

Reading

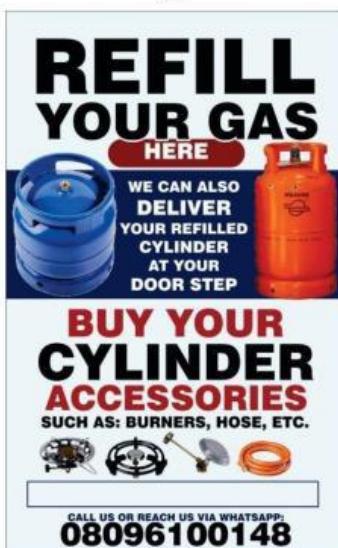
Task 1

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5). There are three choices you do not need to use.

1



2



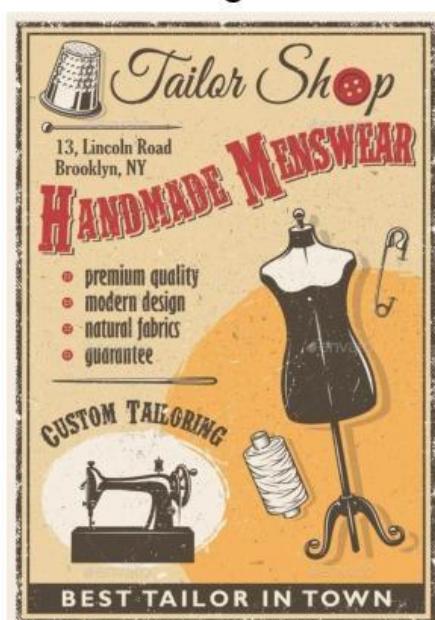
3



4



5



Where can you _____?

- A. get everything for free
- B. get medical help
- C. get something designed specifically for you
- D. get some new clothes
- E. get something free of charge
- F. get something without going out and cost-free
- G. get the opportunity to store your possessions
- H. get supplements to specific item

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

Task 2

Read the texts below. For questions (6 -10) choose the correct answers (A, B, C or D).

Living in Los Angeles, I found myself yearning for a change from the relentless pace and constant noise of city life. It had been far too long since I last ventured beyond the urban sprawl, where the natural world awaited with its serene landscapes and untamed beauty. The mountains, in particular, called to me with their tranquil majesty, a stark contrast to the concrete and chaos of the city. I longed for the stillness they offered, the kind of quiet that enveloped you, allowing for introspection and a connection with nature that the city simply couldn't provide.

So, with a sense of adventure rekindled in my heart, I and my faithful dog Rusty decided to leave the city behind. I jumped in my old pick-up truck, threw my backpack in the back, and set off to Yellowstone Park, a grand and spectacular area that stretches across Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana. When we arrived at the base camp, I collected my things for the big hike: my compass and map, my tent and sleeping bag, and, of course, water and food to keep us going for the next twenty-four hours. It was still early afternoon, so it was the perfect time to start hiking while our energy levels were high. Rusty and I made our way along the hiking trail, delighted with the breathtaking scenery around us.

After only an hour into the journey, Rusty's ears started to move, and he appeared aware of an animal watching us. I, too, felt the eyes of a creature nearby. Was it approaching me? What was it? I looked to my right and suddenly noticed a large, brown

bear staring straight at me. Even though I was, at that moment, in complete shock, I realized that the brown bear was outraged that I had walked into her territory. How could I approach her family area!? Rusty immediately started to snarl and appeared deeply fearful. The bear did not move an inch but stared me right in the eye. I remember reading in a book that you shouldn't make any sudden moves around a wild animal, so I crept forward, not turning back and pulling Rusty along after me. I know that bears can run fast, so I picked up the pace as I started to worry the bear might run after me. Within minutes, the bear was out of sight, and I breathed a sigh of relief. Even Rusty seemed happy that we had escaped.

We carried on with our hike, and the path became narrower and more difficult to follow. There were steep cliff edges, and I was terrified Rusty would fall over. The cliffs dropped down to vast blue lakes. I could see goats and buffalo wandering on the little gold beaches.

Once we arrived at the main shelter, it was already evening time. I pitched the tent and started to set up our home for the night. We had some hot beans on the fire and some coffee, and Rusty had his dog food. "Don't be afraid of bears", I told Rusty. "They're nowhere near us now". I was soon to be corrected! As Rusty and I settled down for the night, we watched the pink, gold, and Hallowe'en orange sunset as we relaxed in the tent. We were exhausted after the trek and soon slept to the sound of the crickets around us.

It was around midnight when I awoke in the darkness. Something was rummaging outside, moving close to the tent. It seemed to be getting closer, but it was a moonless, pitch-dark night, and I was blind to the world beyond the tent's fabric. Then, I heard some scratching and grunting. I got my mobile phone and looked through the tent window, shining my phone at it. To my horror, the brown bear was back! She was going through my backpack and had eaten the sandwiches and tasty treats I had prepared for me and Rusty. I was so afraid of the bear

that I stayed in the tent and let her eat everything from the bag. Once she was full, she wandered off back down the hill. I was worried that she'd come back, but we stayed in the tent until the crack of dawn, after which time we headed back to my truck. Next time, I'll never leave food outside.

6. What is the writer's purpose in the first paragraph?

- A** to explain why he was having problems in the city.
- B** to describe the beauty of the mountains.
- C** to compare the city and the countryside.
- D** to explain his motivation for his trip to Yellowstone park

7. What does the writer suggest about his knowledge of hiking and camping?

- A** He's a little inexperienced.
- B** It's his first time to Yellowstone Park.
- C** He's well-prepared for this trip.
- D** He's done detailed research of the region.

8. Why does the writer say in the third paragraph, 'How dare I approach her family area!'

- A** He's angry the bear is approaching them.
- B** He should have known better than to get into the bear's territory.
- C** He walked near to a family of young bears.
- D** He's imagining what the bear is thinking.

9. How did the writer react to the encounter with the bear?

- A** He remained still and quiet for a while.
- B** He moved away slowly and then quickly fled.
- C** He let the dog guide him away from the scene.
- D** He immediately ran as fast as he could.

10. Why did the writer wake up in the middle of the night?

- A** Something was touching his belongings.
- B** His phone woke him.
- C** Something touched the tent's fabric.
- D** The sound of the crickets woke him.

Task 3

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (11 - 15). There are three choices you do not need to use.

11. Ithaa Undersea Restaurant

Fancy a spot of lunch with the fishes? Located 5 metres below sea level in the Maldives, this glass capsule restaurant offers 360-degree views of the vibrant coral gardens and marine life. The menu features contemporary European cuisine with a Maldivian influence. Watching manta rays and sharks glide overhead while sipping champagne creates an experience that's utterly surreal.

12. Dinner In The Sky

Not one for those with a fear of heights! This Belgian concept hoists diners 50 metres into the air on a specially designed table suspended by a crane. Strapped into racing-style seats, guests enjoy gourmet meals prepared by top chefs right before their eyes. The breathtaking views and adrenaline rush add flavours you simply can't recreate on solid ground.

13. The Rock Restaurant

Perched on an ancient coral rock in the Indian Ocean off Zanzibar, this tiny seafood haven is only accessible by foot during low tide or by boat when the waters rise. With just 12 tables, the intimate setting offers panoramic ocean

views that change throughout the day. The fresh catch arrives directly from the surrounding waters to your plate – seafood doesn't get more local than this!

14. Labassin Waterfall Restaurant

At Villa Escudero in the Philippines, bamboo tables sit directly in the gentle flow of a man-made waterfall. Guests dine barefoot in the refreshing ankle-deep water while traditional Filipino dishes arrive on banana leaves. The cool spray from the cascading water provides natural air conditioning in the tropical heat. It's a brilliantly simple concept that transforms an ordinary lunch into a playful adventure.

15. O.Noir

At O.Noir in Montreal and Toronto, you'll dine in complete darkness, guided and served by visually impaired staff. Without sight, your other senses heighten dramatically – suddenly the texture, aroma and flavour of each bite become incredibly intense. This mind-bending experience changes not just how you taste food, but how you perceive the world.

Which restaurant _____?

