

**G R A M M A R**

**Complete the text by putting the verbs in brackets into the correct form.**

Hardly a day 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (go) by without a fresh demonstration of the ignorance of America's first video generation. Illiteracy 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (grow), and a new poll shows that a quarter of university students have no idea when Columbus reached America. Some institutions, at least, 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (presume) until now to be above decay. It 4. \_\_\_\_\_ (imagine) in the past, for example, that they 5. \_\_\_\_\_ (still read) books in the English faculty at Harvard.

But that illusion, too, 6. \_\_\_\_\_ (shatter) by Professor Birkerts, who teaches Creative Writing to undergraduates there. Professor Birkerts said yesterday that the trend away from reading seemed to 7. \_\_\_\_\_ (reach) a critical stage. Professor Birkerts, who 8. \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) at Harvard for five years, wonders in his article how his students imagine they can learn to write without bothering to read.

...../8 pts

**Write a sentence using the WORDS below the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. The 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence must mean the same as the 1<sup>st</sup>.**

9. There is no problem with money.

**AS FAR**

There is \_\_\_\_\_

10. The scheme has been fairly successful.

**EXTENT**

The scheme \_\_\_\_\_

11. Tom has been ill and so he has been absent from college.

**DUE**

Tom \_\_\_\_\_

**Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 26. ročník, celoštátne kolo 2015/2016, kategória 2D**  
**- úlohy**

**G R A M M A R (continued)**

12. It was only when the office phoned me that I found out about the meeting.

**FIND**

Not until \_\_\_\_\_ about the meeting.

13. I'd rather you didn't sit at the back of the room.

**IT**

I'd prefer \_\_\_\_\_ at the front of the room.

14. Peter was rude but Alice got her revenge on him.

**BEING**

Alice paid Peter \_\_\_\_\_ to her.

15. The box smelled faintly of fish.

**GAVE**

The box \_\_\_\_\_ of fish.

...../7pts

**Total points: ...../15pts**

## V O C A B U L A R Y

Read the paragraph below. Use the word given in CAPITALS at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line.

- Little Jimmy has been a bit (1.) \_\_\_\_\_ today. TROUBLE
- Janet had to (2.) \_\_\_\_\_ from the team because DRAW  
of injury.
- The evidence in this case is entirely (3.) \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCUMSTANCE
- There is a (4.) \_\_\_\_\_ living room with a balcony. SPACE
- A list of (5.) \_\_\_\_\_ events will be posted on the COME  
noticeboard.
- Last year I resigned my post as a head of department at a large  
school because this job is becoming increasingly
- (6.) \_\_\_\_\_. I saw first-hand the effect of PROBLEM  
the government's (7.) \_\_\_\_\_ in educational matters. INVOLVE
- It has become more (8.) \_\_\_\_\_ than it used to be BUREAU  
when I started out.
- A lot of paperwork and imposed national tests on pupils of six  
have left many teachers (9.) \_\_\_\_\_ . ENCHANT
- There is also the growing (10.) \_\_\_\_\_ AGGRESSIVE  
of pupils.
- There are the frequent little acts of (11.) \_\_\_\_\_ RUDE  
which teachers have become almost (12.) \_\_\_\_\_ POWER  
to stop as the right to discipline pupils has been taken from them.
- There is the restlessness and sheer (13.) \_\_\_\_\_ BORING



## READING COMPREHENSION

Read the story carefully. There are two (2) tasks to do after you read.

*A History of 'Tulipomania'*

The tulip, Dr Mackay tells us, was introduced from Constantinople to Western Europe, and particularly to Holland, in the middle of the sixteenth century. It became increasingly popular among the rich until, by 1634, "it was deemed proof of bad taste for any man of fortune to be without a collection of them."

By then, the middle classes had decided that they too could not be seen without tulips, and paid increasingly outrageous prices for them. At a time when you could pick up good clothes for 80 florins, people invested 100,000 florins buying 40 roots. Tulips became so valuable that they had to be sold by the perit, "a small weight less than a grain".

Some tulips were more valuable than others, but none was as prized as the *Semper Augustus*. In early 1636, there were only two of these in Holland: one went for 12 acres of land, the other for 4,600 florins, a new carriage, two grey horses, and a complete set of harnesses.

Newcomers to Holland sometimes paid for their ignorance of the mania. A sailor, arriving at a wealthy merchant's house, was offered "a fine red herring" for his breakfast. He was partial to onions, and seeing a bulb very like an onion on a counter, he slipped it into his pocket and headed off to the quay to eat his breakfast. He was found, quietly sitting on a coil of rope, finishing off his 3,000-florin *Semper Augustus*.

Up to now, the tulip market still had a semblance of order. However extraordinary prices had become, it was driven by the pursuit of a relatively rare commodity. In 1636, however, tulip exchanges were set up in the stock markets of several Dutch cities, and the speculators moved in in earnest. According to Dr Mackay: "The stock-jobbers, ever on the alert for a new speculation, dealt largely in tulips, making use of all the means they so well knew how to employ to cause fluctuation in prices."

