

Read the text below. For questions (23–32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

FLOWER POWER

Electric field around flowers may help bees find nutritious blooms.

Flowers maintain small electric fields (23) _____ them. Bees can not only (24) _____ those fields, but they may also tell the insects which blooms are most likely (25) _____ a nectar reward, a team of scientists recently reported.

Flowers growing in the ground have a natural negative electric charge, notes Daniel Robert, a sensory biologist at the University of Bristol in England who worked on the new study. Their blooms (26) _____ electrons — the particles that carry negative charge — from the air to the ground. Throughout the air, positive electric charges abound, he explains. So bees, as they (27) _____, can become positively charged.

The scientists set up 30 (28) _____ metal disks covered with purple plastic to resemble flowers. Half of the disks were wired to create small electric fields, and half weren't. The disks with electric fields contained a sweet solution; the unwired ones held a bitter solution.

Scientists then sent in the bees and (29) _____ track of where they went. Toward the tail end of 50 visits to the «flowers», most bees had learned to find the sweet ones. Then the researchers unplugged the fake sweet flowers and tried the (30) _____ again. This time, when the fields were off, the bees never learned. Even after 50 visits, they found the sugar only about half the time — no better than if left to chance.

Robert and his (31) _____ studied the electric fields of real flowers, petunias, to better understand how bees and flowers might communicate. The scientists took measurements of a flower before and after a charged bee approached it. The flower's field reacted to the approaching bee with a small increase in strength. That electrical boost lingered for a little while after the bee had flown away.

That short-lived surge may help tell a different approaching bee that all of the flower's nectar has just been drunk. That bee would be able to sense the change in the flower's electric field, and move on to find a flower full of (32) _____.

Or, as Robert told *Science News*, the flower could signal to the bee: «I'm still pretty and smell nice, but... come back later».

	A	B	C	D
23	in	around	among	above
24	miss	overlook	detect	submit
25	to enjoy	to help	to advise	to offer
26	conduct	show	leave	attend
27	buzz in	buzz about	buzz off	buzz from
28	same	double	corresponding	identical
29	held	kept	took	gave
30	experiment	trial	check	test
31	fans	coordinators	co-workers	comrades
32	honey	sap	syrup	nectar

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If you're the type to forget (23) _____ dates but your other half isn't, it might be wise to (24) _____ in this piece of relationship-saving jewellery.

The Remember Ring is a nifty little gadget that (25) _____ a normal ring from the outside, but inside uses Hot Spot technology to heat itself up a handy 24 hours (26) _____ your anniversary.

Every hour the (27) _____ of metal gets hotter and hotter for 10 seconds, continuing to warm until, at 120°F, it becomes impossible to ignore, reminding you that a special day is around the (28) _____.

Fitted with a battery-charged micro-chip clock that converts heat in your hand into electricity, manufacturers promise the ring is maintenance free and will never (29) _____.

«Using a micro thermopile, The Remember Ring converts the heat from your hand into electricity, (30) _____ the battery charged and microchip clock running perpetually», say makers *Alaska Jewelry*. «Just specify your anniversary date when you order, and we'll program your ring for you. (31) _____ it and forget it — until your anniversary!»

The ring costs \$760 (£497), has a lifelong (32) _____, and comes in seven styles, available in 14 carat white and yellow gold in men's sizes 10 to 13.

	A	B	C	D
23	important	large	trivial	relevant
24	advance	invest	plunge	divest
25	doubles	differs	relates	resembles
26	after	until	at	before
27	lump	spot	piece	part
28	door	corner	floor	block
29	put off	take off	switch off	be off
30	holding	keeping	managing	storing
31	Set	Apply	Settle	Stick
32	security	contract	warranty	break

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KIDS CAN LOWER THEIR FLU RISK

The flu is in the news. As the flu spreads, healthcare workers have two simple (23) _____ of advice for kids and others who want to prevent the spread of flu germs.

Wash your hands. Viruses don't pass (24) _____ the skin, but they can live on the hands and enter the body when people touch their mouths, eyes, or noses. That's why hand-washing with soap and water is more (25) _____ than anything else in fighting the spread of the flu virus. How long should you wash your hands? Doctors say you should wash for (26) _____ it takes you to say the alphabet from A to Z. That should be long (27) _____ to kill most of germs.

Cover your coughs and sneezes. Most flu germs are (28) _____ through the air. The flu virus clings to droplets that come (29) _____ your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Those wet droplets are pretty heavy, so they don't travel far; they fall quickly to the ground. You can (30) _____ people within a few feet of you from cough or sneeze germs by (31) _____ your mouth and nose with a tissue, your hand, or your shirtsleeve.

Doctors say new flu viruses appear (32) _____ every year. Flu vaccines can prevent the spread of some flu viruses, but they are not effective in fighting all the new flu viruses that might appear. Making a vaccine to fight new viruses can take up to six months. That's why doctors say people can best fight the spread of flu by washing their hands and covering their coughs.

	A	B	C	D
23	lumps	bits	pieces	shares
24	into	over	inside	through
25	effective	operative	persuasive	impressive
26	during	as long as	while	for
27	very	too	enough	much
28	passed	transmitted	gone	sent
29	from	out	with	out of
30	save	rescue	secure	protect
31	shutting	covering	closing	putting
32	nearly	around	almost	just about