

G R A M M A R

Read the following text and fill each gap with a proper verb tense or verb form. Use all the words that are given in point and mind the correct word order. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. Spelling counts!

For me, nothing is more satisfying than discovering hidden gems in second-hand shops and estate sales. After all, one person's trash is another person's treasure. I can spend hours **1...** (**sift**) through boxes of old photography equipment.

Two years ago, I came across a collection of loose, dusty photos. I **2...** (**look, see**) if there were any names on the backs. I thought: if these **3...** (**be**) mine, or my family's, I **4...** (**want**) someone **5...** (**return**) them to me. So I made it my goal to do so for others.

I **6...** (**since, accumulate**) more than 50,000 of these items. I organise them in big boxes all over my house in New York. Photographs, memory cards, home movies, undeveloped films, photo albums – you **7...** (**name**) it, I've collected it.

I've also set up a social media account **8...** (**help, reunite**) items with their owners or other family members. The first item I posted was a VHS tape of a family holiday that I **9...** (**digitise**). It was a video of two parents and a son of university age on a trip in the '90s – the son **10...** (**wear**) a T-shirt with the words "Wesleyan Swimming" on it.

1.....

5.....

9.....

2.....

6.....

10.....

3.....

7.....

4.....

8.....

Proceed with the text and decide which ONE functional word best fits each gap (11-15). Write your answers in the space provided below the text. Spelling counts!

My social media followers contacted athletic departments in universities across the US and asked swimming coaches from the '90s if they recognised the student. **11...** just a few days, someone identified him and we tracked him **12 ...** on social media. He **13 ...** not believe it and was ecstatic to be reunited with the tape. He then recreated some of the movies with his own sons.

The quickest we've been able to find an owner is within two minutes. Someone commented below **14 ...** photo I posted: "I think that's my child's preschool teacher." The longest we've taken to find someone is four months, but I'm proud that we still managed to do it. There are thousands of photos **15 ...** have yet to be reunited. [1]

11.....

13.....

15.....

12.....

14.....

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.

On a mid-May morning in the village of Koumi, Burkina Faso, in West Africa, Sanon Mousa has nearly finished annual maintenance on his three-room house. He replaced termite-**1** ... roof supports with freshly cut beams and reinforced the heat-defying mud walls, some of which are a yard thick and more than a hundred years old. After **2** ... the roof thatch, all that remains is applying layers of rainproofing to the exterior.

“The mud will keep us cool. The motor oil and clay will keep us dry,” Mousa says as we **3** ... his living space, which is a good 25 degrees cooler than outside. “We’ve perfected this.” Mousa, a 50-something retired school librarian with a sombre **4** ... , is proud of his house. That doesn’t mean living in it is his first choice, though. In recent years he’s watched his wealthier neighbours in this verdant strip of the country’s southwest rebuild their homes in concrete.

Across Africa’s Sahel region, there are thousands of villages like Koumi—and in the dozens I’ve visited in several countries, the use of concrete is increasing. As **5** ... standards rise and access to concrete expands, some of the world’s hottest, poorest landscapes are rapidly morphing from brown to cinder block grey. But abandoning traditional materials and the construction techniques that **6** ... their uses is anything but a sign of progress. Or so says a growing coterie of architects, community leaders, and government officials. Particularly not now, when climate change is making already hot regions even hotter, and concrete is fuelling some of that warming. The manufacture of cement, a key ingredient of concrete, **7** ... for around 8 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions. Proponents of traditional building techniques are **8** ... that climate-battered communities need more, not fewer, homes, schools, and civic buildings made in the traditional way. Mud walls, when built thick enough, can absorb and store a lot of heat, which then **9** ... as outside temperatures cool in the evening. By contrast, thin concrete cinder blocks, with their hollow **10** ... , allow heat to pass through freely, rapidly warming interiors. [2]

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | A infected | B ridden | C full | D attacked |
| 2 | A restocking | B refurnishing | C recovering | D replenishing |
| 3 | A visit | B tour | C roam | D circle |
| 4 | A demeanour | B decorum | C delivery | D disguise |
| 5 | A life | B existential | C living | D existing |
| 6 | A uphold | B underscore | C uplift | D underpin |
| 7 | A answers | B accounts | C explains | D excuses |
| 8 | A adamant | B lenient | C obstinate | D staunch |
| 9 | A dissolves | B depletes | C dissipates | D decomposes |
| 10 | A recesses | B nook s | C vaults | D blanks |

Total Points:/10pts

R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

Read the following article about the acoustics of the city. Complete gaps 1-10 with a suitable phrase (A-M) from the list on the following page. Three phrases will remain unmatched.

I sleep on the second floor, in a bedroom facing a residential street in Brooklyn. Through the years, my sleeping brain has grown used to the night-time noises of motor vehicles: mainly the growls of engines, but also the squeaks of truck springs **1** ... , and the wheedling of open-door chimes from late-night Uber drop-offs. Fire engines, cop cars, unmuffled Harley-Davidson motorcycles, not to mention unhappy couples arguing and the occasional lost soul screaming at ghosts—none of that noise bothers me.

Unlike vision, smell, and taste, all of which dim when **2** ... , hearing is a 24/7 operation. For early humans, who were trying to rest outdoors with predators around, this trait was presumably a lifesaver. For people trying to sleep in the city that never does, though, all-night listening is mostly a liability. The brain must disregard a lot of ordinary metropolitan white noise, while remaining alert to unusual sounds that **3** The waking brain performs a similar filtering function in the urban soundscape, ignoring as many of the meaningless noises as possible.

