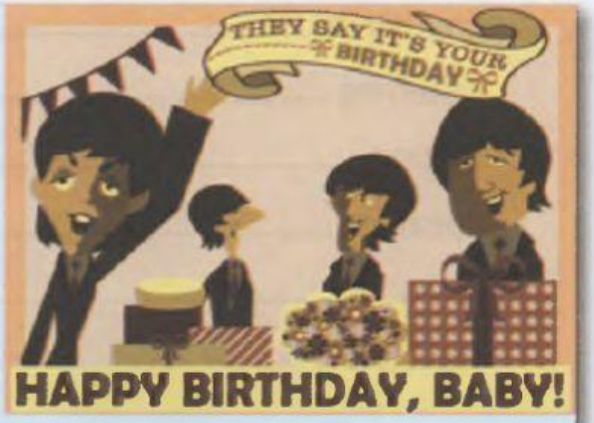
1

Read five texts below and look at questions 1-5. Each text is about a different subject. After having read the texts, tick the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each of the five tasks.

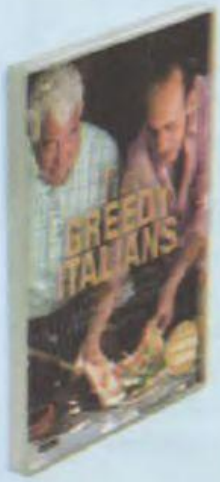
Happy birthday to you...



The best known song in English isn't by The Beatles or The Rolling Stones but is Happy Birthday to You. The song was originally written by the Hill sisters in 1893 but with different words - Good morning to all. During the early 20th century, people started singing "Happy birthday to you...". In 1935 the song was copyrighted by authors Orem and Forem, who wanted to make money. The song still earns 5 million dollars a year from films and music, including the most famous version sung by Marilyn Monroe to president John F. Kennedy.

1 **Who wrote the words "Happy birthday to you..." in the song?**

- **A)** The Hill sisters. ☐
- **B)** No one knows. ☐
- **C)** Marilyn Monroe. ☐
- **D)** Orem and Forem. ☐



Just a minute

Abigail: Can you help me wash the car, please?
George: Yep, it sure is dirty after driving to the supermarket.
Abigail: I told you that going through a field wasn't quicker.
George: Okay, I will after I've watched this Italian cookery DVD.
Abigail: When will that be?
George: After I've finished my lunch.
Abigail: You're not eating lunch!
George: I need to cook it first.
Abigail: When will it be ready?
George: Soon. I just need to go to the supermarket and buy some food. Don't worry, I'll be quick. I know a shortcut.
Abigail: Great. I'll watch the DVD while you're gone.

2 **What is George going to do after he has driven to the supermarket?**

- **A)** Eat lunch. ☐
- **B)** Watch a DVD. ☐
- **C)** Wash the car. ☐
- **D)** Cook. ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Bear necessities

Both Russia and the USA have a lot of bears and both want to be the quickest to walk on Mars. Humans travelling to Mars will have to spend four years in a small spacecraft, which would make most people crazy and require a lot of food and water. However, black bears would be able to do the journey because they can hibernate and, while sleeping, do not need anything to eat or drink. Scientists believe that the bears use a chemical in their brains to do this and that astronauts could create a sleeping medicine from it for their space travels.

3 **How could bears help us go to Mars?**

A) Countries with the most bears have the fastest spacecrafts.
B) Chemicals in the bears' brains could help humans hibernate on the journey.
C) Humans can copy bears and sleep for a long time.
D) Bears can live in spaceships for many years.

Crazy records

The Guinness Book of Records has some very unusual people in it. There's a Japanese man who can run 100 metres in 18 seconds on his hands and feet, while a 19-year-old German girl holds the record for carrying 19 glasses of beer while walking 40 metres. A Belgium man holds the record for the most number of T-shirts worn at the same time - 227. An American chef fried a huge hamburger that weighed 75 kilos. An Indian man has the longest beard in the world, measuring 2.33 metres, while an Italian man holds the record for riding a bicycle 65 metres underwater.

