

English Articles

Mid Level

مكتبة قدراتك



WHERE IS THE END OF THE LINE?

- (1) It may be hard to imagine, but something as unexciting as standing in line at the post office or the bank is fascinating to some people. A number of sociologists have been studying the subject for more than two decades, and some of their findings are quite surprising. Research shows, for instance, that having to wait actually affects how people judge the (5) service they finally get at the counter: the longer they wait, the worse they rate it.

Studies have also revealed that people are upset the most when they see someone who arrived after them getting served first, an experience described by participants as "infuriating" and "incredibly unfair." Another major cause of irritation is boredom. In a recently published study, nearly 40% of the people interviewed gave it as the main reason (10) for walking out before being served. In other studies, customers spoke about the disruption that being stuck in lines causes to their schedule.

In an attempt to reduce the frustration of standing in line, numerous businesses are taking such findings into account. Many airports no longer have several lines but only a single one, from which people waiting to check in go to the first available counter. Elsewhere, (15) customers take a number and can even sit comfortably while they wait. In places like amusement parks, where lines can be extremely long, electronic signs are often used to indicate how long the wait will be. Sometimes the time shown is deliberately exaggerated, so customers are pleasantly surprised when their turn comes. Another tactic is to keep people entertained while they stand in line. Visitors waiting for a comedy show at Disney (20) World, for instance, are asked to send text messages with jokes that may be used during the performance. Other companies provide computers for the use of people waiting their turn.

While all these methods make some customers a bit happier, none actually makes the lines move any faster. If businesses really wanted to guarantee our satisfaction, they would invest more effort into making lines shorter instead of trying to make us forget how (25) annoying it is to wait.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Fascinating	فاتن / ساحر	Irritation	إغاضة / غضب
Decade	عقد	boredom	ضجر
Findings	نتائج	Disruption	تشويش
Affect	يؤثر	Frustration	إحباط
Rate	يقيّم	Deliberately	بتعمّد
Reveal	يكشف	Exaggerated	مبالغ فيه
Upset	يزعج	Method	طريقة أو أسلوب
Participants	مشاركون	Guarantee	يضمن / يكفل
Infuriating	مغيظ	Satisfaction	رضا / ارتياح
incredibly	بشكل لا يصدق	Annoying	مُزعج / مُغضب
Unfair	ظالم / غير منصف		

RACING INTO SPACE

- (1) If you look up "space tourism" on the Internet these days, you may be surprised by what you find: There are currently numerous space tourism agencies worldwide, and more are opening up all the time. Some will take you on a brief trip above the Earth's atmosphere. Others will send you on a vacation in a space hotel, and still others are planning space stations complete with museums and movie halls. All these businesses are attracting investors, who are prepared to risk hundreds of millions of dollars to build such futuristic projects.

- "We're very excited about space tourism," says John Vale of Galaxy Travel. "We expect to be profitable within three years after we start operations." There is good reason for such optimism. Even though the first flights are only scheduled for 2020, thousands of people in more than 30 countries have already paid as much as \$150,000 to \$200,000 for a trip into space.

- Profits will come not only from the sale of tickets. "Before the flight, space tourists will have to receive several days of training," explains Vale. "We want their family and friends to come to the training site too, where they will find an adventure park with flight simulators, restaurants where everyone can taste space food, and other unique attractions. In other words, we will offer space-related activities here on earth that will be almost as exciting as the experience in space."

- Some experts predict that by 2025, as many as 17,000 tourists could be traveling to space every year. But not everyone is thrilled by this prospect. Environmental groups are concerned about the pollution caused by rocket fuel. There's also the question of safety. "These tourist vehicles must be thoroughly tested before we can even talk about commercial operations," says Marco Caceres, a space industry specialist. "In space, anything can go wrong."

- (25) But the future space tourists are not deterred. Says Pierre Laronde, who signed up for a 2021 flight, "I'm certainly aware of the dangers, and I've thought about them. But I've never even considered not doing it."

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Numerous	متعدد/كثير	Simulator	جهاز محاكاة
Agencies	وكالات	Predict	يتنبأ
Worldwide	عالمي / في جميع انحاء العالم	Thrilled	سعيد
Investors	مُستثمر	Prospect	مشهد
Profit/Profitable	ربح / مُربح	Rocket	صاروخ
Operations	تنفيذ عمليات	Specialist	متخصص
Flight	رحلة طيران	Deterred	يردع
Adventure park	حديقة المغامرات	Signed up	مستعد

SO WHAT IF IT'S NOT REALLY ART?

- (1) An exhibition by three unusual Canadian artists opened yesterday in the city of Bristol, England. The painters, who are known simply as Billy, Tom and Toby, won't be offended if critics sneer, "That's art? My dog could have done it!" While the artists are not dogs, they are animals – more precisely, chimpanzees, and they've been painting for several years (5) now.

