ENGLISH GRAMMAR TESTS

Reading Comprehension Multiple Choice Questions Exercise 6

21 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
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Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 21

(Please note: The following questions are related to a specific reading passage, available solely before the first question. Remember, referring back to the reading text while answering the questions may be helpful to ensure accuracy.)

Occasionally during the night, one can see meteors. They resemble streaks of light and for this reason, are called falling stars. As meteors travel through space, they sometimes fall into the Earth's gravitational pull and the friction between these rocks and the atmosphere causes most of them to burn up before they reach the surface of the Earth. At times, however, very large pieces of meteors fall to Earth and although they are burned up to a large extent, some pieces do reach the surface. These are then called meteorites. The largest meteorite to have been found is the Hoba meteorite. It was found in Namibia and weighs 60 tons.

1. **Meteors that hit the Earth _____.**
   A) are known as meteorites
   B) are called falling stars
   C) are found in the Hoba
   D) will land in Namibia
   E) burn up due to friction

2. **The Earth's atmosphere _____.**
   A) has many meteors in it but we cannot see them
   B) prevents most meteors from falling into the Earth's gravitational pull
   C) and the friction it causes prevent many meteors from becoming meteorites
   D) attracts the large falling stars to the Earth
   E) is so hot that it burns up rocks easily

3. **Meteors are _____.**
   A) huge stars that travel in space
   B) rocks that travel through space
   C) able to easily land on Earth
   D) always in their travel in our atmosphere
   E) usually present in Namibia

One of the most famous fossil sites in the world is the Olduvai Gorge. It is located in Tanzania and is considered one of the major archaeological excavation sites in the world. The famous Dr Louis Leakey and his family began working in this gorge in 1931. Its archaeological value comes from the fact that over fifty Hominoidea remains have been found here, along with some of the earliest known stone tools. The gorge was carved out by a river that flowed into a lake. The sediments found in the gorge are of two types: lake and volcanic deposits. Both of these sediment types are extremely valuable to scientists. The volcanic rocks help establish accurate dates, while the deposits from the ancient lake provide a rich source of bones and other forms of fossils.

4. **The Olduvai Gorge is _____.**
   A) the place where Dr Louis Leakey and his family have settled
   B) the home of the only remaining Hominoidea
   C) an area famous for its archaeological value
   D) the place where stone tools were most used in ancient times
   E) an active volcano

5. **According to the passage, _____.**
   A) the volcano of the Olduvai Gorge has many fossils in it
   B) man had lived in the lake and worked there for over fifty years
   C) Tanzania is the only place with this type of river
   D) the gorge had been the site of a river that flowed into a lake
   E) the sediments of this lake were used as a burial ground in ancient times

6. **The importance of this site _____.**
   A) was established by Dr Leakey and his family
   B) is excavated for over fifty years
   C) comes from the finding of early Hominoidea
   D) was known at the time it was an active volcanic site
   E) is established continuously by the scientists that work there

There are over 1,400 species of flying mammals referred to as bats. They are the only true flying mammals on Earth. Most bats feed on a diet of insects. Some feed on flowers and fruits, but the most interesting are the vampire bats of the Americas, which suck the blood of large birds and other mammals. Unfortunately, these vampire bats are capable of transmitting rabies and are, for this reason, considered dangerous. The other types of bats pose no danger to humans and are even considered helpers of nature due to their diet, which helps control the insect population in various areas of the world. Although the misunderstood bat has represented fear and terror in the West, it is seen as a sign of good luck and long life in the East.

7. **The majority of the bat population _____.**
   A) are vampires
   B) transmit many illnesses
   C) feed on a diet of insects
   D) are dangerous to man
   E) live in the Americas

8. According to the passage, the bat is misunderstood because _____.
A) it is capable of transmitting rabies
B) it is seen as a sign of good luck in the West
C) its value as a natural enemy of insects is not generally known
D) it is the only flying mammal
E) animals are endangered by most bats

9. The insect population of the world _____.
A) is controlled by bats only in the East
B) represents fear and terror to bats of the east
C) is eaten by vampire bats
D) in some areas develops because of the influence of the bat
E) is kept at normal levels in certain areas because bats eat insects

In 1924, Thomas Watson Sr. changed the name of his company to International Business Machines. The company produced many types of electronic machines. In 1952, Watson's son, Thomas Jr., became the head of the company and proceeded to manufacture their first computers. This first computer was produced for scientists. Many other forms of the computer were produced, and in 1981, this firm marketed its first personal computer. Unfortunately, this world-renowned and respected company, better known as IBM, is now like many other companies: in financial difficulty.

