

GRAMMAR

20	Have you ever heard about the Klingon language? If you _____ science fiction films, you probably haven't.	NOT LIKE
21	The language _____ at the end of the 20 century specially for the films about aliens from other planets. In the StarTrek films, Klingon is the language of the warrior race.	CREATE
22	Nowadays there _____ about 3000 words in the language.	BE
23	Most of _____ refer to space craft and weapons but it's also possible to use Klingon for everyday conversations.	THEY
24	Mark Okrand, one of the people who created this language, said that soon Klingon _____ very popular.	BECOME
25	"Very soon, science fiction fans _____ Klingon for communication within their community," he once predicted. But it never happened. At the present time there might be only twenty or thirty people who are able to speak Klingon fluently.	ACCEPT
26	To most people, it _____ strange and alien. It's not easy to learn.	SOUND
27	I personally _____ to learn it several times, but without much success yet.	TRY
28	I wish I _____ partners for conversations but for obvious reasons there are not many around.	HAVE

20	"Any plans for tomorrow?" Daniel _____ me up at about 9 p.m. Friday night. Daniel was my cousin and we often spent time together. "No, why?" I was having my supper and answered with my mouth full.	RING
21	Daniel understood that. "You _____ spaghetti at the moment. Am I right?"	EAT
22	He always laughed at me and always said that I _____ eat spaghetti three times a day.	CAN

23	But he was wrong — I wouldn't mind having it even more often! Just because spaghetti was _____ to me than any other dish.	TASTY
24	Daniel _____ for my answer to his question. He went on. "Look, what would you say about watching some film tomorrow?"	NOT WAIT
25	That sounded like a good idea to _____. Indeed, it was cold and windy outside.	I
26	The sky was overcast and the ground _____ with wet yellow leaves. "I don't mind it," I said, "What's on?" "Well, some funny comedy about aliens and their adventures on the Earth."	COVER
27	Daniel wanted to explain further but I interrupted him. "No, the aliens are out. I _____ this film, and believe me, it's not so funny!"	SEE
28	What's your _____ choice?"	TWO

WF

29	How many planets are there in our Solar System? Most _____ people would say that there are eight of them.	EDUCATE
30	Indeed, you may come across this _____ in a school textbook on astronomy.	INFORM
31	However, there are those who would _____ with this point of view. They believe that there are nine planets.	AGREE
32	In fact, _____, space researchers started to talk about a giant planet on the outskirts of the Solar System.	RECENT
33	The planet is too far away to be seen from the Earth. It is still invisible even to the _____ Hubble Space Telescope.	POWER
34	However, the scientists have calculated its gravitational influence and are sure we are very close to a new amazing space _____.	DISCOVER

1. What is a volcano?
2. What kinds of volcanoes exist?

3. What is the most volcanically active zone in the world?
4. How much time is needed to predict a volcano eruption?
5. Is there any place on the Earth free of volcanoes?
6. Can we find volcanoes on the other planets?
7. Why do people live near volcanoes?

A. In the context of volcanic activities, the unique continent of Australia, as usual, stands apart from the others. It is primarily flat and covered with deserts and grassland. Though, from a spaceship, the mountains are well-seen in the east of the country, there are no volcanoes there. Australia is located on the ancient tectonic plate, which makes earthquakes impossible though people may feel slight aftershocks coming from distant islands in the ocean.

B. The Earth is rich in volcanoes. However, it is not the only place with unstable geology in the Solar System. The record belongs to Venus with 1600 volcanoes on its surface. Spaceships launched to Venus saw unusual peaks that looked as flat as pancakes. The volcanoes are supposed to be inactive, but this statement still needs additional proof and evidence.

C. The word 'volcano' comes from the name of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan. According to legend, when the god gets angry, the volcano starts being deathly dangerous for everything around. As a volcano, in simple words a mountain with a hole at the top, erupts, lava, ash and smoke come out of the crater. It is a stunning and terrifying sight which reminds us of the powerful and furious gods of nature.

