

The Netherlands

Welcome to the Netherlands, a tiny country that only extends, at its broadest, 312 km north to south, and 264 km east to west - (1) ... the land area increases slightly each year as a (2) ... of continuous land reclamation and drainage. With a lot of heart and much to offer, 'Holland,' as it is (3) ... known to most of us abroad - a name stemming (4) ... its once most prominent provinces - has more going on per kilometre than most countries, and more English-speaking natives. You'll be impressed by its (5) ... cities and charmed by its countryside and villages, full of contrasts. From the exciting variety (6) ... offer, you could choose a romantic canal boat tour in Amsterdam, a Royal Tour by coach in The Hague, or a hydrofoil tour around the biggest harbour in the world - Rotterdam. In season you could visit the dazzling bulb fields, enjoy a full day on a boat, or take a bike tour through the pancake-flat countryside spiced with windmills. The possibilities are countless and the nationwide tourist office, which is on hand to give you information and (7) ... reservations. You'll have (8) ... language problems here, as the Dutch are true linguists and English is spoken here almost universally.

1. A) so	B) despite	C) in spite of	D) although
2. A) whole	B) consequently	C) rule	D) result
3. A) regularly	B) occasionally	C) commonly	D) unusually
4. A) in	B) from	C) on	D) of
5. A) historic	B) historical	C) historically	D) historian
6. A) at	B) in	C) on	D) for
7. A) sit	B) catch	C) do	D) make
8. A) few	B) a few	C) little	D) a little

The Story of Gold

The story of gold is an adventure involving kings, queens, pirates, explorers, conquerors, and the native peoples they conquered. Throughout history, gold has woven a magic spell over those it touched. Gold is beautiful and rare; a soft shiny metal that can be moulded into many (1) It has been used for money, jewellery, and to decorate special buildings such (2) ... palaces and places of worship. (3) ... the precious metal was discovered, prospectors rushed to mine it, starting new cities and countries as they went. Gold and the people who love it have helped shape the world we live (4) ... today. Gold is one of many elements, or substances that cannot be changed by normal chemical means, that are found in the Earth's crust. Gold has a warm, sunny colour and (5) ... it does not react (6) ... air, water, and most chemicals, its shine never fades. In its natural (7) ... , gold is soft and easily shaped. When heated to 1,062 Celsius it melts and can be poured into moulds to form coins, gold bars, and other objects. Stories have been told, movies (8) ... and legends born about the discovery of the world's great gold deposits. It is a saga of dreams, greed, ambition and exploration.

1. A) formats	B) outlines	C) shapes	D) lines
2. A) as	B) like	C) many	D) to
3. A) Whoever	B) However	C) Forever	D) Wherever
4. A) at	B) in	C) for	D) on
5. A) yet	B) despite	C) because	D) so
6. A) with	B) in	C) of	D) at
7. A) estate	B) stage	C) state	D) position
8. A) done	B) made	C) composed	D) built

Tourism

Tourism is one of the world's largest industries, and it is the fastest growing. It contributes over £50 billion to the economy annually, over £12 billion of it from overseas visitors. About 25 million overseas visitors (1) ... Britain each year. Tourism is one of the biggest employment (2) ... in the UK, too – it employs over 1.7 million people, which is more than in the construction or health service industries.

Around 20% of all new (3) ... are in this industry. These figures are very impressive, but how do they translate (4) ... job possibilities for you? There is room in this industry for all sorts of people, with different educational (5) ... , personal attributes, interests and career aims. A tourist is really a traveller – someone who (6) ... a journey, usually for recreation, (7) ... a holiday or sightseeing. (8) ... , tourism at its very simplest refers to the industry that provides travel and entertainment facilities for people away from their own homes.

1. A) come from B) come to C) come away with D) come down to
2. A) zones B) sections C) districts D) sectors
3. A) works B) jobs C) employments D) vocations
4. A) into B) from C) for D) at
5. A) surroundings B) traditions C) backgrounds D) settings
6. A) makes B) does C) performs D) breaks
7. A) as B) such C) so D) like
8. A) Although B) Despite C) Therefore D) Because

Keeping Kitten Healthy

A healthy kitten doesn't just happen. As the (1) ... you need to be proactive, because your kitty can't (2) ... you when she feels sick. You should start as (3) ... as you bring her home - may be even before. Take the kitten to get checked (4) ... within the first week (5) ... home; or before you bring her home if you have other cats.

You need to play voyeur when your kitten poops and pees, feel for lumps and bumps (6) ... her monthly exam, and watch for signs she's just under the (7) Take her to the vet annually and keep her current on her vaccinations. One of the most important decisions you can (8) ... about your kitten's future is whether to have him (or her) fixed. Just a simple snip as early as eight weeks old can mean the difference between your boy cat peeing on the wall or properly in the litter box.

1. A) landlord	B) owner	C) head	D) lender
2. A) say	B) talk	C) tell	D) speak
3. A) soon	B) far	C) clear	D) well
4. A) out	B) down	C) in	D) off
5. A) in	B) on	C) for	D) at
6. A) when	B) through	C) during	D) while
7. A) weather	B) bridge	C) covers	D) flood
8. A) do	B) make	C) create	D) cause

The Giant Panda

The giant panda is a beloved animal in China. It is regarded (1) ... a national (2) It is found mostly in southwestern China in Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. The giant panda is part of the bear family. It has a white coat with black trimmings around its eyes and on its ears, arms, and legs. Adult pandas can be 5 feet (1.5 meters) long and weigh (3) ... to 330 pounds (150 kilograms). The giant panda leads a (4) ... life, except during the mating season.

It lives in bamboo forests (5) ... the mountains. It can climb trees but lives mainly on the ground. (6) ... most bears, the giant panda does not hibernate. It moves to low-lying areas during the winter in search (7) ... warmer temperatures. The giant panda has a mainly (8) ... diet, eating mostly bamboo shoots and leaves. It also eats insects and small rodents. Giant panda breeding groups are small and isolated from one another.

1. A) like	B) as	C) to	D) that
2. A) fortune	B) value	C) treasure	D) prize
3. A) down	B) on	C) up	D) off
4. A) solitary	B) alone	C) friendless	D) unsociable
5. A) on	B) at	C) under	D) in
6. A) Unlike	B) But	C) Owing	D) Unlikely
7. A) to	B) of	C) for	D) with
8. A) vegetable	B) vegetate	C) vegetarian	D) vegetation