

4. A. body B. organisation C. space D. system
5. A. save B. discover C. learn D. explain

② Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system. It's just a little bigger than the Earth's moon. It is the closest planet to the sun, (1) _____ it's actually not the hottest. Venus is hotter. Along with Venus, Earth, and Mars, Mercury is (2) _____ of the rocky planets. It has a solid surface that is covered with craters. It has no atmosphere, and it doesn't have any moons. This small planet spins around slowly compared to Earth, so one day lasts a long time. Mercury takes 59 Earth days to (3) _____ one full rotation. A year on Mercury goes by fast. Because it's the closest planet to the sun, it doesn't take very long to go all the way around. It completes one revolution around the sun in just 88 Earth days.

A day on Mercury is not (4) _____ a day here on Earth. For us, the sun rises and sets each and every day. (5) _____ Mercury has a slow spin and a short year, it takes a long time for the sun to rise and set there. Mercury only has one sunrise every 180 Earth days!

(Adapted from <https://www.spaceplace.nasa.gov>)

1. A. but B. so C. and D. or
2. A. first B. another C. one D. other
3. A. take B. do C. get D. make
4. A. same B. similar C. like D. different
5. A. Therefore B. When C. If D. Because

Exercise 2: Read the following passage and circle the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

① Nobody knows how many planets there are in our galaxy and whether there is life on other planets. And the Kelper has the mission to find the answer to those questions.

In 2009, NASA launched the Kelper space telescope to find planets that support life. It has discovered five new Earth-sized planets beyond our solar system so far. These planets are hotter than the Earth. The Kelper team predicted that it will take them at least three years to find an Earth-like planet. This mission costs about six hundred million dollars.

The simplest requirement for a planet to have life is water (not frozen or gas), so the distance from the planet's sun and therefore temperature is important. The planet also needs a certain amount of air. If a planet is as small as Mars (half the size of Earth), it can't hold on to air

molecules because of weak gravity. If a planet is four times bigger than Earth - Neptune size - it has very strong gravity and too much air. So the size of those planets also matter.

(Adapted from <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk>)

1. How many people know the number of planets in our galaxy?

A. Not many.	C. Many people.
B. None.	D. Everybody.
2. What is the mission of the Kelper?

A. To answer the questions about the Earth.	C. To find life on other planets.
B. To build an Earth-like planet.	D. To find new Earth-sized planets.
3. What is the main difference between the Earth and five new Earth-sized planets?

A. Their temperature.	C. Their systems.
B. Their sizes.	D. Their age.
4. What does it refer to?

A. The Earth	B. The Mars	C. Gravity	D. A planet
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5. What is the best title for this text?

A. The solar system	B. Life on the Earth	C. Requirements for life on other planets	D. The mysteries about the outer space
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② The Mars Exploration Rovers were two robotic vehicles that explored the surface of Mars. Scientists wanted them to figure out whether water had ever existed on the planet. The rovers also searched for other traces of life on Mars. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) designed and built the rovers, named Spirit and Opportunity. NASA launched Spirit on June 10, and Opportunity on July 7, 2003. Spirit **touched down** on January 3, 2004. Three weeks later, Opportunity landed on the opposite side of the planet.

The rovers had six wheels that allowed them to move in many directions. They also had cameras and many instruments for examining the rocks, soil, and dust on the planet. Scientists

on Earth sent commands to the rovers to tell them where to go and what to do. The rovers sent signals back to the scientists through computers and large antennas on Earth.

Each rover was designed to last for about 90 days. However, they worked so well that their mission was extended. In 2010 Spirit stopped sending signals, but Opportunity continued to operate until 2018. NASA officially declared the Opportunity mission to be ended in February 2019.

(Adapted from: <https://kids.britannica.com>)

1. What are the Mar Exploration Rovers?
A. Computers **B.** Wheels **C.** Robots **D.** Planets
2. The phrase **touched down** in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.
A. landed **B.** affected **C.** moved **D.** examined
3. How many wheels did each rover have?
A. 4 **B.** 5 **C.** 6 **D.** 7
4. The rovers sent responses to _____ through computers and antennas.
A. Mars creatures **C.** UFOs
B. spacecrafts **D.** NASA scientists
5. How long did the Opportunity mission last?
A. About 90 days **C.** Less than 10 years
B. About 8 years **D.** Nearly 16 years

Exercise 3. Read the text and decide whether the sentence is true (T) or false (F).

Among the eight planets in the solar system, Mercury has achieved several "most" records:

• **Closest to the sun**

The average distance between Mercury and the sun is 57.9 million kilometres, which is closer than other planets in the solar system. Scientists haven't discovered any planets closer to the sun than Mercury so far.

• **Maximum surface temperature difference**

Because it is very close to the sun, the temperature of the sunny side on Mercury can reach 430°C at the highest, but the night temperature on the back sunny side can fall to -160°C. The temperature difference between day and night is nearly 600°C. This is the largest temperature difference between the planet's surface.

• **Fastest year**

The earth orbits around the sun every year, and the "Mercury year" is the shortest year in the solar system. It takes only 88 days to go around the sun, which is less than 3 months on the earth. This is because Mercury is flying around the sun at high speed. It also explains why the signs and symbols representing Mercury are compared to a messenger wearing flying shoes and holding a magic wand, based on Greek mythology.

(Adapted from <https://inf.news/en/science>)

	True	False
1. Some planets closer to the sun than Mercury have been found.		
2. The day and night temperatures on the surface of Mercury are totally different.		
3. It takes Mercury shorter time to go around the sun than the Earth.		
4. The signs and symbols of Mercury are a flying messenger with magic shoes.		
5. Mercury has the most "most" records in the solar system.		

D. WRITING

Exercise 1: Put the words / phrases in the correct order to make correct sentences.

- tells / how / The teacher / Venus / it / long / around / the sun / takes / go / to / us / .
- people / sending / talking / Are / about / Mars / people / to / in / next century / the / ?
- the galaxy / wanted / I / about / project / to know / had done / Nam / if / any / .
- what / Bill / the sun / closest / asks / is / planet / me / the / to / .
- think / doesn't / there / life / is / on / moon / the / My dad / .