

The following extract is from a letter written by James to his friend Vinay, about James' current holiday in France.

Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009

Dear Vinay,

Bonjour next door neighbour ! I hope you're okay in Harborne Vinay, I'm having a wild time out here in Marseille. I thought I'd fill you in on what I've been up to for the past ten days, as today is the tenth day I've been here - I can't believe I come home tomorrow!

So when we flew in to Charles De Gaulle airport I couldn't believe how close we came to hitting the Eiffel Tower; I could see it from my window! Apparently that's normal according to my dad, but it didn't stop me being scared. Being in the French capital really was stunning - the Champs Elysees and the Arc de Triomphe were simply beautiful. It made quite a change from us sitting in Mrs. Smith's Maths class, that's for sure!

After four days there, we left on the TGV to Nice, because as you know, my parents can't drive. Even with the delays and strikes we'd heard about, we made great time, and the carriages were really spacious. We had to stop for a few minutes at one point though, when some cows had got on to the track! That was then Dad told me about the importance of farming in France - apparently they used to have loads of farmers, and it was one of the biggest industries in France, but then in 1998, they produced so much food they didn't know what to do with it, and butter and milk were just dumped in roads. Dad said it was like a war between the government and the farmers. How weird is that?

Nice was pretty boring - definitely the worst place we visited, completely at the other end of the spectrum to Paris. The roads were full of rubbish and there wasn't much to do other than go to restaurants. Mom and Dad dragged me round museums, which took forever - the paintings in the Marc Chagall museum were all Russian, I was so confused! Mom said she was going to use some of the paintings she saw with her class next year, but I didn't think they were that good at all.

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They're old, tattered, and unremarkable. In fact, the only good thing about Nice was the beach - the waves were huge, meaning I could get a lot of time on my board. I'm getting really good, you should see me: I can stay on, standing up, for a good fifteen, twenty seconds! I'm trying to convince my parents to take me to Hawaii next year, because the waves out there are as big as houses!

After a day at the beach we grabbed our train tickets and headed out to Marseille, and we arrived here two days ago. There's this big music festival out here at the moment which is really cool: we walked past and I could hear the bands inside really well. I couldn't tell who they were, but they sounded really good - lots of guitar solos, loud drums, and deafening bass guitar. That's my favourite kind of music. I don't think they were rapping though Vinay, so you'd probably have hated it !

Okay Vinay, I've got to go - it's 9pm now and we fly back in 6 hours. I've not even packed! I'll see you at George's party this weekend,

Your friend,

James

1. Where does James live?
2. On what day of the week did James arrive in France?
3. How long in total will James have been in France, by the time he flies out?
4. In what city did James' aeroplane land?



5. Who do you think Charles de Gaulle is/was? Circle the answer:

UK Prime Minister      French President      French X-Factor judge  
German MP      Belgian chocolatier

6. Name three attractions James saw in the first city he visited?

7. Who taught James and Vinay Maths?

8. What do you think the TGV is?

9. What other word could be used to describe the carriages?

10. When the train had to stop for a few minutes, where do you think they were?

Circle your answer:

Train depot      Nice      Madrid      the countryside      The Alps

11. In what decade did French farmers make too much milk?

12. Circle the word that best describes James' question "How weird is that?":

factual      rhetorical      inquisitive      quizzical      imploring

13. What was the worst place James visited?



14. What was the best place James visited?

15. What type of museum was the Marc Chagall?

16. What is James' mom's job? circle the correct answer:

Geography teacher      Artist      Museum curator      Art teacher      Decorator

17. What was the only good thing about Nice?

18. What did James do when he went to the beach?

19. On what date did James arrive in Marseille?

20. Do you think James prefers classical or rock music? Explain.

21. What does the word **spectrum** mean in the fourth paragraph?

22. Find a simile in the letter.

23. What time does James' flight leave Marseille?





24. Who do you think George is?

25. Find an example of a list in the letter.

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'Moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. blithe    heedless    quick    casual    thoughtless  
27. silent    quiet    noiseless    mute    soundless  
28. trust    confidence    conviction    credence    revived  
29. flat    undulatory    plane    horizontal    smooth  
30. comedic    dour    funny    hilarious    amusing

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 )    bite ( 3 )    bump ( 5 )    bulge ( 4 )    barn ( 1 )

31. undecided ( ) undisputed ( ) undetermined ( ) undiscovered ( ) underdeveloped ( )  
32. anticipation ( ) antithesis ( ) antimony ( ) antibiotics ( ) anticline ( )  
33. interim ( ) interned ( ) intergalactic ( ) interminable ( ) intercepted ( )  
34. theory ( ) thesis ( ) thermometer ( ) theocratic ( ) thermodynamic ( )  
35. psychology ( ) psychiatry ( ) psychoanalytic ( ) psychosis ( ) psyllid ( )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ful' (1) or 'ify' (2) :

36. help ( )

37. calc ( )

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38. mind ( )

39. cheer ( )

40. mumm ( )

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

41. (dreary tiring sleepy) (asleep boring refused)

42. (freedom saviour franchise) (hero peace voted)

43. (writ scrap legend) (skip myth mystery)

44. (volcano mountain lava) (magma crater glacier)

45. (plane car lorry) (round rough flat)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

TRIP TRAP PEAR TEAR

4962 7264 7214

46. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write that code here:

47. Find the code for the word REAP:

48. Find the code for the word RARE:

49. Find the word with the code 4627:

50. Find the word with the code 467792:

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22nd April 2016

Dear diary,

I'm sorry it's been two months since my last entry - I've only just got my luggage back! It got lost when I flew out here. The airport managed to leave it in Birmingham, and then somehow it was flown to Berlin in Germany, and it's been trying to catch me up as I travel ever since. Finally, herein Barcelona, I've got hold of it again. It's been a nuisance though, having no clothes. I've had to live off clothes and toiletries I bought in South Africa - I've missed all my favourite shirts!

So, there's a lot for me to fill you in on. After the hour long train ride from my house to the airport, and another 2 and a half hours waiting to board, I got on the plane. Landing in Johannesburg was a cool experience, as you fly so low over the buildings you can almost see into peoples' windows, as if the entire city were a doll's house. Once the plane landed after an 8 hour flight, I tracked down the taxi rank (without my baggage of course) and headed out to the hotel, which was only a 15 minute taxi ride away. The driver took me past some of the worst slums in Johannesburg, and was telling me all about his life growing up there. He said he'd seen Mandela get arrested, and was one of the many thousands who took to the streets to celebrate his release.

After a few days in Johannesburg, I traveled north to Harare in Zimbabwe, where I saw some of the most beautiful natural waterfalls in the world. The water comes cascading over the side of the cliff like rainfall, creating a permanent rainbow, and that water filters down into various pools where you can go bathing. The food there was brilliant too - fantastic beef and lamb, marinated for hours in local spices and often served in a flatbread. They also had some of the best wildlife I've seen so far on the trip, but I think I'll see better when I get out to Thailand. There were lions, elephants, hyenas, coyotes, and all manner of lemurs and monkeys to gawk at. The lemurs were my favourite - jumping around and popping out of holes, they were so funny!

After a quick stop in Nairobi in Kenya, crossing over the equator, I flew out to Morocco and travelled up to Spain, taking a ferry over the Strait of Gibraltar. The journey over sea was only a couple of hours, but I saw so much! We had dolphins swimming alongside the boat as mermaids, and the sky was a living artwork of albatrosses. The only disappointing thing was that the waters were very choppy, so I had to spend most of the journey clinging to a bowl inside. You know how I am when travelling. It also got colder the further north I travelled - Spain was nowhere near as hot as Kenya had been.

Now I'm in Barcelona in Spain, and the architecture's amazing. I've just been to see the Sagrada Familia at sunset, and the light coming in through the stained glass windows was simply breath taking. The squares here are amazing too - there's always live music going on, the smell of paella dishes fills every street, and everyone is laughing and dancing until late into the night.

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The food here has tasted so good too - lots of citrus flavours with melt in the mouth meat. In addition to this, I've finally got my clothes back, so no more weird shirts from South Africa for me!

I'm looking forward to Thailand and Burma next week, and in a month I'll head home back to the real world. I'll try and write here every day like I used to, now I've got the diary back. Hopefully I'll have more great adventures to record!

Narinder

1. Roughly what date was Narinder's last entry into his diary?
2. Why did Narinder have no clothes?
3. What did Narinder miss most from his suitcase?
4. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:
5. how long did it take for Narinder to get to his hotel in Johannesburg from his house?
6. Where did Narinder's taxi driver grow up?
7. Where were the most beautiful waterfalls?
8. Give an example of a list used in the passage:
9. Give an example of alliteration used in the passage:
10. Name the only sense not used to describe Narinder's holiday:
11. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:



12. Which country do you think is closer to the equator according to the passage- Kenya or Spain?
13. What does the word 'marinated' mean?
14. Why was the ferry trip disappointing for Narinder?
15. How long in total will his holiday be?
16. Where does Narinder think will have the best wildlife?
17. What is the name of the stretch of water that separates Morocco from Spain?
18. What do you think 'paella' is?
19. Which of these forms of transport did Narinder **not** use? Circle the answer: Car  
Train   Aeroplane   Taxi
20. What was Narinder's favourite animal?
21. Where did Narinder's luggage get sent to by mistake?
22. How many countries has Narinder visited so far?
23. How regularly does Narinder write in his diary normally?
24. What two countries does Narinder have left to visit?

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example, Bike   **Moon**   Car Lorry   Aeroplane  
'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

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25. feverish      sick    ill      quiet      unwell

26. broken    fragmented    destroyed    old    shattered

27. monument    office    memorial      statue    obelisk

28. exacerbate    aggravate      worsen    disprove      magnify

29. Earth    Mars    Germany      Jupiter      Saturn

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,  
bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

30. free ( )      framed (    )      friend (    )      flee (    )      fresh (    )

31. grey (    )      graded (    )      grand (    )      great (    )      green (    )

32. favoured (    )      flavoured (    )      fashioned (    )      fleeting (    )      feathered (    )

33. admonished (    )      adolescent (    )      adoration (    )      abrogation (    )      android (    )

34. gloating (    )      glamour (    )      glamorous (    )      geography (    )      geology (    )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ate' (1) or 'ion' (2):

35. aggregat

36. suffoc

37. abl

38. aer

39. emus

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

40. (grade read write)    (mark speak hear)

41. (free, fall, escape)    (rise, chained, complimentary)

42. (estimate, abhor, affluent)    (poor, know, detest)

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43. (celebration, feathered, amble) (run, commemoration, wooden)

44. (old, broken, steep) (sheer, fixed, wrinkled)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

DEAD	PEER	RING	PART	TEAR
7332		6352	1351	2948

45. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write the code here:

46. Find the code for the word DRIPPING:

47. Find the code for the word REPEATED:

48. Find the word for the code 82336:

49. Find the word for the code 6257731:



The following extract is a letter written by a Mr. Farraway, complaining to the manager of a hotel:

Tuesday January 3rd 2011

Dear Mrs. Jeffries,

I am writing to complain about the treatment my wife and I received during our honeymoon stay at your Stepford Arms hotel on the Pembrokeshire coast last weekend. The quality of the room, the service, and the food were all severely lacking, and the experience ruined a visit which was supposed to be a celebration of my wife and I's new life together as a couple.

