

LISTENING TAPESCRIPT

(Please read twice)

Presenter: Now, I have with me in the studio today Mike Douglas, who was out and about earlier this week collecting caterpillars from oak trees, is that right?

Mike: Yes, that's right.

Presenter: And I understand that you aren't collecting these caterpillars in order to conserve them, are you?

Mike: Absolutely not. The caterpillars I've been collecting are from a kind of moth called the oak processionary moth. These caterpillars can cause huge amounts of damage to trees – they can strip all the leaves from an oak tree, leaving it completely bare, weakening the tree considerably.

Presenter: A whole oak tree?

Mike: Yes, they are extremely destructive. They can also harm humans. Touching them or their nests can give you a nasty rash, and even give you a sore throat, or cause breathing difficulties and eye problems.

Presenter: They sound nasty. How come I've never heard of them before?

Mike: Well, they've been in and around London since 2006. In some parts of west and south west London, unfortunately, we've lost the battle. The moths are here to stay and there's nothing we can do about it. We're working in the area around Croydon, where there's been another outbreak, and we're trying to contain it so it doesn't spread any further.

Presenter: So how do you spot an oak processionary moth?

Mike: Well, the easiest thing to look out for is their nests. These look like a grey wart on the side of a tree. Some are about the size of a golf ball, while larger ones can be up to two feet in diameter.

Presenter: That's huge!

Mike: It is. You can imagine how many caterpillars you can find in a nest that big. The other thing we are doing is setting traps for the moths, between July and September, to attract the adult moths. We're doing this over a 2km area so we can monitor how far the moths are spreading and make sure they aren't flying beyond where we would expect them to be.

Presenter: Now, I understand that the oak processionary moth is not the only pest that you are worried about.

Mike: No, it's not. There are many hundreds of pests that could have a terrible effect on our wildlife if they are not monitored correctly. As more and more products are brought in from other countries, rather than being produced here in the UK, more and more fungi, beetles, and moths are allowed to travel into new areas, while warmer temperatures are allowing them to survive and flourish where previously they were unable to. It's believed that such pests as these are moving closer to the poles at a rate of around 3km a year. Some insects are moving even faster – at about 10km a year. The Pine processionary moth, for example, is gradually moving north through France and is now breeding close to Paris. We've already had outbreaks in the UK, which we've managed to contain. But if we don't keep up the vigilance, it means that we could see the decline of some of our most important tree species.

Presenter: What can be done about that?

Mike: It's hard. There's very little government funding for this, so we are encouraging the public to be our eyes and ears.

Presenter: How can they do that?

Mike: Well, the public can help us spot these pests while they're in their gardens, in parks, woodlands, generally out and about, and help us control the threats before they become too serious a problem. It's not the first time we've asked the public to do this. Not long ago, there was an outbreak of citrus longhorn beetles, which sometimes arrive on trees and shrubs from Asia, or in packing crates, and a number of these were spotted by vigilant members of the public and the threat was intercepted.

Presenter: And if you're unable to contain the oak processionary moth problem?

Mike: Well, we may well face a real problem. In the 1970s Britain lost all its elm trees to Dutch elm disease, altering the landscape significantly. We could see the same thing happen again.

Presenter: But are the general public really knowledgeable enough to identify what a tree disease is, or a threat to a tree, and what is just...natural dieback?

Mike: No, in most cases not, and that's why we've launched a training programme to train volunteers in what to look out for so that we can put together a national picture of tree health. People who are interested in becoming volunteers can log on to our website for details of their nearest training programme.

Presenter: Thanks very much indeed, Mike, for coming in to talk to us about this very worthy programme. Now it's time for our weekly...

ROLEPLAY

STUDENT

You are a student and you love art very much. You love graffiti but you have no chance to present your ability to create it. There is no area where you and your friends could create graffiti art. You know that people consider it vandalism but you want to prove that it can have artistic style and also that it is a way for young people to express their ideas and opinions. You are trying to persuade the director of your school about the positive aspects of graffiti and ask him/her to give you and your friends the opportunity to create graffiti in your school or in the school area. Talk to him / her about it.

You start.

ROLEPLAY

TEACHER

You are the director of a secondary school. One of your students loves art, particularly graffiti art, and he/she would like to create it in the school or somewhere nearby. You do not like this kind of art and you are sure it is not a suitable type of art for the school area. You are convinced that it is vandalism, not art. Your student is trying to persuade you about the positive aspects of graffiti and that it is a way for young people to express their opinions about world issues. They would like to have a space in the school where they could create and draw graffiti.

He/she starts.

PICTURE STORY

Look carefully at the picture.

Make up a story about the people and the situation in the picture.



A N S W E R K E Y

GRAMMAR - 15 points

1. was packed
2. getting
3. with
4. hadn't known
5. would have thought
6. had been stretched
7. if
8. be reminded
9. had been spoken
10. had been formed
11. was being collected
12. with
13. from
14. hadn't seen
15. would never have believed

VOCABULARY-10 points (0.5 pt each)

1.C 2.A 3.C 4.B 5.A 6.D 7.D 8.B 9.C 10.A 11.C 12.B 13.D 14.A
7 pts (0.5 pt each)

15.major 16. reduce 17. weight 18. strength 19. Resting 20. rehearsal(s)
3 pts (0.5 pt each)

READING COMPREHENSION – 10 points

1.d 2.c 3.h 4.f 5.b 6.g
3 points (0.5 pt each)

7.D 8.A 9.D 10.C 11.C 12.C 13.B
7 points

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 5 points (0.5 pt each)

1.b 2.b 3.c 4.a 5.b 6.a 7.c 8.b 9.c 10.b

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