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Task 1

- In this article some parts of sentences have been left out.
- Your task is to reconstruct the text by filling in the gaps (1-9) from the list (A-N) below as shown in the example (0).
- Remember that there are three extra phrases that you do not need.



WHAT'S IN THE QUEEN'S HANDBAG?

The British monarch has an extraordinary collection of more than 150 bags, (0) _____. She does not carry money, credit cards, car keys or a passport, so what does she put in them? The answers are in many cases quite surprising!

The first thing that the Queen tends to pull out at meals is an S-shaped meat hook. She places it on the table's edge and hangs up the bag. It means that (1) _____ and the Queen can open it without any fuss.

Queen Elizabeth has always been superstitious, and carries with her at all times an amazing array of good luck charms, (2) _____. They are mainly on an animal theme: horses, miniature dogs and tiny brass saddles and whips. She also carries photographs of her family, and (3) _____ – a factor contributing to the size of the bags.

She is never without a small camera and has frequently astonished world statesmen by (4) _____ and asking them to pose for the family album. Her Majesty hates wasting time or being bored, so she carries two or three crosswords, (5) _____ by her staff, with her at all times. Add in a mirror, diary and address book, sun glasses, reading glasses and, believe it or not, a pen knife, and it can be seen that (6) _____.

Why does the Queen carry her large handbag everywhere, even to the breakfast table? Dr Dennis Friedman, a psychologist, thinks that despite being one of the most wealthy and best-loved women in the world she still clings to her handbag for security and comfort. The only time (7) _____ is at her Scottish Castle Balmoral, where she feels most secure, happy and relaxed.

Another royal watcher believes the Queen's handbag serves a much more practical purpose. At lunches and dinner parties the guests are told beforehand that when the Queen places her bag on the table, (8) _____. They are to ask no further questions and must prepare for her to leave.

On walkabouts the Queen is determined never to give one person more than thirty seconds of conversation. If she finds that (9) _____, she drops her bag to the side in a certain way. A lady in waiting will then appear and take up the conversation, so that the Queen can move on. It is a very polite and civilised way of doing things, and it works.

(Royal Life)

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A) no ordinary bag will do

B) watch out for these signals

C) *many of which are more than 50 years old*

D) one person is taking too much time

E) using her bag to indicate her wishes

F) suddenly producing one from the bag

G) it is at easily reached waist level

H) normally cut out of top British newspapers

I) given to her by her children and her grandchildren

K) surrounded by memories of her happy childhood

L) doggie choc drops for her beloved pets

M) she abandons her bag

N) the event is at a close

0)	C
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1)		
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2)		
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3)		
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4)		
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5)		
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7)		
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8)		
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Task 2

- Read this text about how newspaper articles are often structured and then read the half sentences following it.
- Your task is to match the half sentences based on the information in the text.
- Write the letters (A-K) in the white boxes next to the numbers (10-15) as in the example (0).
- Remember there are three extra letters you do not need.



SECRETS OF THE PYRAMID

The inverted pyramid is a writing technique used in news stories. It's called a pyramid writing style but it's easier to think of it as an upside down triangle with the point at the bottom and the flat edge at the top.

With news or short non-fiction writing, the flat edge is your start and the point is your end.

With an inverted pyramid, you start with your entire news story in the first paragraph. If someone only reads that, they must still get the whole story. For an example, look at any newspaper and especially at breaking news stories. The first paragraph gives you all the essential facts, and each successive paragraph is less and less important.

Pyramid writing was allegedly invented to solve a specific technological problem that faced newspapers in their earliest days.

Writers would type their stories on paper and send them via the editor to the composing team. Designers there would use scissors to trim the paper and then assemble all the stories on one larger piece. This was genuine cutting and pasting and it is where we get that term from.

Every writer would have been given a length to write to and probably every writer exceeded it. But even if they all wrote exactly to the length they were given, a late piece of news would break that was more urgent and had to go on the front page.

Then the other stories would hang over the bottom of the page and there was no option: the composing designers had to physically chop the end off. This always happened at the last minute, it was always up against print deadlines, so there was never time to have great editorial debates about where exactly to cut.

So we got the pyramid idea. If you write in this manner, then a designer can slap your copy on the page and, without even reading it, know where to cut. The ideal is to keep the complete story but they know they can simply chop off the last paragraph. And then the one before that. And the one before that.

If they end up with just a headline and one single paragraph, the story still works. It was a straight technical requirement but the result is the core style of every printed newspaper you've ever read.

(UK Writing Magazine)

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- 9) *In spite of the headline the article is* A) a couple of years.
- 10) The structure of a news story can be likened to B) capital letters.
- 11) In news stories key information is given in C) *not about pyramids.*
- 12) The technique was invented to deal with D) a newspaper.
- 13) The computer term "cut and paste" goes back E) the given length.
- 14) Articles sent in rarely kept to F) some basic questions.
- 15) Scissors were often applied when putting together G) an inverted triangle.
- H) a practical problem.
- I) the first part.
- K) a long time.

