

**G R A M M A R**

**Read the following text and decide which functional words best fit gaps 1-8. Write your answers in the space provided in the text. Spelling counts!**

The speed camera never lies

Over the last five years, speeding convictions around Britain have gone up **1** \_\_\_\_\_ nearly a half. Why are we in so much more of a hurry than we were in 2010? Are we kinder, quicker to rush **2** \_\_\_\_\_ the aid of a friend in need? Keener to arrive on time for **3** \_\_\_\_\_ those fantastic new plays and films in our massively improved culture? Or simply proceeding faster due to our new, traffic-free and excellent-quality roads? Clearly **4** \_\_\_\_\_.

It seems likely that people aren't actually speeding more, so much **5** \_\_\_\_\_ being caught more. That being **6** \_\_\_\_\_, I'd like to speak up on behalf of a group **7** \_\_\_\_\_ is never discussed when speeding is on the agenda: those of us who are breaking the law through stupidity **8** \_\_\_\_\_. Until our considerable numbers are recognised, the obvious solutions will never be put in place.

**Complete the passage by filling the gaps with a proper verb form or verb tense. Write your answers in the spaces below the article, preserving the correct word order within the segment in bold. Spelling counts!**

Any speeding offences I **9 ... (commit)** since going on a "speed awareness course" a few years ago, for example, **10 ... (do)** while consciously and simultaneously **11 ... (attempt, obey)** the speed limit. But **12 ... (fail)**. Out of stupidity.

Subjecting me to more cameras, more points and harsher penalties is just hitting the donkey harder with the stick. The donkey gets sadder, more bruised and more scared, but it still **13 (understand, not) actually**. And I think there are millions of us, **14 ... (push)** as deliberate flouters rather than failed triers. This is unfair, dangerous and wrong.

With my careful 37mph driving, I **15 ... (stop) never** by live, busy police. So, yes, I'm a "victim" of speed cameras, but that doesn't mean I disapprove of them. They highlight a big problem. But let's be clear: the problem they highlight is not that we are a nation of daredevils. It's that we have an over-complicated system and not enough signs.

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 9.....  | 13..... |
| 10..... | 14..... |
| 11..... | 15..... |
| 12..... |         |

**Total Points: ..... /15 pts**

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

Complete gaps 1-10 in the following passage with the best answer (A- D). Circle your answers.

**State of Science: World Wakes to Perils of Plastics**

Ever since plastics rose to popularity in the 1950s, they've become an **1 ...** part of our lives, reshaping everything from transportation to health care and construction. They've also become a **2 ...** pollutant. Some 18 billion pounds of the stuff **3 ...** in the world's oceans each year.

Governments and businesses alike are taking action, however. Following California's 2014 state-wide ban on single-use plastic bags, cities across the country have now followed **4 ...**. And in Kenya, a year-old **5 ...** — with fines or prison time for plastic bag use — has been so successful that other African nations are **6 ...** similar laws. Even the U.K. and European Union have moved toward future single-use plastic bans. Cities from Seattle to Miami Beach and corporations like Starbucks and Disney are proposing bans on, or **7 ...**, plastic straws.

But just as we're becoming more aware of the plastic pollution problem, one of our existing solutions, recycling, has got caught in a **8 ...**. China takes in a huge portion of the world's plastic waste — about 45 per cent since 1992. But in mid-2017, China banned all imports of non-industrial plastic waste. Few countries, including the U.S., have the infrastructure or business models to process the 250 billion pounds of plastic that would have otherwise gone to China by 2030. Those governments are now **9 ...** solutions.

Of course, China's ban **10 ...** only a small portion of our plastic waste: Americans recycle just 9 per cent of their plastics anyway.

- |                   |                 |                  |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 (A) ingrained   | (B) intact      | (C) integral     | (D) inborn      |
| 2 (A) persistent  | (B) insistent   | (C) consistent   | (D) coexistent  |
| 3 (A) winds down  | (B) cracks down | (C) winds up     | (D) cracks up   |
| 4 (A) case        | (B) suit        | (C) cause        | (D) sample      |
| 5 (A) backup      | (B) crackdown   | (C) fallout      | (D) cutoff      |
| 6 (A) regarding   | (B) estimating  | (C) scrutinizing | (D) considering |
| 7 (A) phasing out | (B) casting out | (C) edging out   | (D) screen out  |
| 8 (A) pitch       | (B) lurch       | (C) ditch        | (D) perch       |
| 9 (A) catching    | (B) hunting     | (C) chasing      | (D) gaining     |
| 10 (A) involves   | (B) detects     | (C) haunts       | (D) affects     |

**Total Points: ...../10pts**

## R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N ( 1 )

Read the following article. Complete the gap (1-10) in each of the paragraphs with a suitable phrase from the list on the following page. Three phrases will remain unmatched.

**Scientists Learn to Hear What Fish Are Saying**

Fish certainly do make and hear sounds, but it's taken a long time for people to realize just how sonic an aquatic world can be, **1** \_\_\_\_\_ when our ears are full of water. Normally, airborne sound waves travel down a canal toward our inner ears, making our eardrums vibrate. But when that canal is flooded, it dampens the quivering membranes, muffling the sound.

