

What happens in a single day on planet Earth? In 2010, a **team** led by film director Kevin Macdonald tried to find out. The team asked people around the world to film their life on a single day—July 24—and to send in their videos.

- A As a result, people **uploaded** 80,000 videos to YouTube—a total of more than 4,500 hours. The videos were sent by people from 192 countries, from Australia to Zambia. Macdonald’s team used the videos to **produce** a 90-minute movie called *Life in a Day*.

The movie begins as most days begin. People wake up, get dressed, wash their faces, and brush their teeth. Parents **take care of** their children. People laugh and cry. As the day goes on, we see changes in people’s lives. A man thanks the hospital workers who helped save his life. A woman learns that she is pregnant.¹ A man calls his mother and asks, “What should I say to the woman I love?”

¹If a woman or a female animal is pregnant, she is going to have a baby or babies.

Macdonald understood that what may be **normal** to one person may be **extraordinary** to another. For example, the movie shows cultural differences in

- c the different ways that people travel to work. Macdonald explains, “What we might see as banal, living in our own culture, is not banal to somebody growing up in Dakar.”²

Macdonald’s team also asked people the following questions: “What do you love most in the world, and what do you fear?” People speak of their love for family and friends, of football and fast cars, a pet cat, or even a refrigerator.

- d Children speak of being scared of imaginary monsters³ and of real-life lions. Some Ukrainian farmers worry that wolves are going to eat their goats. People around the world talk about their fear of guns, of war, and of the loss of natural beauty.

Macdonald says that *Life in a Day* was possible because of the way we are all **connected**. “The film is doing something that [was not] possible pre-Internet ...

- e The idea that you can ask thousands, tens of thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands of people all to contribute to a **project** and all to **communicate** about it and learn about it at the same time.”

One of the people in the movie is a Korean cyclist named Okhwan Yoon. After traveling alone for nine years through 190 countries, he **arrived** on July 24 in Kathmandu, Nepal. “When I close my eyes,” he says, “I can see all the

- f different people in the world, from town to town, from country to country. I can feel it. I can touch it. I can see it.” The *Life in a Day* team hopes that, after watching the movie, others may feel the same way.

Task 2: Choose the correct answer for each item. (Source: My ELT Pathways' online resource).

- 1) Who made videos for the movie called Life in a day?
 - a) Kevin Macdonald
 - b) People around the world
 - c) Kevin Macdonald's team
- 2) What did Macdonald understand about normal things?
 - a) Something normal to one person may be extraordinary to another.
 - b) People believe that normal things are what make a good movie.
 - c) People all over the world think the same things are extraordinary.
- 3) What does the phrase *cultural differences* mean in paragraph C?
 - a) Habits and ideas that are not the same in every culture
 - b) Geographical regions that two cultures each claim as their own
 - c) Disagreements between people of different cultures in the same country
- 4) What is a subject that people in the film say they are worried about?
 - a) Problems with their pets
 - b) The cost of fast cars
 - c) The loss of natural beauty
- 5) What does Macdonald mean when he says that a film like this was not possible pre-Internet?
 - a) Before the Internet, people only produced films with actors.
 - b) Before the Internet, people did not film their lives.
 - c) Before the Internet, there was no easy way to share videos.
- 6) What is an important idea in the reading passage?
 - a) We are all connected.
 - b) Regular people have ordinary lives.
 - c) A movie can change your life.