As it was our honeymoon, my wife and I came straight from our wedding, arriving at the hotel just past 9 o'clock in the evening. While I understand this is a late time to be checking in, we had called several days in advance to warn of our late arrival and had been assured by the member of staff we talked to that arrangements would be made. However, when we walked into the lobby, we found the reception desk empty, and there was no way to summon someone to help us with our bags or give us our keys. We were forced to wait half an hour in the lobby, in full wedding dress, until a passing maid found us and went to fetch another member of staff. It took a further half an hour to have us checked in and our bags taken up to our rooms. This wait prevented us from properly celebrating our wedding, and ruined what was supposed to be the happiest day of our lives. The member of staff that eventually checked us in was extremely apologetic and polite, and made us feel like royalty, if only for a few minutes. However, the wait we had to endure was simply unacceptable by anybody's standards.

Once we were finally into our honeymoon suite, we found the bed linens crumpled; it was obvious someone had slept in them previously. This became more apparent when we went into the bathroom. The place was like a pig's sty, with empty toothpaste tubes, used shampoo bottles, discarded razors, wet towels, and hair in the bath. My wife was forced to go to the lobby toilet to brush her teeth, it was so bad. This would have been shocking to find in any hotel room, but to have it in the best suite of the hotel, knowing that a newly-wed couple would be staying there, makes me sick to my stomach. How could you have forgotten to clean the room? Or was it wilful negligence? In addition to this, the 'sea views' offered in the brochure, the main reason we chose the suite, turned out to be obscured greatly by a large tree which stood right in front of the suite's balcony. I feel that such an advertisement in your magazine was fraudulent, as even when we woke in the morning after a fretful night's sleep, it was clear to see that the ocean could not be viewed from the balcony at all.

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As recompense for the awful state of the room, one of your members of staff gave us a complimentary breakfast on that Sunday morning. To begin with, we were seated at a table just outside the toilets. When we complained about the smell coming from the door, a cleaner arrived to address the problem.

However, this left the area around our table smelling strongly of bleach and disinfectant, which hardly aided our appetites. Though the service was quick, the food we received was barely edible. The sausages were over-cooked and had obviously been under a hot lamp to be kept warm, meaning they were dry and tasteless.

The bacon was far too fatty, the hash browns were almost raw, the tea was served lukewarm, and the baked beans were downright cold. When we complained to the waitress on duty, she was unapologetic, and suggested it was our own fault, saying "do you hear any of the other diners complaining?" This rudeness is not what I expected of your hotel, which came highly recommended from many of my relatives.

In conclusion, I found the service I received at your hotel to be woeful by anybody's standards, but they were particularly shocking given the nature of our visit. Because of this, I'd like to receive a full refund for our stay at your hotel, the sum of which I am sure you have in your records. I will not be recommending your establishment to my friends, and I sincerely hope you vastly improve your quality of service, as it was simply appalling.

Regards,

Martin Farraway

1. Where was the hotel?
2. What was Mr Farraway asking for as compensation?
3. Why did they receive a free breakfast?
4. What time did they arrive at the hotel?
5. Why were they disappointed at the wait to check in?

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6. What criticisms were made of their room? Give two:
7. What date did they get married?
8. What is a hot lamp?
9. What is the name of the hotel manager?
10. Identify one thing which was positive about their stay?
11. What does recompense mean?
12. The view from the balcony was restricted. Why?
13. Why did Mr Farraway suggest the breakfast waitress was rude?
14. What does edible mean?
15. Suggest one thing that the hotel could have done to improve the couple`s stay?
16. What do you think the couple were wearing when they arrived at the hotel?
17. How long did it take before they were able to access their room?
18. How had Mr Farraway attempted to reduce the problems of arriving late to the hotel?
19. Find an example of a rhetorical question:

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20. What do you think 'fraudulent' means?
21. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:
22. Who had recommended the hotel?
23. Give an example of a list used in the passage:
24. What do you think the word suite means?
25. What was the main reason they chose the suite?

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example, Bike      **Moon**      Car Lorry Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. History      Geography      English      Homework      French
27. nimble      immersive      lithe      sprightly      agile
28. exact      specific      precise      definite      vague
29. fictitious      dreary      boring      tedious      banal
30. chat      lecture      conversation      gossip      discussion

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order, for example, bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

31. ambidextrous ( ) ambivalent ( ) ambient ( ) ambitiously ( ) ambiguous ( )
32. character ( ) charred ( ) charabanc ( ) charitable ( ) charlatan ( )

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33. destructive ( ) destitute ( ) destined ( ) destrier ( ) destabilise ( )  
34. jinxed ( ) jingoistic ( ) jingle ( ) jumper ( ) jamboree ( )  
35. lilliputian ( ) liliated ( ) liberation ( ) limitless ( ) lyrical ( )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ette' (1) or 'etic' (2) :

36. cigar ( )  
37. athl ( )  
38. flanel ( )  
39. diab ( )  
40. kin ( )

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

41. (fixture building break) (structure clutch working)  
42. (ferrous wondrous hazardous) (insidious bulbous dangerous)  
43. (erudite skilled lucky) (reckless crazy knowledgeable)  
44. (promise bow respect) (vow circumspect advise)  
45. (infested jungle exploratory) (fleas investigative discovery)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

CATS	SEEM	TEAM	MACE
7345	8472	2335	

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46. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write that code here:

47. Find the code for the word TAME:

48. Find the code for the word ACES :

49. Find the word with the code 27345:

50. Find the word with the code 54773:



The following extract is an encyclopaedia entry on the subject of the River Amazon:

The Amazon River in South America is the largest river in the world, running west to east and averaging a discharge of about 209,000 cubic metres per second, greater than the next seven largest independent rivers combined, and accounts for approximately one-fifth of the world's total river flow. The width of the Amazon is between 1.6 and 10 kilometres at low stage, but expands during the wet season to 48 kilometres or more. The river enters the Atlantic Ocean in a broad estuary about 240 kilometres wide. The mouth of the main stem is 80 kilometres. Because of its vast dimensions, it is sometimes called "The River Sea". The Amazon also is the longest river according to a new study published in 2011. It passes through Brazil and Peru, and travels over 3,500 km to reach the Atlantic Ocean.

The Amazon river runs through an eponymous rainforest, and so it is often difficult when talking about the river and the rainforest together to differentiate between the two. Within the Amazon rainforest, there exists more than one-third of all known animal species in the world. From venomous frogs, to carnivorous piranhas, to river dolphins, the Amazon river and rainforest has lots of interesting fauna. The Amazon dolphins can grow up to 2.4 metres long, and change colour as they grow older from grey to pink to white. There are also more species of fish being discovered every year within the river: the current number is just over 3,000 different species recognised. Just as the river is the longest in the world, so too does it contain the longest snake species in the world: the anaconda. The largest recorded anaconda was 5.21 metres long, and the species is also most likely the heaviest snake species on the planet. Due to the isolation of their habitat however, it has often been difficult to substantiate claims about their size and weight. Anacondas live in shallow waters within the rainforest surrounding the Amazon river, and eat birds, fish, and rodents.

The Amazon is also home to an extremely diverse and rich set of flora. It is believed that in every 2.5 acres of rainforest in the Amazon, you can find 700 different species of tree and twice that number of different species of plants. These include trees which can grow up to 130 metres tall, and Water Lilies which can grow to be as wide as an adult man is tall! In addition to this, some trees in the Amazon can have trunks that look like watchtowers, they're so thick.

The Amazon River, in its current form, is believed to be 2.4 million years old according to geologists, who dated rocks on the river bed using carbon dating techniques. However, the river may well be as old as 11 million years, when scientists believed it ran from east to west as part of a larger continent of Gondwana, before the tectonic plates separated the land into the continents we know today. The river is thought to be the ancestral home of many tribes still living there today, but the river itself was discovered by Europeans in March 1500, when a Spanish conquistador Vicente Pinzon sailed along its waters. It received its name due to the female warrior tribes that attacked these early European explorers, which reminded these Europeans of the Amazons of Ancient Greek mythology.

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The largest city along the Amazon River is Manaus. Located in Brazil in the western state of Amazonas, it is home to over 1.7 million people. Its population is larger than that of Belém, the major city and port at the mouth of the river at the Atlantic Ocean.

1. If I stand on the banks of the Amazon, which direction would I have to walk to reach the Amazon's source?

North          East          South          West

2. How much water, on average, is discharged on the Amazon river every 10 seconds?

3. Into which sea does the Amazon flow?

4. How tall do some trees grow?

5. How old is the Amazon thought to be?

6. When did Europeans discover the Amazon?

7. What does differentiate mean?

8. How many species of trees are found in an average 2.5 acre of the Amazon?

9. How did the Amazon get its European name?

10. What is the largest city on the Amazon?

11. How many species of plants are there thought to be in every 2.5 acres of the Amazon?



12. What does the word diverse mean?
13. Which of the following is the odd one out?  
anaconda, cobra, python, adder, **iguana**.
14. What was the nationality of the first European to sail the Amazon?
15. Give an example of a list used in the extract.
16. How long is the Amazon?
17. Name a country identified in the passage through which the Amazon flows.
18. How wide is the Amazon believed to expand to during the wet season?
19. Why is the Amazon sometimes called the "River Sea".
20. Give an example of a simile used in the extract?
21. In which country is the largest city on the Amazon?
22. Name one significant fact about the dolphins found in the Amazon?
23. What do anacondas eat?
24. In which direction does the Amazon flow?





25. What does substantiate mean?

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group.  
For example Bike **Moon** Car Lorry Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. cold polar arctic turgid wintry

27. brick mortar cement wood scaffolding

28. grief sorrow fear sadness misery

29. calendar week month year quarter

30. courage recklessness bravery valour audacity

for example, bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order.

