PRESENT PERFECT OR PAST SIMPLE?

Exercise: Read the article and complete the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Choose present perfect or past simple.

Interview with Bruno Latour: 'This is a global catastrophe that has come from within'.

In the early days of the lockdown, philosopher Bruno Latour [1] _____ (write) an essay for the AOC cultural online newspaper. "The first lesson the coronavirus [2] _____ (teach) us," he wrote, "is also the most astounding: we [3] _____ (prove) that it is possible, in a few weeks, to put an economic system on hold everywhere in the world..." That essay [4] _____ (encourage) many to reimagine how different the world could look if we learned from this experience. It [5] _____ (also / solidify) the reputation of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) emeritus professor as one of the most influential thinkers of our age.

How [6] _____ (the pandemic / reshape) our societies?

Some say this is the revenge of nature. That is silly. Anyone who has studied the history of medicine knows how a virus can make a society feel completely different. We are on a great learning curve. It's a huge experiment. This is a global catastrophe that has come not from the outside like a war or an earthquake, but from within. Viruses are completely inside us. We cannot completely eject them. We must learn to live with them.

At the beginning of the pandemic, you [7] _____ (suggest) everyone ask themselves what they would like to keep from the lockdown, what they would like to change. Those questions are now being asked all over the world. [8] _____ (the interest / surprise) you?

Even if you were not a spiritual person, the lockdown [9] _____ (force) everyone into a kind of retreat, a moment for reflection. It was quite extraordinary. The questions [10] _____ (be) therapeutic. They [11] _____ (give) people powerlessly stuck at home a way of thinking about how they would create a better future.

Can an idea go viral like a disease?

Covid [12] _____ (give) us a model of contamination. It [13] _____ (show) how quickly something can become global just by going from one mouth to another. That's an incredible demonstration of network theory. I've been trying to persuade sociologists of this for 40 years. I'm sorry to have been so right. It shows that we must not think of the personal and the collective as two distinct levels. The big climate questions can make individuals feel small and impotent. But the virus gives us a lesson. If you spread from one mouth to another, you can viralise the world very fast. That knowledge can re-empower us.

(you can read the full interview at https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/06/bruno-latour-coronavirus-gaia-hypothesis-climate-crisis)