

G R A M M A R

Look at the article about the Nobel Prize for Literature. Write the verbs in brackets in the correct form / tense OR fill in the proper missing words. The words to be filled in have to be words with some grammatical function (e.g. auxiliary verbs, articles, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, etc.). Write your answers on the lines below the text. There is an example at the beginning (00).

The Nobel Prize for Literature

By the time of his death (00) *in* 1896, the Swedish inventor and philanthropist Alfred Nobel (1) ____ (**accumulate**) a fortune equivalent to one hundred and fifty million pounds in today's terms. According to his will, the bulk of his fortune (2) ____ (**put**) into a trust and the interest from this should be used to fund five yearly prizes awarded to individuals or institutions (3) ____ distinguished themselves in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and international peace. The Nobel Prize for literature, which (4) ____ (**award**) by the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, (5) ____ (**become**) the most prestigious literary award on the world today.

The winner of the Nobel Prize (6) ____ (**usually, announce**) on a Thursday morning in October, though it (7) ____ (**know**) to be as late (8) ____ November on the occasion when the Nobel committee have had trouble reaching a consensus. Which Thursday the announcement (9) ____ (**make**) on is kept as a closely guarded secret (10) ____ forty-eight hours beforehand, and then the information is released to the press.

The Nobel committee is made up of eighteen members of the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, who have (11) ____ daunting task of sifting through the two hundred or so nominations that are received (12) ____ year. This process is also carried out behind closed doors, (13) ____ the last thing the committee wants is a three-ringed circus surrounding their deliberations.

A writer's formal nomination (14) ____ (**must, receive**) by the Academy no later than the first of February of the year in question. Then, a sub-committee made up of five members of the Academy considers the nominations and quite quickly (15) ____ (**reduce**) the list to fifteen names. (16) ____ the end of May, this list has been further reduced to six finalists. This short list is then presented to the whole committee on 31st May, (17) ____ before the Academy begins its summer recess.

During the summer break, the members of the committee have time (18) ____ (**read**) the material of the short-listed writers in depth. On returning to the Academy in mid-September, (19) ____ member presents a paper they have prepared (20) ____ (**give**) their reasons for the final choice they have made. These choices are then debated in full sessions of the Academy on the next few Thursday evenings between 5:00 and 6:30 pm, until a majority decision is reached.

When this happens, a morning meeting is announced for the following Thursday, (21) ____ an official ballot is held. The ballot is held in an elegant eighteenth-century room at the Academy. The members of the committee write their choice on a piece of paper. These papers are then placed one by one (22) ____ an antique silver drinking tankard called a "stop" in Swedish. They are then counted by the secretary, who leaves the room at exactly 1:00 pm and walks through a grand hall to his own office (23) ____ the press (24) ____ (**wait**).

G R A M M A R - continued

Like every other high-profile award, there is a certain amount of controversy surrounding it. This has been true **(25)** _____ the first award, which went to Sully Prudhomme. Outside France this **(26)** _____ **(not regard)** as a popular choice, as most writers felt that it should have gone to Leo Tolstoy. In fact, several writers of great distinction, **(27)** _____ as Joyce, Gorky, and Brecht, were never honoured **(28)** _____ this prize, while there were winners **(29)** _____ work was popular in their day but did not stand the passage of time.

However, despite this controversy, the world of literature **(30)** _____ **(wait)** with bated breath every autumn to learn who the recipient of the ultimate literary honour will be for that year.

(Adapted from MOUTSOU, E. & PARKER, S. 1999. *Reading Comprehension for the FCE Examination*. The European Union, MM Publications, p. 18.)