D. Indeed, underwater volcanic activities make up 80 per cent of all registered! To detect such a volcano, scientists need powerful equipment placed on a ship. The results of the monitoring suggest that the most numerous group of volcanoes, which consists of more than 450 items, is in the Pacific Ocean. That large territory of 40,000 km long is called 'The Ring of Fire'. The movements of the tectonic plates formed it.

E. Approximately 1,900 volcanoes on the Earth are active and likely to erupt. However, many people choose to settle near volcanoes. Lava and ash provide valuable nutrients, making the soil fertile and very good for farming. Because of this, people often choose to farm on the land at the foot of volcanoes. Along with that, the heat of a volcano provides the local industries and homes with cheap energy.

F. Scientists say that when the Earth was younger, there were lots of volcanoes on the planet and they were erupting constantly. Now there are much fewer of them and most of them are not considered to be active. A volcano is active when it is still possible or even likely to erupt. And it is called extinct if it hasn't erupted for thousands of years. Along with the volcanoes we know, there are lots which are still hidden from a man's eye — underwater volcanoes.

A	B	C	D	E	F



The Snake Girl

Most people are afraid of snakes. They feel like that because snakes may be dangerous. Of course, not all of them are poisonous. Some snakes are absolutely harmless, but, still, people do not like them. People in Australia, however, have learnt to live in harmony with snakes. Snakes are a natural part of the ecosystem, and they are treated with care and respect. In Australian cities you may encounter a snake when just walking along the street. Australians usually say that it is just part of their life.

Snakes are protected in the country. If people find a snake in their house or back yard, they call a handler service to remove it. Handlers (or snake catchers) are special people who deal with snakes. A handler arrives at the house and relocates the animal to a safe place. No snake is ever harmed. All handlers are trained volunteers. They are also members of the Wildlife Service that rescues animals. Ms. Alati, aged 25, was one of them.

Once, on her day off from the office where she worked as an accountant, Ms. Alati was cooking dinner. Suddenly, she found out that she had run out of spices. Ms. Alati hurried to the nearest supermarket. Her house was on the outskirts of Sydney, near a large bushland area, full of snakes. In spite of that, the way to the supermarket never seemed any dangerous to Ms. Alati.

When Ms. Alati entered the supermarket, she headed for the grocery shelves. She reached out for pepper, lemon spices and basil and suddenly heard a low hiss. She turned her head and saw a snake. It was only 30 cm from her face. A two-meter python was slowly slithering out of the spice shelves. The woman stood frozen because she did not expect to see a snake in the supermarket.

The snake was looking straight into the woman's eyes and moving its tongue. Its body with a diamond pattern looked graceful and magnetic. Ms. Alati thought she could hear the snake's words "Help! Take me outside, please". The scene was like the zoo episode from

Harry Potter film in which the boy talked to the snake. No one else was around but Ms. Alati remained calm and focused. Unfortunately, she could not speak the snakes' language and couldn't comfort the python.

Ms. Alati knew that pythons were strong but they normally did no harm to people. She was familiar with snakes. A trained snake handler, Ms. Alati had rescued about 20 of them before. Because of this, her friends would often call her 'the snake girl'. After filming the snake, Ms. Alati called the shop staff and said she could help them get it out.

She went home to take a snake bag and then returned to the supermarket. She trapped the snake on the tail and it just slithered into the bag. The staff took plenty of photos of the trapped snake, some of which were later posted on the local media. Then Ms. Alati released the python into the bushland, away from the living area. The snake was returned to its natural habitat. Ms. Alati said she hoped the python would never 'go shopping' again.

13. *Australia has got more poisonous snakes than any other continent.*

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

14. *When Australians see a snake in their house, they kill it for their safety.*

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

15. *Ms. Alati was a cook in a restaurant in Sydney.*

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

16. *Ms. Alati found a snake inside the supermarket.*

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

17. *When Ms. Alati approached the python, the snake attacked her.*

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

19. *After the incident the local media made a set of special reports about snake handlers.*

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

18. *Ms. Alati had already had experience in catching and saving snakes.*

- 1) True

- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

19. *After the incident the local media made a set of special reports about snake handlers.*

- 1) True
- 2) False
- 3) Not stated

