasn't widely recognised as an art form. The play of shadow and light in the painting, the sense of observing other people's action – all this reminds us more of a film than a painting.
- e** *Nighthawks* shows certain people in a certain mood at a certain moment. And this – the moment, the place, the mood – is probably the only thing they share with each other. Hopper said that to him, it was about a particular American aesthetic; he did not intend it as a statement about isolation in a large city. He was a very private person, though, and he said that the feeling of being alone probably got into the painting because it was part of his nature. And maybe *Nighthawks'* ability to communicate this feeling is what makes the observer connect with it so quickly.



- 08** Edward Hopper got inspiration for this painting from Hollywood movies.
 (A) true (B) false
 Which paragraph (a–e) supports your answer?
- 09** The fact that the restaurant is luxurious adds to the feeling of loneliness.
 (A) true (B) false
 Which paragraph (a–e) supports your answer?
- 10** The painting shows a certain lifestyle, typical for the country it is from.
 (A) true (B) false
 Which paragraph (a–e) supports your answer?
- 11** In order to enjoy art, you don't need to be an intellectual.
 (A) true (B) false
 Which paragraph (a–e) supports your answer?
- 12** The artist wanted to express the feeling of loneliness with the painting.
 (A) true (B) false
 Which paragraph (a–e) supports your answer?

READING



PART 3

A Scientific Look at a Broken Heart

Read the text about broken heart syndrome, a particular health condition.

Complete sentences 13–19 using the information from the text.

Write **one or two words** as indicated. The sentences do not follow the same order as the information appears in the text.

Debbie Reynolds died from a stroke just one day after her daughter, the actress Carrie Fisher – famous for her role as Princess Leia – died from a heart attack. Reynolds, herself an actress, known for film classics such as *Singin' in the Rain*, was 84. She had told her son shortly before her stroke, “I miss her so much. I want to be with Carrie.” Did the death of her daughter play a role in Reynolds’ own death? In other words, can a person die of a broken heart?

Indeed, “broken heart syndrome” is real. According to many doctors, the condition can happen even to people who have never had heart disease. Broken heart syndrome can be a response to any acute major stress in someone’s life. This can include the death of a loved one, but also traumatic situations such as a domestic dispute.

The syndrome occurs when a part of the heart becomes temporarily enlarged and cannot pump well, while the rest of the heart continues to function normally, or works even harder. As a result, a person may develop an irregular heartbeat, or the heart may become too weak to pump enough blood throughout the body, which can lead to death.

The symptoms of broken heart syndrome, such as chest pain, are similar to those of a heart attack. A big difference between the two is that in broken heart syndrome, the sufferer will not have any serious heart damage.

The exact cause of broken heart syndrome is unclear; however, scientists have proposed several hypotheses, with excessive levels of stress hormones being the most probable.



Studies have found that the death of a spouse can increase a person’s risk of a heart attack or stroke in the following month. The researchers found that older adults who had lost their partners were about twice as likely to have a heart attack or stroke in the 30 days following their partner’s death compared with people who had not lost a spouse.

The important thing is that someone who has lost a loved one must be able to grieve properly and to express what they are feeling. And if people feel any physical symptoms after losing someone, they should go to their doctor.

- 13 In broken heart syndrome, a person will not suffer any serious heart _____. (1 word)
- 14 After losing someone, it is important to have a chance to grieve _____. (1 word)
- 15 The first month after losing someone can be a time of _____ risk of a heart attack. (1 word)
- 16 The symptoms of broken heart syndrome are similar to having a _____. (2 words)
- 17 Broken heart syndrome can _____ to death. (1 word)
- 18 _____ situations, such as a domestic dispute, increase the risk of the syndrome. (1 word)
- 19 Some symptoms, such as _____ pain, are similar to the symptoms of a heart attack. (1 word)

LISTENING

PART 1

Poetry or Not?

You will hear Sharon's school presentation about poetry and rap.
For statements **01–07**, choose the correct answer: **A, B, C** or **D**.
There is only one correct answer for each question.
You now have two minutes to read the questions.

01 Sharon thinks about

- A** the similarities between poetry and TV, videos and novels.
- B** how people should read much more poetry.
- C** the problem with poetry being boring.
- D** sharing good poems with other people.

02 Sharon's opinion of rap is that

- A** it is mainly about making rhymes.
- B** it is like poetry in some ways.
- C** it doesn't serve any function.
- D** it's not as popular as it used to be.

03 Sharon thinks there's a lot of bad rap because

- A** most rap is just bad poetry.
- B** many in the industry just want profit.
- C** it's only about finding a good rhyme.
- D** good rap doesn't get promoted.

04 Sharon says that poetry

- A** is different from rap because it is only written.
- B** is only suitable for school books.
- C** has its roots in a tradition of public performances.
- D** was invented by the Greek poet Homer.

05 Sharon's opinion of songwriting is that

- A** it is a completely different thing from rap.
- B** we shouldn't discuss its artistic quality.
- C** it should not be counted as literature.
- D** it does not have to be complex to be great.

