

**Task 1** • In this article some parts of sentences have been left out. • Your task is to reconstruct the text by filling in the gaps (1-9) from the list (A-N) below as shown in the example (0). •

Remember that there are three extra phrases that you do not need.

WHAT'S IN THE QUEEN'S HANDBAG? The British monarch has an extraordinary collection of more than 150 bags, (0) \_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_ . She does not carry money, credit cards, car keys or a passport, so what does she put in them? The answers are in many cases quite surprising! The first thing that the Queen tends to pull out at meals is an S-shaped meat hook. She places it on the table's edge and hangs up the bag. It means that (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and the Queen can open it without any fuss. Queen Elizabeth has always been superstitious, and carries with her at all times an amazing array of good luck charms, (2) \_\_\_\_\_. They are mainly on an animal theme: horses, miniature dogs and tiny brass saddles and whips. She also carries photographs of her family, and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ –a factor contributing to the size of the bags. She is never without a small camera and has frequently astonished world statesmen by (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and asking them to pose for the family album. Her Majesty hates wasting time or being bored, so she carries two or three crosswords, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ by her staff, with her at all times. Add in a mirror, diary and address book, sun glasses, reading glasses and, believe it or not, a pen knife, and it can be seen that (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Why does the Queen carry her large handbag everywhere, even to the breakfast table? Dr Dennis Friedman, a psychologist, thinks that despite being one of the most wealthy and best loved women in the world she still clings to her handbag for security and comfort. The only time (7) \_\_\_\_\_ is at her Scottish Castle Balmoral, where she feels most secure, happy and relaxed. Another royal watcher believes the Queen's handbag serves a much more practical purpose. At lunches and dinner parties the guests are told beforehand that when the Queen places her bag on the table, (8) \_\_\_\_\_. They are to ask no further questions and must prepare for her to leave. On walkabouts the Queen is determined never to give one person more than thirty seconds of conversation. If she finds that (9) \_\_\_\_\_, she drops her bag to the side in a certain way. A lady in waiting will then appear and take up the conversation, so that the Queen can move on. It is a very polite and civilised way of doing things, and it works.

- A) no ordinary bag will do
- B) watch out for these signals
- C) many of which are more than 50 years old
- D) one person is taking too much time
- E) using her bag to indicate her wishes
- F) suddenly producing one from the bag
- G) it is at easily reached waist level
- H) normally cut out of top British newspapers
- I) given to her by her children and her grandchildren
- K) surrounded by memories of her happy childhood
- L) doggie choc drops for her beloved pets
- M) she abandons her bag
- N) the event is at a close

**Task 2** Read this article about an interesting English tradition and then read the gapped sentences. Your task is to complete the sentences by filling the gaps (23-28) with one word only giving relevant information from the text. Write your answers on the lines. An example (0) has been given for you.

**EGG THROWING CONTEST CLAIMS CENTURIES-OLD TRADITION** "Caution!!!!!! Flying Eggs!" warns a sign on a field in the English village of Swaton, host on Sunday to the annual World Egg Throwing Championships. Drawing hundreds of competitors and cheering spectators, it's a messy game claiming a 700-year history and a popularity that is illustrated by "egg-streme" puns. Teams of two line up on the grass to try to throw and catch eggs without breaking the shell. Starting at 10 meters (11 yards) apart, the "tosser" throws an egg to a teammate, the "catcher". After each successful catch they spread further apart. The winning team is the one that completes a catch over the furthest distance, with no breakage. This year it was Richard Gutsell and Michael Speakman. "It was tough ... We had a downward wind and that helped an awful lot, but it's mainly thanks to him because if you can't throw it that far you can't catch it," Speakman said of thrower Gutsell. The World Egg Throwing Federation, set up in 2004, believes the game originated around 1322 when an abbot in the Lincolnshire village, the only person who had chickens, encouraged church attendance by giving locals a reward of one egg. When the river flooded and prevented parishioners from attending Mass, monks are said to have thrown the eggs over to them, according to the Federation. There are several disciplines at the contest, such as Egg Throwing, Russian Egg Roulette, Egg Static Relay, Egg Catapult and Egg Target Throwing. In Russian Egg Roulette, which is a great favourite with spectators, two players sit facing each other, taking it in turn to pick from six eggs, one of which is raw, and smash them on their foreheads. Whoever avoids the uncooked one is declared winner. "At first people don't really know what to make of it ... but as they take part, listen in and see people's reactions they really buy in," event compere John Deptford said.

