

You are going to read an article about a famous Italian town. Some words are missing from the text. Choose the most appropriate answer from the options for each gap (1-9) in the text. There is one example (0) at the beginning.



THE ITALIAN TOWN THAT CELEBRATES UGLINESS

Celebrating “ugliness” for the past 140 years, Piobbico (0) *has become* famous for being the world capital of ugly people.

Hidden in a valley in central Italy, Piobbico is a handsome medieval town surrounded by lush forests. But (1) _____ its picture-perfect setting, Piobbico is famous for the “ugliness” of its people.

Since 1879, this small town has been home to the Club dei Brutti (“The Ugly Club”), an association (2) _____ members believe that “a person is what he is and not what he looks like.” Over the generations, (3) _____ started as a utopian idea has blossomed into a worldwide movement.

“The Ugly Club” originally started as a matchmaking service for the town’s single women. As it grew, local folk made it their mission (4) _____ society that inner beauty is more important than one’s physical (5) _____, and in 2007, Piobbico unveiled a statue dedicated to ugly people in the town’s square.

Today, it is (6) _____ to become a part of the club. Senior members just have to judge and rank the “ugliness” of potential members, which (7) _____ range from “unspecified” to “extraordinarily ugly”.

On the first Sunday of September, people gather from all over the world to take part in Piobbico’s annual Festival of the Ugly, (8) _____ members elect the club’s president; sign up new members; and eat local truffles and pasta. In a country (9) _____ emphasis on making a beautiful impression, this corner of Italy is proving that being genuine and unconventional may shine brightest.

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