# 8&9 Colloquial English Talking about…insects and animals

## 1 LOOKING AT LANGUAGE informal and vague language

**Complete the informal and vague language in the sentences.**

1 We usually have a quick lunch: a salad or a sandwich or wh*atever*_____.
2 Ants can be a b_____ of a pest when you're camping.
3 I opened a box of chocolates last night and my husband ate the wh_____ lot.
4 I was l_____, 'Please don't let that be mine!' when the waiter brought our meals.
5 I'm pr_____ sure that I've never eaten an insect.
6 Cattle farming will probably die out in the next 30 or s_____ years.
7 So I said, 'Try some of this', and Harry w_____ 'Yuck, what is that?'
8 There are loads of people o_____ there who don't know the meaning of a balanced diet.
9 His kids are always g_____, 'I don't like this. Can I have that?'
10 There are s_____ like 4,500 species of cockroaches in the world.

## 2 VOCABULARY FROM THE INTERVIEW

**Complete the sentences from the interview with George McGavin with an adjective from the list.**

alarming excited major slight slim wild

1 Everybody gets very *excited*_____ about, er, backboned animals…
2 …I realized that, actually, insects were the _____ player in any habitat.
3 …we're losing species at a quite _____ rate now, because of habitat loss,
4 …our chances of ever finding them and naming them are probably pretty _____…
5 You might get a _____ irritation or, you know, a swelling…
6 I cooked up a big wok of, of crickets…handed them round, and the kids went _____!

## 3 VOCABULARY FROM THE CONVERSATION

**Complete the sentences with a word from the list.**

ages appeal background behind bit comes putting religiously spectrum whole

1 I just can't face watching the news at the moment. Whenever it *comes*_____ **on**, I just change the channel.
2 Every time I go to the cinema with my children, we have to stay and watch the credits, just in case there's an extra _____ **at the end**.
3 We often don't appreciate that those natural history programmes **take** absolutely _____ to make.
4 It's a new comedy series which is designed to _____ **to** viewers of all ages.
5 The decision was welcomed by all major parties **across the** political _____.
6 After several years as an actor, she decided that she wanted to experience life _____ **the camera**.
7 She's getting really good at Italian, mainly because she does her homework _____.
8 I have the TV on most of the day, but I don't really watch it. I just like to have it **on in the** _____.
9 I remember I had a maths teacher who was great at _____ **things across** to us. He used examples I could really relate to.
10 I grew up in the suburbs, so moving to the city was **a** _____ **new experience**.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

# Can you remember…? 1–9

## GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY

**a** **Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first sentence. Use the word in brackets. Write between 3–6 words. Contractions count as one word.**

1 I think one of my colleagues doesn't like me – he keeps trying to get me into trouble. (in)
I think one of my colleagues has _____. He keeps trying to get me into trouble.

2 We'd only just finished eating when the waiter brought our bill. (scarcely)
_____ when the waiter brought our bill.

3 There will definitely be changes to the menu when the new chef starts work. (bound)
There _____ to the menu when the new chef starts work.

4 I regret sending such an angry message – now my friend isn't talking to me. (only)
_____ such an angry message – now my friend isn't talking to me.

5 When my brother broke our neighbour's window, he had to pay for the damage. (made)
My brother _____ for the damage when he broke my neighbour's window.

6 I didn't accept the job because they didn't offer me a full-time contract. (been)
Had _____, I would have accepted the job.

7 I mustn't spend any more money this month, or I won't be able to pay my rent. (better)
I _____ any more money this month, or I won't be able to pay my rent.

8 I wonder what Beth and Andy are talking about – it looks as if they're arguing. (seem)
I wonder what Beth and Andy are talking about – they _____.

9 I hate it when someone is watching me while I'm cooking. (watched)
I _____ while I'm cooking.

10 It is thought that the Prime Minister is about to call a general election. (point)
The Prime Minister is thought to be _____ a general election.

11 I told my mum not to wait up for me, but she did. (although)
My mum waited up for me _____.

12 Luke has been a journalist for five years. (experience)
Luke _____ as a journalist.

**b** **Complete the article. Write one word in each space.**

### The arrival of the plant-based burger

It appears that the fast-food industry has finally begun to take action in response to recommendations that we [1]_____ reduce the amount of meat we consume. [2]_____ to a report by the United Nations, we may still have a chance of fighting climate change as [3]_____ as we move towards a plant-based diet. One fast-food chain that has come [4]_____ with a plant-based option for customers is the hamburger restaurant Burger King. Their new product is a meat-free version of the company's famous Whopper, and they're calling it Impossible Whopper, or Rebel Whopper in the UK. The main difference, of course, is that the plant-based burger is not made with minced meat. However, it looks and tastes exactly [5]_____ a normal burger – and it's just as juicy. The Impossible Whopper is not [6]_____ marketed as a vegan product because, like its meat-based equivalent, it is served with mayonnaise made with eggs, and it's cooked on the same grill as meat. Moreover, the new burger has been criticized by animal [7]_____ activists for having been tested on rats in a laboratory. Burger King hopes that meat-eaters will be more willing to sample the new plant-based burger than they [8]_____ a traditional veggie-burger. In effect, they are trying to kill two birds with one [9]_____: on the one hand, by helping to stop the devastating effects of climate change, and on the [10]_____, by encouraging people to eat a much healthier diet containing more plant-based food.

LIVEWORKSHEETS