31. predetermined ( ) prerequisite ( ) premonition ( ) presentation ( ) preliminary ( )

32. revolutionary ( ) revolted ( ) revamped ( ) revisited ( ) revenue ( )

33. stationary ( ) stationery ( ) stationed ( ) stations ( ) statutes ( )

34. terrestrial ( ) territorial ( ) terror ( ) torrential ( ) teriyaki ( )

35. villainous ( ) village ( ) villain ( ) vilification ( ) villous ( )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ence' (1) or 'ency' (2):

36. abs ( )

37. neglig ( )

38. effici ( )

39. clem ( )

40. luminesc ( )

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In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

41. (childish detrimental abolish) (against improved adolescent)
42. (global travel oceanic) (international starboard plane)
43. (free caged lock) (restrained amendment key)
44. (row boat sail) (tsunami argument canvas)
45. (finger addition knuckle) (punch slap digit)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

GLIB BULL BLUE GLUG

4734 2738 4712

46. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write that code here:
47. Find the code for the word BUBBLE:
48. Find the code for the word LIBEL:
49. Find the word with the code 23748:
50. Find the word with the code 7348:



The following extract is a letter to a previous donor to the Animal Relief Organisation:

Tuesday 3rd November 2008  
45 Beechwood Road  
Birmingham

Dear Mr. Jones,

We are writing to you in a time of dire need. Our planet's climate is changing rapidly, causing untold suffering to millions of animals across the world. Without your help, many of these animal species face extinction. Not only do these animals need our help, but we believe humanity has a moral obligation to help these animals - it is our burning of fossil fuels, our expansion of cities, and our rampant deforestation that is producing the change in climate and habitat that is driving these species to the brink of complete annihilation.

The burning of fossil fuels has dramatically increased the volume of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, leading to a rise in global temperatures. The effects of this have been seen at both poles, where shrinking ice caps and warmer waters have left polar bears with a reduced habitat and a reduction in food availability. This is because the warmer waters confuse seals, a polar bear's primary source of food, causing these seals to swim out into the open ocean, away from the polar bear population. Just last week, a team of volunteers sent by Greenpeace witnessed a polar bear, emaciated due to a lack of food, trapped on a floating piece of ice, too tired to swim and hunt. Without your help, polar bears may very well become extinct in the wild, which would be too great a tragedy to contemplate.

In an effort to slightly reduce their carbon footprint, some governments have resorted to wood-burning power stations, which produce a smaller quantity of greenhouse gases than their coal-burning counterparts. This is instead of investing in zero carbon energy sources such as solar, tidal, or wind power. The reduction in emissions is small, and has led to rampant deforestation in habitats with rich biodiversity, such as the Amazon rainforest, where an area the size of 3 football fields is being cut down every minute of every day. By 2030, at this rate, a quarter of the Amazon will have been lost. Scientists estimate that there are thousands of animal species that have yet to be discovered and classified, with many of these residing in rainforests just like the Amazon. Not only is this rampant logging destroying the habitats of animals we know exist, it may well be destroying the homes of animals whose characteristics we can only guess at. One such animal may hold the cure to cancer, to HIV, to bird flu, to Ebola. We may never know, if these chainsaws and woodcutters continue their invasion of one of the last great green places on Earth.

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But loss of animal life isn't just happening in the far flung reaches of the world. Here in the UK, the expansion of cities and the actions of this Conservative government provide a bleak future for England's wildlife. With sprawling metropolises such as London, Birmingham, and Manchester constantly expanding through housing, industrial, and retail park construction, the greenery around these cities is fast disappearing. This is causing the animals of the countryside, such as badgers, foxes, and even deer, to encroach into cities in order to find food. While foxes may well have adapted quickly to this new arrangement, badgers and deer have not been so quick to find food, with many either starving or being killed in traffic or train collisions. In addition to this, the government's intention to real the fox hunting ban would significantly reduce the number of foxes in the countryside, pushing an already threatened species to the brink of extinction.

With just £3 a month, you can stop this destruction to these habitats. The world needs your help. Will you stand up and be counted?

Jackie Hewitt

The Animal Relief Organisation (ARO)

1. What have been the two effects of increase in global temperatures according to the letter from The ARO?
2. What does deforestation mean?
3. Identify one example of fossil fuel:
4. What is meant by the term "carbon footprint"?
5. What does encroach mean?
6. What are the consequences for some animals as a result of city expansion?
7. Which of the following terms is best used to describe the expansion of towns and cities:  
urbanisation    metropolis    citywide    street    creation

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8. Which UK wildlife has been affected by the expansion of towns and cities according to the letter? Name two:
9. Birmingham is described as a "metropolis". What does this mean?
10. The writer suggests that the Amazon will be reduced by a quarter. When does he suggest this will occur by?
11. What does adapt mean?
12. Why has there been an increase in wood burning power plants?
13. What other reasons, other than defence of known wildlife, are offered for the campaign to protect the rainforest?
14. What do you think governments could do to reduce greenhouse gasses?
15. How much is the organisation asking for in donations?
16. Why do you think the writer is using examples of impact on UK wildlife?
17. How has climate change impacted the polar bear? Give one consequence:
18. What is meant by the term climate change?
19. What is a volunteer?
20. Identify a list used in the letter.



21. Which of the following is not listed as a disease in the passage?

HIV    Bird Flu    Swine Flu    Cancer    Ebola

22. What is meant by a "moral obligation"?

23. What is meant by the term "tragedy"?

24. What is the food source that polar bears rely upon?

25. The letter was received by Mr Jones on November 8<sup>th</sup>. How long did it take for it to arrive?

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For

example,    Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. Apple    Banana    Strawberry    Chocolate    Orange

27. Cheese    Milk    Eggs    Beans    Yoghurt

28. child    youth    vitriolic    adolescent    infancy

29. Library    Canteen    Classroom    Staffroom    Helipad

30. infinite    unbounded    indestructible    unlimited    inexhaustible

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

31. craze ( ) crass ( ) crash ( ) crane ( ) creep ( )

32. knife ( ) knoll ( ) know ( ) knick ( ) knock ( )

33. brash ( ) brag ( ) brave ( ) brand ( ) braille ( )

34. bleak ( ) blend ( ) bless ( ) blind ( ) bleary ( )

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35. grief ( ) grieve ( ) greed ( ) great ( ) grease ( )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ade' (1) or 'age' (2):

36. Promen ( )

37. rough ( )

38. hom ( )

39. retrogr ( )

40. invis ( )

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

41. (break hold fear) (drop smash terrify)

42. (take gift list) (give present word)

43. (grieve greave grave) (leg stone mourn)

44. (flee exhausted fumed) (chase crashed tired)

45. (received frog specific ) (precise gave toad)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

TREE 5723 FEAR 5774 HEAT 6724 FEET

46. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write the code here:

47. Find the code for the word TEETH :

48. Find the code for the word RAFT :

49. Find the word with the code 6246 :

50. Find the word with the code 46737 :

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The following passage is an excerpt from the novel "Shipwreck bay":

Gentle waves slapped the side of the ship, which rocked ever so slightly back and forth as the ocean swayed beneath it. The hollow sound of the water on the hull served as a bleak reminder of its emptiness - the crew wouldn't last more than a few days now. Birds circled overhead, screeching every so often to each other. Jack reckoned they were vultures, here for us once the food ran out, but the captain dismissed that as folly, saying they were merely albatrosses attracted to our brightly coloured ship in search of scraps. They flew so high however, it was difficult to say who was right. Whatever they were, they'd come to the wrong place for scraps.

The ship had been becalmed for the past week and a half, the sails hanging limply from the mast like shirts on a washing line, with not so much as a whisper of wind to fill them. The first couple of days, the crew had rowed the ship, but when the reduced rations caused people to faint, the rowing stopped, the captain instead relying on the slow lapping of waves to propel us to our destination. But with no land in sight, and no way of knowing when the next wind will come, our chances of reaching Istanbul were looking very slim indeed. The crew were exhausted, the sun beat down on the decks, and even the captain, usually so cheery, was beginning to lose hope.

This trip was supposed to make us rich - that's what the captain had said two months ago when we'd set sail. In Istanbul we'd buy spices, silks, and wonders from the far east, returning them to Portsmouth where they'd sell for ten, twenty, a hundred times what we bought them for. It was Jack that had worked hard to convince me to come. He was 2 years older than me, and I'd always looked up to him. He'd been a baker's boy back home, but had hated the monotony of it - the long hours of nothing but staring into a dark oven. I envied his life then; I worked at the local textiles factory ensuring the looms didn't jam. I'd work longer hours, for less money, and I was always worried I'd lose a finger to the heavy machines, as I'd seen poor Oliver do just a week before we left. It was that which pushed me to it, in the end. Jack and I had said our farewells and gone down to the dock to sign up, ready to make our fortune and have our adventures. My mother had waved me off, with my 10 year old sister crying after me. She's only a year younger than me but she acts so childish. I remember that time she lost her doll into the sea, and we spent ages...

"John!"

"Yes captain?" I replied, lost for a minute in my reminiscing.

"Head up to the crow's nest with my spyglass boy, lemme know if you see anything. I reckon we should be close to somewhere by now. We have to be!"

The captain chuckled, but I could see the desperation in his eyes. I cradled the spyglass to my chest as I scrambled up the rigging. I didn't think I'd see anything, but it broke up the bored ritual of sitting around on deck with the rest of the crew, some of whom couldn't even get up if they'd wanted to. Besides, the crow's nest was my favourite part of the ship: being so high, able to see so far, it made me feel like a bird, like I could just fly away if I chose too.

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I clambered over the top of the rigging into the nest, and looked out to the horizon. As expected, the sky was blue and the sea was blue and that's all that could be seen, except, maybe... I drew out the spyglass and put it to my eye to get a better look. There, dead ahead, just on the horizon, it looked like... It was!  
"Land!" I yelled down to the crew, and the captain stood beaming up at me. "Land ahoy!"

1. How long has the crew been at sea?
2. What is the name of the narrator?
3. Give one reason why the narrator wanted to leave his job in England:
4. Which English port were they going to return to?
5. Where are they travelling to?
6. What is the purpose of the voyage?
7. Why had the crew given up rowing?
8. Give an example of list form the passage:
9. What is the name of the narrator`s friend?
10. How old is his friend?
11. Which of the following words is a synonym of boredom?

monotony, exciting, interesting, seldom,



12. Give an example of the narrator's reminiscing:
13. What was the captain's usual personality?
14. Where had the narrator's friend worked before the voyage?
15. Why did the narrator envy his friend's job? Give one reason:
16. What job did the narrator do before the voyage?
17. What is a spyglass?
18. How do we know the captain was happy with what the narrator saw from the crow's nest?
19. The crew had been put on "reduced rations" what does this mean?
20. Why were the crew given reduced rations?
21. What was the danger in the narrator's job?
22. How do we know the crew were exhausted?
23. Which of the following is the odd one out - sales, rigging, crow's nest, oar, mast.
24. Why had the ship come to a halt?