By judicious trading as prices ebbed and flowed, many people grew rich. "A golden bait hung tempting out before the people, and one after the other they rushed to the tulip-marts, like flies around a honey-pot. Everyone imagined that the passion for tulips would last forever... The riches of Europe would be concentrated on the shores of the Zuyder Zee, and poverty banished from the favoured clime of Holland."

Everyone, "even chimney-sweeps and old-clothes-women" dabbled in tulips. People sold their houses at ruinously low prices to buy tulips. Lawyers, "tulip-notaries", appeared to make their bit from the trade.

The rich, for their part, were no longer inclined to put such valuable commodities in their garden, preferring to join in the trade, and it was not long before some of them realised that the market had lost all logic. They started to sell, and panic soon spread through the market. Buyers who had agreed to pay so many florins when tulips were delivered in six weeks' time refused to pay because the price had fallen in the meantime. As sellers demanded the full amount and buyers refused to pay, defaulters were announced by the hundreds. Substantial merchants were reduced almost to beggary, "and many a representative of a noble line saw the fortunes of his house ruined beyond redemption.

There was an attempt to bring some order to the market as it crashed around the tulip holders' ears. They lobbied the government, which told them to agree a plan between

**READING COMPREHENSION – continued**

themselves. Eventually, after much bickering, it was agreed that all contracts made at the height of the mania, before November 1636, would be declared null and void, and that those made after that date should be nullified by the purchaser paying 10 per cent to the vendor.

This displeased both sides, and the Tulipomania collapsed in disorder. “Those who were unlucky enough to have had stores of tulips on hand at the time of sudden reaction were left to bear their ruin as philosophically as they could,” Dr Macay says. “Those who had made profits were allowed to keep them, but the commerce of the country suffered a severe shock, from which it took many years to recover.

**Based on what you read, choose and circle the best answer (a-d) to complete the statements (1-7).**

**1. According to the passage title, the strange phenomenon Tulipomania was**

- a- an insane craze.
- b- an intense fixation.
- c- a mental obsession.
- d- an ethical disease.

**2. By 1634 the possession of a tulip was thought to be**

- a- a sign of bad taste.
- b- a dissipation of wealth.
- c- a status symbol.
- d- a display of one's popularity.

**3. An unfortunate sailor who had never been to Holland before**

- a- paid 3,000 florins for what he thought was a tulip bulb.
- b- was tricked into eating an expensive tulip bulb.
- c- stole 3,000 florins from a wealthy merchant's house.
- d- consumed what he thought was an inexpensive onion.

**4. Throughout 1636 tulip prices**

- a- decreased rapidly.
- b- rose and fell dramatically.
- c- increased sharply.
- d- remained for the most steady.

**READING COMPREHENSION (continued)**

**5. Why did the tulip market collapse?**

- a- The poor could no longer afford to buy tulips on the open market.
- b- The rich undermined confidence in the market for tulips.
- c- There was not enough money in circulation to meet the demands of the market.
- d- Producers could no longer supply enough tulips for the market.

**6. The government decided that**

- a- contracts made before November 1636 would be honoured.
- b- contracts made after November 1636 would be entitled to compensation.
- c- those with unsold supplies would be compensated.
- d- those who had made a profit would be taxed.

**7. What is the main point the writer is making?**

- a- It is often difficult to supply the market with the commodities it demands.
- b- Man's acquisitive nature can create ridiculous artificial demand for commodities.
- c- Commodities in short supply always create excessive pressures on the market.
- d- Buying and selling is an extremely inexact science.

...../7pts

**Find the words or expressions in the article that are similar in meaning to the following definitions.**

- 8. something in great demand but short supply \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. astute buying and selling \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. extreme poverty \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. those unable to honour their debts \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. those prepared to take high risk with investment \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. traders \_\_\_\_\_

...../3pts (0.5 pt each)

**Total points:...../10pts**

## LISTENING COMPREHENSION

You will hear someone talking about different sorts of facial recognition technology. You will hear the interview twice.

Listen carefully and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Circle the correct answer.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The TV show <i>Las Vegas</i> takes place in a shopping mall.             | T | F |
| 2. A faceprint is a picture which identifies the face.                      | T | F |
| 3. There are about 80 nodal points on the face.                             | T | F |
| 4. Nodal points cannot be measured.   | T | F |
| 5. 2D facial recognition is not effective if the picture is dark.           | T | F |
| 6. It is possible to recognise a person only if he/she faces the 2D camera. | T | F |
| 7. 3D technology can distinguish between identical twins.                   | T | F |
| 8. The problem with 3D technology is that the image might change over time. | T | F |
| 9. Skin biometric technology can measure the curve of someone's skin.       | T | F |
| 10. Skin biometric technology can measure the distance between eyes.        | T | F |

**Total points: ...../5pts (0.5pt each)**

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