

## Task 1

- Read this text about buttons that may trick you.
- Some parts of the sentences have been left out from the text.
- Your task is to reconstruct the story by filling in the gaps (19-27) from the list (A-L) below.
- Write the letters in the white boxes next to the numbers as in the example (0).
- Remember that there is one extra letter that you do not need.



### PRESS ME – THE BUTTONS THAT LIE TO YOU

The underground arrives at a busy station 0) \_\_\_\_\_. It is early evening on a Thursday. There is a crowd of commuters inside and outside the train, 19) \_\_\_\_\_. The man who is nearest to them is very impatient. He pushes the green button 20) \_\_\_\_\_. A second later, the doors softly open. The crowds get on and off the train, 21) \_\_\_\_\_. Possibly the traveller didn't know this, but his finger had no effect on the mechanism.

Some would call this a 'placebo button' – it 22) \_\_\_\_\_, but it is at least psychologically satisfying to push for the user. In fact, there are many examples of buttons which do nothing and indeed other technologies 23) \_\_\_\_\_, but here's the really surprising thing. Many people say that we benefit from the illusion that we are in control of something – 24) \_\_\_\_\_.

In 2013, BBC journalist Tom de Castella discovered 25) \_\_\_\_\_. A crossing in central London had programmed intervals for red and green lights, for example. Pushing the button would only change the length of these intervals between midnight and 7am. In several other cities during busy periods, the crossings were programmed 26) \_\_\_\_\_. The buttons did nothing, but a "wait" light would still show when they were pressed and, yes, people still pressed them believing 27) \_\_\_\_\_!

(bbc.co.uk)

- A) which says “open”
- B) even when we’re not
- ~~C) along the Central Line in London~~
- D) gives no control over a system
- E) to change their signals at a specific rate
- F) that zebra crossings had a great many placebo buttons
- G) waiting for the doors to open
- H) which are actually designed to mislead us
- I) where you may have to wait over a minute
- K) that their actions were having an effect
- L) and their journeys continue

0)	19)	20)	21)	22)	23)	24)	25)	26)	27)
C									

9 pont

## Task 2

• In the following interview with Will Shortz, Crossword Editor for The New York Times the questions have been removed.

- Your task is to match the questions to the answers.
- Write the letters of the questions (A-K) next to the appropriate numbers (7-13).
- There are two extra questions that you do not need.
- Write the letters in the white boxes as in the example (0).

0) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Almost any kind. Sam Loyd, the great American puzzle genius, was my childhood hero.

I bought his puzzle collections from Dover Books.

7) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Yes, they have a special course, which was new when I was there. If you're accepted, you can have a programme of your choice.

8) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

It's the participants. Crossword people tend to be smart, interesting and often funny, too. They're my kind of people.

9) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

You have to be a good speller, of course, and have a wide vocabulary. It helps to know a little about everything, from classical to modern.

10) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Many of the crosswords I ran in the 1990s wouldn't get accepted today. Standards have risen both in themes and fill.

11) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

The worst kind involves ones like AROA, a Venezuelan copper center, IMU, a Hawaiian baking pit, and CERE and PELA, kinds of Chinese wax. I try never to use them.

12) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Well, I think they will do fine in the electronic age. They're the best and most flexible form of puzzle ever devised.

13) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Fewer than a hundred. And as one of these, I'm a very lucky guy.

A) You founded the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in 1978 and you're still directing it. What keeps you involved?

B) If print media dies, will crosswords survive?

~~C) What puzzles did you enjoy when you were growing up?~~<sup>2</sup>

D) Are *New York Times* puzzles different since you became the paper's crossword editor in 1993?

E) What were your goals when you became the editor there?

F) What are your feelings about words that appear frequently in puzzles, but not nearly as often in conversation?

G) We've noticed a lot of tournament champions win more than once. What qualities do they share?

H) You got a special college degree from Indiana University, isn't that right?

I) If you had to guess how many people in the world can make their living on puzzle making and editing, what number would you say?

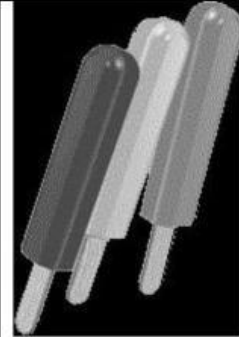
K) Do *New York Times* crosswords get harder every day of the week?

0)	7)	8)	9)	10)	11)	12)	13)
C							

## Task 3

Read the following text about the story of a popular kind of ice-lolly.

Your task is to put the jumbled sentences in the correct order and write the letters in the boxes as shown in the example.



## POPSICLE

Fascinating facts about the invention of the **Popsicle** by **Frank Epperson** in **1905**

Frank Epperson, a then eleven-year-old, invented the Popsicle and the invention was accidental.

0) _____	0)	C	
14) _____	14)		
15) _____	15)		
Eighteen years later - in 1923 - Frank Epperson remembered his frozen soda water mixture and began a business which produced "Epsicles" in seven fruit flavors.			
16) _____	16)		
17) _____	17)		
There are more than thirty different flavors to choose from, but Popsicle Industries says that for many years the favorite flavor has remained "taste-tingling orange".			
18) _____	18)		



- A) The temperature dropped to a record low that night and the next day Frank had a stick of frozen soda water to show his friends at school.
- B) He left the mixture on the back porch overnight with the stirring stick still in it.
- C) One day Frank mixed some soda water powder and water, which was a popular drink in those days.
- D) One estimate says three million Popsicle ice lollies are sold each year.
- E) Epperson realized the commercial possibilities of his invention, and by 1928 he had earned a lot of money by selling more than 60 million Popsicle ice pops.
- F) The name was later changed to "Popsicle".

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#### Task 4

**Read the text about Valentine's Day and the sentences (22 to 27) following the text. Each sentence describes one word in the text. Your task is to find the word and write it on the line after the sentence. Write only one word on each line. There is one example (0) for you.**

*The holiday of Valentine's Day probably has its origins in the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia. In the early days of Rome, fierce wolves lived in the woods nearby. The Romans called upon one of their gods, Lupercus, to keep the wolves away. A holiday in honor of Lupercus was celebrated on February 15th. The holiday was celebrated as a spring festival. Their calendar was different at that time, with February falling in early springtime.*

One of the customs of the young people was *name-drawing*. On the day before the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man got a slip from the jar. The girl whose name was chosen was to be his sweetheart for the year.

Legend says that the holiday became Valentine's Day after a priest named Valentine. Valentine was a priest in Rome at the time Christianity was a new religion. The Emperor at that time, Claudius II, ordered the Roman soldiers NOT to marry or become engaged. Claudius believed that as married men, his soldiers would want to stay home with their families rather than fight his wars. Valentine didn't obey the Emperor's order and secretly married the young couples. He was finally arrested, imprisoned, and put to death.

Valentine was killed on February 14th, the eve of the Roman holiday *Lupercalia*. After his death, Valentine was named a saint. As Rome became more Christian, the priests moved the spring holiday from the 15th of February to the 14th - Valentine's Day. Now it became a holiday of Saint Valentine instead of Lupercus.

0)	<i>Probably this nation celebrated the Holiday of Valentine's Day first.</i> <u>Romans</u>	
22)	The season when Valentine's Day was first celebrated. _____	
23)	Animals that lived in the forest near Rome. _____	
24)	Containers where the pieces of paper were put. _____	
25)	They were not allowed to get married or get engaged. _____	
26)	This person died and became a saint. _____	
27)	The holiday was moved from this day. _____	

6 pont