

UPSIDE-DOWN RHINO EXPERIMENT WINS IG NOVEL PRIZE

1) Listen and discuss.

2) Who should get prizes for these things? Why? Complete this table.

	Who?
Sport	
Business	
Politics	
Environment	
Entertainment	
Literature	

3) Read the article and decide if the following sentences are True or False.

Everyone is familiar with the Nobel Prizes, which are awarded for physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace. These are given to those who have contributed "the greatest benefit to humankind". However, fewer people are aware of the Ig Nobel Prize. This is bestowed to "honor achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think". One of this year's Ig Nobel awards has been given to scientists who experimented on the effects on rhinoceroses of hanging them upside down. The rhino study won the award for transportation research. Researchers from Cornell University were trying to ascertain the healthiest way to relocate the animals by helicopter.

The Ig Nobel prizes are organized by the science humor magazine *Annals of Improbable Research*. Wikipedia says: "The Ig Nobel Prize is a satirical prize awarded annually since 1991 to celebrate ten unusual or trivial achievements in scientific research." It added: "The name of the award is a pun on the Nobel Prize, which it parodies, and on the word ignoble (not noble)." Other recipients of this year's award studied the bacteria in chewing gum stuck to pavements, conducted tests on forms of cat communication, and carried out research on whether humans evolved to grow beards to protect themselves from punches to the face. All award winners receive a now-defunct Zimbabwean \$10 trillion note.

- 1- The article says there is a Nobel Prize for medicine. **T / F**
- 2- The article says many people are familiar with the Ig Nobel Prize. **T / F**
- 3- The Ig Nobel Prize is for people who make us laugh and think. **T / F**
- 4- Researchers looked at ways to relocate hippos by helicopter. **T / F**
- 5- The Ig Nobel Prize is organized by a science humor magazine. **T / F**
- 6- The Ig Nobel Prize was first awarded 20 years ago. **T / F**
- 7- An Ig Nobel winner studied chewing gum stuck to train seats. **T / F**
- 8- Ig Nobel Prize winners receive an old \$10 trillion note. **T / F**

4) Match these words with the correct meanings.

Paragraph: 1

Contributed - Benefit - Bestowed - Honor

Effect - Ascertain – Relocate

- 1- Move to a new place. _____
- 2- Gave something in order to help achieve or provide something.

- 3- A change which is a result or consequence of an action or other cause.

- 4- An advantage or profit gained from something. _____
- 5- Regard with great respect. _____
- 6- Gave or present an honor, right, or gift. _____
- 7- Find something out for certain; make sure of. _____

Paragraph 2:

Satirical - Trivial - Pun - Parody

Recipient - Evolved – Defunct

- 1- Containing a humor to expose and criticize people's stupidity, particularly in the context of politics and other topical issues. _____
- 2- No longer existing or functioning. _____
- 3- Of little value or importance. _____
- 4- Developed gradually. _____
- 5- A joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words which sound alike but have different meanings. _____
- 6- An imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, or genre with exaggeration for comic effect. _____
- 7- A person or thing that receives or is awarded something. _____

5) Match the following synonyms from the article.

Familiar	Unimportant
Benefit	Consequences
Achievements	Obsolete
Effects	Find out
Ascertain	Well known
Satirical	Beneficiaries
Trivial	Feats
Recipients	Developed
Evolved	Plus point
Defunct	Mocking

6) Multiple choice quiz

1) Who does the article say is familiar with the Nobel Prizes?

- a) fewer people
- b) Nobel Prize winners
- c) everyone
- d) Norwegian people

2) What do the Ig Nobel Prizes honor besides making people laugh?

- a) raising eyebrows
- b) making people think
- c) making people sigh in disbelief
- d) intelligence

3) What award did the rhino researchers win?

- a) Gravity Research
- b) the Wildlife Prize
- c) the Upside Down Prize
- d) Transportation Research

4) Where were the researchers from?

- a) Oslo University
- b) the Sorbonne
- c) Cornell University
- d) Tokyo University

5) When was the first Ig Nobel Prize awarded?

- a) 1990
- b) 1991
- c) 1992
- d) 1993

6) How many Ig Nobel categories are there?

- a) 7
- b) 8
- c) 9
- d) 10

7) Which animal's communication did researchers look at?

- a) goldfish
- b) cats
- c) dogs
- d) parrots

8) What did researchers look at the evolution of in humans?

- a) the brain
- b) the growth of beards
- c) smiling
- d) the big toe

9) What do the winners of the Ig Nobel receive?

- a) a defunct Zimbabwean \$10 trillion note
- b) a statue of a brain
- c) a cheese sandwich
- d) nothing