Researchers into the neurobiology of hearing explain this phenomenon in terms of novelty and adaptation. Familiar and regularly patterned sounds, such as internal-combustion engines and air-conditioners, don't wake us, but **4** ... , at least at first, amid the sonic clutter. In a 2005 paper, Ellen Covey, a psychologist at the University of Washington, and her co-authors identified these subconscious arbiters of sound and noise as the brain's "novelty detector neurons."

However, a novel or useful alert can become a meaningless repetitive noise over time. The beeping emitted by the new Walk /Don't Walk signals, which were recently installed on the corners of my block, initially struck me as abrasive; now I tune it out. Other, more aggressive sounds, such as back-up beepers on trucks, have been designed to resist assimilation, because that would **5** Far from blending together into a kind of acoustic ecosystem, city noises tend to compete with one another to be heard—an auditory cage match wherein the loudest sound eventually wins.

The electrification of mobility presents humanity with a rare opportunity to reimagine the way cities might sound. Electric motorcycles, cars, trucks, and vans are legally mandated to replace all internal-combustion-engine (I.C.E.) vehicles in New York, L.A., and other cities by mid-century—a shift that will profoundly alter the acoustic texture of urban life. The internal-combustion engine, in addition to being the single largest source of CO₂ emissions, is the leading cause of global noise pollution, which studies have shown to **6** When moving at higher speeds, electric vehicles, or E.V.s, produce roughly the same wind and road noise that I.C.E. vehicles do, but at lower speeds they operate in near-silence: electricity flows from the battery to the motor, which **7** Therein lie the promise and the peril of E.V.s for city dwellers.

A zero-emissions vehicle has obvious benefits for the environment, but a quiet car is a mixed blessing for the public good. Automobile engines, however annoying non-driving citizens find them, are rich in information, providing a protective web of sound that **8** ... as we navigate the streets. Not only does engine noise announce a vehicle's presence; it can also convey its direction, its speed, and whether it is accelerating or decelerating. The same disturbances that my brain ignores while I'm sleeping help guide me when I'm cycling in traffic and can't take my eyes off the road to glance back. And, for pedestrians distracted by their phones, engine sounds are everyday lifesavers, as **9** Except that the predators are motor vehicles—and the new ones are virtually silent.

In response to this threat, the U.S. Congress passed the 2010 Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act, a law that few Americans paid attention to at the time, and that **10** As a result of the legislation, every E.V. and hybrid manufactured since 2020 and sold in the U.S. must come equipped with a pedestrian-warning system, also known as an acoustic vehicle alerting system (AVAS), which emits

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 33. ročník, celoštátne kolo 2022/2023, kategória 2C1 – úlohy

noises from external speakers when the car is travelling below eighteen and a half miles (about 30 kilometres) per hour. [3]

- A** a new or irregular disturbance stands out
- B** took almost ten years to implement
- C** a driver is reversing or turning
- D** consciousness shuts down for the night
- E** have a similarly corrosive effect on human health
- F** would warn a driver of an impending collision
- G** cushions us from collisions
- H** diminish their efficacy as audible beacons
- I** wheezing over the street's speed hump
- J** the tiger's distant roar was for napping early humans
- K** the brain pays special attention to sounds
- L** spins with a barely audible hum
- M** might be of vital importance

Total points...../10pts

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

You will listen to a report about recent research into the behaviour of dogs [4]. For questions 1 to 5, circle one correct answer according to the information you hear. You will hear the text only once.

1. Wolves and dogs are similar as both ____.
 - A. can react to various sounds with howling
 - B. howl to communicate with their cohorts
 - C. can produce howling sounds
 - D. howl more or less frequently

2. In their research effort, the Hungarian scholars worked with ____.
 - A. dogs of several unmixed breeds
 - B. dogs that live freely as strays
 - C. dogs of the breeds used as sled dogs
 - D. dogs that were picked randomly

3. According to the research results, dogs that are more distantly related to wolves ____.
 - A. answer to wolf howl with howls
 - B. tend not to react to wolf howl
 - C. howl harder than usual when hearing wolf howl
 - D. tend to bark back at wolf howl

4. The Hungarian researchers believe that dogs that are more closely related to wolves learned to imitate wolf howling to ____.
 - A. drive wolves away from their territory
 - B. avoid coming into contact with wolves
 - C. warn other dogs about wolves coming
 - D. assert their power over older dogs

5. The results of the present research support a theory suggested by previous studies that ____.
 - A. selective breeding can be used to suppress howling
 - B. domesticated dogs react to fear with howling
 - C. dogs howl less frequently as they grow old
 - D. dog howls increase the level of stress in humans

Total points..... /5pts

Zoznam použitej literatúry:

[1] Gutenmacher, D. 2023. Experience: I reunite families with their long-lost photos. *The Guardian Saturday*, 4 February 2023, p. 8.

[2] Schwartzstein, P. 2023. Made from mud: West African architects look to the past to beat future heat. *National Geographic*, February 2023, pp.109-131.

[3] Seabrook, J. 2022. On Alert: Should quiet cars be heard? *The New Yorker*, 8 August 2022, pp. 24-29.

[4] Baisas, L. 2023. *Do domesticated dogs howl back at wolves?* Dostupné na internete: <<https://www.popsi.com/environment/dog-wolf-howl/>>

Autorka: PhDr. Xenia Liashuk, PhD.

Recenzentka: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

Názov: Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – celoštátne kolo 2022/2023

Vydavateľ: NIVaM – Národný inštitút vzdelávania a mládeže, Bratislava 2023