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## 91 THE SERENGETI

As dawn breaks over the vast Serengeti an elephant herd slowly wanders to the side of the waterhole to drink, nearby a pride of lions is lazing in the dry yellow grass and a wild dog howls in the distance. The waterhole is a gathering place for the wildlife in this part of the Serengeti and for people, too. At night, the animal kingdom reigns over the area but the day brings tourists to photograph the wildlife, biologists to study the ecosystem and Masai tribesmen to water their herds of cattle. It appears that animals and humans are managing to live together in harmony in one of the last great wildlife refuges in Africa.

The name for the Serengeti comes from a Masai word that means "the place where the land runs on forever" but it may not be big enough for the Masai to continue their traditional way of life there for much longer. Although the Masai were once free to roam wherever they pleased, since 1959 they have been confined to one small part of the Serengeti ecosystem, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The area was established as a place where the Masai could continue with their nomadic lifestyle, where wildlife could be protected and tourism could flourish.

Wildlife and tourism are both doing very well but the same cannot be said for the Masai tribes. In the past fifty years the Masai population

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has increased from about 10,000 to over 50,000. The result is that there are too many people and too few resources to support the traditional Masai way of life. The land available for them to graze their cattle is limited and they are only allowed to grow enough food to live on for fear that large scale farming will affect the area's natural habitat.

The rise in the Masai population is also worrying because of how it might affect the animals in the conservation area. Herds of wildebeest, zebras and other animals travel through the Ngorongoro region on their migratory paths. Masai settlements, farms and grazing cattle could interfere with these important routes and conservationists do not want to cause any problems for the now growing numbers of animals in the area. So it's the Masai who are being asked to move out of their homelands and to change their way of life, even though the conservation zone was originally created to be a multiple-use area not just for wildlife.

In the Masai village of Endulen women with shaved heads, gleaming silver jewellery and colourful red robes are busy washing clothes in the stream. Tall, spear-carrying warriors hiss at their cattle as they drive them down the dusty main street towards the only water supply in the village. There is a hospital, a school and a market in this village of 8,000 but there is no fresh water supply, only the stream. A stream that supplies all the needs of the people and animals for drinking, washing, cooking and bathing. It is without doubt the life source of this bustling community, a community which continues to grow year by year.

Yet the conservation authorities do not want to provide the Masai with a permanent water supply. This is because they do not want to encourage permanent settlements within the conservation area. As far as the authorities are concerned, the Masai are only allowed to live in the area as nomads who make light use of the land. If the Masai want **to make the shift** from a nomadic existence to a farming community with full amenities such as a water supply and electricity, then they should, once again, be moved out of the Ngorongoro region.

The Masai have other ideas, though. Namely that they have no intention of being moved on again. Although the old ways are slowly fading, they still keep their livestock and go out on the land, even if it is only for days at a time rather than months. In the village they work on vegetable plots outlawed by the authorities and live in permanent dwellings. The flowing traditional red robes and leather sandals are still worn by many Masai but you can also see trainers and T-shirts, too. As another cell phone starts to buzz it becomes obvious that the Masai are making the long, slow transition to a more modern way of life.

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1. What impression does the writer give of this part of the Serengeti?
   A. The animals rule in this region of Africa.
   B. People and wildlife exist peacefully there.
   C. There are too many people coming to the area.
   D. It is one of the few places to see wildlife in Africa.
2. What does the writer say has changed about the Masai way of life?
   A. They have had to accept living with animals and tourists.
   B. The Serengeti is no longer large enough to support them.
   C. They are no longer allowed to go wherever they want.
   D. They cannot continue their traditions in the conservation area.
3. Why does the writer feel the growing Masai population has caused problems for the tribe?
   A. It has made it very difficult to continue their traditions.
   B. They are unable to grow enough food to survive.
   C. There is too little room for them and the tourists.
   D. They do not have sufficient space to graze their cattle.
4. Conservationists want the Masai to move to another area because
   A. there has been a recent fall in the wildlife population.
   B. the conservation area was designed to protect animals.
   C. the wildlife could be a danger to their way of life.
   D. they could disturb the movements of the wildlife.
5. What does the writer find unusual about the village of Endulen?
   A. There are herds of cattle walking through the streets.
   B. The community's water supply comes from a single source.
   C. The community cannot provide enough water for the residents.
   D. The women dress up before going to clean their clothes outside.
6. The writer uses the phrase "**to make the shift**" (paragraph 6) to mean
   A. a change in lifestyle.
   B. a move to a new area.
   C. the Masai have become farm owners.
   D. the tribe make too many demands.
7. How does the writer feel about the changes in the Masai community?
   A. They are noticeable and unavoidable.
   B. They haven't really affected their traditions.
   C. They are happening much too fast.
   D. They will result in the Masai moving again.

