

# UNIT 1

## A Reading 1

Read the text and choose the best answer in 1-5.

### PLANET EARTH

The planet Earth is 4,600 million years old. It is difficult for us to think about such an enormous length of time because it has little meaning for us. We can, however, simplify the idea to make it more understandable. We can compare the planet Earth to a person of forty-six years of age.

Nothing is known about the first seven years of this person's life. Very little information exists about the middle period either. It was only at the age of forty-two that the Earth began to flower.

Dinosaurs and great reptiles did not appear until one year ago, when the planet was forty-five. Mammals only arrived eight months ago. In the middle of last week, man-like apes became ape-like men and began to communicate with each other. Last weekend, the Ice Age covered the Earth.

Modern man has only been around for four hours. During the last hour man discovered agriculture. The Industrial Revolution and the rise of large cities began just sixty seconds ago.

During that short time, modern man has made a rubbish tip of the Earth. In one minute, he has increased his numbers to terrible proportions, and has caused the death of hundreds of species of animals. He has robbed and destroyed the planet in his search for fuels. Now he stands, like a violent, spoilt child, delighted at the speed of his rise to power, on the edge of the final mass destruction and of killing all the life which exists in the solar system.

- The passage tells us that
  - a great deal is known about how the Earth was created.
  - life on Earth began relatively recently.
  - more is known about the first part of the Earth's life than the middle part.
  - scientists are well-informed about the middle part of the Earth's life.
- We are informed by the author that
  - the dinosaurs appeared during the middle period.
  - mammals and great reptiles both appeared at the same time.
  - there were more than forty-five kinds of great reptiles.
  - ape-like men appeared before the last Ice Age.
- The author is mainly interested in
  - the time when man first evolved from apes.
  - what has happened since the Industrial Revolution.
  - the effects of farming.
  - the period before the last Ice Age.
- It would appear that the main danger ahead is that
  - man will destroy everything on Earth.
  - man will use up all the fuels.
  - there will be a population explosion.
  - more species of animal may die out.
- The author's general view of man seems to be that
  - he has no right to be so destructive.
  - he has been the most successful animal.
  - he will be able to control the environment.
  - he has learned a lot from past mistakes.

## B Vocabulary 1

Below is a list of animals. Classify them according to the following categories and add three examples of your own.

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Mammals  |  |
| Birds    |  |
| Insects  |  |
| Fish     |  |
| Reptiles |  |

|            |           |          |           |
|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| chimpanzee | cockroach | salmon   | mosquito  |
| eagle      | cobra     | ant      | sardine   |
| whale      | robin     | tortoise | crocodile |
| leopard    | shark     | crow     |           |

## C Vocabulary 2

Complete the sentences using the correct form of *say, talk, speak or tell*.

- When the child was in bed, his mother \_\_\_\_\_ him a story.
- When she left she \_\_\_\_\_, 'I'll call again next week.'
- I've left my watch at home. Could you \_\_\_\_\_ me the time?
- What is the word for someone who can \_\_\_\_\_ two languages fluently?
- I saw Peter yesterday, and he \_\_\_\_\_ that he was going to buy a new car.
- Can you \_\_\_\_\_ the difference between butter and margarine?
- What exactly did Jenny \_\_\_\_\_ to you when you asked her about the party?
- Sorry, could you \_\_\_\_\_ up? It's a bad line, and I can't hear very well.
- Don't be silly. I wasn't angry. I don't know what you are \_\_\_\_\_ about.
- Excuse me, could you \_\_\_\_\_ me the way to the station?

## D Use of English 1

Complete the text using the given words. There is an example at the beginning (0).

said say speak told (x2)  
who (x2) which whose (x3)

Dian Fossey, (0) whose life story was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the film *Gorillas In The Mist*, was an American zoologist (2) \_\_\_\_\_ lived among the mountain gorillas of Rwanda for eighteen years. The relationship they built up allowed her to observe them in more detail than ever before. In the end, she could sit safely near adult gorillas and their children while she was making her notes.

She set up the Karisoke Research Centre, one of (3) \_\_\_\_\_ aims was to protect gorillas from poachers (4) \_\_\_\_\_ killed them for their skins, and her work allowed the gorilla population to rise from about 240 to 600. She herself was killed in 1985, and people (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the crime was committed by a poacher (6) \_\_\_\_\_ business was being damaged by her work.

The studies she carried out have encouraged other scientists to look at gorillas' intelligence. They cannot, of course, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a language, but there are ways in (8) \_\_\_\_\_ they can communicate with each other. One researcher (9) \_\_\_\_\_ a conference that he had taught a gorilla sign language, and he (10) \_\_\_\_\_ that it was able to learn over 100 different signs.

## E Use of English 2

Complete the text with the correct form of the words in capitals. There is an example at the beginning (0).

The songs of the humpback whale are beautiful (0) collections of moans and sighs and it is possible to make (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of these with a microphone. With enough (2) \_\_\_\_\_, you can listen to a song and tell which year it was sung in and where it came from.

The whales do most of their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the winter season, after their annual (4) \_\_\_\_\_ south from the Arctic. It is always the young males who set off first to the tropical breeding areas, and most of the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ are given by solitary males who are looking for a mate.

The songs all have a definite sequence of parts. This (6) \_\_\_\_\_ is never changed, and there are clear rules of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ which must not be broken.

