

## Text 2

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <u>Did you hear about....?</u>   | 1  |
|  | 2  |
| Research has shown that two-thirds of human conversation is taken up not with discussion of      | 3  |
| the political or cultural problems of the day, nor with lively discussions of the latest film we | 4  |
| have just watched or books we have just finished reading, but plain and simple gossip.           | 5  |
|  | 6  |
| Language is one of our greatest treasures. What do we do with it? We love to gossip (to talk     | 7  |
| about other people). We love to gossip about who's doing what, with whom, and whether it         | 8  |
| is a good or a bad thing. We chatter about how to deal with difficult social situations          | 9  |
| involving our family, friends and colleagues.  | 10 |
|  | 11 |
| So why are we so interested in gossiping about one another? Are we just natural time-            | 12 |
| wasters? Do we prefer to talk about nothing in particular to avoid facing up to the really       | 13 |
| serious issues in our lives? In fact, according to Professor Robin Dunbar, gossiping is an       | 14 |
| important human activity.  | 15 |
|  | 16 |
| Dunbar does not believe in the traditional view that language was developed by men in            | 17 |
| primitive societies in order to co-ordinate their hunting activities more effectively or to make | 18 |
| it easier to exchange stories about their ancestors and the supernatural. Instead he suggests    | 19 |
| that language evolved among women. He developed his theory by studying the behaviour             | 20 |
| of monkeys. By spending time together, monkeys form partnerships with other individuals          | 21 |
| who they can rely on for support in difficult times such as conflict within the group or an      | 22 |
| attack on them by another group.   | 23 |
|  | 24 |
| Humans are descended from primates such as monkeys and Dunbar thinks that long ago we            | 25 |
| did much the same as monkeys. Grouping together made sense because the bigger the                | 26 |
| group, the greater the protection it provided.   | 27 |
|  | 28 |
| ....., the bigger the group, the greater the stress of living so close to other people.          | 29 |
| Spending time together provided a source of ..... and helped to ease tensions and                | 30 |
| calm everybody down.   | 31 |
|  | 32 |
| Over time, language developed naturally from these groupings, according to Professor             | 33 |
| Dunbar. Through language, humans were able to connect with others and exchange                   | 34 |
| information, which was important for survival.   | 35 |

11. **The text is about:**
- Monkeys' use of language.
  - The reasons we love to gossip.
  - Our habit of wasting time.
12. **According to Dunbar, human language was developed**
- By hunters.
  - By women.
  - By monkeys.
13. **Why do monkeys form partnerships?**
- To be able to attack other monkeys.
  - To be able to find food.
  - To be able to rely on each other.
14. **According to the text, what do we gossip about?**
- Other people.
  - Books we have read.
  - The political situation.
15. **What has Dunbar based his evidence on?**
- His study of monkeys.
  - His study of language.
  - His study of primitive societies.
16. **Which word means "staying alive"?**
- Supernatural.
  - Conflict.
  - Survival.
17. **The word that best fills the gap in line 30 is:**
- Relaxation.
  - Worry.
  - Food.
18. **Which line has a spelling error?**
- Line 8.
  - Line 20.
  - Line 30.
19. **In the text, which word means the same as "gossip"?**
- Language.
  - Exchange.
  - Chatter.
20. **Which word or words best fit the gap on line 29?**
- On the other hand.
  - In addition.
  - Although.