25. Name a bird claimed to be seen on the voyage:

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example, Bike      **Moon**      Car      Lorry      Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. flawless    pristine    irreverent    unblemished    unstained

27. verified    ignored    substantiated    supported    proven

28. blame    fault    indemnity    responsibility    accountability

29. harrowing    traumatic    belated    upsetting    disturbing

30. insatiable    frustrated    exasperated    discontented    disgruntled

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. forexample, bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

31. feel ( ) feed (      ) feast (      ) fear (      ) fed ( )

32. conservative ( ) concrete ( ) condescending (      ) convoluted ( ) constituent (      )

33. genial ( ) genesis ( ) gendered ( ) generous ( ) general (      )

34. harrowing (      ) hardly (      ) hardened (      ) harken (      ) harangue (      )

35. leafy ( ) leading (      ) leaking (      ) lean ( ) least (      )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ee' (1) or 'eer' (2):

36. engin ( )

37. employ (      )

38. nomin (      )

39. auction (      )

40. ven (      )

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In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

41. (delay prevent prolong) (stop hasten harangue)
42. (religion believe pray) (argue pilgrim faith)
43. (old sprightly vivacious) (slow ancient morose)
44. (light draconian easy) (dark harsh wicked)
45. (brain mind thought) (idea demanded body)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

CHAR  
8437

DRAB  
9438

BEAR  
5638

READ

46. Which of the above words is missing a code? write that code here:
47. Find the code for the word CHEERED:
48. Find the code for the word ARCHED:
49. Find the word for the code 94387:
50. Find the word for the code 84356:



The following is a passage from a short story. Read the excerpt and answer the questions below:

The path to the house is littered with shards of broken glass, and dead leaves that fell earlier that autumn. Winter is yet to begin however, and the leaves keep falling. The silence is deafening here - all animals seemed to avoid this place like the plague. As tall as houses, trees stood charred and blackened on either side of the gravel, which crunched loudly underfoot. It looked as if a fire had swept through this place, but left the house mysteriously intact. The full moon stared down through the branches at me, unblinking in cold indifference. I should probably turn back, but if I do, it'll only exacerbate the problems I've got at school. I've not made any real friends since starting secondary school, apart from John and James. John will think I'm a coward for life if I turn back - he already thinks I'm a wimp. James won't like it much either, though I'm sure he'd get over it. I inhale deeply, steady my nerves, and slowly creep forward towards the house.

At the porch, I stop and look up. The house is horrendously dilapidated. All the windows in the house have been shattered, apart from one ornate stained glass piece fixed above the door. The door itself is a dark oak, weathered with age, which juxtaposes greatly with the cheap planks of whitewashed wood on the porch. A brass knocker, in the shape of a gargoyle, grimaces out from the wood. It's not a pretty sight. There's a faint smell of burning in the air, and a sudden gust of wind blows up ash, which gets into my eyes and stings like wasps. I can feel it on my face, dirtying my cheeks. Once I've blinked away the tears, I take another look at the house, the brick is old and red, stained by decades of soot to give it a look of earth or clay. The beams supporting the front of the house are decaying, and I can see woodlice scuttling across the old picket fence which stands outside. I go to knock on the door, but as I reach for the handle, it opens slowly inward of its own accord, the hinges screeching like an alley cat.

As the door swings open, I step into the atrium and I'm hit with the smell of dust and mothballed cloth, like Aunt Gladys' front room. I see the source of the ashen smell from outside: a fireplace lies in the parlour room, with the remnants of a blaze scattered among the mantle. My heart beats a little faster... I thought this place had been abandoned, ever since the owner mysteriously disappeared decades ago. Who's been lighting fires? I feel a lump begin to form in my throat, but I force it down. John said I had to get up to the attic, and I've come this far so I may as well keep going.

I search for the stairs, finding them behind an old wooden door half rotted away. The stairs themselves are riddled with splinters. The dust has been largely undisturbed, apart from a single set of footprints heading upstairs. There were none coming down. I gulp. The steep, broken, rickety stairs glare at me, but I had to keep going. I grab the bannister, which is polished brass, and slowly but surely creep up to the next story, finding the entrance to the attic already open. I clamber up the ladder and head inside.

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The attic is an endless cavern of darkness. It was a warm day outside, but here you can feel the chill to your very soul. My hair stands up on end, and I can feel the goosebumps run across my arms. What was it John said I would find up here? Suddenly I hear movement - a shuffling in the corner of the attic. I slowly edge forward...

"Who's there?" I shout, hoping it's just a bird or a mouse, trapped up in here.

The shuffling starts again, and I move closer and closer to the sound, gearing myself up for anything and everything, scared and excited and anxious all at once until...

"Gotcha!" Yells John, lighting his torch so we can all see. James is there too, grinning in the corner. He always knew I'd make it really.

"We never thought you'd make it up here, congratulations man, welcome to the gang!" Says John. I smile too - I'm glad it's all over. Suddenly, the trap door to the attic slams shut, and a deep-throated chuckle begins from somewhere in the attic. John, James and I look at each other - it's not one of us. John's torch goes out, and a disembodied voice says,

"Welcome to my home..."

1. What does the word 'charred' mean?
2. Who thinks the narrator is a coward?
3. What time of year is it?
4. Who do you think is the better friend - John or James? Why?
5. What does the word 'exacerbate' mean?
6. What does the word 'dilapidated' mean?
7. How many windows are left intact in the house?



8. What material is the front door made from?
9. What does the word 'grimace' mean?
10. Give a synonym for 'scuttling':
11. What does the word 'remnants' mean?
12. Which of the five senses isn't used for description in the above passage?
13. Give an example of a rhetorical question used in the passage:
14. What does the word "disembodied" mean?
15. Find three examples of similes in the passage:
16. Find an example of a metaphor in the passage:
17. Give an example of a list used in the passage:
18. Who smiles in the attic?
19. Who laughs in the final paragraph of the passage?
20. Which of the following words do you think best describes the house?

New   Contemporary   Old   Renovated   Polished

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21. How old do you think the narrator is?

22. What genre do you think this story is?

23. What do you think the word 'juxtaposes' means?

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike **Moon** Car Lorry Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

24. library cafeteria classroom office cinema

25. exhausted sleepy leviathan groggy tired

26. grandiose malcontent extravagant lavish decadent

27. fledgling juvenile young quick childish

28. mischievous intrepid fearless unafraid undaunted

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order.  
for example, bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

29. anthem ( ) anthrax ( ) anthropology ( ) anthill ( ) antithesis ( )

30. federation ( ) federal ( ) fiduciary ( ) fiddlers ( ) fiscal ( )

31. hallowed ( ) hallway ( ) hallelujah ( ) hallmark ( ) holistic ( )

32. gravitational ( ) gravel ( ) graves ( ) grandiose ( ) grabbing ( )





33. detrimental ( ) determination ( ) detonation ( ) destiny ( ) detritus ( )

Complete the following words by adding the prefix 'dis' (1) or 'im' (2):

34. enchanted

35. proportionate

36. possible

37. impoverished

38. personate

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

39. (lamp street pavement) (light chocolate concrete)

40. (exodus freedom truth) (escape light melodrama)

41. (irresponsibility laziness blasphemy) (sacrilege meningitis cabal)

42. (lengthy quick short) (noble sly long)

43. (insidious bereft ambivalent) (detrimental surreptitious delegation)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

STAT MEAN GONG TINT MINT

4873

9323

3873

6576

44. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write the code here:

45. Find the code for the word MATES:

46. Find the code for the word SEATING:

47. Find the word for the code 93124876:

48. Find the word for the code 19867:

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The following passage is a letter written to a restaurant owner. Read the passage and answer the questions.

Tuesday 14th October 2016  
4 Marlborough Way  
London  
SW4 8WG

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am writing to complain about my recent visit to your restaurant last Saturday. The service was atrocious, the food was terrible, the drinks were far too expensive, and to top it all off the car park was unsafe. I sincerely hope the quality of your establishment increases markedly, as in my opinion it is not up to the standards I would expect from a dining experience in the West End. If your bistro was located in Brixton I would understand, but this level of service is just not up to scratch for the area you're set up in.

To begin with, we arrived and, after ten minutes of queuing, we were told that our request had not been met regarding our table. As my father is extremely old and suffers from immense back pain, my wife and I stressed the need for a soft-backed booth when placing our reservation. When we arrived, we were shown to a central table of hard-backed chairs. Ordinarily this would be absolutely fine, and the table itself was like an art piece it was so beautiful, but it would be detrimental to my father's health to endure sitting there for an extended period of time. When we informed the hostess of the mistake, she was rude and dismissive, believing our wish to be seated at a booth table to be a vain one. Eventually she relented and told us we could have a booth table, if we were willing to wait half an hour. Since the waiting area had soft-backed seats, we decided to do so.

Once we were finally seated at the table we'd requested, an extremely nice waitress Alice served us our menus and took our orders. However, I was disappointed to find that the kitchen had ran out of tuna steaks. What kind of restaurant runs out of the key ingredient in their signature dish? I ordered the sirloin steak instead, and asked for it to be cooked medium rare. When it arrived, it was extremely well done - the outside was black and rock hard. While Alice was very apologetic and had another cooked for me to the right level, it was still disappointing. I was also unable to eat with my family, as they had already received their meals.

After we'd finished our meal, we decided to have an after-dinner coffee. As I've been trying to cut down on my caffeine, I ordered a lemonade instead. However, when we received the bill I found that my lemonade was being charged at £4.50. Considering I could purchase three two litre bottles of the same drink for the same price at the newsagents next door, your price was daylight robbery! While I understand you must make some money in order to pay for bills and wages, the fact that I could plainly see the waiter pouring the lemonade straight from the bottle, and it arriving almost completely flat, left a very sour taste in my mouth.

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Finally, when we went to find our car, we discovered that one of the windows had been smashed. We asked for the CCTV footage from the camera, but were informed that the camera was only a deterrent, and therefore there was no footage available. No doubt the criminals that vandalised our Ford Fiesta knew this. I was deeply shocked that the restaurant did not have adequate security facilities within their car park, and the assistance we received from the staff was given begrudgingly, without kindness, and was ultimately extremely unhelpful.

