

READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Read the text carefully. Complete the task on the next page.

ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

An astonishing 7,000 different languages are spoken on Earth today. However, nearly 80% of the population speaks only 1% of these languages and more than 40% of the planet's languages are "endangered", meaning that there are very few living native speakers. Many of these languages also lack a system of writing. When the speakers die, the language dies with them. Without action, the vast majority of these 3,000 endangered languages, many of which have not been recorded or studied at all, could soon disappear.

Endangered languages can be found throughout the world. Some, like the Koro language in north-eastern India, have only recently become known to the outside world. About 1,000 people on Earth speak Koro, but as endangered languages go, this is a relatively robust figure. Many languages now have fewer than ten speakers. The crisis is not limited to remote regions of the world. When Europeans first arrived in North America, 312 different languages were in use, of which 123 are now known to be extinct. Of the surviving languages, most speakers are grandparents and great-grandparents.

Different researchers offer different definitions of "endangered". The system of classification used by the Catalogue of Endangered Languages (ELCat) evaluates languages in four areas: how often the language is transmitted to the next generation, the total number of speakers, the rate at which it is losing speakers, and the situations in which it is used. Based on this data, languages are ranked on a six-point scale from "safe" to "severely endangered". The midpoint, "endangered", refers to a language with between 100 and 1,000 speakers who represent about half of the language's community or ethnic group. The language is spoken only by some parents, of whom very few teach it to their children. It is primarily used at home and is not taught in schools or used for government business.

Languages become endangered due to a number of interrelated factors, including globalization, economics, technology, education policy, and changes in cultural attitudes. As the forces of globalization make the world more interconnected, previously isolated language communities come under pressure to participate in the larger economy, which means learning the area's majority language. In response, local schools often begin to teach the majority language instead of the local tongue. Local languages also suffer as communities adopt cell phones and computers, most of which run on software that has been translated into only a handful of languages. This trend accelerates as these devices connect users to the Internet. At this point, many communities undergo a cultural shift in which parents no longer value the language enough to teach it to their children.

The endangerment or extinction of a language is of course a great loss for the community in which it is spoken, but it is also a loss for the world at large. A language is more than a list of words for things. It expresses concepts, values, stories and viewpoints that are unique to its community and, in many cases, uniquely valuable to the world. Because the great majority of these languages are not written languages, a culture's oral literature is at risk when its language is endangered, as is a great deal of historical knowledge. Knowledge of the natural world and the local environment is also lost, and this can have real consequences for all of us. To cite one example, in recent years numerous valuable medicines have been found in plants tended, cultivated, and best understood by speakers of endangered languages. One researcher, working with a local healer in Samoa, discovered plant-based cures that led to a drug, *Prostratin*, which is used to treat yellow fever and may even be effective against HIV.

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 29. ročník, krajské kolo 2018/19, kategória 2B – úlohy**READING COMPREHENSION – TASK**

Task: Based on what you have read in the article, complete the statements below. You have to fill in between 1 – 3 words (the number of missing words is indicated). The statements do not follow in the same order as the information appears in the article.

1. Technological, economic and cultural development, globalization and _____ are essential factors influencing the use of languages. (2 words)
2. Technology plays a vital role in reducing the use of local languages as _____ exists in only a couple of major languages. (1 word)
3. The absence of a _____ is one of the substantial reasons why so many languages are on the verge of extinction. (3 words)
4. The extinction of a local language is a huge loss not only for the _____ but also for the whole of civilization. (2 words)
5. The number of endangered languages in North America rose significantly with the _____ . (3 words)
6. Besides facts about the past, information about nature and the _____ may also disappear due to a language vanishing. (2 words)
7. Based on four criteria, languages are graded on a _____ . (2 words)
8. When oral traditions disappear due to language extinction, _____ is also threatened. (2 words)
9. One of the classification criteria for an endangered language is the frequency of _____ . (2 words)
10. Globalization has a negative impact on local languages as local schools are forced to teach the _____ . (2 words)

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Task 1: Read the text and decide which option (A, B, C or D) best completes each collocation or fixed phrase. Circle the letter representing the correct option.

