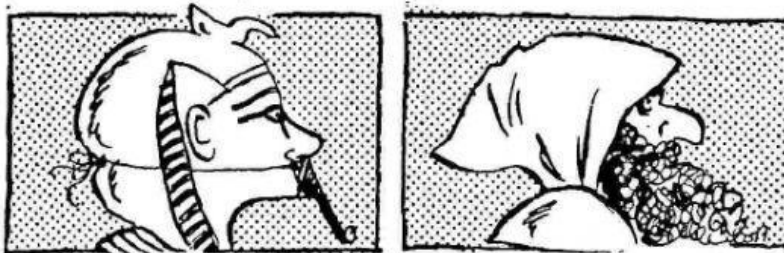


The origins of money

About 3,800 years ago, a woman from one of the (1) _____ families in Sippar, Iraq, decided to buy land with a (2) _____ inheritance: a huge silver ring. The (3) _____ was recorded on a tablet which was found by (4) _____ in the 19th century. Other pieces of gold and silver have also been (5) _____ and there is a strong (6) _____ that this was the first money ever used. At this time, huge (7) _____ were being constructed in the towns of Mesopotamia, and (8) _____ were needed to do the work. It seems that these builders were (9) _____ paid with little tokens which could be exchanged for goods. (10) _____, these tokens were replaced by heavy (11) _____ of silver. We know from written (12) _____ that have survived down the centuries that the (13) _____ people used to carry around large bags that contained these pieces of silver. The silver made people's lives (14) _____ than before and this is how money was born.

WEALTH
VALUE
SELL
RESEARCH
IDENTITY
POSSIBLE
BUILD
SPECIAL
PROBABLE
GRADUAL
WEIGH
DESCRIBE
RICH
SIMPLE

The importance of beards (for men and women!)



For many adolescent boys, the (1) _____ to grow a beard is an important moment in their lives. It changes their (2) _____ dramatically, but more (3) _____, it shows they have become men. A beard, of course, is something that women, with few (4) _____, cannot have. One such woman, St Wilgefortis, was (5) _____ to discover that she had (6) _____ a beard, and that God had answered her (7) _____ to be delivered from men. Even though a beard can be (8) _____, it is a badge of status. In Ancient Egypt, important people, (9) _____ women, tied metal beards to their chins. A beard can suggest a man has both (10) _____ and power. It is not (11) _____ that adolescent boys wait so (12) _____ for the first hairs to start growing on their face or feel such (13) _____ the first time they stand in front of the mirror, about to begin their first (14) _____ shave.

ABLE
APPEAR
IMPORTANT
EXCEPT
DELIGHT
GROW
PRAY
COMFORT
INCLUDE
KNOW
SURPRISE
ANXIOUS
SATISFY
PAIN

The best basketball player in the world

If you haven't heard of Lauren Jackson, you can be (1) _____, but she is quite (2) _____ the most talented basketball player in the world. In 1998, at the age of 17, she became the top (3) _____ in Australia and helped her team to win the (4) _____. Her coach, Tom Maher, says she is one of the most (5) _____ players he has ever seen. More impressive than her physical (6) _____, however, is her mental approach. She is, says Maher, a fantastic (7) _____ and a great team person. The Australian team is (8) _____ based around her and it is only a matter of time before she is (9) _____ internationally. Her physical (10) _____ is not complete yet, so her potential is still not (11) _____ realized. With a few more years of (12) _____ she will become one of the all-time greats.

FORGIVE
POSSIBLE
SCORE
CHAMPION
ATHLETE
ABLE
LEARN
TOTAL
FAME
DEVELOP
FULL
GROW

Lifts

In New York in May 1854, an American (0) engineer, Elisha Otis, decided to give a public (56) _____ of his latest invention. He rode high into the air on a platform and ordered the supporting rope to be cut. To the (57) _____ of the hundreds of (58) _____, the platform did not fall to the ground. Otis had invented an automatic (59) _____ mechanism which prevented the platform from falling if the rope or chain broke. This led to the (60) _____ of passenger lifts, or elevators as they are called in the United States. Otis's invention has had a (61) _____ effect on the appearance of modern cities. It made possible the (62) _____ of skyscrapers and department stores, which began to appear at the end of the (63) _____ century. Since Otis's time, there have been many (64) _____ in lift design. Some lifts are now on the outside of hotels and office blocks, giving passengers a splendid view of their (65) _____ and the fastest ascend at 610 metres a minute.

ENGINE
DEMONSTRATE
ASTONISH
LOOK
SAFE
PRODUCE
DRAMA
BUILD
NINE
IMPROVE
SURROUND

Spiders

You may have an (0) instinctive dislike of them but spiders deserve a little respect. They are one of the most (56) _____ groups of animals ever, having existed for over 300 million years in almost every habitat, from cold, (57) _____ regions to hot deserts and jungles. Your respect may turn into (58) _____ when you know more about them. One of the most (59) _____ spiders is the jumping spider, so called because of its astonishing (60) _____ to leap through the air to catch its prey. This spider rarely spins a web because it hunts its prey as a cat hunts (61) _____. It is found mostly in tropical regions where the largest and most (62) _____ types exist. Jumping spiders have eight eyes, and can detect the (63) _____ movement in any direction. They can judge (64) _____ with great accuracy and usually catch their prey on the first jump. They can even catch insects in (65) _____.