In conclusion, a dinner to celebrate my father coming out of hospital was significantly marred by the poor quality of service at your restaurant. Apart from the politeness of our waitress, the service was vile. Given that you are located in an extremely competitive area, I was surprised you could afford such poor care of your customers. I do not expect a refund for my experience, but I am writing to inform you that I will be actively discouraging my friends and family from visiting your establishment. I hope you are able to rectify these issues.

Regards, Joshua Walken

1. What date did Joshua go to the restaurant?
2. Give an example of a list used in the passage:
3. Where do you think is more well known for good restaurants: Brixton or the West End? Why?
4. What do you think the word 'bistro' means?
5. What do you think the word 'detrimental' means?
6. Who went to the restaurant?
7. How long did it take for the group to be seated?
8. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:



9. What do you think the word 'rectify' means?
10. What do you think the word 'relented' means?
11. Give an example of a rhetorical question used in the passage:
12. How much does a two litre bottle of lemonade cost next door?
13. What does Joshua want to order from the restaurant?
14. What did Joshua have for dinner?
15. What is the restaurant's signature dish?
16. Do you think lemonade contains caffeine? Why/why not?
17. Why did Joshua go to the restaurant?
18. Define the word 'begrudgingly':
19. Do you think there are a lot of restaurants in the West End? Why/why not?
20. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:
21. What do you think the word 'deterrent' means?
22. Who or what was the only redeeming feature of the restaurant's service?



23. Name three complaints made by Joshua:

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group.  
For example, Bike **Moon** Car Lorry Aeroplane  
'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other words are vehicles.

24. concrete wood plastic steel building

25. malevolent angry tasty furrowed quickly

26. severe cemetery grave extreme dreadful

27. library novel atlas encyclopaedia thesaurus

28. river stream mountain lake sea

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,  
bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

29. grievous ( ) grim ( ) gridlock ( ) gristle ( ) grime ( )

30. flatulent ( ) flatline ( ) flattening ( ) flounder ( ) flabbergasted ( )

31. ocelot ( ) obsequious ( ) omnipotent ( ) oasis ( ) oblong ( )

32. amphitheatre ( ) arthropod ( ) amphibian ( ) ambling ( ) amorous ( )

33. quickly ( ) quizzical ( ) quieter ( ) quay ( ) quivering ( )

Complete the following words by adding the prefix 'dis' (1) or 'im' (2):

34. tort

35. polite

36. becile

37. mobile



38. array

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow)(chat **study** lead)

39. (fleeting maroon ramble) (sprint island transient)

40. (sovereign antibody persistent) (determined passive antithesis)

41. (gyroscope serrated envelop) (impervious cover gravitas)

42. (overgrown knowledgeable unguarded) (smart insipid swallow)

43. (dramatic responsible terrestrial) (well-known foraging theatric)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

HEEL	LARD	RAGE	SANE	SELL
3745	6558	9715	8792	

44. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write the code here:

45. Find the code for the word SHARE:

46. Find the code for the word GLEANED:

47. Find the word for the code 1473651:

48. Find the word for the code 8573653:



The following extract is a news report dated 14th December 2017. Read the passage and answer the questions below.

### HUMAN CALCULATOR DISCOVERS ALIEN LIFE

The scientific world is in uproar today, after examples of alien life were discovered by famed mathematician James Madison on the surface of Mars. While the life in question is merely microbial, it confirms a theory long-held by many scientists: we are not alone in the universe. Living samples are currently being cultivated for transportation back to Earth, where dedicated teams of scientists wait eagerly for the opportunity to classify and experiment with the extra terrestrial life forms. The organic material will be sent via unmanned spacecraft, with the astronauts staying on in Mars. Madison and his crew are currently halfway through a 3 year expedition after landing on Mars 3 months ago, the stated purpose of which is to drill for possible oil deposits and mineral reserves.

According to Mr. Madison's reports, which have been released by NASA, the microbes were discovered at 01:42 AM GMT. Mr. Madison had been examining soil samples taken from the Sea of Calm crater near Mars' north pole when he discovered a strange green discolouration within the sample. When Mr. Madison examined this discolouration under a microscope, he found that it was in fact a bacterial colony. After thoroughly double-checking the sterilisation procedures on board the shuttle, Madison concluded that the only possible source of the bacterial colony was the surface of Mars.

Mr. Madison is perhaps best well known for the Louie Forgeron documentary *Humans At The Limit*, which followed the lives of several men and women with incredible skills. He achieved special acclaim for his mental arithmetic ability - specifically the ability to derive the factors of very large numbers previously thought to be prime, and managing to do so without technical assistance. Given the title of human calculator by the presenter, Mr. Madison won the viewers' hearts with his "shy, aloof, amicable personality and quick, dry wit", according to director Derek Windbourne. It was only a year after the show was released that Mr. Madison was accepted onto NASA's astronaut program. Mr. Madison was then accelerated through the 4 year program, allowing him to embark on this mission a mere 3 years after starting training.

The information available on the alien life form itself is limited, given that substantial testing will only occur once the sample reaches a laboratory on Earth. However, NASA's Chief Science Officer Denise Lumley issued a statement earlier saying: "the life form that has been discovered is most similar in its make-up to that of an Acanthamoeba polyphaga, or Amoeba cell. However, while all life on Earth is based upon the extreme abundance of water, it seems that this particular organism has adapted to utilise the significant silicon deposits which are present on Mars' surface. We hope further study of the organism will provide us with a unique insight into the possibility of other, more complex life on other planets previously thought to be uninhabitable."

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Talking to the media via video call, Mr. Madison described his "wonder" at being the first person to make contact of some sort with alien life, and talked in more general terms about the difficulty of long space missions. "I really miss my family," he said, "and it gets even more difficult at this time of year. This is the second time now I'm going to miss the holiday season because I'm stuck here on this limitless expanse of sadness and sand. It snowed last year and I missed my son's first snowman." His wife and 3 children have been contacted for comment.

John Jameson, Science Editor

1. What does the word 'microbial' mean?
2. What does 'extraterrestrial' mean?
3. What is Mr. Madison's current job?
4. Roughly when did the mission to Mars leave Earth?
5. What was the original purpose of the mission?
6. If EST is four hours behind GMT, at what time in EST were the life forms discovered?
7. Define the word 'derive':
8. What does the word 'sterilisation' mean?

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9. Find an example of alliteration in the passage:

10. Do you think the mission was a success? Why/why not?

Which two of the following people currently work in the television industry, according to the passage? Circle each:

11. Derek Windbourne    Denise Lumley    James Madison    Louie Forgeron

12. Which special time of the year is Mr. Madison most sad about missing?

13. According to the article, roughly how long does it take to get to Mars from Earth?

14. Define the word 'uninhabitable':

15. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:

16. How are the lifeforms getting back to Earth?

17. What colour are the lifeforms?

18. How many children does Mr. Madison have?

19. Define the word "abundance":

20. In what year was the TV program *Humans At The Limit* released?

21. Who wrote the article?

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22. Give an example of a list in the article:

23. Who gave James Madison the title of 'Human Calculator'?

24. Where exactly were the lifeforms found?

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example, Bike **Moon** Car Lorry Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

25. weather rainy sunshine water climate

26. unrelenting quick relentless continuous unceasing

27. happy voracious unquenchable gluttonous greedy

28. large leviathan gigantic huge endogenous

29. peculiar strange odd weird confused

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example, bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

30. tarantula ( ) tandoor ( ) tally ( ) tambourine ( ) testing ( )

31. children ( ) childless ( ) chimpanzee ( ) chips ( ) cholera ( )

32. graduate ( ) gratitude ( ) graceful ( ) granular ( ) gravitas ( )

33. literal ( ) liberation ( ) literature ( ) litigation ( ) livery ( )

34. ambiguous ( ) ambivalent ( ) ambience ( ) ambulance ( ) ambidextrous ( )

Complete the following words by adding the prefix 'anti' (1) or 'inter' (2):

35. mediate

36. thesis

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37. active

38. net

39. biotic

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

40. (ignore annoy bother) (enjoy disregard discuss)

41. (harrowing incensed severe) (enraged scared great)

42. (immediate imbecile imbibed) (incredulous indentured instantaneous)

43. (radical radiation random) (revolt revolutionary resistance)

44. (judgmental judgment judicial) (decriminalise decision decadent)

45. The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

REAL	AFAR	ALES	SING	FREE
2589		1732	4317	1614

46. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write the code here:

47. Find the code for the word SAILING:

48. Find the code for the word SNAILS:

49. Find the word for the code 2577534:

50. Find the word for the code 712342:

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Read the following extract, and answer the questions below:

Wednesday 18th August  
34 Hearst Street  
San Antonio  
Orange County  
California  
OC4 71J

Dear Arun,

How's it going? I just thought I'd send you a letter since I've been out here for a month now. It seems like just yesterday we were graduating, and saying goodbye to Professor Crimin's awful lectures - they were hell on earth! I'm sorry I'm not going to be there for your 21st birthday on Friday, but I'm sure you and the other guys will have a good time without me. I should be able to make it back for Jack's birthday in November, but if not I'll definitely be back at Christmas to see my parents, so we can hang out then.

I know I kind of left in a rush, so I'm not sure how much you know about my new set up out here. To make sure I don't miss anything, I'll just start from the beginning. When I was in my second year at university, I invented an app called *Greggo*, thinking I could change the world, and released it this March. Ambitious, right? It was an app named after my brother which was able to translate spoken speech into a variety of different languages instantaneously. It was a breath of fresh air to the translation world. The interest was high and the applications were almost limitless: global telecommunications, business meetings, diplomatic missions, hospitals and other public services all wanted to have it integrated with their current software. Can you imagine the time and money that would be saved by switching to this app from hired translators?

A month after it was released, I got a call from a major app development start-up in California, saying they wanted to offer me a job. I'd just been offered a £40,000 a year job with another firm here in the UK, but I had to check this offer out. The company is run by Jake Heinemann, the famous coder, ethical hacker, gamer, and web designer. That's why I flew out straight away. They gave me some coding problems to solve, and asked me questions about *Greggo*. It was the first time I'd talked to someone who was genuinely interested in the technology and coding behind the app, rather than just being interested in the money it could generate. It turned out the interviewer was the boss of the company too, and he was very impressed. This place is like heaven. I'm serious Arun, it's like I'm living in a dream. I've got a great office with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking a lake. The office has beanbags, sleep pods, table tennis tables, and free ground coffee, and to top it all off I'm working with some of the best programmers in the world!