Billy, Tom and Toby are three of the 12 chimps that live in a sanctuary near Montreal, Canada, which provides a secure home for old chimps whose lives were spent in research labs or circuses. "The animals arrived depressed and frightened," says sanctuary director Ellen Barkin. "We thought a painting project might help improve their mood a little." The (10) results took everyone by surprise. Some of the chimps needed only a brief introduction before picking up a paintbrush on their own. Others were less keen at first, but when encouraged by staff members they soon joined in. Now they all turn eagerly to their art equipment at every opportunity.

According to Ms Barkin, each of the chimps has a distinctive way of working. Billy, for (15) example, prefers various shades of blue and takes his time applying the paint to the canvas. Toby tends to paint quickly with an obvious sense of delight, and Tom, the oldest of the group, displays a clear preference for dark colors and large canvases. "We found that the paintings of these three particularly appealed to our visitors," says Ms Barkin. "That's why we decided to send them overseas."

(20) The Bristol exhibition is meant to do more than simply entertain. All the income from the sale of paintings will go toward expanding the Montreal sanctuary and improving its facilities. The same fund-raising strategy has been used before. An exhibition held in Canada last year was a huge success, with 13 of the 15 chimp paintings selling in the first week. The organizers of the Bristol show are hoping for similar results. Says Peter Beller, (25) the exhibition curator, "These chimps have been using their whole lives for our benefit. Now it's time to do something for them."

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Exhibition	معرض	various	مُتنوع/مُختلف
Offended	مُستاء/مُهان	Applying:	يضع / يطبق
Critics	نُقاد	Canvas	لوحة على قماش
Precisely	بدقة / بالتحديد	Tends to	يميل إلى
Sanctuary	مأوى / ملجأ	Delight	بهجة
Depressed	مكتئب	Displays	يعرض
Frightened	مُخيف	Entertain	يسلي/ترفيهه
Brief	قصير / موجز	Income	دخل
Keen	شديد/عنيف	Expanding	اتساع
Eagerly	بتلهف	Facilities	مُثشات
Distinctive	مميز	Curator	أمين متحف أو أمين مكتبة

A JOURNEY TO NOWHERE

- (1) Imagine being locked in a small space with five other people for 500 days. Your communication with the outside world is very limited and you have to eat frozen baby food. It may not sound like much fun, but believe it or not, when a job with these conditions was advertised two years ago, there were over 6000 applicants. The six men (5) who were chosen are now taking part in the third stage of Mars 500, a project that will help scientists understand how humans would deal with the psychological and physical challenges of the long flight to Mars. Such knowledge is vital because space agencies hope to be able to send an expedition to the distant planet within twenty years.

The six men have been living together in a mock spacecraft in a Moscow research center (10) since June 3, 2010. Although the "spacecraft" will never leave our planet, they will remain in total isolation for 500 days – the duration of a real expedition to Mars. And they will have to manage with whatever they have since no additional supplies or equipment will be provided during that period. All this is part of the attempt by the organizers to make everything as realistic as possible.

- (15) The crew members work long shifts around the clock, conducting experiments and ensuring that all the instruments are functioning properly. During their free time, they can entertain themselves with films, books, and games. However, they have neither comfort nor privacy. The sleeping areas, for example, are very cramped, and the men are constantly monitored by means of wires attached to the head and body.
- (20) The two previous stages of the project were much shorter, the first lasting only 14 days and the second 105. But even the idea of being isolated for 500 days did not deter the participants in Stage Three. As crew member Diego Urbina proudly explained, "When the very first human being steps on Mars, I will be able to say, 'Yeah, I helped do that!'"

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Locked	محجوز/محبوس	Realistic	واقعي/حقيقي
Applicant	طالب وظيفة	Shifts	مناوبات
Challenges	تحديات	Conducting	إجراء
Vital	حيوي	Functioning	يعمل
Expedition	بعثة/حملة	Properly	بالضبط/بصورة صحيحة
Mock	وهمي/شيء زائف	Cramped	ضيق
Spacecraft	سفينة فضائية	Monitored	يراقب / يرصد
Isolation	انعزال	Wires	اسلاك
Duration	مدة	Deter	يردع
Provided	تزوّد/تقدم	Crew	طاقم
Attempt	محاولة		

KEEPING AN EYE ON MUSEUM VISITORS

- (1) When Richard Marshall walks around the Delroy Museum of Art, he doesn't look at the paintings. Instead, he concentrates on the visitors, watching whether they stop in front of a painting, whether they read the written information, which paintings they discuss with their companions, and so on. His observations help the museum find out how people respond to (5) the displays.

This sort of assessment is part of the recent efforts made by museums worldwide to increase their popularity. "It's no longer enough to simply display objects of cultural importance," says curator Anne Clement. "Now we also want to ensure that a museum visit is exciting and that the information we provide is clear and captures the visitors' interest."

- (10) Museums are therefore using a variety of means, such as distributing questionnaires and hiring observers, to monitor people's reactions. After analyzing the data, curators might decide to rearrange displays or rewrite some of the texts on the gallery walls.