INSTINCT
SUCCESS
MOUNTAIN
ADMIRE
IMPRESS
ABLE
MOUSE
COLOUR
SLIGHT
DISTANT
FLY

THE END OF THE SECRETARY

It may seem (0) unbelievable, but it is quite possible that the days of the secretary are coming to an end. There is (56) to suggest that professional people such as doctors, (57) and managers are dealing with (58) personally rather than having a secretary do it. And the reason is simple: modern technology.

BELIEVE
EVIDENT
LAW
CORRESPOND

Until recently, secretaries were extremely (59) for typing letters to (60) and clients, for arranging meetings and dealing with travel (61) Answering the telephone was also another of their major (62) However, with the introduction of e-mail and mobile phones, managers are able to do more and more of these (63) themselves. Many companies (64) have fewer secretaries than they did five years ago. However, (65) does not seem to have increased as a result. Rather, secretaries are finding new positions as personal assistants and even managers themselves.

USE
CUSTOM
ARRANGE
RESPONSIBLE
ACTIVE
CURRENT
EMPLOY

ZOOS

The days when people would go to a zoo simply for (0) amusement are long gone. Today, when we place greater (56) on the survival of animals in the wild, zoos have a duty to inform the public and improve our (57) of the environment and the problems faced (58) by large numbers of animals. Today's zoos also play a role in the (59) of threatened species, breeding animals for release in the wild. Many zoos also fund (60) research into animals and their behaviour. The way animals are treated in zoos has changed, too. Many intelligent animals suffer from (61) in captivity and their keepers now try to improve the (62) state of the animals in their care. They do this by, for example, providing the animals with a (63) of different food or by changing the animals' (64) routine. Although some critics of zoos remain (65) , there can be no doubt that animals in zoos today enjoy a more comfortable existence than in the past.

AMUSE
IMPORT
KNOW
WORLD
PROTECT
SCIENCE
BORE
PSYCHOLOGY
VARY
DAY
CONVINCE

There can't be many people who are (0) unaware of e-mail, even if they have never actually sent one. Although there are some (56) between e-mail and letters, there are also many differences. The first is that e-mail is delivered (57) , so it can be a very (58) means of communication when speed is important. This speed means that e-mail is more (59) for communicating over large distances. Another difference is that e-mail tends to be (60) informal. People are much more likely to use language which they would consider (61) for a formal letter. Words spelled (62) in an e-mail are less likely to be checked than in a letter. One (63) for this is that an e-mail seems to be less permanent than something written on paper. We can be sure that the future (64) of e-mail will have all kinds of (65) effects on the way we communicate.

AWARE
SIMILAR
INSTANT
EFFECT
PRACTICE
RELATIVE
SUIT
CORRECT
EXPLAIN
DEVELOP
EXPECT

For questions 56–65, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Exploring the depths of the ocean

The (0) upper part of the sea is full of life. There are many colourful fish and plants. Sunlight (56) penetrates this part of the ocean but 600 metres down there is complete (57) Because of the (58) of light, the extreme cold and the immense pressure, there are few (59) things at this depth. Military submarines cannot (60) go deeper than 900 metres but research submarines, some (61) and others with robots on board, can go much deeper. (62) fish and plants have been discovered at depths of 6,000 metres. (63) used to think that there was no (64) of life at such depths but volcanic gases escaping from cracks in the ocean floor provide (65) and chemical nutrients that support strange life forms.

UP
EASY
DARK
ABSENT
LIFE
SAFE
MAN
AMAZE
BIOLOGY
POSSIBLE
WARM

Violent Weather

Thousands of storms occur (0) daily all over the world, often accompanied by thunder and lightning. The (56) storms can cause considerable damage and inconvenience. Transportation and (57) systems are often interrupted, leading to (58) and delays. In (59) with storms, cyclones (also called typhoons) occur extremely (60) only about 30–100 times a year, but their winds can reach 200 kph, which makes them very (61) Cyclones occur in regions near the equator and are (62) outside tropical areas. Nowadays, advanced radar equipment (63) weather forecasters to predict the path of a cyclone with (64) People who are living in places that will be hit by the cyclone can be given a (65) to evacuate the area or at least to take shelter. Unfortunately, nothing can be done to protect their homes and property.

DAY
BAD
COMMUNICATE
CANCEL
COMPARE
FREQUENT
DANGER
KNOW
ABLE
ACCURATE
WARN

Unusual beliefs

Despite the fact that this is now the 21st century, an (1) number of English people appear to (2) in the paranormal. What is the (3) for this? (4) have found the answers to many of our questions, but the more (5) we make, the more we want to know. The (6) need for (7) that we have appears to be very strong. For this reason, a belief in the (8) of aliens, and especially, the (9) of contact with alien life forms is (10) common.

INCREASE
BELIEF
EXPLAIN
SCIENCE
DISCOVER
PSYCHOLOGY
SECURE
EXIST
POSSIBLE
EXTREME