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However, it's not without its difficulties. I'm working long hours, which is a pain because I'd really love to go out and explore California. While I'm earning double what I could be earning back in the UK I'm not having the time to spend it. I'm working weekends too so it's difficult to do sightseeing, and difficult to relax in general. My supervisor, Jim, assures me that this is what it's like for the first few months, but it gets better.

I hope that's true - I don't think I could live like this forever, even if it is a lot of fun. I also have to drive to work, which is a shame because the roads here are frightening; everyone is always in such a rush. Two days ago I was nearly hit by an SUV which must have been travelling at 120 mph down the freeway, which is twice the legal speed limit! The driver swerved into my lane without indicating. I miss the roads back in Chelmsford - its difficult to get surprised by a tractor travelling at walking pace!

I've left my address at the top so feel free to write back. Hope you and Anna are well? Congratulations on the engagement! See you in a few months,

All the best,

Jacob

1. When did Jacob leave for California?
2. Who is Arun to Jacob? Circle the most likely answer:  
University friend    Father    Brother    Boss
3. When was Arun born?
4. Who do you think Jack is?
5. Give an example of a rhetorical question used in the passage:
6. Define 'instantaneously':
7. Give two examples of a list used in the passage:

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8. What does the word 'integrated' mean?
9. Define the term "start-up":
10. Do you think Jacob likes his new job? Why/why not?
11. Where do you think Chelmsford is? Circle the answer:  
In the city    by the sea    in a desert    in the countryside
12. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:
13. What is an 'SUV'?
14. What does Jacob want to do in his spare time?
15. Give three complaints Jacob has made about his job:
16. What is the legal speed limit on the freeway, according to the passage?
17. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:
18. In what month did the start-up approach Jacob about a job?



19. Which word best describes the roads in California according to the passage? Circle your answer:

Quiet    Polluted    Scary    Long

20. Who interviewed Jacob?

21. What is the name of Jacob's app based on?

22. What is Jacob's current salary?

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,    Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

23. chocolate    cola    eggs    bread    cake

24. silencequiet    tranquility    freedom    noiseless

25. group    collection    gang    gathering    friend

26. legend news    myth    story    fable

27. amicable    friendly    nice    kind    reserved

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example, bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

28. breathing (    )    brash (    )    brains (    )    blatant (    )    blasting (    )

29. fledgling (    )    flightless (    )    floundering (    )    feathered (    )    frank (    )

30. gangrenous (    )    gathering (    )    glandular (    )    guarded (    )    gamble (    )

31. detrimental (    )    deterred (    )    deathly (    )    dragon (    )    delightful (    )

32. flatulent (    )    flowering (    )    flavoursome (    )    fickle (    )    frightened (    )

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Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ism' (1) or 'able' (2):

33. commun

34. prob

35. culp

36. surreal

37. metabol

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

38. (grow, believe, flight) (hold, walk, increase)

39. (heaven freedom evening) (liberty quiet hell)

40. (happy sad reserved) (gleeful bored angry)

41. (boring irrelevant exciting) (useless slow ambiguous)

42. (severed brokenfamous) (unknown screw cut)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

SEES GLEE GLIB GANG SANE

7893 7855 1625 1551

43. Which of the above words is missing a code? write the code here:

44. Find the code for the word BLESSING:

45. Find the code for the word BEAGLES:

46. Find the word for the code 863581:

47. Find the word for the code 627851:

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22nd April 2016

Dear diary,

I'm sorry it's been two months since my last entry - I've only just got my luggage back! It got lost when I flew out here. The airport managed to leave it in Birmingham, and then somehow it was flown to Berlin in Germany, and it's been trying to catch me up as I travel ever since. Finally, herein Barcelona, I've got hold of it again. It's been a nuisance though, having no clothes. I've had to live off clothes and toiletries I bought in South Africa - I've missed all my favourite shirts!

So, there's a lot for me to fill you in on. After the hour long train ride from my house to the airport, and another 2 and a half hours waiting to board, I got on the plane. Landing in Johannesburg was a cool experience, as you fly so low over the buildings you can almost see into peoples' windows, as if the entire city were a doll's house. Once the plane landed after an 8 hour flight, I tracked down the taxi rank (without my baggage of course) and headed out to the hotel, which was only a 15 minute taxi ride away. The driver took me past some of the worst slums in Johannesburg, and was telling me all about his life growing up there. He said he'd seen Mandela get arrested, and was one of the many thousands who took to the streets to celebrate his release.

After a few days in Johannesburg, I traveled north to Harare in Zimbabwe, where I saw some of the most beautiful natural waterfalls in the world. The water comes cascading over the side of the cliff like rainfall, creating a permanent rainbow, and that water filters down into various pools where you can go bathing. The food there was brilliant too - fantastic beef and lamb, marinated for hours in local spices and often served in a flatbread. They also had some of the best wildlife I've seen so far on the trip, but I think I'll see better when I get out to Thailand. There were lions, elephants, hyenas, coyotes, and all manner of lemurs and monkeys to gawk at. The lemurs were my favourite - jumping around and popping out of holes, they were so funny!

After a quick stop in Nairobi in Kenya, crossing over the equator, I flew out to Morocco and travelled up to Spain, taking a ferry over the Strait of Gibraltar. The journey over sea was only a couple of hours, but I saw so much! We had dolphins swimming alongside the boat as mermaids, and the sky was a living artwork of albatrosses. The only disappointing thing was that the waters were very choppy, so I had to spend most of the journey clinging to a bowl inside. You know how I am when travelling. It also got colder the further north I travelled - Spain was nowhere near as hot as Kenya had been.

Now I'm in Barcelona in Spain, and the architecture's amazing. I've just been to see the Sagrada Familia at sunset, and the light coming in through the stained glass windows was simply breath taking. The squares here are amazing too - there's always live music going on, the smell of paella dishes fills every street, and everyone is laughing and dancing until late into the night.

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The food here has tasted so good too - lots of citrus flavours with melt in the mouth meat. In addition to this, I've finally got my clothes back, so no more weird shirts from South Africa for me!

I'm looking forward to Thailand and Burma next week, and in a month I'll head home back to the real world. I'll try and write here every day like I used to, now I've got the diary back. Hopefully I'll have more great adventures to record!

Narinder

1. Roughly what date was Narinder's last entry into his diary?
2. Why did Narinder have no clothes?
3. What did Narinder miss most from his suitcase?
4. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:
5. how long did it take for Narinder to get to his hotel in Johannesburg from his house?
6. Where did Narinder's taxi driver grow up?
7. Where were the most beautiful waterfalls?
8. Give an example of a list used in the passage:
9. Give an example of alliteration used in the passage:
10. Name the only sense not used to describe Narinder's holiday:
11. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:



12. Which country do you think is closer to the equator according to the passage- Kenya or Spain?
13. What does the word 'marinated' mean?
14. Why was the ferry trip disappointing for Narinder?
15. How long in total will his holiday be?
16. Where does Narinder think will have the best wildlife?
17. What is the name of the stretch of water that separates Morocco from Spain?
18. What do you think 'paella' is?
19. Which of these forms of transport did Narinder **not** use? Circle the answer: Car  
Train   Aeroplane   Taxi
20. What was Narinder's favourite animal?
21. Where did Narinder's luggage get sent to by mistake?
22. How many countries has Narinder visited so far?
23. How regularly does Narinder write in his diary normally?
24. What two countries does Narinder have left to visit?

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example, Bike   **Moon**   Car Lorry   Aeroplane  
'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

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25. feverish      sick    ill      quiet      unwell

26. broken    fragmented    destroyed    old    shattered

27. monument    office    memorial      statue    obelisk

28. exacerbate    aggravate      worsen    disprove      magnify

29. Earth    Mars    Germany      Jupiter      Saturn

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,  
bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

30. free ( )      framed (    )      friend (    )      flee (    )      fresh (    )

31. grey (    )      graded (    )      grand (    )      great (    )      green (    )

32. favoured (    )      flavoured (    )      fashioned (    )      fleeting (    )      feathered (    )

33. admonished (    )      adolescent (    )      adoration (    )      abrogation (    )      android (    )

34. gloating (    )      glamour (    )      glamorous (    )      geography (    )      geology (    )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ate' (1) or 'ion' (2):

35. aggregat

36. suffoc

37. abl

38. aer

39. emus

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example, (cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

40. (grade read write)    (mark speak hear)

41. (free, fall, escape)    (rise, chained, complimentary)

42. (estimate, abhor, affluent)    (poor, know, detest)

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43. (celebration, feathered, amble) (run, commemoration, wooden)

44. (old, broken, steep) (sheer, fixed, wrinkled)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

DEAD	PEER	RING	PART	TEAR
7332		6352	1351	2948

45. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write the code here:

46. Find the code for the word DRIPPING:

47. Find the code for the word REPEATED:

48. Find the word for the code 82336:

49. Find the word for the code 6257731:



The following extract is from a letter written by James to his friend Vinay, about James' current holiday in France.

Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009

Dear Vinay,

Bonjour next door neighbour ! I hope you're okay in Harborne Vinay, I'm having a wild time out here in Marseille. I thought I'd fill you in on what I've been up to for the past ten days, as today is the tenth day I've been here - I can't believe I come home tomorrow!

So when we flew in to Charles De Gaulle airport I couldn't believe how close we came to hitting the Eiffel Tower; I could see it from my window! Apparently that's normal according to my dad, but it didn't stop me being scared. Being in the French capital really was stunning - the Champs Elysees and the Arc de Triomphe were simply beautiful. It made quite a change from us sitting in Mrs. Smith's Maths class, that's for sure!

After four days there, we left on the TGV to Nice, because as you know, my parents can't drive. Even with the delays and strikes we'd heard about, we made great time, and the carriages were really spacious. We had to stop for a few minutes at one point though, when some cows had got on to the track! That was then Dad told me about the importance of farming in France - apparently they used to have loads of farmers, and it was one of the biggest industries in France. But then in 1998, they produced so much food they didn't know what to do with it, and butter and milk were just dumped in roads. Dad said it was like a war between the government and the farmers. How weird is that?

Nice was pretty boring - definitely the worst place we visited, completely at the other end of the spectrum to Paris. The roads were full of rubbish and there wasn't much to do other than go to restaurants. Mom and Dad dragged me round museums, which took forever - the paintings in the Marc Chagall museum were all Russian, I was so confused!

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Mom said she was going to use some of the paintings she saw with her class next year, but I didn't think they were that good at all. They're old, tattered, and unremarkable. In fact, the only good thing about Nice was the beach - the waves were huge, meaning I could get a lot of time on my board. I'm getting really good, you should see me: I can stay on, standing up, for a good fifteen, twenty seconds! I'm trying to convince my parents to take me to Hawaii next year, because the waves out there are as big as houses!

