

Read the text and choose the correct word for each space. For each question circle A, B, C or D.

THE MYSTERIOUS ISLE



In the early morning of 23 January, 2009, the most powerful storm for a decade hit western France. With wind speeds in (1) _____ of 120 miles per hour, it flattened forests, (2) _____ down power lines and caused massive destruction to buildings and roads. But it also left behind an extraordinary creation. Seven miles out to sea at the (3) _____ where the Atlantic Ocean meets the estuary of the River Gironde, a small island had (4) _____ out of the water. Locals soon gave it the name *The Mysterious Isle*. What was so remarkable, (5) _____ its sudden apparition, was the fact that the island (6) _____ intact in what is often quite a hostile sea environment. It could well become a permanent (7) _____.

Scientists (8) _____ realised that the island's appearance (9) _____ a unique opportunity to study the creation and development of a new ecosystem. Within months, it had been colonised by seabirds, insects and vegetation. Unfortunately, however, they were not alone in (10) _____ the island attractive. It became increasingly difficult to (11) _____ the site from human visitors. In its first year, day trippers came in powered dinghies, a parachute club used it as a landing strip, and a rave party was even (12) _____ there one night.

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|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. A) surplus | B) advance | C) excess | D) put |
| 2. A) fetched | B) brought | C) carried | D) sent |
| 3. A) scene | B) mark | C) stage | D) point |
| 4. A) risen | B) grown | C) lifted | D) surfaced |
| 5. A) in spite of | B) instead of | C) apart from | D) on account of |
| 6. A) prolonged | B) remained | C) resided | D) persevered |
| 7. A) item | B) issue | C) matter | D) feature |
| 8. A) quickly | B) briskly | C) hastily | D) speedily |
| 9. A) delivered | B) awarded | C) proposed | D) offered |
| 10. A) regarding | B) finding | C) seeking | D) deciding |
| 11. A) prevent | B) preserve | C) protect | D) prohibit |
| 12. A) held | B) made | C) done | D) given |