

READING: CLOZE

Practice Test 7

Read the passage, then select the word or phrase that fills the blank in both meaning and grammar.

This passage is about language and grammar.

Language is more than a massive list of words. (67), to make ourselves understood, changes in the form of the words have to be made. For this reason, the (68) for grammar exists. Grammar gives us an understanding of the (69) of the language we ourselves speak. It is also a requirement if we wish to learn or teach a foreign language.

In its early beginnings, grammar was concerned with (70) language that had become outdated and was incomprehensible to most people. In ancient Greece, educators didn't succeed in utilizing the epics of Homer (71) five centuries after they had been created, which was an ever growing problem for (72) generations, particularly those who did not share Homer's dialect.

(73) that in ancient times, most people hardly strayed outside a few square miles of their place of birth, it was not surprising that an enormous number of local dialects had been formed. A system was needed to (74) with the problems this caused, and this need has been the (75) of most grammar books ever since.

Grammar is the (76) but language is the outcome of the thinking process. Grammar, therefore, can lead us to a better understanding of one of our most essential functions: thought and the expression of thought.

67	A. Oddly B. Exceptionally	C. Inevitably D. Involuntarily
68	A. urgency B. compulsion	C. obligation D. necessity
69	A. frame B. structure	C. build D. body
70	A. enacting B. illustrating	C. portraying D. interpreting
71	A. over B. prior	C. before D. until
72	A. consequent B. subsequent	C. pertinent D. sufficient
73	A. Once B. Only	C. Given D. Permitted
74	A. cope B. handle	C. manage D. struggle
75	A. margin B. theory	C. scale D. basis
76	A. creation of new vocabulary B. unification of foreign languages	C. study of the structure of a language D. translation of different dialects

Practice Test 7

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This passage is about babies' understanding of justice.

New research reveals that babies as young as eight months old possess a rudimentary sense of justice. In one experiment, researchers (77) a play. It began with one puppet struggling to open a box. Two other puppets (78) appeared onstage: a naughty puppet who slammed the box shut and a nice puppet who helped (79) the box. In the second scene, the anti-social puppet was shown playing with a ball and then (80) it to two new puppets, one that returned the ball and another who took it away. When the show was over, the babies were presented with the ball-giver and the ball-taker puppets and allowed to choose one, indicating their (81).

Interestingly, the five-month-olds tended to choose the ball-giver, showing their desire to see individuals being nice to each other, (82). However, babies of eight months of age (83) preferred the ball-takers. This evidence (84) that a sense of right and wrong is bred (85) the bone and that older babies uphold the concept of punishment for bad behavior. The experiment was repeated with toddlers between 19 and 23 months old, this time allowing the subjects to act as the punisher or the reward-giver. The subjects, by overwhelming majority, (86) out just treatments by giving treats to the helpful puppets and taking treats away from the unhelpful ones.

77	A. composed	C. staged
	B. housed	D. conducted
78	A. rashly	C. punctually
	B. instantly	D. precisely
79	A. opening	C. to opening
	B. by opening	D. having opened
80	A. grabbing	C. awarding
	B. stealing	D. presenting
81	A. preference	C. authority
	B. awareness	D. favor
82	A. whatsoever	C. no matter what
	B. anyhow	D. no matter who
83	A. hardly	C. truly
	B. thoroughly	D. primarily
84	A. examines	C. suggests
	B. praises	D. investigates
85	A. on	C. of
	B. in	D. from
86	A. apportioned	C. doled
	B. partitioned	D. measured

Choose the word or phrase that most appropriately completes the sentence.

87 The workers decided to rebel against the _____ factory owner.
 A. respective
 B. reflective
 C. receptive
 D. repressive

88 No _____ of diplomatic relations between the two countries was anticipated.
 A. resumption
 B. consumption
 C. assumption
 D. presumption

89 It's _____ whether Sam will be well enough to play in the championship on Sunday.
 A. hanging by a thread
 B. touch and go
 C. from left field
 D. out of bounds

90 This is an _____ version of Shakespeare's works, as most of the plays have been shortened.
 A. affiliated
 B. abridged
 C. accredited
 D. aspiring

91 I'm a _____ at this game – I only learned to play it a few weeks ago.
 A. novelty
 B. novice
 C. learner
 D. newcomer

92 All hotel guests must _____ by the rules if they want to vacation here.
 A. abide
 B. adhere
 C. comply
 D. submit

93 As much as I'd like to help you, it's completely _____ – I'm much too busy.
 A. out of the blue
 B. out of the question
 C. out of sight
 D. out of pocket

94 The opposition party won the election on a _____ of economic reform.
 A. lectern
 B. podium
 C. platform
 D. dogma

95 Linda was _____ when she heard that her business proposal had been rejected.
 A. at arm's length
 B. arm in arm
 C. up in arms
 D. an arm and a leg

