

During the spring of 1983, a pair of seabirds built a nest on a railroad track in North Wales. Soon three spotted brown eggs appeared in the nest. The nest seemed dangerously close to the rails. The high-speed trains roared by at 75 miles per hour or more. The eggs remained safe and sound in the nest by the wooden cross pieces of the track. The trains speeding by seemed to cause the eggs no harm. From time to time, the parent birds would remain right there as the cars of the train passed a few inches above them.

The birds' nest on the railroad track was very interesting. People from BBC, the British television company, decided to do a story about the nest. They sent a television cameraman to the site. The photographer brought all his camera equipment so he could film the nest and tell the story. A railroad worker was sent along with him to help. The two men were walking along the track to find the nest.

All of a sudden there was a crunchy noise. "You've stood in it," said the railroad worker. And that's just what had happened. What was left of the nest and the eggs was right there under the photographer's foot. The photographer was very embarrassed. His blunder wiped out the nest, the eggs, and the television show.

1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) living near a railroad track.
 - (b) a photographer's mistake.
 - (c) how to build a bird's nest.
 - (d) camping out in England.
2. The nest was interesting because
 - (a) it was so close to the rails.
 - (b) it contained three eggs.
 - (c) the birds had built it.
 - (d) the material was odd.

3. BBC wanted to do a story because
 - (a) the photographer asked them.
 - (b) the situation was unusual.
 - (c) seabirds are pretty birds.
 - (d) they had nothing else to do.
4. The crunchy noise was the
 - (a) train around the bend.
 - (b) breaking of egg shells.
 - (c) railroad worker's gum.
 - (d) camera lens breaking.
5. A blunder is a
 - (a) loud noise.
 - (b) railroad track.
 - (c) type of camera.
 - (d) mistake.
6. The photographer probably felt
 - (a) angry at the birds.
 - (b) foolish and very upset.
 - (c) glad the show was over.
 - (d) the assignment had been silly.
7. The trains didn't harm the nest
 - (a) because they slowed down.
 - (b) until after the photographer did.
 - (c) because it wasn't near the wheels.
 - (d) because the birds made noise.
8. Which happened first?
 - (a) The eggs were stepped on.
 - (b) The birds made a nest.
 - (c) BBC sent a cameraman.
 - (d) Three eggs appeared.