- A thorough assessment can take quite a long time. Marshall has to wait for people to enter the museum gallery and then he has to take detailed notes, focusing on one or two visitors (15) at a time. One morning's work revealed that the average time spent in a certain gallery was just under three minutes, and that a French landscape painting was the most popular work: four out of the six visitors stopped in front of it, and three of them read the label. Marshall is now collecting this kind of information in 14 galleries that were recently redesigned, so that curators can see if further changes are required. He expects it to take him two years to (20) complete the assignment.

Visitors to the Delroy Museum are informed that they may be observed. While a few have expressed mild annoyance, the majority agree with Bob Davis, an industrialist. "The museum should be evaluating itself," said Davis. "In the business world, we do that all the time."

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Companions	مرافقين	Questionnaires	استطلاعات / استبيانات
Observations	مراقبة/رصد	Hiring	توظيف
Respond to	يستجيب	Monitor	رصد/مراقبة
Displays	عرض / معروضات	Rearrange	اعادة ترتيب
Assessment	تقدير/تقييم	Thorough	شامل/كامل
Popularity	شعبية	Revealed	أظهرت
Curator	امین متحف	Landscape	صور/مناظر طبيعية
Exciting	مثير	Redesigned	اعادة تصميم
Provide	يزود	Mild	معتدل
Captures	يأسر / يقبض على	Annoyance	ازعاج/مضايقة
Variety	تنوع	Industrialist	صناعي
Distributing	توزيع	Evaluating	تقييم

HONOURING COMIC STRIP ARTIST

- (1) Comic strips are extremely popular in Britain nowadays; with a recent survey showing that 84% of newspaper readers go straight to the comics pages. However, according to the same survey, only 12% know the names of the artists who create them. Now the National Journalists Association (NJA) has decided to focus public attention on these talented
- (5) individuals by awarding five annual prizes for Outstanding Comic Strip Artist.

“This is real recognition of all the effort we put in.” said Richard Harris, one of the prize winners. The job is great fun, he explained, but that’s not the whole story. Hard work, as well as inspiration and talent, are required to come up with a steady stream of new ideas. Competition is fierce, and those who do find employment must deal with the pressure of

(10) crazy deadlines. Nevertheless, he added, thousands of creative young people just out of art school are eager to enter the field.

Laura Miller, another prize winner, is unusual in that she only came to the profession at the age of 32. “I’ve had a passion for comics since childhood,” said Ms Miller, “but never imagined one could make a living drawing them.” So she took what she called “the

(15) conventional route for artistic youngsters”-university studies, and then a job in publishing. One day she came across an ad for a course that trained people for a career in comics, and jumped at the opportunity. Soon afterwards, she was working for three newspapers. Now, 15 years later, she is still glad she made the switch: “Where else would I get paid for my wildest ideas?”

(20) All the prize winners stressed how much they appreciated the chance to meet with their fellow artist at the award ceremony. “It’s such a solitary occupation,” said Ms Miller. “Most of us are self-employed, and regularly spend 14-hour workdays alone at home. So it’s wonderful to get together with other people in the profession.” Almost as wonderful as seeing one’s comic strips in print every week - which is certainly reward enough in itself.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Survey	دراسة/فحص	Profession	مهنة
Talented	موهوب	Passion	شغف
Individuals	افراد	Conventional	تقليدي
Annual	سنوي	Route	مسار
Recognition	اعتراف	Youngsters	شباب
Inspiration	الهام	Afterwards	بعدئذ
Come up	التوصل إلى	Wildest	أغرب
Steady	مستمر/ثابت	Stressed	شدد/أكد
Stream	دفق/مجرى	Appreciated	يقدر
Fierce	عنيف/ضار	Award	جائزة
Pressure	ضغط	Ceremony	مراسم
Deadlines	مواعيد نهائية	Solitary	انفرادي/وحيد
Eager	يتوق إلى	Occupation	مهنة/احتلال

COLOR MATTERS

- (1) Whenever you open a book or work on your computer, almost everything appears on a white background. But what if it were a different color? In a recently published study, a group of Canadian researchers tried to answer this question. Their conclusion: changing the background color actually affects the way your brain works.
- (5) In the experiment, 600 students were asked to do two sets of tasks, one demanding intense concentration and the other requiring creativity. Half the students worked on a red computer screen and half on a blue one. It was found that the color of the screen dramatically affected performance. When asked to remember a list of words or find spelling mistakes, those working on a red screen were considerably more successful than (10) the "blue" group. On the other hand, those working on a blue screen were much better at tasks such as suggesting new uses for familiar objects.

"We think these differences are caused by the fact that we learn to associate certain experiences with particular colors," said Professor Jane Bennett, who led the research team. "Red is used for warning signs and emergency vehicles, so seeing this color makes us more (15) alert, and therefore better at performing tasks that demand careful attention to detail. Blue is associated with sea and sky, resulting in a general feeling of calmness. And when we're relaxed, we can be more creative."

- Prof. Bennett claims that understanding how color affects us has a variety of practical applications. She suggests, for example, that companies might choose the color of their (20) office walls according to the type of work their employees do. Many researchers, however, believe the picture is far more complex. Not only is there still a vast number of different colors to investigate, but people's individual responses to a color might also be influenced by personality and culture. So it seems that a lot more research needs to be done before we can blame our spelling mistakes on the color of the walls or the computer screen.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Intense	شديد	Alert	إنذار
Requiring	تتطلب	Claims	يدعي
Creativity	ابداع	Variety	تشكيلة / تنوع
Performance	أداء	Practical	عملي
Considerably	كثيرا	Applications	تطبيقات
Suggesting	يقترح	Vast	شاسع
Familiar	مألوف	Investigate	تحقيق / بحث
Associate	مساعد	Individual	فردى / شخصي
Particular	خاص	Response	رد فعل
Vehicles	سيارات	Blame	لوم

LEARNING AT A DISTANCE

- (1) There's no question that the quickest way to learn to speak a foreign language is to spend time in a country where that language is spoken. But if you can't manage a trip abroad the next best thing may be the Internet. There you can find new websites that put you in touch with a native speaker who will help you practice your conversational skills from the comfort of home.

- Using these sites, tutors and learners - who may be thousands of miles apart - communicate online, talking and typing simultaneously. Most of the website are free, since members simply tutor each other. A Frenchman in Paris trying to learn Italian, for instance, can converse with a native speaker in Rome and receive feedback on his grammar and choice of vocabulary. His Italian study partner can benefit from the arrangement in the same way.

- "We've found that it's the convenience and informality of these members-teach-members sites that make them so appealing," says Michael Stewart, head of the Washington Language Center, "as well as the fact that there are thousands of study partners to choose from." These features may account for the rapid growth in the number of people using the websites. The largest, ConversiLines, already had 200,000 members after only twelve months in operation.

- The sites are ideal for people who want to brush up their high-school Spanish before a vacation, or to master useful phrases in Chinese to impress colleagues in Shanghai. Pamela Geller, for example, a Canadian banker who frequently travels to China on business, studied Chinese off and on for six years before she discovered ConversiLines. She claims that since she began working with her Chinese study partners, she has learned as much as she did in all the previous years of study combined. "Part of the reason I've made so much progress is that I can go online whenever I have free time," she says. "And while I still don't conduct negotiations in Chinese, now I can chat with my hosts in their own language, and that's much more than I could do before."

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Native	محلى	Rapid	سريع
Comfort	راحة	Brush up	صقل
Tutors	مدرس / معلم خاص	To master	إتقان
Apart	بعيدا	Impress	إثارة اعجاب
Simultaneously	معاً	Colleagues	زملاء
Converse	يتحدث	Frequently	بشكل متكرر
Arrangement	نظام	Previous	سابق
Convenience	ملاءمة	Combined	مشترك
Informality	غير الرسمي	Conduct	يُجري
Appealing	جذاب	Negotiations	مفاوضات
Features	ميزات	Hosts	مضيفين

THE STREET AS A STAGE

- (1) Wherever you go in the world, you are likely to see street performers in public places. New York, for example, has had them in its train stations for over 100 years. Known as "buskers," they sing, play music or do acrobatics in the hope of making some money, or at least getting smiles and applause.
- (5) Not all buskers are alike, of course. Some are young people who believe they have talent and want the opportunity to test themselves in front of an audience. If they are able to attract a large crowd, they may decide they have a future as professional performing artists. Others are experienced performers who enjoy the freedom of giving a show whenever they like instead of committing themselves to a fixed schedule.
- (10) Jonathan Astor, who plays his guitar on a busy Paris street corner, believes that buskers play an important role in enriching city life. "We give public spaces a new vitality," he says. Many major cities seem to share his view. They realize that buskers entertain residents and tourists alike, and welcome them on their streets. However, they set high standards and give licenses only to buskers who meet those standards. In
- (15) Singapore, for example, the municipality holds auditions to ensure that the public always enjoys high-quality performances. And on the other side of the world, in busker-friendly London, many of the busking licenses go to students from the city's prestigious music academies.

But busking has its opponents as well. Store owners often complain that buskers are bad for business since they cause too much noise and commotion. Consequently, in

- (20) some cities there are restrictions on where and when buskers can perform and how loud their music can be. A few places have even made busking illegal, claiming that street performers take over public space for their own private purposes. Still, advocates of busking argue that street performers do much more good than harm. Judging by their popularity with the public, most people would agree.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Performer	مؤد / فنان	Residents	سكان
Acrobatics	الغاب بهلوانية	Standards	معايير
Applause	تصفيق	Set	وضع
Buskers	موسيقيون متجولون	Municipality	بلدية
Audience	جمهور	Hold	يعقد
Instead of	بدلاً من	Auditions	اختبارات
Commit	يلتزم	Prestigious	ذو هيبية
Role	دور	Opponents	معارضين
Enriching	إغناء / إثراء	Commotion	هياج
Vitality	حيوية	Consequently	بناءً على ذلك
Realize	يدرك	Restrictions	قيود
Entertain	ترفيه	Advocates	مؤيدين

SEEING WITH YOUR EARS

- (1) It has long been known that some animals, such as bats and dolphins, have a very special method of getting information about their surroundings: they make clicking sounds and wait for the echoes that come back from the objects around them. In this way they learn about the size, shape and position of those objects. But this ability, (5) known as echolocation, is not limited to animals: apparently, humans too can learn to get around with the help of sound rather than sight.