96 The drifter leads a _____ existence, having no job and very little money.
 A. from day to day
 B. hand-to-mouth
 C. hard to come by
 D. thin on the ground

97 We apologize that our online booking system lost your reservation, to make up for the _____, please accept a free room upgrade for your trouble.
 A. obstruction
 B. inconvenience
 C. hiatus
 D. distraction

98 The fans at the Super Bowl were getting rowdy before the explosive _____ between the rival football teams.
 A. home run
 B. showdown
 C. knockout
 D. fisticuffs

99 Joseph regretted offending his colleague and insisted that his actions were not _____.
 A. contorted
 B. malicious
 C. heartfelt
 D. malformed

100 There was considerable speculation concerning the _____ election which would divide the senate.
 A. futuristic
 B. forthcoming
 C. foreboding
 D. fortuitous

101 Christina _____ herself to a career of office drudgery.
 A. assigned
 B. commissioned
 C. resigned
 D. subdued

102 The blood pressure medication is known to leave a _____ metallic taste in the mouth.
 A. lingering
 B. haunting
 C. remaining
 D. loitering

Read the passage, then answer the questions following it according to the information given in the passage.

This passage is about memory.

Our obsession with taking photos these days cannot be denied. It is fueled by social media and the need to document our experiences in order to remember them better. The question is: do we actually remember them better or do photos distract us from truly storing details of our experiences? The answer is not simple in that there are various aspects that shape a memory. These inputs require our attention in order to be encoded and stored by our brains as a memory.

While recent research does suggest that taking pictures helps us remember an experience, this is limited to the visual aspects of an experience and ironically it reduces the non-visual details of our memories. These findings are derived from a study that involved subjects participating in a museum tour while listening to an audio guide. Half of the subjects were given a camera and told to photograph the exhibit. Upon the completion of the tour, all subjects answered a series of multiple choice questions about the objects they had seen. Those who had cameras recognized more objects compared to those without. At the same time, the subjects with cameras recalled less auditory information. Interestingly, researchers found that subjects with cameras had a better visual recollection than camera-less ones even for the items they had not photographed suggesting that the intention to take pictures also sharpened their focus on visual details and improved memory of them.

In contrast, earlier studies had suggested that taking photographs impairs our ability to remember all details. The explanation being that we rely on the photograph and thus outsource the memory to free up space in our brains: a concept referred to as cognitive offloading. We intentionally forget the information as we no longer need to store it. This offloading can be extended beyond using cameras to computers and our cell phones. Basically, any gadget that we can offload our cognitive work to and reduce the demand on our brain can be used. Researchers now conclude that this is the case for factual information but it does not apply when it comes to experiences we want to photograph. These are meaningful to us and as a result we pay attention to the visual details of the experience and recall them better after the fact. The more visual input we focus on, the less auditory info we retain, explaining the poor recollection of these non-visual details.

103 What is this passage mainly about?

- the different aspects that make up a memory
- how seeing a photograph enhances our memory
- the effects of taking photographs on memory
- the impacts of studies on our understanding of memory

104 In the fourth sentence of paragraph 1, which word could best replace **shape**?

- produce
- influence
- assemble
- forge

105 What can be concluded about taking photographs from the museum experiment?

- It is dependent on the number of pictures taken.
- It is advantageous to take pictures, not just to intend to.
- It affects the memory of different inputs in different ways.
- It only enhances memories when photographs are looked at.

106 How does previous research on taking photographs contradict current findings?

- It concluded that factual information is not impacted.
- It found improvements in recall of non-visual information.
- It documented a positive effect on both auditory and visual memory.
- It determined a negative impact on remembering specifics.

107 What is implied about technology?

- It reduces human brain functions.
- It assists in memory and processing.
- It is harmful to our attention span.
- It eases our cognitive workload.

108 According to the passage, what determines how well photographed information is remembered?

- its personal value to us
- auditory inputs while taking the picture
- the authenticity of the image
- how visually stimulating it is

This passage is about a new type of city.

As urban environments try to tackle serious environmental issues with an arsenal of green practices and technologies, it is no surprise that they would start to reconsider their fundamental design features. Extensive urbanization has created cities made up of increasingly impermeable surfaces, usually paved concrete, that are unable to absorb rainwater and use it. Instead, most cities simply try to collect it and channel it to rivers, lakes, and seas losing the many advantages of water absorption and possibly leading to extreme flooding. A new city design is on the rise intended to reap the many benefits of water absorption by exploiting the water rather than wasting it and amusingly enough, it's called a sponge city.

Sponge cities are designed to optimize the amount of porous surfaces and areas capable of retaining water. This can be accomplished with permeable roads and sidewalks, an abundance of green roofs and wetlands as long as they are all interconnected and uninterrupted to allow for efficient water management and recycling.

