Reading
LOL Through the Ages

Carefully read the text and match the gaps (17-22) with the correct sentence parts (a-h). There are two extra options you don't need to use.

The word meme was first introduced by British biologist Richard Dawkins in 1976. He used it to describe (17)_____, just like genes do in biology. While his definition was serious, the internet gave the word a second life. Over the years, memes became the language of the online world—funny, fast, wildly creative, (18)_____.

Overly Attached Girlfriend, *Distracted Boyfriend*, and *Woman Yelling at a Cat* became viral sensations that were remixed endlessly. Each one captured a relatable feeling (19)_____ that audiences could instantly connect with. Some were used for comedy, others for commentary. (20)_____ and fueled by internet users around the world, these memes often took on lives of their own.

Recently, a wave of surreal and chaotic humor has taken over, especially on TikTok. That's where Italian brain rot memes entered the scene - random, oddly elegant, and proudly absurd. Titles like *Tralalero Tralala* or *Brr Brr Patapim* don't follow logic, they create their own. Italian brain rot memes are popular because they surprise us in a fun way. They often use strange words, funny sounds, and silly images that don't make sense at first. (21)_____, but when they fail, we laugh. Psychologists say that this mix of confusion and surprise can feel very good. It gives our minds (22)_____. For many young people, they are a funny escape from everyday stress.

In a world that keeps changing, memes have remained a form of expression that adapts, mutates, and connects us—all with a laugh.

A   *our brains try to understand them;*

B   *they are invented by ordinary guys;*

C   *how ideas spread through culture;*

D   *a short break from serious thinking;*

E   *like jealousy, frustration, or awkwardness;*

F   *something to stress about;*

G   *created by regular people;*

H   *and easy to share with just one click.*