4 **Which person got wet breaking their record?**

A) The Italian man.
B) The American man.
C) The Japanese man.
D) The Indian man.

What colour are you?

Colours have lots of meanings associated with them. English people often say they are feeling blue when they're sad. Blue is also associated with trust and power.The colour red makes people brave and gives them lots of energy, but it can also make them aggressive. Orange is a much friendlier colour and means freedom and creativity. Everyone knows that black is often shown in films as being bad and mysterious, while the opposite colour, white, means innocence and truth. It is also known that people who wear green will have good luck, money, beauty and peace.

5 **What three colours should you wear when you want to be rich, good at painting and not feel tired?**

A) Orange, red and green.
B) Blue, orange and green.
C) Black, blue and white.
D) White, green and red.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2

Read five texts below and look at questions 1-5. Each text is about a different subject. After having read the texts, tick the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each of the five tasks.

Checkmate



People have been playing chess for hundreds of years. A game similar to chess was first played in Northern India in the 6th century. The popularity of the game spread to Persia and the Muslim world during the 10th century and by the 12th century the game had reached Southern Europe. Italian and Spanish players changed the pieces and rules during the 15th century to what they are today. It was another 400 years later, in 1886, that the world had its first chess champion - a man from Prague named Wilhelm Steinitz.

1 **When did modern chess originate?**

A) In the 19th century. ☐
B) In the 6th century. ☐
C) In the 15th century. ☐
D) In the 12th century. ☐

Are you feeling lucky?



England has many superstitions to do with good and bad luck. For example, in England you shouldn't put new shoes on a table as this will mean you will have a bad day. If you spill salt on the floor, you need to throw some of it over your shoulder to stop you from having bad luck. It's lucky to meet a black cat, especially if one walks in front of you. But make sure you don't walk under a ladder because that will mean lots of bad luck. And opening an umbrella indoors means you'll not be having any nice surprises.

2 **Which of these should you do the night before an exam?**

A) Walk under a ladder. ☐
B) Spill some salt. ☐
C) Meet a black cat. ☐
D) Open an umbrella indoors. ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Why bats fly at night



When the world was new, Bat and Rat were best friends, but Bat was jealous of Rat. One day, Rat asked Bat how he cooks such good soup. Bat told him that he jumps in the soup when it's boiling. He showed Rat how he did it, but with warm water, not boiling. When Rat cooked his wife soup that night, he jumped into the boiling water and died. The king of the animals was so angry, he told all the creatures to hunt Bat and put him in prison. Bat was so scared, he only went out at night. Until this day, other animals never talk to bats and still try to catch them.

(Amended from a traditional Nigerian folktale)

3 **Why does bat fly at night?**

- **A)** Because he's hiding from the other animals.
- **B)** The king of the animals told him to.
- **C)** So he can talk to other animals.
- **D)** He is jealous of the animals that go out during the day.

The end of the world

Russian astronomers have predicted that an asteroid named Apophis will collide with the Earth and could destroy the whole planet. NASA were not too worried about it and collected more data in 2013 when Apophis orbited closer to Earth. However, Russian astronomers calculate that the asteroid will enter Earth's orbit in 2029 and change direction, meaning it could hit Earth in 2036. The last large asteroid to hit Earth was 65 million years ago in Mexico and is believed to have killed most living things.

4 **When do Russian scientists predict that an asteroid will hit Earth?**

- **A)** In 2029.
- **B)** In 65 million years' time.
- **C)** In 2013.
- **D)** In 2036.

What day were you born on?

Monday's child is fair of face,
Tuesday's child is full of grace,
Wednesday's child is full of sadness,
Thursday's child will visit places,
Friday's child is loving and giving,
Saturday's child works hard for his living.
And the child that's born on the Sabbath day
is merry, carefree, good and happy.