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| (1) _____ | (16) _____ |
| (2) _____ | (17) _____ |
| (3) _____ | (18) _____ |
| (4) _____ | (19) _____ |
| (5) _____ | (20) _____ |
| (6) _____ | (21) _____ |
| (7) _____ | (22) _____ |
| (8) _____ | (23) _____ |
| (9) _____ | (24) _____ |
| (10) _____ | (25) _____ |
| (11) _____ | (26) _____ |
| (12) _____ | (27) _____ |
| (13) _____ | (28) _____ |
| (14) _____ | (29) _____ |
| (15) _____ | (30) _____ |

0.5 point/correct answer
Total: _____ / 15 pts

V O C A B U L A R Y

A. Read the text and complete the sentences with the correct form of the word written in brackets.

New editions of the works of Roald Dahl — the best-selling British **(1)** _____ **(NOVEL)** whose children's books include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, and *James and the Giant Peach* — have been rewritten to make them less **(2)** _____ **(OFFEND)**. The changes have provoked **(3)** _____ **(CRITIC)** from well-known **(4)** _____ **(LITERATURE)** figures and others, including Prime Minister Rishi Sunak of Britain. However, it was earlier reported that hundreds of words, including **(5)** _____ **(DESCRIBE)** of characters' **(6)** _____ **(APPEAR)**, races, and genders, had been changed or **(7)** _____ **(MOVE)** in at least 10 of the author's 19 children's books.

A spokesman for The Roald Dahl Story Company, which manages the author's copyrights, said in a **(8)** _____ **(STATE)** on Monday: "Our guiding principle throughout the process of editing has been to maintain the story lines, characters, the **(9)** _____ **(REVERE)** and sharp-edged spirit of the original text." Changes include characters who are no longer described as "fat" and **(10)** _____ **(REFER)** to "mothers" and "fathers" that have been updated to "parents" or "family." The company had partnered with Inclusive Minds, an **(11)** _____ **(ORGANISE)** that champions **(12)** _____ **(DIVERSE)** in children's literature. The group said that it had helped "provide **(13)** _____ **(VALUE)** advice when it comes to reviewing language that can be damaging and promote **(14)** _____ **(HARM)** stereotypes."

Dahl was no stranger to criticism, as his works were called **(15)** _____ **(SOCIETY)** and anti-feminist. But they remain **(16)** _____ **(WIDE)** read and are regularly **(17)** _____ **(IMAGE)** for the silver screen. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* has twice been turned into a film, and another **(18)** _____ **(ADAPT)**, starring Timothée Chalamet, is set to be released this year.

Matthew Dennison, who wrote a biography of Dahl, said that the author was known to have problematic **(19)** _____ **(RELATION)** with his editors. He always resisted unnecessary sanitizing, Mr. Dennison said, noting that the author would recognize that **(20)** _____ **(ALTER)** to his novels reflected adult sensibilities rather than children's misgivings.

"I never get any protests from children," Mr. Dahl once said. "All you get are giggles of mirth and squirms of delight. I know what children like."

(Adapted from Taylor D. B.: "Roald Dahl's Books Are Rewritten to Cut Potentially Offensive Language" In: *The New York Times*, February 20, 2023. [online]. Available at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/20/books/roald-dahl-books-changes.html>)

0.5 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 10 pts

READING COMPREHENSION

Bananas about Bananas

An apple a day keeps the doctor away. In winter, the antioxidant vitamin C in oranges and citrus fruits boosts the immune system. Grapes are high in nutrients; vitamins B1, B2, B6, C, and K; and essential minerals. Pineapple is a natural healer packed with vitamin C and bromelain, a potential anti-inflammatory. **(1)**

Bananas originated in Malaysia as early as 2000 BC, but the first banana plantations were established in China around 200 AD. In the early 1500s, the Portuguese and Spanish introduced bananas to the Caribbean and Americas. The United Fruit Company, formed in 1899, was responsible for the commercialization of Latin American bananas and controlled most of the trade in tropical fruit into the mid-twentieth century. Nowadays, bananas are traded as a commodity.

(2) China is second, with 8 metric tons. However, of the 130 countries that grow bananas, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and the Philippines are the major commercial producers.

(3) In fact, the banana plant, *Musa acuminata*, is the world's largest perennial herb. Cultivation is best suited to tropical and subtropical areas with ample water, rich soil, and good drainage.

