

Reading

Task 1

- In this story about a road accident some parts of sentences have been left out. Your task is to reconstruct the story by filling in the gaps from the list. Write the letters (A-K) in the white boxes next to the numbers (1-7) as in the example (0). There are two extra letters that you will not need.

GOOD SAMARITAN SENT BILL AFTER HELPING AT ROAD CRASH

A good Samaritan who stopped to help at a road accident four years ago has been sent a £1,000 bill (0) ____ C _____. Along with the bill, Bill Hughes, 35, got a summons to appear at Falkirk Sheriff Court later this month (1) _____.

Mr Hughes was driving past Falkirk Stadium on July 12, 2007, when he (2) _____ and stopped to help. He said: "There was a Porsche on its side and it (3) _____. I knew the driver and, amazingly, he was okay, although there was damage to the car and the road sign. The police (4) _____ and I never thought any more about it."

But Mr Hughes, who manages his father's firm, returned from a holiday in Italy to find the bill and the summons, and had to make frantic phone calls to both the council and Central Scotland Police to (5) _____.

Mr Hughes said: "I couldn't believe that they're only now trying to get the money back, but my lawyer said they (6) _____ to recover the costs."

A spokeswoman for Falkirk council said: "The council has written to Mr Hughes to explain how the situation arose, to confirm that (7) _____ and to offer apologies. A spokeswoman for Central Scotland Police said: "This problem was rectified when it came to our attention and we have apologised to Mr Hughes." (Scottish Daily Express)

- A) no further action will be taken
- B) prove he was not the driver
- C) for damage to a road sign
- D) came across an accident
- E) talked to a policeman
- F) had up to five years
- G) if he doesn't pay up
- H) if they catch him
- I) took details
- K) looked nasty

Task 2 • Read this article about a new book and then read the statements (8-15) following it. Your task is to decide whether the statements are true or not according to the text.

• Mark a sentence A if it is true according to the article. Mark it B if it is false. Mark it C if there is not enough information in the text to decide if it is true or not.

STEVEN PINKER: THE OPTIMISTIC VOICE OF SCIENCE

In his landmark new book, the Harvard professor argues we are much less violent than our ancestors.

Steven Pinker has dedicated much of his academic life to the study of human nature and, perhaps surprisingly, his latest book is full of good news. In *The Better Angels of Our Nature: The Decline of Violence in History and Its Causes*, the celebrated evolutionary psychologist and bestselling author argues that we – the human race – are becoming progressively less violent. To the consumer of 24-hour news, steeped in images of conflict and war, that may sound plain wrong. But Pinker supports his case with a wealth of data.

Drawing on the work of a fellow Harvard archaeologist, Pinker recently concluded that the chances of our ancient hunter-gatherer ancestors meeting a bloody end were somewhere between 15% and 60%. In the 20th century, which included two world wars and the mass killers Stalin and Hitler, the likelihood of a European or American dying a violent death was less than 1%.

Pinker shows that, with notable exceptions, the long-term trend for murder and violence has been going down since humans first developed agriculture 10,000 years ago. And it has dropped steeply since the Middle Ages. Oxford in the 1300s, Pinker tells us, was 110 times more murderous than it is today. He calls this movement away from killing the “civilising process”.

Nowadays, the notion that life is measurably improving is about as unfashionable as the conviction that western culture is in any sense civilising. Pinker is likely to stand accused of Panglossian* naivety. Indeed, he says that when he told colleagues what he was writing, they said he reminded them of the man who jumped off the top of a tall building and halfway down observed: “It looks good so far.”

In an earlier book Pinker wrote: “The strongest argument against totalitarianism may be a recognition of a universal human nature; that all humans have innate desires for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” It’s this vision of our common humanity, what Abraham Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature”, that animates Pinker’s latest book. (www.guardian.co.uk)

* Pangloss: Candide’s tutor in Voltaire’s satire *Candide* or *The Optimist*

0) The good news in Steven Pinker’s new book is that humans on the whole are not as violent as in earlier times. A

8) The media present a very different picture of the world from Professor Pinker’s.

9) Pinker collaborated with several historians and archaeologists to establish approximate figures for violent deaths in ancient and medieval times.

10) With two world wars, and mass murderers Hitler and Stalin, the 20th century was the most violent time in human history.

11) Pinker questions whether the human race has gone through a “civilising process”.

12) There is archaeological evidence that in ancient times females were not as murderous as males.

13) Contemporary thinking on the whole tends to be less positive about humanity than Pinker.

14) Pinker's colleagues told him a joke suggesting his optimism was unjustified.

15) Professor Pinker is a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln.

Task 3 • Read this article on eco-friendly energy use and then read the half sentences following it. Your task is to match the half sentences based on the information in the text.

• Write the letters (A-K) in the white boxes next to the numbers (16- 22). There are two extra letters that you will not need.

HOW TO BE GREEN AND STAY SANE

Energy-efficient libraries

We've all heard of libraries lending books, music and videos. But Barrie Mould's library is different. Fitting into a tool kit bag, his library consists of 35 energy-efficient light bulbs – both fluorescent and LED –, which he lends to the citizens of Ashted, Surrey. The bulbs come in all shapes, sizes and strengths.