10. A good TITLE for this passage is _____.
A) Thomas Watson Sr. and Jr.
B) Financial Difficulties
C) IBM: Yesterday and Today
D) The First Computer
E) Electronic Machines

11. IBM's first personal computer _____.
A) was manufactured for scientists
B) caused financial difficulties for the company
C) was created by Thomas Jr.
D) was produced after other types of computers had been marketed
E) made the company world known

12. IBM _____.
A) was the first company to produce personal computers
B) went bankrupt in recent years
C) belongs to a family of scientists
D) has been around since at least 1924
E) is the only company to produce personal computers

13. Sumo wrestling is an extremely popular sport in Japan. The Sumo champions are exceptionally large men who are not only tall but also weigh 130 kilograms or more. The reason these wrestlers are so big is that the object of the game is for one wrestler to either throw his opponent out of the ring or force him to the ground. The larger a wrestler is, the greater his chances of winning a match. These matches are usually very short, most lasting less than one minute.

Sumo wrestlers are extremely large _____.
A) because they must use their bodies against their opponents
B) because this is a Japanese sport
C) due to their great strength
D) so that they can object to their opponents
E) to force the ring to wrestle with him

14. The length of these matches _____.
A) is very tall
B) usually takes several minutes
C) is about 13 kilograms
D) generally lasts under a minute
E) goes on until the bell rings

15. To win the match, _____.
A) both wrestlers must stay in the ring for one minute
B) one large wrestler must give up his ground
C) the larger wrestler's weight must be more than 130 kilos
D) the force of the larger wrestler is measured
E) one wrestler must throw the other out of the ring or force him to the ground

16. Although all spiders kill their prey by injecting them with venom, only a few are dangerous enough to cause people or large animals any harm. The venom of the spider is injected by way of the pair of powerful fangs it possesses. This venom is injected into its prey and for most insects and sometimes small animals, it is fatal. The most dangerous spiders are the black widow spiders. The European black widow can cause serious illness in a human victim, whereas the North American black widow is known to have caused the death of people on several occasions.

Most spiders _____.
A) can cause the death of people
B) inject poison with their fangs
C) eat widow spiders
D) are found in Europe and America
E) are of the family of the black widow

17. The venom of the spider _____.

A) will kill any animal
B) is powerful against the fangs of insects
C) is deadly to most insects and small animals
D) affects large animals quicker than small
E) is dangerous to people in most cases

18. **The black widow spiders ____.**

A) are only dangerous when they are found in Europe
B) are fatal to all
C) have weaker venom than most other spiders
D) have a much stronger poison in their venom than other types of spiders
E) usually cause illnesses in Europeans

Jesse Owens was one of the world's most famous track stars. The newspapers of his day called him 'the world's fastest human.' This was because he could run faster and jump further than any other man of the time. He was born in 1913. As the son of a poor black family with nine other brothers and sisters, he had a very difficult early life. He was close to death many times during his youth due to illness. However, the care of his mother and father helped him to pull through each time. He started running and training in school and while in college at Ohio State University, he entered a national competition. During this competition, he set four world records. In 1936, the Olympic Games took place in Germany. This was the Germany of Hitler, who did not believe that any race of people was superior to the Germans. Jesse won the gold medal for each of the events he entered during the games and became one of the most popular athletes in the world.

19. **Hitler ____.**

A) did not believe that his athletes could win the races
B) was in power when the 1936 Olympic Games were held
C) resented the people of the German race
D) had Jesse train at Ohio State University
E) allowed Jesse to enter the national competitions of the Olympic Games

20. **Jesse Owens ____.**

A) was brought up in poverty
B) started to train for the Olympic Games when he was a youth
C) started to run because his mother and father pulled him through
D) first competed in the Olympic Games
E) ran faster than anyone could jump

21. **According to the passage, ____.**

A) Jesse was the only black athlete to have obtained an Olympic medal
B) Jesse caused Hitler to worry about his athletes
C) Jesse was one of the world's most popular athletes
D) Jesse is the only man to have set four world records
E) Jesse's world records were a result of the care he got from his parents as a child

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