Reading practice

EXERCISE 1:

Read the text and answer the questions below:

Is violence innate?

In 1983, archaeologists in southern Germany discovered a mass grave containing 34 skeletons. They included 9 adult males, 7 adult females and 16 children.

All of the skeletons showed signs of fatal trauma, including head wounds. None of them showed any signs of defensive wounds, suggesting they were killed whilst running away.

The "Talheim Death Pit" dates from the Stone Age, around 7,000 years ago. It offers some of the oldest evidence of organised group violence between two communities: that is, of war.

Clearly, humans have been fighting wars for thousands of years, and we may not be the only ones. There is growing evidence that several other species also engage in warfare, including our closest relatives the chimpanzees.

That suggests we have inherited our predilection for warfare from our ape-like ancestors. But not everyone agrees that warfare is inbuilt.

Choose the correct letter.

1. What did archaeologists in southern Germany discover?

A. Remains of 34 dead animals

B. Graveyard containing 34 skeletons

C. Relics of early civilization

D. 9 adult males, 7 adult females and 16 children

2. Why did scientists suggested that those people were killed whilst running away?

A. Their skeletons showed signs of fatal trauma

B. There were 16 children

C. During that period organized group violence was very frequent

D. Their skeletons didn't show any signs of defensive wounds

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3. Why do human beings fight, according to the article?

A. Because they have been fighting wars for thousands of years

B. Because chimpanzees, who are humans' closest relatives, engage in warfare

C. Because humans inherited predilection for warfare from their ape-like ancestors

D. Because fighting is their inbuilt instinct

4. Which of the following phrases best describes the main aim of the Reading Passage?

A. To describe fighting among different species

B. To introduce principles of contemporary archaeology and its application

C. To introduce some relics of humans' warfare for further discussion whether violence is innate or not

D. To suggest ways of interpreting humans' violence

EXERCISE 2:

Read the text and answer the questions below:

August 1985: The worst month for air disasters

There are many grim landmarks in the history of aviation. One in particular stands out. Three decades ago, 720 travellers and crew lost their lives on board commercial aircraft in a single month - more than in any other before or since.

The deaths occurred in four separate accidents in August 1985. Each disaster had quite different causes. The aircraft involved ranged from a 747 with hundreds on board to a tiny twin engine turboprop carrying just eight people.

There was Japan Air Lines flight 123, the worst single-aircraft accident in history, in which 520 of 524 on board were killed. A further 137 died when Delta flight 191 flew into heavy winds as it approached Dallas-Fort Worth International. A fire on board British Airtours flight 28M at Manchester Airport led to 55 deaths. And all those on board the smallest

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aircraft, Bar Harbour Airlines flight 1808, lost their lives as it flew into a small airport in Maine, USA.

Each, in their own way, had a lasting legacy, whether in the memories of those left bereaved or in changes in technology and procedure introduced as a direct result. The worst death toll was on Japan Air Lines Flight 123, a Boeing 747, which was en route from Tokyo to Osaka on 12 August 1985 when the airtight bulkhead between its cabin and tail tore open. The change in pressure blew off the vertical stabiliser, or tail fin. It also destroyed the hydraulic systems. The plane lurched up and down.

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1. When did the 720 travelers die?

A. Thirteen decades ago.

B. A few decades ago.

C. 30 years ago.

D. There is no information about it.

2. Twin engine turboprop could carry: Show hint

A. Eight people.

B. Four people.

C. Two people.

D. Only a pilot.

3. The worst accident in history, according to the paragraph, was: Show hint

A. Flight 123.

B. Delta flight 191.

C. British Airtours flight 28M.

D. Bar Harbor Airlines flight 1808.

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4. Why did the Japan Air Lines Flight 123 crashed? Show hint

A. The change in pressure blew off the vertical stabilizer.

B. Destruction of the hydraulic systems.

C. The airtight bulkhead between its cabin and tail tore open.

D. It is unknown.

EXERCISE 3:

Read the text and answer the questions below:

Why does coffee shoot out of the lid of your cup?

You're running late for work and you've purchased your coffee in a hurry. Just as you arrive at the office, a jet of hot liquid escapes from the tiny hole in the lid, leaving you with hot beverage residue on your clothes before the day has really started.

This is exactly what happened to Rob Kaczmarek after buying a cup of his favorite caffeinated drink. The marketing director at Convergent Science was intrigued by why the coffee shoots out so far and therefore set about modelling this, initially as a joke for those who enjoy a bit of computational fluid dynamics. It's the design of the lid that's the problem, he explains.

"It happens because of the sloshing of the coffee against the lid, which is kind of unique. At the end of the lid, the hole is right up above that. As the coffee sloshes against the end of the lid, that velocity is amplified, and it splashes up through the actual hole."
Not all coffee cups are designed with a hole, of course. Some have lids with a tiny hole and others peel back to reveal a much larger gap, which offsets the shooting jets of hot liquid.

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1. What accident might occur at work in the morning, after you bought coffee?

A. You spill it all over the place accidently.

B. You get burns from the hot coffee.

C. You contaminate your clothes with it.

D. Nothing out of ordinary.

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2. Rob Kaczmarek explains to us that:

A. The coffee shoots out very far.

B. He sat his experiment as a joke.

C. He was really intrigued by spilling the coffee.

D. Coffee spills because of the design of the lid.

3. The main reason coffee spills is:

A. Velocity.

B. Sloshing.

C. Design of the cup.

D. It is not stated.

4. This text might be classified as:

A. Scientific.

B. Humorous.

C. Fictional.

D. Romantic.

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