The banana develops in a heart-shaped flower bud and forms bunches, called a "hand," of 10 to 20 individual "fingers" weighing 20 to 45 kilograms. Although we picture bananas in a bright yellow skin with brown spots, turning to a solid brownish black as they ripen and sweeten, they also come in green, purple, red, orange, pink, black, and striped jackets, and a variety of sizes.

(4) Because of their extremely high potassium and minimal sodium content, bananas have been proven to reduce the risk of high blood pressure and stroke, and to regulate heartbeat. They contain twice as many carbohydrates, five times as much Vitamin A and iron, and three times as much phosphorus as apples. When converted into serotonin, the tryptophan in bananas can lift our spirits.

Bananas can relieve or cure some less serious health problems, such as morning sickness, mosquito bites, and hangovers. They can improve eyesight and help a person quit smoking. In dieting, a banana is a better choice to combat a craving for something sweet than chocolate or ice cream. About the only claim a banana can't make is to grow hair on a bald head (but maybe no one has tested that yet).

(5) For all its many uses and amazing talents, the best thing to do with a banana is to eat it: with yogurt, ice cream, peanut butter, chocolate sauce, nuts and whipped cream, or just by itself. You can enjoy bananas all the more by knowing that you're doing something for your health!

(Adapted from ENGELHARDT, D. 2013. *Intermediate English Reading Comprehension*, United States, McGraw Hill Education, pp. 9-12)

READING COMPREHENSION - continued

A. Read the article *Bananas about Bananas*. Decide which of the sentences (A) – (E) best fits into each of the numbered gaps (1) – (5) in the article. Write the correct letter in the blank chart provided below.

- a) Bananas do not grow on a tree, as most people imagine, but on a sturdy plant that can reach 6 to 7.6 meters high, with large leaves up to 0.6 meters wide and 2.75 meters long.
- b) According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, India is the world's top producer of bananas, with a total output of 21.7 metric tons in 2011.
- c) Bananas contain three sugars: sucrose, fructose, and glucose, making them an instant and sustained energy food.
- d) Considered nutritional powerhouses, bananas bring many potential health benefits.
- e) The next time exams roll around, why not pack a banana with your books at study time?
- f) The list of healthy, healing fruits goes on and on, but when it comes to health, popularity, versatility, and overall usefulness, none can beat the banana.
- g) It's no wonder that people are "bananas" about bananas.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

B. Read the text and for questions 1 to 5, decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS). Circle the correct answers.

1. T / F / NS Citrus fruits and berries top the lists of the healthiest fruits in the world.
2. T / F / NS The first bananas are thought to have grown in the European region.
3. T / F / NS Bananas have been cultivated to become seedless and are propagated through division from the mother plant.
4. T / F / NS Sweet-banana skins are most commonly known to be yellow, but ripe banana skins can also come in different colours.
5. T / F / NS Bananas can boost hair growth and prevent baldness.

1 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 10 pts

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

A. You are going to listen to a text on capitalism and trade. According to what you have heard, decide whether the statements are true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS). Circle the correct answers. You will hear the text twice.

1. T / F / NS In the capitalist economic system, governments have full ownership and control over businesses.
2. T / F / NS The owners of organizations in capitalism are called shareholders.
3. T / F / NS Governments have the power to limit the sales of dangerous goods.
4. T / F / NS The US government strictly regulates the domestic economy to help certain companies gain a monopoly.
5. T / F / NS Imposing import taxes on foreign goods makes them more affordable for consumers.

B. Listen again and fill in the gaps with ONE word.

6. Generating _____ is the ultimate goal of any corporation.
7. A private person who invests their funds into establishing and managing a corporation is called a _____.
8. A _____-market economy is one where supply and demand regulate production and labour.
9. European countries need people to buy _____ cars to boost local economies.
10. The name of the strategy used by governments to protect domestic companies and industries is _____.

0.5 point/correct answer
Total: _____ / 5 pts

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