Daniel Kish, 44, who lost his sight when he was three years old, has developed extraordinary skill at echolocation. By clicking his tongue rapidly and listening to the echoes, Kish can detect the presence of a building up to 300 meters away, play ball, (10) and even go mountain climbing and skiing. In the year 2000 he founded World Access for the Blind (WAB), an organization that teaches blind people echolocation to help them gain greater independence. He and his colleagues have already taught the skill to thousands of people.

Human echolocation has also attracted the interest of scientists. In one study, a team (15) of Spanish researchers examined different sounds in order to determine which one best helped the participants get a picture of their surroundings. The most effective sound was found to be a click made with the tip of the tongue just behind the teeth. The team trained the participants to interpret the echoes that came back when they produced this click. The results were very encouraging. According to team leader (20) Juan Antonio Martinez, people only need a couple of weeks to sense that there is an object in front of them, and within another two weeks they can tell whether the object is a tree or a car.

Having a simple method for learning echolocation can be of enormous value. In addition to its potential benefit for the 40 million blind people in the world, the skill (25) could also be useful for firefighters surrounded by smoke or rescue teams working in thick fog. In fact, anyone who has ever been lost in the dark will appreciate the advantage of being able to "see" with your ears instead of your eyes.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Bat	خفاش	Independence	استقلال/حرية
Surroundings	بيئة/محيط	Colleagues	زملاء
Clicking	طقطقة/قرقعة	Effective	ناجح/فعال
Sounds	ضجة	Tip	طرف
Echoes	اصداء	Interpret	يفسر
Echolocation	تحديد الموقع بالصدى	Enormous	هائل
Apparently	بجلاء/بوضوح	Potential	كامن/محتمل
Sight	اطلاع/بصيرة	Firefighters	رجال الاطفاء
Extraordinary	فوق العادة/استثنائي	Thick fog	ضباب كثيف
Tongue	لسان	Appreciate:	يقدر
Presence	حضور/وجود		

OUTDOOR SCIENCE

- (1) On most sunny winter weekends, college student Erika Dunn goes skiing high in the Rocky Mountains. Last weekend, however, she volunteered to track wolves through those same mountains for a research project she had read about on the website of an organization called Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation (ASC). Founded in (5) 2010 by hiker and ecologist Gregg Treinish, the ASC connects adventurers and outdoor sports lovers with scientists who need help in getting information from places that are hard to reach.

By establishing the ASC, says Treinish, he hoped to solve a serious problem in conservation research: scientists who study endangered plants and animals are often (10) unable to get data from remote regions. Treinish believed that adventurous nature lovers would be happy to help out, and he was right. Shortly after the ASC website started listing research projects that needed data, adventurers – hikers, divers, and mountaineers – began offering to get it. Volunteers have already collected information on five continents and in every ocean on the planet. They've even found a previously (15) unknown plant growing high on Mount Everest.

Working with volunteers means that scientists don't have to finance expeditions out of their own limited research budgets, says Tom Harrington of the Brandon Research Institute. But relying on non-scientists for help can also be problematic. In one project, for instance, biologist Debra Cusack asked 12 volunteers to gather data on the (20) pika, a small animal that lives in mountainous areas. When she checked the data they sent, she found that much of it had no value for her study: some people got confused when using the tracking equipment; others sent images of a different animal altogether. Nevertheless, Cusack plans to continue working with volunteers. "A little usable information is better than no information at all," she says.

- (25) The ASC is also thinking of the next generation, and is working to increase teenagers' awareness and knowledge of the natural world. In one program, high school students are taken to local parks and shown how to make observations of scientific value and how to record the information accurately. "We're giving teenagers a 'cool' way to spend their time outdoors," says ASC instructor Henry Dyson, "and also teaching (30) them skills that will allow them to make a real contribution to the world we live in."

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Hiker	مسافر	Expedition	بعثة
Ecologist	عالم البيئة	Budget	ميزانية
Establish	يؤسس	Institute	مؤسسة
Conservation	صيانة / حفظ	Rely	يتكل/يعتمد
Endangered	المهدد بالانقراض	For instance	على سبيل المثال
Data	معطيات / بيانات	Awareness	ادراك/وعي

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Remote	ناء / بعيد	Observation	مراقبة/مشاهدة
Regions	اقاليم/مناطق	Accurately	بدقة
Continents	قارات	Instructor	معلم
Previously	سابقاً/قبلاً	Contribution	خدمة / مساهمة
Finance	يمول		



LONDON'S UNWANTED GUESTS

- (1) The evening started peacefully at Long Lane Park in London. But just before sunset, five bright green parakeets flew noisily through the air towards a row of tall trees. Within minutes, hundreds more were flying towards the branches where they spend the night. "I was delighted when I first saw one or two birds flying over my house," (5) says writer Dick Hayden, who lives near the park. "But with 300 of them squawking all at once, I can't get any work done." These days, his experience is shared by more and more people throughout the city.

The friendly, colorful birds have long been imported from Asia to Britain as pets. Over the years, a few escaped from their cages or were released by their owners, and (10) could be seen in the London sky. But now their descendants seem to be everywhere. The number of parakeets flying around the city is now estimated at around 32,000, up from only 1,500 in 1995. "We didn't expect to see a wild bird from another part of the world adapt so well to conditions in a British city," says Jay Smith of the Royal Bird Society. "This has never happened here before."

- (15) The cause of the population explosion is not entirely clear, although several explanations have been offered. One possibility, for example, is that the birds have a larger supply of their favorite foods, since tropical plants have become increasingly popular with London gardeners. It has also been suggested that the warmer summers Britain has had in recent years may be responsible. So far, no research has been done (20) to test any of the ideas. But whatever the reason for their large numbers, the fact is that the parakeets have become a serious nuisance to Londoners. They eat the fruit off the trees, make a mess of the city's parks and gardens, and wake residents up with their squawks.

Nevertheless, Londoners might consider themselves lucky, since parakeets have done (25) much greater damage elsewhere in the world. In certain parts of India, for instance, they have caused the destruction of whole fields of wheat and corn. At the moment, London's parakeets are not showing any interest in leaving the city for agricultural areas. However, British authorities are watching the situation closely, so that they can take action if this changes.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Parakeet	ببغاء	Adapt	يتبنى
Delighted	مبتهج	Explosion	انفجار
Squawking	يطلق صوت عالٍ حاد	Entirely	تمامًا
Import	يستورد	Tropical	استوائي
Cage	قفص للطير	Nuisance	ازعاج
Release	يطلق	For instance	على سبيل المثال
Descendants	احفاد	Destruction	دمار/هلاك
Estimated	يقدر بـ	Agricultural	زراعي

WHAT'S BEST FOR DOLPHINS?

- (1) Dolphin shows are among the most popular attractions in the world. At blue sea park in Hong Kong, for example, the dolphins perform four to six times a day, and the show attracts more than seven million visitors a year. People of all ages watch in delight as the animals jump in the air, do wonderful tricks, and obey every command (5) their trainers give them. "Visitors are amazed to see how willing the dolphins are to cooperate with us, says trainer Susan Wong. It shows them that humans and animals can live together in harmony."

Not everyone agrees. In recent years, animal rights activists all over the world have been objecting to dolphin shows. "The animals in these shows are prisoners," says

- (10) Miranda Huxley of Save Dolphins International, an organization that collects and publishes evidence of cruelty to dolphins. "They're caught far out at sea, transported hundreds of kilometers, and forced to live in tiny pools just for our entertainment." Activist Ronald Chou, whose group organizes demonstrations against dolphin shows, says that the parks don't provide proper food or health care, and that the dolphins are (15) often treated badly during training.

Blue Sea Park director Allan Young rejects the activists' claims. "Like most parks," he says, "we follow international guidelines that ensure the welfare of animals, and we employ a large veterinary staff to look after our dolphins." In addition, Young insists that visiting places like Blue Sea Park is the only chance most people have to see (20) dolphins. "The experience creates a personal connection with the animals," he says. "So, we're actually helping dolphins by getting the public to care about them."

- The activists remain unconvinced. "The ones who benefit from such shows are not the dolphins but the park owners, who are making millions of dollars," says Chou. "And in any case, nothing justifies keeping these animals in captivity. People who really (25) care about dolphins know that they should be allowed to remain in their natural surroundings." Nevertheless, Chou is optimistic about the future. "Protesters have already succeeded in shutting down the shows in several parks," he says. "And more and more people realize that what's being done there is wrong. Eventually the shows will lose so many visitors that the parks will have to close them all down

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Delight	بهجة/سرور	Guidelines	مبادئ توجيهية
Obey	يطيع/يتمثل	Welfare	رفاهية / خير
Cooperate	يتعاون	Employ	يوظف
Harmony	انسجام	Veterinary	طبيب بيطري
Evidence	دليل/أمانة	Insists	يصر
Cruelty	وحشية/قسوة	Captivity	عبودية
Entertainment	تسلية	Optimistic	متفائل
Demonstrations	مظاهرات	Protester	محتج
Reject	يرفض		

ARTS IN THE OLYMPICS

- (1) Every four years, athletes from all over the world come together in one of the world's major cities to compete in the Olympic Games. The popular sports event, which has been held for over 100 years, attracts thousands of competitors. Few people are aware, however, that from 1912 to 1948 the competitions also included the arts – painting, literature, music and (5) more. This is the subject of Richard Stanton's new book, *The Forgotten Olympic Art Competitions*.

Stanton spent ten years doing research for the book, reading thousands of old documents in the archives of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The idea of having arts in the modern Olympics, he writes, was first suggested by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder (10) of the modern games. Since childhood, Coubertin had been fascinated by the original Olympics, held around 2500 years ago in ancient Greece. Participants in those competitions demonstrated not only athletic abilities, but artistic skills as well – for example, in music and poetry. Coubertin wanted to bring that tradition back to life.

However, the inclusion of the arts in the modern Olympics was very problematic. In sports (15) competitions, there was not much for the judges to do. Most athletic achievements could be measured objectively, and the medals simply went to the fastest runners or the highest jumpers. But in the arts, the winners were chosen by a group of judges who had to reach a majority decision. Unfortunately, they could only rely on their own taste, and they rarely agreed with each other. Moreover, the art competitions met with much criticism. Some (20) critics objected to the fact that all the works of art had to be linked to sports. Others were opposed to the idea of artists competing against one another.

Stanton believes that these factors may have led the IOC to remove the art competitions (25) from the Games. However, he could find no convincing explanation for the decision because very little relevant material has survived. But, as he notes, the arts never completely disappeared from the Olympics. The original art competitions were replaced by a series of exhibitions, festivals, and other artistic events, now known as the Cultural Olympiad. So even though artists no longer participate in the Olympic competitions, they (30) can contribute to the unique atmosphere of the Games.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Athlete	لاعب رياضي	Critics	نقد
Literature	أدب	Criticism	نقاد
Documents	وثائق	Factor	عامل
Archives	الارشيف	Convincing	مقنع
Participants	مشاركون	Exhibition	معرض
Demonstrated	يثبت	Festival	احتفال/مهرجان
Inclusion	تضمين	Contribute	يتبرع /يساهم
Measure	يقيس		

DANGER: JUNK IN SPACE

- (1) Satellites have been sent into space for over fifty years, and they are used in communications, weather forecasts, and navigation systems. However, most of them don't last very long, and stop working after 10 to 15 years. Old satellites break up into pieces that remain in space. According to the American space agency NASA, there are already
- (5) millions of such pieces of junk, and their number is growing every year.

This situation has scientists very worried. Because the junk is moving through space at a very high speed, it can cause great damage to anything it hits. Nowadays satellites are built with heavy shields to protect them from the smaller pieces of junk. However, they can still be destroyed by any object that is larger than a tennis ball. That's why NASA is watching

(10) the bigger pieces closely. Whenever a big piece seems to be flying toward a satellite, that satellite is moved to a safer position.

Despite all these efforts, it is becoming very difficult to ensure the safety of satellites. "It's getting so crowded up there that a serious collision is likely to happen in the near future," says NASA physicist Jenny Gonzales. "And if one satellite is destroyed, the pieces could

(15) hit other satellites nearby, causing them all to stop working. Then whole communication systems could collapse."

Experts agree that the best way to reduce the danger is to try to remove the bigger pieces of junk. A number of ideas have been suggested. The European Space Agency, for instance, has proposed covering the larger pieces with a special foam. This would cause them to slow

(20) down, fall back toward Earth, and burn up harmlessly in the atmosphere. NASA has suggested using lasers to achieve the same result.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Forecasts	تكهن بحالة الجو	Collision	تصادم/تضارب
Navigation	ابحار/ملاحة	Satellite	قمر اصطناعي
Heavy	ثقيل	Collapse	ينهار
Shields	وقاء/دروع	Reduce	ينخفض/يقبل
Position	موضع	Agency	وكالة
Ensure	يضمن	Foam	رغوة
Crowded	مزدحم		

CHESS GOES TO SCHOOL

(1) Justin Brown from Chicago was eight years old when his father brought home a chess set he had bought at a local store. Now, five years later, Justin is captain of a team of 13- to 15-year-old chess players at the city's Oak Park Public School. His team has recently won an inter-school championship, where they played against seventeen other teams.

(5)

This was Justin's first major chess competition, and the third that Oak Park has won. Melissa Jones, head of the chess program, attributes much of the team's success to the school's policy and atmosphere. All students, she explains, are required to take weekly chess classes as part of the regular school day, and beginners are given a chance to practice

(10) with advanced learners. Moreover, the whole school shows its support for the team, especially in the weeks before important competitions. Jones points to eye-catching posters hung along the corridors, with photos of all the team members. "These were made by our youngest students," she says.

Oak Park is just one of many schools throughout the USA that have introduced chess as a
(15) regular school subject. Another is Bennington High in Dallas, whose principal, Paul Turner, claims that he is seeing the effects in many areas of students' lives. "During chess lessons kids really learn to concentrate, and this contributes to their achievements in other school subjects too," he says. "In addition, winning a game does a lot for a child's self-confidence, because chess is such a hard game to master."

(20) Turner notes further advantages of having a chess program in school. "Unlike with music or sports," he says, "there's no need for expensive equipment, so even a school with limited funds can add the game to the curriculum." He also speaks of the positive feedback from parents. "We have a boy here who used to get angry and aggressive whenever he lost a game. He has been playing chess since the beginning of the year, and last week his mother

(25) told me that he has learned to remain calm even when he loses, whether he's playing chess or anything else." It seems, then, that the lessons learned from chess may serve children well throughout their lives.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Attributes	ينسب الى	Achievement	انجاز
Hung	معلق	Further	اضافي
Introduced	ادخلت	Fund	صندوق
Principal	مدير مدرسة	Curriculum	منهاج الدراسة
Concentrate	يركز	Feedback	رد فعل
Contributes	يتبرع/يساهم		

TROUBLE AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD

- (1) On May 29, 2013, Nepal celebrated a special anniversary. Sixty years earlier, two climbers, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, were the first to reach the top of the country's Mount Everest - the highest mountain in the world. Since then, over 4,000 climbers have succeeded in repeating their achievement. In fact, more and more people
- (5) from all over the world have been coming to Nepal to take on the challenge. In 2012, no fewer than thirty teams were on Everest during the 3-week climbing season.

Unfortunately, the mountain's popularity has had some undesirable consequences. First of all, with so many people arriving every year, the main climbing routes have become heavily polluted. As teams make their way up the mountain, they pass heaps of garbage that

(10) were left behind by earlier groups. Although clean-up efforts have improved the conditions on the lower parts of Everest, they have not had much effect higher up.

Another cause for concern is that many of the climbers have almost no experience as mountaineers. Because they lack knowledge of the dangers of the climb, they often make bad decisions about food, equipment, and other essential matters. Moreover, after paying

(15) \$30,000 - \$120,000 to stand at "the top of the world," some of them are unwilling to turn back before reaching the summit. Sometimes they continue the climb even when exhaustion or stormy weather make it unsafe to go on.

Several suggestions have recently been made that may help improve the situation. One is to limit the number of climbers who are allowed on the mountain every year. Another is to

(20) require each group of climbers to hire professional guides - a requirement that exists for other mountains around the world. It has also been proposed that people who ask for a permit to climb Everest must provide proof of their mountaineering experience.

Despite the problems still waiting to be solved, Everest attracts 700-900 eager climbers every season. No wonder, says Ed Simons, who has led ten expeditions up the mountain.

(25) "It's an incredible adventure whether you reach the summit or not. It's not simply about getting to the top. It's about appreciating the majesty of nature, challenging yourself, and enjoying the whole experience."

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Undesirable	غير مرغوب فيه	Summit	قمة
Consequences	نتائج	Exhaustion	إنهاك / تعب شديد
Polluted	ملوث	Permit	إذن
Heaps	كومة	Eager	متحمس
Garbage	قمامة	Expedition	بعثة
Essential	اساسي	Majesty	عظمة

ANIMALS AT YOUR SERVICE

(1) Many pet owners claim that their pets not only make them happier, but also keep them healthier. Now researchers have found evidence that contact with an animal can indeed reduce stress, improve mood, and even help people recover from illness more quickly. Following these findings, animals are now being used to help hospital patients.

(5) A growing number of organizations are arranging for people to bring their pets to hospitals, so that patients can stroke them or play with them. A leading organization in this field is the Delta Society, with over 10,000 volunteers in its Pet Partner Program. While the most popular animals are dogs, there are also rabbits, cats and parrots. The pets chosen for the program must have the right personality, including the ability to adjust quickly to new (10) environments. They are trained to remain calm in the difficult situations they will encounter in hospitals, such as moving through crowded corridors or being held by strangers.

A more professional use of animals in hospital care is "Animal Assisted Therapy" (AAT). Several universities nowadays offer a degree in this field. The graduates are qualified therapists who work together with highly-trained animals as part of the medical team. In (15) this type of therapy, the animal plays a specific role in the treatment, such as providing a distraction during an unpleasant medical procedure. Much of the work focuses on children. For example, a therapist may be able to win a nervous child's cooperation by saying, "The dog wants you to lie very still." And if a child is too shy to talk to a doctor, the therapist may get him to communicate by bringing in a rabbit and saying, "Tell Bunny how you're (20) feeling today."

As for the animals themselves, every effort is made to ensure their well-being. In fact, those that show any sign of stress are never brought to the hospital again. Such cases, however, (25) are rare. As both volunteers and professional therapists report, most animals seem to enjoy the activity just as much as their "clients" do.

word	Meaning	word	Meaning
Evidence	دليل	Crowded	مزدحم
Arranging	يرتب/ينظم	Distraction	الهاء
Adjust	يتأقلم	Procedure	اجراء / عملية
Encounter	يواجه/يقابل	Cooperation	تعاون