PESSIMISTIC FUTURE

Whenever we read about the natural world nowadays, it is generally to be given dire (1) about its imminent destruction. Some scientists go so (2) as to assert that from now on, the world can no longer be called “natural”, since future processes of weather, climate and all kinds of interactions will be affected by humans. It is hard to know whether to believe such (3) of doom, possibly because what they are saying seems too terrible to be true. There are other influential scientists who argue that what we are experiencing now may simply be part of an endless (4) of change, rather than a disaster on a global (5)

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|--------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. A recollections | B predictions | C forecasts | D images |
| 2. A long | B much | C far | D deep |
| 3. A warriors | B giants | C advocates | D prophets |
| 4. A circle | B cycle | C circumstance | D curve |
| 5. A scale | B dimension | C measure | D proportion |

_____ / 5 pts

Task 2: Fill each blank space in the article below with the correct form of the word in capital letters.

TEACHING IS BECOMING PROBLEMATIC

After 23 years of teaching, I decided to resign my post as the Head of Department at a large comprehensive school. As a Departmental Head, I saw at close hand the effect of the government's increased involvement in educational matters – the job is now ten times more (6) _____ than it was when I started out. The government has also imposed standard national tests on pupils as young as six, a fact which has left many teachers (7) _____ with their profession. There is also the growing (8) _____ of the pupils and the frequent little acts of (9) _____. Teachers have become almost (10) _____ to stop such behaviour.

BUREAU**ENCHANT****AGGRESSIVE****RUDE****POWER**

_____ / 5 pts

_____ / 10 pts

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THEIR WAY OF LIFE

EXAMPLE: (0) of

The inhabitants (0) _____ Spain have few things in common except (1) _____ a natural sociability. Spaniards commonly put as (2) _____ energy into enjoying life as they do into their work. The stereotypical *mañana* (leave everything (3) _____ tomorrow) is a myth, but time is flexible in Spain and many people bend their work schedule (4) _____ as to fit with the demands of their social life (5) _____ they can, instead of letting (6) _____ be ruled by the clock. Spaniards are highly sociable (7) _____ that they like nothing better than spending time in the company of (8) _____. Eating is invariably communal and big groups frequently meet (9) _____ for dinner. Not surprisingly, Spain has more bars and restaurants (10) _____ head than any other country. Traditionally, the state in Spain has been very inefficient (11) _____ providing public services, although this has improved over the last 20 years. The Spanish have therefore always relied on their families and personal connections, (12) _____ than institutions, in (13) _____ to find work or seek assistance in a crisis.

_____ / 13 pts

Task 2: Circle the correct linking expression in each sentence.

14. She's a sociable girl with lots of friends. *Furthermore* / *Even so* / *To some extent*, she can get lonely like anyone else.
 15. He comes across as being a bit difficult, *in contrast* / *broadly speaking* / *whereas* he's actually a very nice guy.

_____ / 2 pts

_____ / 15 pts

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You will hear Kelly Holmes, a double Olympic gold medallist, talking about her life and her new book. Below, you can read ten statements which summarize the information. In the gaps provided, fill in the missing words (the number of missing words is indicated).

KELLY HOLMES

1. Besides her advice on fitness routines, Kelly Holmes presented _____ in her new book. (2 words)
2. In her new book, Kelly used the experience of professionals who represented the _____ for her own personal experience. (2 words)
3. In Kelly's opinion, people can be helpful and sharing only if they devote enough time to _____. (1 word)
4. Physical exercise is a tool for _____. (2 words)
5. Currently, Kelly Holmes' charity is mainly supporting youngsters from _____. (2 words)
6. Kelly is satisfied when young sportsmen, after they have finished charity programmes, can speak _____ and _____ about their experience. (2 words)
7. Kelly considered her visit of Malawi a _____ experience for her. (1 word)
8. According to Kelly, the world would be a nicer place if people could identify the _____ in each other. (1 word)
9. Kelly regards _____ and _____ as her essential values. (2 words)
10. A person needs _____ and _____ to acquire such values. (2 words)

_____ / 5 pts