After a day at the beach we grabbed our train tickets and headed out to Marseille, and we arrived here two days ago. There's this big music festival out here at the moment which is really cool: we walked past and I could hear the bands inside really well. I couldn't tell who they were, but they sounded really good - lots of guitar solos, loud drums, and deafening bass guitar. That's my favourite kind of music. I don't think they were rapping though Vinay, so you'd probably have hated it!

Okay Vinay, I've got to go - it's 9pm now and we fly back in 6 hours. I've not even packed! I'll see you at George's party this weekend,

Your friend,

James

1. Where does James live?

**Harborne**

2. On what day of the week did James arrive in France?

**Friday**

3. How long in total will James have been in France, by the time he flies out?

**11 days**



4. In what city did James' aeroplane land?

**Paris**

5. Who do you think Charles de Gaulle is/was? circle the answer:

UK Prime Minister   **French President**   French X-Factor judge   German MP   Belgian chocolatier

6. Name three attractions James saw in the first city he visited?

**Eiffel Tower   Champs Elysees   Arc de Triomphe**

7. Who taught James and Vinay maths?

**Mrs. Smith**

8. What do you think the TGV is?

**Train company**

9. What other word could be used to describe the carriages?

**big/large/roomy**

10. When the train had to stop for a few minutes, where do you think they were?

Circle your answer:

Train depot   Nice   Madrid   **the countryside**   The Alps

11. In what decade did French farmers make too much milk?

**1990s**

12. Circle the word that best describes James' question "How weird is that?":

factual   **rhetorical**   inquisitive   quizzical   imploring

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13. What was the worst place James visited?

**Nice**

14. what was the best place James visited?

**Paris**

15. What type of museum was the Marc Chagall?

**Art**

16. What is James' mom's job? circle the correct answer:

Geography teacher   Artist   Museum curator   **Art teacher**   decorator

17. What was the only good thing about Nice?

**The beach/waves/surfing**

18. What did James do when he went to the beach?

**Surfed**

19. On what date did James arrive in Marseille?

**August 1st**

20. Do you think James prefers classical or rock music? explain.

**Rock - drums etc in band**

21. Do you think Vinay prefers jazz or rap music? explain.

**Rap - James talks about rappers**

22. find a simile in the letter.

**as big as houses OR like a war between...**



23. what time does James' flight leave Marseille?

**3 AM**

24. Who do you think George is?

**mutual friend**

25. find an example of a list in the letter.

**lots of guitar solos, loud drums, and deafening bass guitar**

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike **Moon** Car Lorry Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. blithe heedless **quick** casual thoughtless

27. silent **quiet** noiseless mute soundless

28. trust confidence conviction credence **revived**

29. flat **undulatory** plane horizontal smooth

30. comedic **dour** funny hilarious amusing

in each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

31. undecided ( 1 ) undisputed ( 5 ) undetermined ( 3 ) undiscovered ( 4 ) underdeveloped ( 2 )

32. anticipation ( 2 ) antithesis ( 5 ) antimony ( 4 ) antibiotics ( 1 ) anticline ( 3 )

33. interim ( 2 ) interned ( 4 ) intergalactic ( 5 ) interminable ( 3 ) intercepted ( 1 )

34. theory ( 3 ) thesis ( 5 ) thermometer ( 4 ) theocratic ( 1 ) thermodynamic ( 2 )

35. psychology ( 3 ) psychiatry ( 1 ) psychoanalytic ( 2 ) psychosis ( 4 ) psyllid ( 5 )

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Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ful' (1) or 'ify' (2) :

- 36. help (1)
- 37. calc (2)
- 38. mind (1)
- 39. cheer (1)
- 40. mumm (2)

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

- 41. (**dreary** tiring sleepy) (asleep **boring** refused)
- 42. (freedom **saviour** franchise) (**hero** peace voted)
- 43. (writ scrap **legend**) (skip **myth** mystery)
- 44. (volcano mountain **lava**) (**magma** crater glacier)
- 45. (**plane** car lorry) (round rough **flat**)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

TRIP TRAP PEAR TEAR

4962 7264 7214

- 46. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write that code here: **7962**
- 47. Find the code for the word REAP: **2964**
- 48. Find the code for the word RARE: **2629**
- 49. Find the word with the code 4627: **PART**
- 50. Find the word with the code 467792: **PATTER**

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22nd April 2016

Dear diary,

I'm sorry it's been two months since my last entry - I've only just got my luggage back! It got lost when I flew out here. The airport managed to leave it in Birmingham, and then somehow it was flown to Berlin in Germany, and it's been trying to catch me up as I travel ever since. Finally, here in Barcelona, I've got hold of it again. It's been a nuisance though, having no clothes. I've had to live off clothes and toiletries I bought in South Africa - I've missed all my favourite shirts!

So, there's a lot for me to fill you in on. After the hour long train ride from my house to the airport, and another 2 and a half hours waiting to board, I got on the plane. Landing in Johannesburg was a cool experience, as you fly so low over the buildings you can almost see into peoples' windows, as if the entire city were a doll's house. Once the plane landed after an 8 hour flight, I tracked down the taxi rank (without my baggage of course) and headed out to the hotel, which was only a 15 minute taxi ride away. The driver took me past some of the worst slums in Johannesburg, and was telling me all about his life growing up there. He said he'd seen Mandela get arrested, and was one of the many thousands who took to the streets to celebrate his release.

After a few days in Johannesburg, I traveled north to Harare in Zimbabwe, where I saw some of the most beautiful natural waterfalls in the world. The water comes cascading over the side of the cliff like rainfall, creating a permanent rainbow, and that water filters down into various pools where you can go bathing. The food there was brilliant too - fantastic beef and lamb, marinated for hours in local spices and often served in a flatbread. They also had some of the best wildlife I've seen so far on the trip, but I think I'll see better when I get out to Thailand. There were lions, elephants, hyenas, coyotes, and all manner of lemurs and monkeys to gawk at. The lemurs were my favourite - jumping around and popping out of holes, they were so funny!

After a quick stop in Nairobi in Kenya, crossing over the equator, I flew out to Morocco and travelled up to Spain, taking a ferry over the Strait of Gibraltar. The journey over sea was only a couple of hours, but I saw so much! We had dolphins swimming alongside the boat as mermaids, and the sky was a living artwork of albatrosses. The only disappointing thing was that the waters were very choppy, so I had to spend most of the journey clinging to a bowl inside. You know how I am when travelling. It also got colder the further north I travelled - Spain was nowhere near as hot as Kenya had been.

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Now I'm in Barcelona in Spain, and the architecture's amazing. I've just been to see the Sagrada Familia at sunset, and the light coming in through the stained glass windows was simply breathtaking. The squares here are amazing too - there's always live music going on, the smell of paella dishes fills every street, and everyone is laughing and dancing until late into the night. The food here has tasted so good too - lots of citrus flavours with melt-in-the-mouth meat. In addition to this, I've finally got my clothes back, so no more weird shirts from South Africa for me!

I'm looking forward to Thailand and Burma next week, and in a month I'll head home back to the real world. I'll try and write here everyday like I used to, now I've got the diary back. Hopefully I'll have more great adventures to record!

Narinder

1. Roughly what date was Narinder's last entry into his diary?

22nd February 2016/ February 2016

2. Why did Narinder have no clothes?  
lost his suitcase

3. What did Narinder miss most from his suitcase?

his shirts

4. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:

as if the city were a dolls house/like rainfall

5. How long did it take for Narinder to get to his hotel in Johannesburg from his house?

11 hours 45 minutes



6. Where did Narinder's taxi driver grow up?

slums in Johannesburg

7. Where were the most beautiful waterfalls?

Zimbabwe/Harare

8. Give an example of a list used in the passage:

There were lions, elephants, hyenas, coyotes, and all manner of lemurs and monkeys to gawk at

9. Give an example of alliteration used in the passage:

architecture's amazing

10. Name the only sense not used to describe Narinder's holiday:

touch

11. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:

as mermaids/a living artwork

12. Which country do you think is closer to the equator according to the passage- Kenya or Spain?

Kenya

13. What does the word 'marinated' mean?

spiced/left to flavour/ soaked in spices etc.



14. Why was the ferry trip disappointing for Narinder?

got travel sick

15. How long in total will his holiday be?

3 months

16. Where does Narinder think will have the best wildlife?

Thailand

17. What is the name of the stretch of water that separates Morocco from Spain?

Strait of Gibraltar

18. What do you think 'paella' is?

food

19. Which of these forms of transport did Narinder **not** use? Circle the answer:

**Car**      Train      Aeroplane      Taxi

20. What was Narinder's favourite animal?

lemur

21. Where did Narinder's luggage get sent to by mistake?

Berlin



22. How many countries has Narinder visited so far?

4

23. How regularly does Narinder write in his diary normally?

every day

24. What two countries does Narinder have left to visit?

Thailand, Burma

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

25. feverish    sick    ill    **quiet**    unwell

26. broken    fragmented    shattered    destroyed    **old**

27. monument    **office**    memorial    statue    obelisk

28. exacerbate    aggravate    worsen    **disprove**    magnify

29. Earth    Mars    **Germany**    Jupiter    Saturn

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

30. free ( 3 ) framed ( 2 ) friend ( 5 ) flee ( 1 ) fresh ( 4 )

31. grey ( 5 ) graded ( 1 ) grand ( 2 ) great ( 3 ) gree

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32. favoured ( 2 ) flavoured ( 4 ) fashioned ( 1 ) fleeting ( 5 ) feathered ( 3 )

33. admonished ( 2 ) adolescent ( 3 ) adoration ( 4 ) abrogation ( 1 ) android ( 5 )

34. gloating ( 5 ) glamour ( 4 ) glamorous ( 3 ) geography ( 1 ) geology ( 2 )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ate' (1) or 'ion' (2):

35. aggregation

36. suffocate

37. ablate

38. aerate

39. emulsion

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

40. (**grade** read write) (**mark** speak hear)

41. (**free**, fall, escape) (rise, chained, **complimentary**)

42. (estimate, **abhor**, affluent) (poor, know, **detest**)

43. (**celebration**, feathered, amble) (run, **commemoration**, wooden)

44. (old, broken, **steep**) (sheer, **fixed**, wrinkled)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

DEAD PEER RING PART TEAR

7332 6352 1351 2948

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45. Which of the above words is missing a code? write the code here:

PART - 7526

46. Find the code for the word DRIPPING:

12977948

47. Find the code for the word REPEATED:

23735631

48. Find the word for the code 82336:

GREET

49. Find the word for the code 6257731:

TRAPPED



The following extract is a letter written by a Mr. Farraway, complaining to the manager of a hotel:

Tuesday January 3rd 2011

Dear Mrs. Jeffries,

I am writing to complain about the treatment my wife and I received during our honeymoon stay at your Stepford Arms hotel on the Pembrokeshire coast last weekend. The quality of the room, the service, and the food were all severely lacking, and the experience ruined a visit which was supposed to be a celebration of my wife and I's new life together as a couple.

