



## PASSAGES

Read the passages and choose the correct answers.

Over the past 600 years, English has grown from a language of few speakers to become the dominant language of international communication. English as we know it today

**emerged** around 1350, after having incorporated many **elements** of French that were introduced following the **Norman Invasion** of 1066. Until the 1600s, English was, for the most part, spoken only in England and had not extended even as far as Wales, Scotland or Ireland. However, during the course of the next two centuries, English began to spread around the globe as a result of exploration, trade (including slave trade), colonization, and missionary work. Thus, small **enclaves** of English speakers became established and grew in various parts of the world. As these communities **proliferated**, English gradually became the primary language of international business, banking and diplomacy.

Currently, about 80 percent of the information stored on computer systems worldwide is in English. Two-thirds of the world's science writing is in English, and English is the main language of technology, advertising, media, international airports, and air traffic controllers. Today there are more than 700 million English users in the world, and over half of these are nonnative speakers, **constituting** the largest number of nonnative users than any other language in the world.

1. The word '**emerged**' means \_\_\_\_\_.

A. appeared      B. failed      C. frequented      D. engaged



2. The word 'elements' is most similar to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. declaration      B. features      C. curiosities      D. customs

3. The word 'enclaves' is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. communities    B. organizations    C. regions    D. countries

4. The word 'proliferated' is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. prospered      B. organized      C. disbanded      D. expanded

5. The word 'constituting' is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. looking over      B. setting down      C. doing in      D. making up



For a long time, amphibians were confused with reptiles. Like reptiles, they have three-chambered hearts and are cold-blooded. Some amphibians, such as salamanders, are even shaped like lizards. However, unlike reptiles, amphibians never have claws on their toes or scales on their bodies. Furthermore, the eggs of amphibians lack shells, so they must be laid in water or moist places.

Amphibians were the first creatures to spend sizable amounts of their lives on land. The larvae of most amphibians, such as frog tadpoles, are born with gills and live in water. However, their gills disappear as they develop lungs. Most retain the ability to breathe through the moist surface of their skin. This comes in handy when they hibernate in the bottom mud of lakes and ponds during the coldest months. They take in the small amount of oxygen they need through their skin. Some amphibians undergo what is known as a 'double metamorphosis' changing not only from gill breathers to lung breathers but also from vegetarians to insectivores.

Although the amphibian class is rather small in number of species, it shows great diversity. There are three major types. The caecilians of the tropics are long, legless burrowing creatures. Caudate amphibians, such as newts and salamanders, mostly have long tails and stubby legs. Salientians, which include both frogs and toads, are tailless as adults and have powerful hind legs. Toads differ from frogs primarily in that they have dry, warty skin.

6. 'Scales' is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. devices used to measure weight  
B. plates covering the bodies of certain animals  
C. sounds made by various animals  
D. proportions between different sets of dimensions



7. The word 'hibernate' means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. spend time looking for food      B. spend time sleeping  
C. breathe      D. stay awake

8. According to the passage, the term 'double metamorphosis' refers to the fact that amphibians \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. first breathe through their gills, then through their lungs, then through their skin  
B. change both the shape of their bodies and the way in which they lay eggs  
C. first live in water, then on land, then in mud in the bottom of ponds and lakes  
D. change both their methods of breathing and their feeding habits

9. The word 'Stubby' is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. long and thin      B. undeveloped  
C. thick and short      D. powerful

10. The word 'sizable' is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. condensed      B. large      C. whole      D. small