(Amended from a traditional English nursery rhyme)

5 **Which child is going to travel the most?**

- **A)** Saturday's child.
- **B)** Thursday's child.
- **C)** Sunday's child.
- **D)** Tuesday's child.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3

Read five texts below and look at questions 1-5. Each text is about a different subject. After having read the texts, tick the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each of the five tasks.



The months

January cold desolate;
February all dripping wet;
March wind ranges;
April changes;
Birds sing in tune
To flowers of May,
And sunny June
Brings longest day;
In scorched July
The storm-clouds fly;
Lightning-torn
August bears corn.
September fruit;
In rough October
Earth must disrobe her;
Stars fall and shoot
In keen November;
And night is long
And cold is strong
In bleak December.

By Christina Rossetti
(1830-1894)

1 **During which months is the weather good – dry, warm, not windy?**

A) May & October.
B) July & October.
C) May & June.
D) July & August.



The world's most famous detective

Sherlock Holmes has straight black hair and bright grey eyes. He is a very tall man - standing at over 6 feet tall. The thing which most people notice about him is his nose, which is long, thin and hooked like an eagle's. Although he is slim, he is a strong excellent boxer. He loves music but plays the violin very badly. He has read many books and has an amazing knowledge of science and geography. Holmes has a wonderful talent for disguising himself. He can fool people into thinking that he is anything from a priest to a robber.

(Amended from www.bbc.co.uk)

2 **What do we know about Holmes from the text?**

A) How clever he is.
B) That he is happy.
C) Whether he is married.
D) Holmes can run very fast.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Bat joke

Two vampire bats were sitting on a wall.They hadn't eaten for days. One bat said to the other, "I need blood! I must eat! I'm going to fly off and find some food," and flew away. The other bat sat for hours, waiting for his friend to return. Finally his friend landed next to him. He had lots of bright red blood all over him.
"Wow!", said the second bat, "Where did you find all that blood?"
"Do you see that big church tower over there?", responded the first bat.
"Yes," the second bat answered.
"Well, I didn't," say the first bat.

3 **What happened to the first bat?**

- **A)** He found lots of blood to eat in the church. ☐
- **B)** When he landed, he hit the wall. ☐
- **C)** He killed the second bat. ☐
- **D)** While he was flying, he hit the church tower. ☐

X3000 Big Screen

The new Screenshiba X3000 television was created by Italy's best designers. It's made from shiny black chrome and carbon. The giant plasma screen looks just fabulous in any room. It has the usual technical features of auto-tuner, USB connection and remote control. Special attention has been given to making this television so thin that it could be a super-model. On the wall or free standing, this is a stunning TV. The price reflects that this is a television for the rich and famous.

4 **Which statement is true?**

- **A)** The television is made from plastic. ☐
- **B)** It can only be on the wall. ☐
- **C)** The Japanese designed it. ☐
- **D)** It's very expensive. ☐

Spanish Tortilla

Ingredients
300 g potatoes
5 large eggs
salt and pepper

Peel the potatoes and then slice them into small pieces, about 2 cm long. Now heat some oil in a large frying pan and fry the potatoes very gently for about 20 minutes. While the potatoes are being cooked, mix the eggs together in a large bowl. Add salt and pepper to the egg mix. When the potatoes are soft, add the eggs and cook slowly for another 20 minutes. Turn the omelette over and cook for another 10 minutes until it's golden brown. You can eat it hot or cold.

5 **How should you cook Spanish Tortilla?**

- **A)** First, mix and fry the eggs, then add the potatoes. Lastly, add salt and pepper. ☐
- **B)** First, fry the potatoes, mix the eggs and add salt and pepper, add to the potatoes. ☐
- **C)** First, fry the eggs, then add salt and pepper. Lastly, add the potatoes. ☐
- **D)** First, fry the potatoes, add salt and pepper, mix the eggs and add to the pan. ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS