EXERCISE 1

SCIENCE MUSEUM

I've always been [1]_____ science, especially space exploration. So when I heard that a new science museum had been opened by a group of astronauts, I didn't hesitate and I visited its webpage to check what kind of exhibitions had been put together. Their description sounded [2]_____ fantastic that I booked a ticket straightaway to make sure I would not spend any precious time queuing at the ticket office.

Having got to the museum, I rushed to the department of space exploration. To my mind, it was the best place to be and I could finally experience what the job of a real astronaut is [3]_____. Then, in the section about the Earth, I saw a film about Iceland and I even watched an indoor geyser erupt.

I [4]_____ no doubt that such exhibitions make people realise how powerful our planet is and in effect it helps them respect our globe. I'm sure I'll be back there soon.

EXERCISE 2

CANINE INTELLIGENCE

Research on canine intelligence has proved that dogs are brighter than was previously thought. Not [1]_____ are they brilliant at reading human expressions and body language, but also at interpreting them. Apparently, they are much better at it even than chimpanzees, which are [2]_____ closest relatives. In fact, some dogs are able to understand up to 250 words, signs or signals.

Scientists believe that [3]_____ was taming and domesticating dogs that have helped these special abilities to evolve. For example, it has been proved that dogs can be trained to perform complex tasks. Tests have shown that they can also count up to five. The most intelligent breeds [4]_____ said to be Border Collies and retrievers, whereas hounds and terriers – the least. They just bark at everything.

EXERCISE 3

IDENTITY THEFT

If somebody asked you to name the most valuable treasure you possess, [1]_____ would you say it was? Most would probably mention some personal belongings, but it's our personal information which should be most treasured and, therefore, securely protected.

The problem of identity theft is not a completely new phenomenon but [2]_____ now it hasn't been widely discussed or even fully explained. Indeed, people have pretended to be other people throughout the centuries but now it is possible to collect our data in a much [3]_____ efficient way. One reason why criminals can get hold of our personal information is the fact that people tend to be quite careless about their personal data. Some throw out bank statements and official letters with their normal rubbish. To make [4]_____ worse, some use websites which are not protected properly or share information about themselves online.

EXERCISE 4

A CLOSE CALL

The night before the worst day of my life [1]_____ had been terrible wind and heavy rain so I knew we would be busy removing debris and fallen branches or need to pump the water out of people's basements. [2]_____ I didn't expect though was that it would be me who would have to be rescued on that shift.

Early in the morning, my team was called to check a building that seemed to have moved because of the rain. The building looked quite safe from the outside and we went inside to [3]_____ a better look. And then the building started collapsing around me. I remember falling and when I woke up I realised that I was trapped. Waiting for help seemed an eternity, but when I heard familiar voices and saw dim lights, my face lit up with happiness [4]_____ my body was aching all over.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXERCISE 1

HITTING THE JACKPOT

A couple of years ago a dear friend of [1]_____ won the lottery. As it happened, we had bought our lottery tickets together but I wasn't as lucky as Kate. As soon as I found out that she had hit the jackpot, I rang Kate to congratulate her [2]_____ winning quite a large amount of money.

At first, she didn't want anybody to know about it and she insisted on me accompanying her to pick up the cheque. When we arrived, there were loads of reporters and she agreed to [3]_____ her photo taken, which later appeared in all the tabloids. Since then, she has received hundreds of begging letters which really get her down. Her life is a bit easier now but I know she still [4]_____ she had kept her privacy.

EXERCISE 2

A PERFECT CAMPSITE

I can't imagine a summer holiday without spending at least a couple of weeks camping in North Wales. Every single year I look [1]_____ to escaping problems at work and other everyday preoccupations.

I always stay on a small campsite [2]_____ is run by a family of farmers. The charm of this place is not that it provides all kinds of tourist attractions. It doesn't. On the contrary, the local way of life is authentically simple and relaxing. As soon as you arrive, you feel as [3]_____ you're far away from the madding crowd and you know you would like to stay there forever.

The campsite is set in a beautiful rural setting. It has its [4]_____ fishing lake and easy access to the woods. The owners are extremely friendly and they always give newcomers a very warm welcome.

EXERCISE 3

KARAOKE

For people [1]_____ me, who definitely can't sing but really love trying, there is one answer – karaoke. This form of entertainment originated in Japan, where people generally enjoy picking [2]_____ a microphone and singing after work or at parties. However, in recent years, it has gained in popularity around the world.

So, why did karaoke become so popular in the first place? Because it gives people [3]_____ unique chance to sing well-known songs without the lead vocal, but with the lyrics displayed on a screen. The changing colours indicate which words you should be singing at any particular time.

Whenever I am invited to a party, I always ask the host [4]_____ they're planning entertainment known as a 'karaoke session'. Whenever the answer is 'yes', I make sure to be there. I know I can't sing, but I can't resist the temptation to do it!

EXERCISE 4

HOW FAR CAN YOU THROW YOUR MOBILE?

If you have ever felt a desire to dispose of your mobile phone, you should try it [1]_____ the Mobile Phone Throwing World Championships, held annually in Finland. You can present yourself individually or try your luck with two other people.

Depending on the category you're in, there are different rules and you are judged [2]_____ on distance or general performance. One of the most important things to remember is that you must [3]_____ step over the throwing area and the phone must land within the throwing area. Otherwise, the jury may disqualify the throw or the contestant.

The competition is described as a modern Finnish sport [4]_____ philosophy, according to the organisers, is spiritual freedom from being available all the time. I guess that with our constant need to use a mobile phone, it's a good idea to 'throw it away' from time to time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS