For texts 3–4, choose the word or phrase which fits best in each gap. Choose the correct letter (A, B, C or D).

3 Grasshoppers – friend or foe?

Humans have had an uneasy relationship with grasshoppers for much of history. On the one hand, they are considered **3.1.** _____ a delicacy in many parts of the world. In Japan, for example, *Inago no Tsukudani* is a popular dish made by boiling grasshoppers in soy sauce and sugar.

On the other hand, grasshoppers have caused untold damage and destruction. Whenever extended periods of drought are followed by sudden rainfall, these normally-solitary creatures **3.2.** _____ such a remarkable transformation that we call them by a different name: locusts. They become significantly more sociable, their brains grow larger, and their endurance increases remarkably, enabling them to cover phenomenal distances each day.

Locusts are best known for forming huge swarms consisting of billions of individuals, which **3.3.** _____ havoc by eating all the crops in their path, with devastating results for farmers. Throughout human history, locust plagues have caused countless famines and even led to the downfall of great empires.

Despite their reputation as 'hoppers', they spend the majority of their adult lives as flyers. In 1988, a swarm successfully crossed the Atlantic, from West Africa to the Caribbean. Swarms can also cover an area as great as 1200 km^2 - roughly the size of Delhi! **3.4.** _____ that each locust can eat its own bodyweight in food each day, a swarm of that size is capable of eating almost 200 million kilos of food in 24 hours.

However, all is not bleak in the relationship between humans and grasshoppers. In 2020, researchers in the USA announced the development of a 'cyborg grasshopper' with the ability to detect explosives. The grasshoppers **3.5.** _____ with tiny backpacks that could monitor their antennae movements and send signals back to a computer. Perhaps in the future, grasshoppers will be famed for their ability to save lives rather than destroy them.

3.1.	3.2.	3.3.	3.4.	3.5.
A. something of	**A.** withstand	**A.** spoil	**A.** Provided	**A.** fitted
B. of a kind	**B.** undermine	**B.** wreak	**B.** Supposed	**B.** used to fit
C. somewhat	**C.** withhold	**C.** ruin	**C.** Given	**C.** have been fitted
D. like	**D.** undergo	**D.** smash	**D.** In order	**D.** were fitted

4 What I learned when I tried caber tossing

When I signed up to become a lifestyle journalist, little **4.1.** _____ that I'd be expected to get my hands dirty as part of my research. I had envisaged my job as sitting at a desk, doing my research online and only occasionally **4.2.** _____ on an intrepid expedition to the kitchen to fetch a coffee. But it turns out that today's modern journalist must be ready for action too. So I could hardly refuse when my editor sent me out to try my hand at a range of extreme activities, from bungee jumping to potholing, as part of a new weekly feature for this publication. Through gritted teeth, I smiled and pretended nothing would give me greater pleasure.

My first mission involved caber tossing, which, as I'm sure you know, is a traditional Scottish sport that involves hurling cabers (basically, tree trunks) into the air. **4.3.** _____ popular belief, the aim is not to throw them as far as possible, but for them to flip right over and land as straight as possible. If you imagine the thrower standing in the middle of a huge clock face, the perfect throw would land with the caber pointing at 12 o'clock.

My first attempt did not go well. I could barely lift the caber, **4.4.** _____ toss it. I'd been handed one of the competition cabers, around six metres long and weighing nearly 70 kg. To put that into **4.5.** _____, that's the same height as my house and the same weight as my wife. To my great relief, I was eventually offered a much smaller caber to try, which I actually managed to throw a short distance. But my joy was short-lived when, on my second attempt, I smashed the caber into my chin and needed medical attention. So what did I learn from my experience? Never, ever to try caber tossing again!

4.1.	4.2.	4.3.	4.4.	4.5.
A. I had known	**A.** stepping out	**A.** In spite of	**A.** not to mention	**A.** perspective
B. have I known	**B.** embarking	**B.** Contrary to	**B.** not even	**B.** visibility
C. did I know	**C.** wandering	**C.** In accordance with	**C.** aside from	**C.** illumination
D. I knew	**D.** setting up	**D.** Apart from	**D.** let alone	**D.** comparison

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