The library, which started up this summer, lends the light bulbs for a week at a time and allows Ashted residents to experiment for free to find out which light bulbs suit their homes and fittings best, before investing in them wholesale.

"Energy-efficient light bulbs, particularly the LED ones, are still very expensive compared to tungsten ones and people are reluctant to spend £10 to £15 a bulb if they think it will make their home either too dim or too harshly lit," says Barrie, a member of the group Transition Ashted, which aims to help members reduce their energy consumption.

"This lets people experiment before they buy. Response has been good, with borrowers telling me the light-up speed and colour quality are much better than they feared and, as a result, they will go ahead and replace their tungsten bulbs."

Simon Kenton, of Oxfordshire Community Action Groups, which oversees the county's 25 community groups, says very often groups of local people are quick to catch on to what is useful, in terms of reducing energy and waste, but are unable or unwilling to spend large amounts of money on eco gadgets.

"Other groups lend out items like can crushers, newspaper log-makers and home energy meters as well as light bulbs. In many cases, such as energy meters, people don't need these things forever – just using them for a week will let people know where they are wasting energy and they can cost up to £100 to buy in the shops," he says.

"We are at the moment investing in a thermal imaging camera to add to the libraries so people can see at a glance where the heat is escaping from their home. Again, a thermal camera can cost upwards of £3,000 and you only use it once or twice. It is so much better to do it this way," says Simon Kenton. (The Sunday Telegraph)

0) Barrie Mould's library is ____C____

16) All Barrie's light bulbs are

17) Ashted citizens can try out bulbs

18) There is no charge for

19) People will not buy the bulbs unless they are

20) Barrie sounds

21) Some expensive eco gadgets are

22) Oxfordshire Community Action Groups are

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| A) satisfied with customers' reactions. | F) energy efficient. |
| B) extending their range of gadgets. | G) borrowing a bulb. |
| C) the size of a tool kit bag. | H) in their own homes. |
| D) fitted to their homes. | I) eco-friendly consumption. |
| E) only needed for a short time. | K) convinced of their suitability. |

Task 4 • In this article about the National Trust* some sentences have been left out. Your task is to reconstruct the text by filling in the gaps from the list.

• Write the letters (A-L) in the white boxes next to the numbers (23- 30) as in the example (0). There are two extra letters that you will not need.

HOW WONDERFUL WAS THE NATIONAL TRUST OF OLD

Since A Noble Thing is about the National Trust, published "in association with" the National Trust, and written by a former employee of the National Trust, one might expect a book full of self-praise, worth having only for its pretty pictures. (0) C . This is a touching book, about a subject which is difficult to write about well – generosity.

(23) . Whatever they gave – their houses, their land, their gardens, their time, their expertise or, in one case, a fishing boat – they were moved by some great love.

A most charming photograph from 1946 shows the handover ceremony of the House of the Binns, near Edinburgh, to the trust. Lt Col Gordon Dalyell stands in front of an ancient wall. (24) . In the charter of gift, the Dalrymple family declared their desire that "The Binns with its history and legend shall be preserved for all time coming for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation". (25) . It was something worth doing for their country.

The generosity was often prompted by sadness. (26) . So did war. The bachelor Robert Ketton-Cremer made over his Norfolk house after his brother died of wounds on a Cretan airfield in the Second World War. Waterson says that his conversations with many donors "suggested that their military service shaped their thinking about other forms of service". He quotes Sickert the painter: "The thing is to give, give, give. (27) ."

What is so striking about all the stories told in this book is the individuality of those involved. (28) . "Wouldn't work here," one agent wrote on every memo from London. Most of the donors were equally remote from the world of committees, "best practice" and all that.

The National Trust now faces the paradox that its vast success – 3.5 million members, 37,000 buildings, more than 600,000 acres – is bound to turn it into a bureaucracy that threatens to kill the thing it loves. Marketing starts to matter too much. (29) . People go to a house and sometimes it's just like going to Tesco.

An organisation which cares for heritage must employ people who do so in their heart of hearts. The mentality of campaigning is incompatible with that of stewardship. It attracts a different type of person. (30) . The heroes of Waterson's book minded about their subject matter to the point of lunacy. They were much too engaged in the love of actual buildings and places to want to spend time organizing campaigns or lobbying. (The Telegraph)

* National Trust: an organisation that owns and takes care of places of historic interest or natural beauty in the UK

- A) You always get back more than you give.
- B) Don't stop building; build well, which is what Britain once did.
- C) Not so.
- D) His wife Eleanor proudly passes over a handful of stone and soil to the trust's chairman in Scotland.
- E) Childlessness encouraged people with great possessions to give them away.
- F) For them, it was not a loss to give up ownership.
- G) The best employees of the trust seem to have been those least willing to listen to head office.
- H) So does the cash register.
- I) Charities today are filled with executives who know a great deal about management and finances but are not deeply interested in the subject matter of their organisation.
- K) The trust knows better than anyone else.
- L) The writer, Merlin Waterson, tells the story of the people who gave to the National Trust.