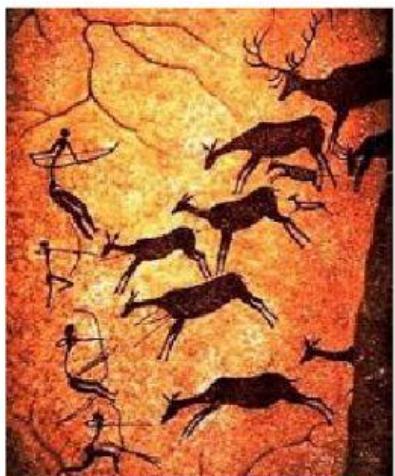


Read the text. Choose one of the variants



When people first began to write, they did not use an alphabet. Instead, they drew small pictures to show the objects they were writing about. This was very slow because there was a different picture for                    word.

The Ancient Egyptians had a system of picture writing that was                    hieroglyphics. The meaning of this writing was forgotten for a very long time but in 1799 some scientists                    a stone near Alexandria in Egypt. The stone had been there for                    a thousand years. It had both Greek and hieroglyphics on it and researchers were finally able to understand what the hieroglyphics meant.

An alphabet is quite different picture writing. It                    of letters or symbols that represent a sound and each sound is just part of one word. The Phoenicians, who lived about 3,000 years ago, developed the modern alphabet. It was later improved by the Romans and this alphabet is now used throughout the world.