- A. is definitely not for weak-hearted
- B. features seafood pulled from the very waters you're gazing upon
- C. serves meals in creative, clinic-inspired dishware, and unexpected performances
- D. forces a person to rely less on familiar ways of perception and more on other senses
- E. creates an intimate experience shaped by the surrounding ocean.
- F. combines history, sound, and scenery to create an unforgettable dining atmosphere
- G. turns a simple meal into a refreshing sensory experience
- H. offers a rare perspective on life beneath the surface

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (16 - 20). There are three choices you do not need to use.

Albert Einstein, famous worldwide as one of the greatest scientists of all time, was born on March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany. He didn't show special skills in his early years. (16) These were his favourite subjects at school and he was never happier than when he was in a classroom studying them.

He later moved to Switzerland to finish his school education. After graduating, Einstein had a hard time finding a job and finally started working at the Swiss Patent Office. (17) This job, despite being ordinary, gave Einstein plenty of time to focus on his love for theoretical physics.

Einstein had a remarkable ability to visualise complex scientific ideas. (18) In 1905, Einstein published four revolutionary papers in the field of physics, marking his 'miracle year'. These papers greatly changed our understanding of nature.

The world's scientific community started to recognise Einstein's genius after these publications. He received offers to teach at top universities and was later awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921. (19)

Einstein's theories continue to be important for modern physics and space studies, and his legacy remains unchallenged. (20)

- A.** It was there that he could let his mind wander, which ultimately led to his amazing theories.
- B.** However, the young Einstein loved mathematics and physics.
- C.** He continued to change the world of science until his death in 1955.
- D.** He was a rule breaker who questioned established beliefs.
- E.** It was during this time that he developed the theory of relativity.
- F.** His theories have opened new areas of thought and discovery.
- G.** Everybody knew he was right, but it remained controversial.
- H.** Despite the praise and awards, Einstein stayed humble and always curious.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

Use of English

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (21-26) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Silk is a natural protein fiber, some forms of which can be (21) into textiles. The protein fiber of silk is composed mainly of fibroin, and is (22) by certain insect larvae to form cocoons. The best-known silk is obtained from the cocoons of the larvae of the mulberry silkworm *Bombyx mori*, which is reared in (23) The shimmering appearance of silk is due to the triangular prism-like structure of the silk fibre, which (24) silk cloth to refract incoming light at different angles, thus producing different colours. Silk is produced by several insects, but, over the years, only the silk of moth caterpillars has been used for textile (25), although there has been some (26) into other types of silk.

Silk is mainly produced by the larvae of insects undergoing complete metamorphosis, but some insects such as webspinners and raspy crickets produce silk throughout their lives.

	A	B	C	D
21	stitched	woven	knitted	crocheted
22	produced	manufactured	invented	offered
23	chains	cell	prison	captivity
24	encourages	tempts	allows	forces
25	fabricating	constructing	assembling	manufacturing
26	scrutinizing	probing	research	interrogation

Task 6

Read the text below. For questions (27-32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

How the Austrian army defeated itself

The Battle of Karansebes in 1788 was caused (27) friendly fire. The Austrian Army at that time (28) Czechs, Germans, Frenchmen, Serbs, Croats, and Poles. This made communication difficult and resulted in an army that was poorly organized.

During the night some soldiers got into an argument over alcohol and a shot was fired. Suddenly the main camp was shouting "Turks, Turks!" and chaos followed. Austrian officers were shouting "Halt, Halt!" in German, (29) to reestablish order but the majority of the soldiers did not speak German and believed they were hearing the Turks screaming "Allah Allah" as they attacked. Suddenly everyone (30) anything that moved in the darkness. A commander, believing the Ottoman cavalry was attacking the camp, decided (31) his own men with artillery fire! This is what led to 10.000 dead Austrian soldiers.

The Turkish Army? Well, they did not arrive until 2 days later and (32) control of the town of Karansebes.

	A	B	C	D
27	in	from	by	with
28	made up	was made up	had been made up	is made up
29	trying	were trying	were tried	had tried
30	had been shooting	were shooting	was shooting	shot
31	were bombarding	bombarding	bombard	to bombard
32	took	taking	was taken	taken