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8. What was the writer's purpose in writing the text?
   A. To criticise the conservation authorities.
   B. To show how wildlife and people can live together.
   C. To describe the problems the Masai are facing.
   D. To explain the effects of tourism on African culture.

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## 92 CAUGHT IN THE ACT

I wasn't expecting it to be a great day, just a normal work day, but I neither was I expecting it to be quite as bad as it turned out. It started pleasantly enough, with a quiet cup of coffee watching the morning news before setting off for work. Then the doorbell rang, so I opened the door thinking perhaps the postman was making an early delivery. Instead, I found myself face to face with two uniformed police officers. Of course, I was taken aback but I managed to ask calmly what I could do for them. With very grim looks on their faces, they told me I was being arrested for the robbery of a local post office and that I was being taken to the station for questioning.

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They put me in an interrogation room. I was so stunned that I don't know how long I sat there just staring blankly at the walls. It felt like I'd been in there for hours and for all I knew, it had been hours. Then my mind started racing with a thousand questions. Why had no one come to question me? How could they think that I was a criminal when I had been a law-abiding citizen all my life? Most of all, how could this have happened to me? It wasn't long before I found out.

A stern-faced detective entered the room and I smiled nervously. He gave me a long, hard look and asked me about my whereabouts on the 18th of the month. I started to panic because that was the day I had called in sick at work and I'd stayed at home. This meant I had no alibi, of course. Then he **dropped the bombshell**. He knew I was guilty because the robbery had been caught on CCTV and someone had called in to identify me. My mood suddenly changed from fear and alarm to outright fury. I demanded to see a lawyer and I was not going to answer any more questions until I got one.

While I waited for the lawyer to arrive, I sat there fuming about who could have identified me as the robber. There was no way it could be a close friend or a member of my family. I was sure of that. I wondered if it was someone who had made a genuine mistake. But that didn't seem likely either. Perhaps it was someone with a grudge against me. All I knew for sure was that it felt very strange to be wrongly accused of a crime by someone who must know me.

Finally, my lawyer walked into the room. She had such a strong air of confidence about her that I immediately relaxed. She fired rapid questions about my arrest at the detective and raised a questioning eyebrow when he told her that I'd been identified on CCTV. She didn't seem in the least bit impressed by this supposedly crucial evidence and demanded to see the pictures. It was now the detective who was beginning to look a bit worried as he scuttled off to fetch the pictures.

He placed a series of pictures on the table. In one, I could see a very faint image of a man of my height and build with a similar hairstyle to mine. Another picture showed a close-up of the man's face but the picture was so blurred that it was impossible to tell who it was. It could have been me or thousands of other young men with similar features. My lawyer laughed, although she didn't seem very amused. With barely controlled anger she told the detective that such pictures could not be used to identify me and that no court would accept them. She added that as I had no criminal record and was a citizen of good standing, I should be released immediately unless they had any further evidence against me.

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To my utter relief I was released without charge just over an hour later. What has my experience taught me? Despite the fact that this country has more CCTV surveillance than any other country in the world and the government has spent millions of pounds on it, many of the images are so bad it can result in a completely innocent person spending a day at the police station. People are always complaining that Big Brother is watching but in my personal experience it's worse when he's caught sleeping on the job.

1. We learn in the first paragraph that the writer was surprised when _____
   A. his morning routine was interrupted.
   B. his doorbell rang so early.
   C. he opened the door to the police.
   D. he saw the look on the policemen's faces.

2. By the time the detective entered the interrogation room, the writer _____
   A. didn't know how much time had passed.
   B. had begun to blame himself for his situation.
   C. had prepared many questions to ask.
   D. was beginning to realise the seriousness of his situation.

3. The writer uses the phrase "**he dropped the bombshell**" (paragraph 3) to show that _____
   A. the detective was not telling the truth about the crime.
   B. the detective revealed some shocking information.
   C. the detective had become angry and started shouting.
   D. the detective was not impressed with the writer's alibi.

4. Who did the writer believe had identified him?
   A. A close relative.
   B. A total stranger.
   C. His best friend.
   D. He wasn't sure.

5. When the lawyer arrived, she _____
   A. was very critical of the detective.
   B. showed her disapproval of CCTV.
   C. insisted that the writer was innocent.
   D. didn't seem convinced by the evidence.

6. The lawyer thought that the pictures were unacceptable because _____
   A. they didn't show the man's face.
   B. they were of very poor quality.
   C. they were taken from a distance.
   D. the man in them didn't look like the writer.

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7. The writer was eventually released because _____
   A. there was a lack of evidence.
   B. new evidence proved him innocent.
   C. the real culprit was found.
   D. a court ruled that he should be.

8. What did the writer learn from his experience?
   A. Despite disadvantages, CCTV cameras are still beneficial to society.
   B. Britain has too many CCTV cameras.
   C. CCTV cameras have a disadvantage that most people don't think of.
   D. CCTV cameras bring more harm than good.

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