The results of water absorption can be seen in cleaner groundwater from the increased volume of naturally filtered stormwater. It also results in a significant reduction in flooding as well as drought; both of which severely affect many areas worldwide due to climate change. Additionally, water absorption reduces the burden on drainage systems where previously rainwater was mixed with wastewater, and often when the system was overwhelmed, the combined water was not treated but discharged into rivers increasing pollution. First and foremost, though, water collection from these new surfaces brings more clean water for a city making it more self-sufficient regarding its water supply.

One country on the forefront of sponge city design is China. In 2015, the Chinese government initiated a sponge city pilot project involving 30 cities. These cities are transforming their urban environments and technologies with flood risk management central to their development. Infrastructure is being adapted to collect, store, and purify rainwater. Massive urban stormwater parks employing permeable surfaces and green spaces have been developed that serve this purpose while at the same time providing appealing public spaces for recreational use.

109 What is the main purpose of the passage?

- to illustrate how sponge cities prevent natural disasters
- to explain how sponge cities create recreational opportunities
- to describe the multiple benefits of sponge cities
- to compare the effects of different materials in sponge cities

110 Why does the article mention paved concrete?

- to describe a solution to reducing floodwaters
- to illustrate efficient water management
- to point out how cities have changed
- to explain a problem with modern cities

111 What is the principal function of a sponge city?

- to absorb and use rainwater
- to combat extreme flooding
- to collect water and dispose of it
- to use water to create more green spaces

112 What is the main characteristic of a sponge city?

- a contiguous absorbent surface area
- green roofs on most buildings
- interconnected waterways
- an efficient water recycling system

113 In the second sentence of paragraph 4, which word could best replace **pilot**?

- authoritative
- maneuverable
- skillful
- trial

114 According to the passage, what can be inferred about China?

- Its cities are in need of modernization.
- It experiences frequent water shortages.
- It faces a lot of extreme weather.
- It has made green spaces in its cities a priority.

This passage is about the Cambrian explosion.

Prior to about 580 million years ago, most living creatures were microscopic and single-celled. Some 40 million years later, changes in the oxygen levels in seawater resulted in the appearance of larger and more complex animal species. This rapid pace of evolution and the great variety of creatures it produced is known as the Cambrian explosion. To paleontologists, what is intriguing about this period is the wide diversity, not only among the ancestors of modern species, but also among the “experiments” that ultimately failed.

Little was known about the Cambrian period until the discovery of the Burgess Shale Formation, a mountainside in the Canadian Rockies of British Columbia and considered by many to be full of paleontological mysteries. In the Cambrian period, this was an underwater cliff 525 feet above an ancient seabed. A chance discovery by the American paleontologist Charles Walcott in 1909 revealed that the area abounded in fossils. Moreover, the particular geological conditions there had preserved not only the shells of the sea organisms, but also the soft parts, such as muscles and eyes.

Close examination of the thousands of specimens collected by Walcott revealed organisms with distinctly odd body structures, far different from anything seen before. For example, *Opabinia regalis*, a crab-like creature about two inches long, apparently had five eyes, a flexible arm ending in a claw, and a mouth at the back of its head. Some scientists believed that they represented entirely separate evolutionary types, as unlike modern species as extraterrestrial life would be. This gave rise to speculation that the survival of a particular body design, out of so many, is largely a matter of chance.

Recent studies have suggested closer links between species such as *Opabinia* and remote ancestors of modern species. But even if the Burgess Shale fossils were simply natural experiments, many of which eventually failed, the reasons for such diversity remain a topic of heated debate among paleozoologists.

115 What is the main purpose of the passage?

- to explain how the Cambrian explosion occurred
- to highlight discoveries from the Cambrian period
- to present recent findings from the Cambrian period
- to introduce new theories on species evolution

116 According to the passage, what apparently caused the Cambrian explosion?

- the rapid evolution of new species
- a rise in ocean levels
- the disappearance of unsuccessful species
- a change in the conditions of the habitat

117 What does the author suggest about the Burgess Shale?

- The authenticity of its fossils is not agreed upon.
- Its fossil record is truly unique.
- It has evidence of modern species.
- Its origins still remain a mystery.

118 In the third sentence of paragraph 3, what does **they** refer to?

- Opabinia regalis*
- scientists
- separate evolutionary types
- soft shell organisms

119 According to the passage, why might specific types of a species survive?

- They have stronger body structures.
- Their survival is largely random.
- Their bodies possess greater flexibility.
- They are the largest specimens.

120 What implication in the passage does the author likely agree with?

- The Burgess Shale fossil record is linked to ancestors of modern species.
- The fossils of the Burgess Shale indicate no specific reasons for the survival of species types.
- Separate evolutionary species are found in the fossils of the Burgess Shale.
- The Burgess Shale is a paleontological mystery with many unanswered questions.