9)	C
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10)		
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11)		
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12)		
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13)		
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14)		
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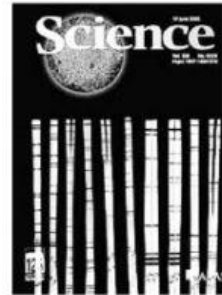
15)		
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Task 3

- Read this article about a new invention and then read the statements (16-22) following it.
- Your task is to decide whether the statements are true or false according to the text.
- Mark a sentence **A** if it is true according to the article.
- Mark it **B** if it is false.
- Mark it **C** if there is not enough information in the text to decide if it is true or not.
- Write the letters in the white boxes next to the numbers as in the example (0).



SELF-CLEAN COATING COULD SPELL THE END OF WASHDAYS

Cars that never need washing, clothes that repel stains and windows that clean themselves are just three potential applications for a revolutionary new "paint" that never gets dirty, scientists have said.

The self-cleaning coating can be applied to soft materials such as cloth and paper as well as hard surfaces made of glass or steel. It keeps on repelling dirt even after being rubbed with sandpaper or scratched with a knife.

Studies show that surfaces that have been coated with the titanium-dioxide paint become super-repellent to water and oil, with liquid forming spheres that simply roll away, carrying dust and dirt with them.

Clothing soaked in the water-repellent liquid effectively becomes waterproof and tests have shown that inky stains can simply be shaken off the fabrics.

"Being waterproof allows materials to self-clean as water forms ball-shaped droplets that roll over the surface, acting like miniature vacuum-cleaners picking up dirt, viruses and bacteria along the way," said Yao Lu, a member of the research team at University College London.

Details of the self-cleaning coating were published last night in the journal *Science* by a team led by Professor Ivan Parkin, head of chemistry at UCL. He has specialised in self-cleaning technology based on surfaces that are super-hydrophobic – highly repellent to water. "It makes surfaces so super-hydrophobic that it causes water to form marble-shaped droplets that roll away," Professor Parkin wrote.

The hydrophobic tendency of the titanium-dioxide paint is so strong that when the bottoms of toy boats were coated with it they floated higher in the water. If the same coating could be applied to the hulls of full-size ships they would need between 10 and 15 per cent less fuel, Professor Parkin said.

(The Independent)

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- 0) *The new "paint" is already widely used in the car industry.*
- 16) The new coating can be applied to a range of materials.
- 17) Rubbing or scraping the surface will remove the paint's special properties.
- 18) Water runs off these surfaces, leaving them clean.
- 19) Yao Lu said tiny vacuum cleaners were used in the research.
- 20) A large team at UCL has been involved in the research.
- 21) Professor Parkin talked to journalists about titanium-dioxide at UCL.
- 22) The professor listed a number of potential industrial uses for the paint.

0)	B	
16)		
17)		
18)		
19)		
20)		
21)		
22)		

7 pont

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Task 4

- Read this article about an interesting English tradition and then read the gapped sentences.
- Your task is to complete the sentences by filling the gaps (23-28) with one word only giving relevant information from the text.
- Write your answers on the lines.
- An example (0) has been given for you.



EGG THROWING CONTEST CLAIMS CENTURIES-OLD TRADITION

"Caution!!!!!! Flying Eggs!" warns a sign on a field in the English village of Swaton, host on Sunday to the annual World Egg Throwing Championships.

Drawing hundreds of competitors and cheering spectators, it's a messy game claiming a 700-year history and a popularity that is illustrated by "egg-streme" puns.

Teams of two line up on the grass to try to throw and catch eggs without breaking the shell. Starting at 10 meters (11 yards) apart, the "tosser" throws an egg to a teammate, the "catcher". After each successful catch they spread further apart.

The winning team is the one that completes a catch over the furthest distance, with no breakage. This year it was Richard Gutsell and Michael Speakman.

"It was tough ... We had a downward wind and that helped an awful lot, but it's mainly thanks to him because if you can't throw it that far you can't catch it," Speakman said of thrower Gutsell.

The World Egg Throwing Federation, set up in 2004, believes the game originated around 1322 when an abbot in the Lincolnshire village, the only person who had chickens, encouraged church attendance by giving locals a reward of one egg.

When the river flooded and prevented parishioners from attending Mass, monks are said to have thrown the eggs over to them, according to the Federation.

There are several disciplines at the contest, such as Egg Throwing, Russian Egg Roulette, Egg Static Relay, Egg Catapult and Egg Target Throwing.

In Russian Egg Roulette, which is a great favourite with spectators, two players sit facing each other, taking it in turn to pick from six eggs, one of which is raw, and smash them on their foreheads. Whoever avoids the uncooked one is declared winner.

"At first people don't really know what to make of it ... but as they take part, listen in and see people's reactions they really buy in," event compere John Deptford said.

(reuters.com)

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0) *The World Egg Throwing Championships are held every ____ year ____.*

0)

23) A number of funny plays on _____ are associated with this widely known contest.

23)	
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24) As the competition progresses, the _____ between the teammates increases.

24)	
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25) Winning the championship depends on only _____ basic criteria.

25)	
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26) One of this year's winners conceded that it was the _____ in the pair who was mainly responsible for their success.

26)	
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27) It all started in the Middle Ages when people in the village received a(n) _____ in exchange for going to church.

27)	
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28) In Russian Egg Roulette the loser is the person who picks the _____ egg.

28)	
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6 pont

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This is the end of this part of the exam.