Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 2 Extension

READING

1 Read the article. Then match the parts of the sentences (a–k). There are three extra sentences you don't need.

The power of gossip

Humans are one of the most successful animals in the world. We have become the most powerful, most important species on the planet, and of course, we have become one of the most intelligent. We have created films, books, buildings, businesses, the internet and many other complicated and beautiful things. So what is the secret of our success? What makes us different from other animals, which have achieved none of these things? The answer might surprise you.

Humans have been able to talk or communicate for a very long time. Early humans could tell each other where to find the best food, or to communicate about dangerous things. However, this did not make humans special. Many animals can do this, too.

The real change was when humans learned to gossip. This means chatting to other people, talking about other people's private lives – and sharing information about them. People learned to talk about what other people were like, who was honest, who was important or not important, in the same way that we now gossip about people around us or TV stars.

This change was important. Since humans first started to gossip, we have thought of ourselves as part of a much larger group of hundreds or thousands of people. Earlier, humans only remembered information about their close family. We developed the idea of being part of a society and we needed to concentrate on more and more information.

Some scientists believe that gossip also helped humans to get better at imagining things. When we gossip about another person, that person is usually not there, in front of us. It is quite easy to talk about things we can see or hear, but talking about things which are only in our memory or our imagination is actually very complicated. It is possible that we are the only animals that can do this.

So, as humans learned to gossip, our brains got larger and larger. We also developed more and more language skills. So, the next time someone tells you that gossiping about people is bad, they might be wrong!

0	People are more successful than	**a**	happened many years ago.
1	Knowing how to communicate	**b**	was a more recent change.
2	It isn't only humans that can	**c**	any other species on Earth.
3	Gossiping is the ability to	**d**	the ability to gossip.
4	Learning to share information about other people	**e**	form large societies.
5	Learning to gossip meant that we could	**f**	the ability to communicate.
6	It's possible that only humans can	**h**	communicate with each other.
7	Brain size is linked to	**i**	use a form of language.
		j	imagine things.
		k	talk about other people.

7

2 Read the article again. Complete the summary with one word in each gap. Use words from the article.

0 *Humans* have become a very successful and powerful species.

1 We have created many forms of art, and have invented complicated things such as the _____.

2 For a long time, we have been able to warn each other about_____things.

3 However, we are not the only _____ with the ability to do this.

4 The ability to chat about other people, or _____, changed our development.

5 One important function of this was to decide whether other people were important or _____.

6 Learning to do this was an important step towards living in a_____.

7 Gossiping depends on having an_____.

8 Our ability to use_____increased as our brains became larger.

8

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 2 Extension

LISTENING

3 **Listen to two teenagers talking about things they don't learn. Put the things they talk about in thecorrect order.**

A Young people not learning about organising their time. ☐

B Anna cooking breakfast. ☐

C Young people having problems with other people. ☐

D Anna forgetting her homework. 1

E Ben reading an article. ☐

F Young people having problems with money. ☐

G Anna having an argument with a friend. ☐

H Anna wanting to go to the cinema. ☐

☐ 7

4 **Listen again and complete the notes with 1–3 words.**

0 Anna hasn't done her *history homework* yet.

1 Anna says that Veronica always says_____.

2 Anna asked her mum for_____for the cinema.

3 Her parents are angry with her because she left_____in a mess.

4 Ben read_____about things teenagers should learn.

5 He says that teenagers need to learn how to_____.

6 Ben says that teenagers get money_____.

7 Anna says that she doesn't learn about_____at school.

8 Ben thinks teenagers need to understand what to do when life_____.

☐ 8

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