

The guitar

- a) This may be because it is fairly straightforward to learn to play a few basic chords on it.
- b) Those that can put in this time will find it a rewarding experience and, if they have the talent, be able to choose from a variety of styles.
- c) Others prefer to find a good teacher.
- d) These include classical, jazz, flamenco and rock, to name but a few.
- e) However, despite these advantages, becoming a proficient player demands a great deal of determination and many hours of practice.
- f) The guitar is a popular musical instrument.
- g) Many people may have the former but lack the opportunity to do the latter.
- h) Another reason for the guitar's popularity is the relative ease with which one can be carried around.
- i) Some people do this by finding free lessons online.

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You are going to read an introduction to a book about polar bears. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

- A However, the fact that it walks about on the sea ice like a regular land bear, and periodically comes ashore causes confusion.
- B In other words, because of their low reproductive rate, they are still vulnerable if not properly managed.
- C Consequently, polar bears are highly inquisitive.
- D This is because it is often uncertain when or where the next meal will come from.
- E I attempt to provide a broad understanding of the ecology and natural history of polar bears in accessible non-technical language.
- F It is constantly influenced by a changing environment and it interacts with other species on a daily basis.
- G At special moments when I have time to watch an undisturbed polar bear, I'm often struck by an overwhelming sense that it is simply where it belongs.

Tip! Don't forget to look out for linking words at the beginning of the sentences.

Tip! Don't waste too much time trying to work out the meaning of words you don't understand.

Advice

37 The main idea of the paragraph before the gap is that the polar bear IS the Arctic and that its home is there.

38 There is a strong forward link to the idea in 'For example'.

39 In both sentences on either side of the gap, the writer is talking about the rest of the book.

40 This paragraph is about the marine ecosystem and the evolution of other animals.

41 You have the idea of 'energy' before the gap and hunting techniques as a predator after the gap.

42 There is a strong forward link here, so look at the sentence after the gap.

My polar bear research

The polar bear, more than any other animal, symbolises the Arctic. People all around the world who will never see one know what it looks like. Like the vastness of the polar sea ice it lives on, the sheer size of an adult polar bear is impressive. Its whiteness matches the backdrop of snow and ice that we all associate with the Arctic.



37 The Arctic is not a forgotten wasteland to a polar bear; it is home, and a comfortable home at that. For thousands of years, the climate, the ice, and the seals upon which it feeds have shaped the evolution of this predator. While it's easy to understand why the polar bear became such a powerful icon, it is difficult even now to comprehend its vulnerability to a changing environment.

The polar bear is a true marine mammal in the sense that it depends on the ocean for existence. **38** For example, in the United States, the polar bear is considered a marine mammal for legal purposes. In Canada it is a land mammal. Ecologically, however, the polar bear is clearly an integral part of the marine ecosystem, and that's the context I will treat it in.

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I began my research on polar bears forty years ago. International concern for polar bears was high, and conservation agreements were in development. Management plans were needed, and The Polar Bear Specialist Group recommended more fundamental research on the bears' ecology. I undertook a wide variety of studies of polar bears, including behaviour, genetics and denning habitat. In this book, I explain the results of that research. **39**

I have followed a few general themes. Firstly, the polar bear does not exist in isolation. It is both a product and part of the polar marine ecosystem. **40** The polar bear has been a significant factor in the evolution of the behaviour and ecology of the arctic seal and vice versa.

Secondly, a polar bear's life revolves around energy. It obtains as much energy as efficiently as possible when there is an opportunity, and then conserves that energy as much as possible. **41** Because their success as predators determines their very existence, and this is the aspect that most people have the greatest interest in, I've written the longest chapter on how they hunt and how diverse their techniques are.

A third theme is that each polar bear is an individual. A solitary predator in an extreme environment like the Arctic must live by its wits. A single solution from one bear will not answer all situations of others. Conditions for hunting or other environmental factors may change quickly. **42** They often contemplate a situation before they act, and they learn quickly from new experiences. As a result, each bear is unique because of its individual combination of experiences and knowledge.

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