

GRAMMAR

THE PASSIVE

1 Choose the correct options to complete the text.
Write "a", "b", or "c" in the blanks in the text.

A HOLLYWOOD TALE

For years, a romantic story¹ _____ about Hollywood wonder-boy Steven Spielberg. According to legend, the director managed to infiltrate Universal Pictures when he was a high school student.

The story goes like this: the precocious 17-year-old was on a tour of the studio when he escaped during a toilet break and² _____ caught by a man who worked there. Spielberg expected³ _____ to leave, but the man⁴ _____ out. Instead, he chatted to Spielberg and gave him a pass to get into the studio the following day, which Spielberg used.

The day after that, Spielberg had no pass but, determined to enter the studio again, he put on a black suit, took his father's briefcase and bluffed his way past the guard. The briefcase contained nothing but a sandwich and two candy bars.

⁵ _____ said that Spielberg played the same trick every day for the rest of the summer, wandering around film sets, rubbing shoulders with actors, directors and writers. One day, the story goes, he came across a room that⁶ _____. He set up an office, put his name on the door, went to the main switchboard, introduced himself and⁷ _____ him an extension number so he could receive calls. ⁸ _____ claimed that it was two years before he was discovered by the bosses at Universal Pictures.

The story, it turns out, is a wild exaggeration. The teenaged Spielberg⁹ _____ given a phone extension for two years. In truth, he didn't even have an office. He was introduced to Hollywood by a friend of his father and, rather than wandering around freely, Spielberg¹⁰ _____ employed doing paperwork.

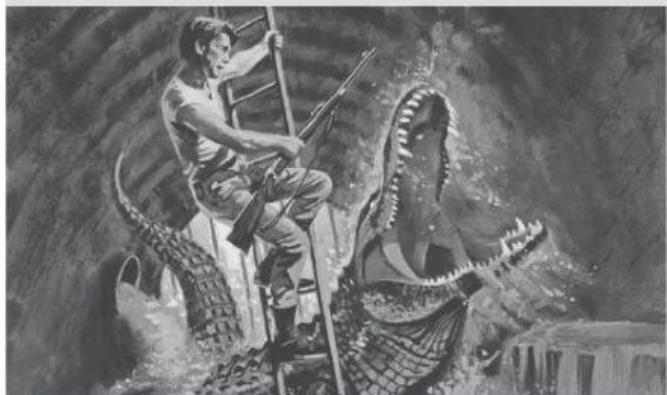
So Spielberg's introduction to the business¹¹ _____ as a myth. But is that surprising or¹² _____ expected? This, after all, is Hollywood, the land of myths and heroes.

- 1 a) is being told b) is telling c) has been told
- 2 a) was b) had been c) must be
- 3 a) to ask b) that he ask c) to be asked
- 4 a) didn't have him throw b) didn't have him thrown c) had him not thrown
- 5 a) That's b) It's c) It
- 6 a) wasn't being used b) wasn't been used c) didn't use
- 7 a) had assigned b) had the operator to assign c) had the operator assign
- 8 a) It's also b) It has also c) What's also
- 9 a) hadn't b) wasn't to be c) wasn't
- 10 a) was b) was to have c) had
- 11 a) is to recognise b) is now recognised c) is recognising
- 12 a) it is to be b) is it to be c) is it for being

LISTENING

4 A Read the definition of an urban myth. What urban myth do you think is shown in the picture?

urban myth *n*: a shocking or sensational story that spreads via different media. Many people believe it is true despite little or no evidence.



B 5.2 Listen to a radio interview to check your answer.
Write "a", "b", or "c" next to each question.

C Listen again and circle the correct answers.

- 1 Who believes the myth, according to the presenter?
 - a) no one
 - b) almost everyone
 - c) plenty of intelligent people
- 2 What metaphor does the guest speaker mention?
 - a) alligators as danger and darkness
 - b) the city as an urban jungle
 - c) cities as monsters
- 3 How did the urban myth start?
 - a) Baby alligators were found in sewers in Florida.
 - b) Teenagers put an alligator in the sewers in the 1930s.
 - c) New Yorkers were said to flush their pet alligators down the toilet.
- 4 Who was Robert Daley?
 - a) a man who wrote a book about New York's utilities
 - b) the superintendent of city sewers
 - c) a teenager who found an alligator in the sewers
- 5 Why did Teddy May go into the sewers to investigate?
 - a) because he was doing some research for a book
 - b) because he wanted to see alligators
 - c) because his workers said they'd seen alligators
- 6 What does the speaker say about Teddy May?
 - a) He was quite famous for telling unbelievable stories.
 - b) He was a reliable witness because he had worked in the sewers for a long time.
 - c) He carried a gun to work in case he saw alligators.
- 7 Why do scientists think it's unlikely that alligators live in the sewers?
 - a) Alligators need a more varied diet than they can get in the sewers.
 - b) Alligators wouldn't survive the cold, pollution and darkness.
 - c) Alligators cannot live in the presence of so many rats and cockroaches.