- 0) The World Egg Throwing Championships are held every year.
- 10) A number of funny plays on \_\_\_\_\_ are associated with this widely known contest.
- 11) As the competition progresses, the \_\_\_\_\_ between the teammates increases.
- 12) Winning the championship depends on only \_\_\_\_\_ basic criteria.
- 13) One of this year's winners conceded that it was the \_\_\_\_\_ in the pair who was mainly responsible for their success.
- 14) It all started in the Middle Ages when people in the village received a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ in exchange for going to church.
- 15) In Russian Egg Roulette the loser is the person who picks the \_\_\_\_\_ egg.

**Task 3** You are going to read an article about an exciting discovery. Some words are missing from the text. Use the words in brackets to form the words that fit in the gaps (1-8). Then write the appropriate form of these words on the lines after the text. There might be cases when you do not have to change the word in brackets. Use only one word for each gap. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

‘ARCHAEOLOGY ON STEROIDS’ Archaeologists have discovered the (0) remains (remain) of a massive stone monument buried under more than one metre of earth only two miles from Stonehenge. The (1) hide (hide) arrangement of up to 90 huge standing stones formed part of a Cshaped Neolithic arena that bordered a dry valley and faced directly towards the river Avon. The (2) research (research) used ground-penetrating radar to image about 30 intact stones measuring up to 4.5m tall. The fragments of 60 more buried stones reveal the (3) ordinary (ordinary) size of the monument. “What we are starting to see is the largest (4) survive (survive) stone monument that has ever been discovered in Britain and (5) possible (possible) in Europe. This is archaeology on steroids,” said Vince Gaffney, an archaeologist at Bradford University, who leads the Stonehenge Landscape project. The stones are thought to have been put into position more than 4,500 years ago to (6) form (form) a line around the southern edge of a natural depression. “We presume it to be a (7) religion (religion) monument, a ritual arena of some sort,” said Gaffney, whose team has mapped the ground and subsurface features around Stonehenge with state-of-the-art (8) equip (equip). He will describe the latest findings from the site on Monday at the British Science festival in Bradford.

**Task 4** You are going to read an article about the danger of selfies. Some words are missing from the text. Your task is to write the missing words on the dotted lines (18-24) after the text.

Use only one word in each gap. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

SELFIE MADNESS: TOO MANY DYING TO GET THE PICTURE The rise of selfie photography in some of the world's most beautiful and dangerous places has resulted (0)

\_\_\_\_ **IN** \_\_\_\_ a string of gruesome deaths worldwide. The act of taking a picture of oneself with a mobile phone, placing the subject centre-stage, has exploded in popularity in recent years, with everyone (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Britain's Queen Elizabeth to President Barack Obama joining in. But the selfie has also inspired an epidemic of risk taking and offensive public behaviour, pushing the boundaries of safety and decency, whether by dangling from a skyscraper (10) \_\_\_\_\_ by posing with explosives. Several governments have now begun treating the selfie (11) \_\_\_\_\_ a serious threat to public safety, leading them to launch public education campaigns (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to those against smoking and binge drinking. Dozens of selfie-related deaths and injuries in early 2015 led Russia's Interior Ministry to launch a campaign warning mobile phone snappers about the danger of, (13) \_\_\_\_\_ other things, posing for a selfie with a lion. "A cool selfie could cost you your life," reads a poster from the campaign, (14) \_\_\_\_\_ includes safety videos and information booklets. The European Union has proposed a law to criminalise social media posts containing pictures of landmarks (15) \_\_\_\_\_ as the Eiffel Tower in Paris or Rome's Trevi Fountain.

**Task 5.** You are going to read an article about an unusual café. In most lines there is one word that should not be there. It is either grammatically incorrect or does not fit in with the sense of the text. Read the text and then copy the extra word in the space provided after each line.

Some lines are correct. Indicate these lines with a tick (✓).

The task begins with two examples (0).

### THE REAL JUNK FOOD PROJECT

0) A “junk food” café, which serves on meals entirely from leftovers, 0) on

0) has been set up by two women who are fed up with waste. 0) ✓

25) Gaby Holmes and Natalie Crean, both of 23, are the driving 16).....

26) force well behind The Real Junk Food Café, which has opened in 17).....

27) Liverpool. They say it is shameful that just 35% of food ends up in 18).....

28) the bin, at a time when no food banks are crying out for donations. 19).....

29) Waste food supplies are donated by greengrocers, caterers 20). .....

30) and small supermarkets. The two women decide it what they will 21).....

31) cook on the basis out of what produce they've been given. People 22).....

32) pay what they can for the food. The social concept café also 23).....

33) accepts creative donations instead of cash in stock exchange for 24).....

34) food. Gaby said: “It's absurd so that millions of people are starving 25).....

35) and millions of food items likely go to the bin every single day.” 26) .....