Another difficulty in hearing fish sounds underwater is the fact that normally, in air, the slight delay between sound waves reaching our left and right ears tells our brains where the sound is coming from. Traveling so much faster in water, sound waves hit both ears almost simultaneously, **2** \_\_\_\_\_. All in all, human ears are not good at picking up and distinguishing the sounds of fish. To make sense of underwater noise we need special recording devices to do the listening for us.

The world is bathed in light from the sun, and it's also bathed in sound. Underwater, this soundscape may at first seem like a disorderly din, but there's more to it than that. Off the coast of Western Australia, a series of waterproof microphones have recorded distinct dawn and dusk choruses, **3** \_\_\_\_\_. These are the sounds of thousands of fish, calling to each other, fighting, flirting, mating and eating at those most active times of day. There is structure in this noisy world.

Much remains unknown about how fish listen to these ambient sounds. It could be that they try to tune it out **4** \_\_\_\_\_, like having a conversation at a loud party. But there are clues that the backdrop of noise matters to them, that fish listen in and extract useful information from the sonic miscellany.

Nocturnal sounds may be especially important. In shallow tropical seas, many fish are on the move between day and night. During the day, some hide and rest in patches of coral reef or among mangrove tree roots. Then, as night falls, they swim to nearby seagrass meadows to feed. Most make their move when it's dark in the hope **5** \_\_\_\_\_, the bigger fish that hunt by sight. Similarly, new-born fish spend their first days and weeks in open water, again to avoid the reef's many hungry mouths. In time, the young ones' muscles and fins become strong enough to push against tides and currents. Only then do they turn around and begin a long swim back home. As they get closer, the young fish zero in on their native habitat, **6** \_\_\_\_\_, listening for the sounds that could act as beacons guiding the traveling fish through the dark.

To investigate this idea, Craig Radford from the University of Auckland in New Zealand led a research team that built small, identical piles of coral rubble, spaced out across shallow waters around Lizard Island on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. **7** \_\_\_\_\_, researchers played back soundtracks recorded in different habitats. The morning after a noisy night, Radford and his team counted the fish that had arrived on each rubble pile and found that some did indeed seem to be lured by the sounds of certain habitats. Far fewer fish were enticed by the sound of silence, played back to them in the control rubble piles. It's early days, but it seems likely that fish can distinguish between the sounds of different places underwater, and follow their ears to the spot they most want to be.

**READING COMPREHENSION (2)**

These habitat soundscapes are subtly composed. Recent studies are revealing that, far from this being an impromptu free-for-all, fish don't simply yell and shout however and whenever they want: They fit their voices together like an orchestra of instruments in a melodic musical score. One such study took place off the KwaZulu Natal coast of South Africa, in the Indian Ocean, a short way south of the Mozambique border. Just off shore, steep canyons carve into the seabed. About 330 feet down, in a cave where coelacanths live, a team of European researchers led by Laëtitia Ruppé wedged a small recording device into a crevice in the wall. After two months, the team fetched the device **8** \_\_\_\_\_.

South African biologists inside mini-submarines had previously visited caves in the area. They'd seen hundreds of fish species living down there, including sound-making groupers, soldierfish and toadfish. So it was perhaps no surprise **9** \_\_\_\_\_, many of them fish voices. But what was surprising was the patterns those voices made. Taking the most obvious voices and plotting them on spectrograms, Ruppé's team found that, at night, fish were acoustically avoiding one another. In two dimensions, pitch and time, each voice occupied its own space on the spectrograph, like pieces of a sonic jigsaw — different fish called at different times or different pitches, building up distinct layers of sound.

There were deep, isolated booms, low and long tones and clear, coarse pulses, pops, grunts and high-pitched whistles. The species awake during the day produced more jumbled sounds, perhaps because they could see one another **10** \_\_\_\_\_; when they call, they can swim and flick their fins in eye-catching ways, like shouting to a friend on the other side of a busy room and waving at the same time to catch their attention. In the dark of night, when fish can't see each other, it matters more if they have overlapping, clashing calls. Nocturnal species make sure their voices don't drown each other out.

- A** and listened to the sounds of the cave dwellers
- B** and combine their calls with gestures
- C** lasting for hours at a time
- D** that was deliberately scuttled and sunk to create a new underwater habitat
- E** they'll go unseen by the most dangerous predators
- F** partly because we ourselves are not well adapted to hearing
- G** following their noses and also their ears
- H** calling like cuckoos, grunting or making piping sounds
- I** through underwater speakers suspended over each rubble pile
- J** making it hard to pinpoint the source
- K** so they can hear each other
- L** to hear the deepest fish voices in all the oceans
- M** when the cave recordings played back thousands of noises

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

**L I S T E N I N G   C O M P R E H E N S I O N**

**You will hear information about the origins of the famous Heinz ketchup. For questions 1-5, fill in the gaps with the information you hear. You should write no more than 3 words in each gap. Write your answers in the space provided. You will hear the text only once.**

1. To ensure that bottled ketchup remains free from mould and bacteria, Heinz would initially add a special extract from \_\_\_\_\_ to it.
2. The general manager of the Heinz company was uneasy about the idea of preservative-free products as he expected it could decrease profits due to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. To create a natural bacteria-killing substitute for preservatives, Sebastian Mueller experimented with adding \_\_\_\_\_ to tomato sauce.
4. In contrast to earlier ketchup recipes, Heinz preservative-free ketchup had more \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The advertising for the new preservative-free ketchup highlighted that the product conformed to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Total points:...../5pts**

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