There is very little (8) \_\_\_\_\_ between the songs at the start of a season and those from the previous year. However, over the next few months, the different parts of each song may be swapped, shortened, and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ may be made to the notes. During a breeding season, the whales all try to sing the most up-to-date version of the song. This (10) \_\_\_\_\_ is similar to the way human language evolves, with contributions from many members of the population.

- 0 COLLECT
- 1 RECORD
- 2 PRACTISE
- 3 SING
- 4 MIGRATE
- 5 PERFORM
- 6 ARRANGE
- 7 COMPOSE
- 8 DIFFER
- 9 ALTER
- 10 DEVELOP

## F Vocabulary 3

Complete the sentences using the correct form of these phrasal verbs or verbs with prepositions.

go on go up look up look into come down

- 1 Jenny's upstairs, but she'll \_\_\_\_\_ soon.
- 2 They \_\_\_\_\_ and waved at the helicopter.
- 3 The inquiry team are \_\_\_\_\_ exactly why the accident happened.
- 4 I can't remember her number. Could you \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ in the phone book for me?
- 5 At the end of the concert, the audience \_\_\_\_\_ clapping until the singer came back and did an encore.
- 6 When they \_\_\_\_\_ the nest, they saw three baby birds.
- 7 When I last visited the Eiffel Tower, the lift wasn't working, so I \_\_\_\_\_ the stairs.
- 8 Although unemployment is high, the government say it will \_\_\_\_\_ soon.
- 9 When he went to the fair, Jimmy wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the big wheel.
- 10 He was pleased to hear that the value of his house had \_\_\_\_\_ since he had bought it.

## G Use of English 3

Read the letter from a student at a language school to an English-speaking friend. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓). If a line has an unnecessary word, underline it. There are two examples at the beginning (0) and (00).

- 0 This is just a quick note to tell to you that I am fine and  
00 that the course is going well. I am in the top class, ✓  
1 and I'm having a great time. There are eight of us in  
2 the class, all from different countries, so we have to  
3 speak with English all the time.  
4 I wanted to say you how pleased I am with the school,  
5 and I am really glad that you told to me about it.  
6 The facilities are great and our social life is wonderful.  
7 We have the parties twice a month, and every weekend  
8 we also have the chance to go on to all sorts of interesting  
9 excursions which they are organized by the school.  
10 They've also got tennis courts, but we'll have to wait  
11 until it stops to raining before we get the chance to play!  
12 Anyway, I'd love for to see you again, and my host  
13 family have said that you are welcome to stay in the  
14 spare room. So please tell me that if you think you'll  
15 be able to come down in here, and I'll sort things out.  
Hope to see you again soon.

## H Reading 2

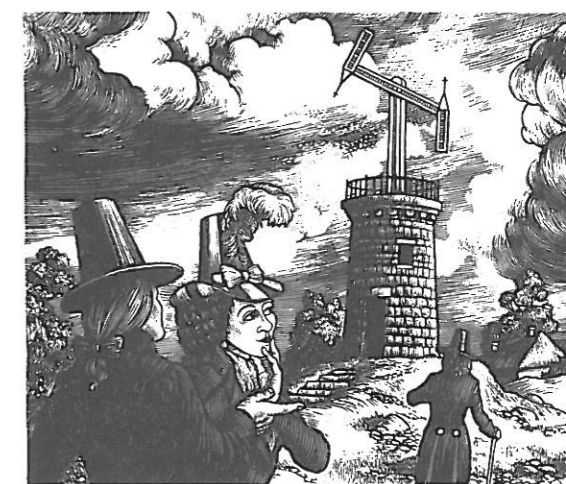
Read the text on the right about the invention of semaphore. Five sentences have been removed. Choose from sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-4). There is one extra sentence which you do not need. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A Using ropes, these could be moved to form 49 different shapes that could be recognized easily.  
B The main problem was that it could not be used during the night or on foggy days.  
C These messages could be sent very quickly.  
D The new republic faced enemies on all sides in the form of the forces of Britain, Austria, Holland, Prussia and Spain.  
E In August 1794, it carried its first message, the news of Napoleon's victory at Le Quenoy.  
F A system was built between London and the south coast, and other countries followed.

War has been called 'the mother of invention', and this was certainly true in the French Revolutionary wars in 1792. (0) D What the Revolutionary Government urgently needed was a reliable system of communication.

Claude Chappe, who was a priest and an engineer, had developed a telegraph system, but had not been able to test it fully. However, his brother Ignace was a member of the government, and arranged for Claude's system to be tested. It turned out to be a great success and started a new form of high-speed communication.

The two brothers had a series of towers built 5 to 10 km apart. At the top of each tower was a tall wooden mast, and they attached one horizontal and two vertical wooden beams to this mast. (1) I Claude called this system 'semaphore', which comes from the Greek meaning 'bearing a sign'.



Operators in each tower watched neighbouring towers through a telescope and then passed the message on to the next one in the line. The first line stretched from Paris to Lille, a distance of 230 km. (2) I At an average speed of three signals a minute, it was carried in 20 minutes, more than 90 times faster than messengers on horseback.

Once the value of Chappe's system was understood, it soon became the standard method of communication in Europe. (3) I By the time the electric telegraph was developed, France had more than 550 semaphore towers stretching 4,800km.

Unfortunately, Chappe's system had some disadvantages. (4) I The towers were also expensive to maintain and the cost of staff was high. In the end, Chappe was depressed by these criticisms of his inventions and by claims from other engineers that they had invented semaphore, and he committed suicide in 1805.