06 In Sharon's opinion

- A** rap should never be considered poetry.
- B** no rap has artistic value.
- C** all poetry is art.
- D** there are bad poems, too.

07 When it comes to language, Sharon thinks that

- A** English is perfect for metaphors.
- B** rappers should use their native language.
- C** good rappers work hard to write better songs.
- D** you can recognize good poetry if you understand the different categories.



LISTENING

PART 2

The Australian Outback

You will hear a recording about the Australian Outback.

While listening, decide if statements 08–13 are (A) true, (B) false or (C) not stated in the recording.

You now have two minutes to read the tasks.

- 08** Large cities are home to 60% of Australia's population.
(A) true (B) false (C) not stated
- 09** Most Australians refer to the Outback as "the bush".
(A) true (B) false (C) not stated
- 10** Farming and mining are common industries in the Outback.
(A) true (B) false (C) not stated
- 11** Uluru natural reserve is located in the north of the Outback.
(A) true (B) false (C) not stated
- 12** Stuart Highway was constructed by a Scottish explorer.
(A) true (B) false (C) not stated
- 13** Camels are kept as working animals in the Outback.
(A) true (B) false (C) not stated



LISTENING

PART 3

A Man Who Changed the World

You will hear a recording about the British explorer James Cook.

Facts about his life are summarised below in sentences 14–20, which are in the wrong order.

As you listen, indicate the order in which you hear the information by writing the numbers 1–6 in the space next to the relevant sentence.

There is **one extra sentence** that is not mentioned.

Put an X next to that sentence.

You now have two minutes to read the sentences.

- 14 Cook was the first European to reach the Hawaiian Islands.
- 15 While in the navy, Cook took part in a war with France.
- 16 Cook landed on the continent of Antarctica.
- 17 Cook made astronomical observations in Tahiti.
- 18 Cook showed that the continent of Terra Australis was not real.
- 19 A Tahitian helped Cook reach New Zealand.
- 20 Cook attempted to take the king of Hawaii prisoner.



James Cook's Voyages

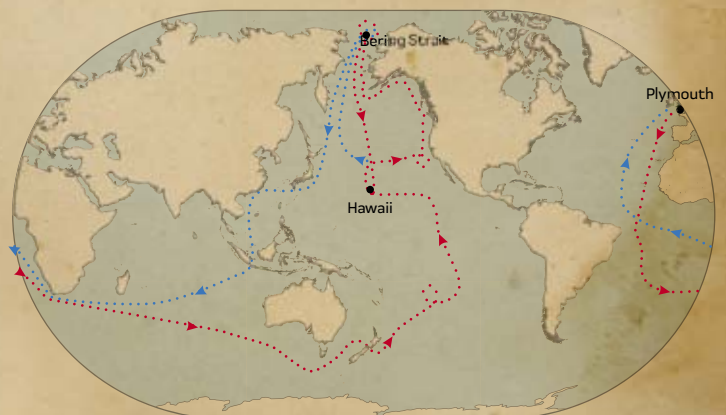
1768–1771

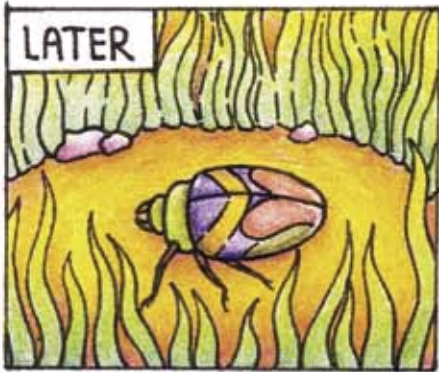
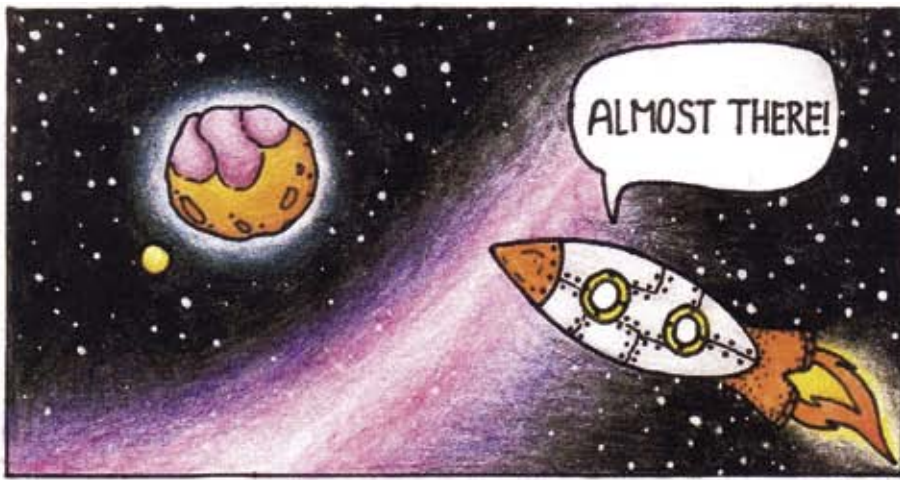


1772–1775



1776–1780





A comic by Júlia Macáková, a winner of last year's student competition.