As it was our honeymoon, my wife and I came straight from our wedding, arriving at the hotel just past 9 o'clock in the evening. While I understand this is a late time to be checking in, we had called several days in advance to warn of our late arrival and had been assured by the member of staff we talked to that arrangements would be made. However, when we walked into the lobby, we found the reception desk empty, and there was no way to summon someone to help us with our bags or give us our keys. We were forced to wait half an hour in the lobby, in full wedding dress, until a passing maid found us and went to fetch another member of staff. It took a further half an hour to have us checked in and our bags taken up to our rooms. This wait prevented us from properly celebrating our wedding, and ruined what was supposed to be the happiest day of our lives. The member of staff that eventually checked us in was extremely apologetic and polite, and made us feel like royalty, if only for a few minutes. However, the wait we had to endure was simply unacceptable by anybody's standards.

Once we were finally into our honeymoon suite, we found the bed linens crumpled; it was obvious someone had slept in them previously. This became more apparent when we went into the bathroom. The place was like a pig's sty, with empty toothpaste tubes, used shampoo bottles, discarded razors, wet towels, and hair in the bath. My wife was forced to go to the lobby toilet to brush her teeth, it was so bad. This would have been shocking to find in any hotel room, but to have it in the best suite of the hotel, knowing that a newly-wed couple would be staying there, makes me sick to my stomach. How could you have forgotten to clean the room? Or was it wilful negligence? In addition to this, the 'sea views' offered in the brochure, the main reason we chose the suite, turned out to be obscured greatly by a large tree which stood right in front of the suite's balcony. I feel that such an advertisement in your magazine was fraudulent, as even when we woke in the morning after a fretful night's sleep, it was clear to sea that the ocean could not be viewed from the balcony at all.

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As recompense for the awful state of the room, one of your members of staff gave us a complimentary breakfast on that Sunday morning. To begin with, we were seated at a table just outside the toilets. When we complained about the smell coming from the door, a cleaner arrived to address the problem. However, this left the area around our table smelling strongly of bleach and disinfectant, which hardly aided our appetites. Though the service was quick, the food we received was barely edible. The sausages were over-cooked and had obviously been under a hot lamp to be kept warm, meaning they were dry and tasteless. The bacon was far too fatty, the hash browns were almost raw, the tea was served lukewarm, and the baked beans were downright cold. When we complained to the waitress on duty, she was unapologetic, and suggested it was our own fault, saying "do you hear any of the other diners complaining?" This rudeness is not what I expected of your hotel, which came highly recommended from many of my relatives.

In conclusion, I found the service I received at your hotel to be woeful by anybody's standards, but they were particularly shocking given the nature of our visit. Because of this, I'd like to receive a full refund for our stay at your hotel, the sum of which I am sure you have in your records. I will not be recommending your establishment to my friends, and I sincerely hope you vastly improve your quality of service, as it was simply appalling.

Regards,

Martin Farraway

- 1) Where was the hotel? **Pembrokeshire Coast**
- 2) What was Mr Farraway asking for as compensation? **full refund**
- 3) Why did they receive a free breakfast? **state of the room**
- 4) What time did they arrive at the hotel? **just after 9 o'clock**
- 5) Why were they disappointed at the wait to check in? **They'd organised beforehand**
- 6) What criticisms were made of their room? Give two: **empty toothpaste tubes, used shampoo bottles, discarded razors, wet towels, and hair in the bath**
- 7) What date did they get married? **31st January**

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- 8) What is a hot lamp? **lamp that keeps food warm**
- 9) What is the name of the hotel manager? **Mrs. Jeffries**
- 10) Identify one thing which was positive about their stay? **member of staff which checked them in was polite, quick service of food**
- 11) What does recompense mean? **reimburse/give back/refund**
- 12) The view from the balcony was restricted. Why? **tree**
- 13) Why did Mr Farraday suggest the breakfast waitress was rude? **she said none of the other diners were complaining**
- 14) What does edible mean? **can be had as food**
- 15) Suggest one thing that the hotel could have done to improve the couple's stay? **anything that addresses the problems, i.e. cleaned room, checked in on time, etc**
- 16) What do you think the couple were wearing when they arrived at the hotel?  
**Suit/wedding dress**
- 17) How long did it take before they were able to access their room? **1 hour**
- 18) How had Mr Farraway attempted to reduced the problems of arriving late to the hotel? **phoning ahead**
- 19) Find an example of a rhetorical question: **How could you have forgotten to clean the room? OR Or was it wilful negligence?**
- 20) What do you think 'fraudulent' means? **Lying/Dishonest**
- 21) Give an example of a simile used in the passage: **Like a pig's sty , feel like royalty**
- 22) Who had recommended the hotel? **Relatives**
- 23) Give an example of a list used in the passage: **empty toothpaste tubes, used shampoo bottles, discarded razors, wet towels, and hair in the bath**

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24) What do you think the word suite means? **Nice/large/fancy room**

25) What was the main reason they chose the suite? **Sea view**

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26) History Geography English **Homework** French

27) nimble **immersive** lithe sprightly agile

28) exact specific precise definite **vague**

29) **fictitious** dreary boring tedious banal

30) chat **lecture** conversation gossip discussion

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

31) ambidextrous ( 1 ) ambivalent ( 5 ) ambient ( 2 ) ambitiously ( 4 ) ambiguous ( 3 )

32) character ( 2 ) charred ( 5 ) charabanc ( 1 ) charitable ( 3 ) charlatan ( 4 )

33) destructive ( 5 ) destitute ( 3 ) destined ( 2 ) destrier ( 4 ) destabilise ( 1 )

34) Jinxed ( 4 ) jingoistic ( 3 ) jingle ( 2 ) jumper ( 5 ) jamboree ( 1 )

35) lilliputian ( 3 ) lilled ( 2 ) liberation ( 1 ) limitless ( 4 ) lyrical ( 5 )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ette' (1) or 'etic' (2) :

36) cigar (1)

37) athl (2)

38) flanel (1)

39) diab (2)

40) kin (2)



In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

- 41) (fixture **building** break) (**structure** clutch working)
- 42) (ferrous wondrous **hazardous**) (insidious bulbous **dangerous**)
- 43) (**erudite** skilled lucky) (reckless crazy **knowledgeable**)
- 44) (**promise** bow respect) (**vow** circumspect advise)
- 45) (infested jungle **exploratory**) (fleas **investigative** discovery)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

CATS SEEM TEAM MACE

7345      8472      2335

- 46) Which of the above words is missing a code? Write that code here: **5483**
- 47) Find the code for the word TAME: **7453**
- 48) Find the code for the word ACES : **4832**
- 49) Find the word with the code 27345: **STEAM**
- 50) Find the word with the code 54773: **MATTE**

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The following extract is an encyclopaedia entry on the subject of the River Amazon:

The Amazon River in South America is the largest river in the world, running west to east and averaging a discharge of about 209,000 cubic metres per second, greater than the next seven largest independent rivers combined, and accounts for approximately one-fifth of the world's total river flow. The width of the Amazon is between 1.6 and 10 kilometres at low stage, but expands during the wet season to 48 kilometres or more. The river enters the Atlantic Ocean in a broad estuary about 240 kilometres wide. The mouth of the main stem is 80 kilometres. Because of its vast dimensions, it is sometimes called "The River Sea". The Amazon also is the longest river according to a new study published in 2011. It passes through Brazil and Peru, and travels over 3,500 km to reach the Atlantic Ocean.

The Amazon river runs through an eponymous rainforest, and so it is often difficult when talking about the river and the rainforest together to differentiate between the two. Within the Amazon rainforest, there exists more than one-third of all known animal species in the world. From venomous frogs, to carnivorous piranhas, to river dolphins, the Amazon river and rainforest has lots of interesting fauna. The Amazon dolphins can grow up to 2.4 metres long, and change colour as they grow older from grey to pink to white. There are also more species of fish being discovered every year within the river: the current number is just over 3,000 different species recognised. Just as the river is the longest in the world, so too does it contain the longest snake species in the world: the anaconda. The largest recorded anaconda was 5.21 metres long, and the species is also most likely the heaviest snake species on the planet. Due to the isolation of their habitat however, it has often been difficult to substantiate claims about their size and weight. Anacondas live in shallow waters within the rainforest surrounding the Amazon river, and eat birds, fish, and rodents.

The Amazon is also home to an extremely diverse and rich set of flora. It is believed that in every 2.5 acres of rainforest in the Amazon, you can find 700 different species of tree and twice that number of different species of plants. These include trees which can grow up to 130 metres tall, and Water Lilies which can grow to be as wide as an adult man is tall! In addition to this, some trees in the Amazon can have trunks that look like watchtowers, they're so thick.

The Amazon River, in its current form, is believed to be 2.4 million years old according to geologists, who dated rocks on the river bed using carbon dating techniques. However, the river may well be as old as 11 million years, when scientists believed it ran from east to west as part of a larger continent of Gondwana, before the tectonic plates separated the land into the continents we know today.

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The river is thought to be the ancestral home of many tribes still living there today, but the river itself was discovered by Europeans in March 1500, when a Spanish conquistador Vicente Pinzon sailed along its waters. It received its name due to the female warrior tribes that attacked these early European explorers, which reminded these Europeans of the Amazons of Ancient Greek mythology.

The largest city along the Amazon River is Manaus. Located in Brazil in the western state of Amazonas, it is home to over 1.7 million people. Its population is larger than that of Belém, the major city and port at the mouth of the river at the Atlantic Ocean.

1. If I stand on the banks of the Amazon, which direction would I have to walk to reach the Amazon's source? North East South **West**
2. How much water, on average, is discharged on the Amazon river every 10 seconds?  
**2,090,000 cubic metres**
3. Into which sea does the Amazon flow? **Atlantic Ocean.**
4. How tall do some trees grow? **130 meters**
5. How old is the Amazon thought to be? **2.4 million years old**
6. When did Europeans discover the Amazon? **1500**
7. What does differentiate mean? **to make different or tell apart.**
8. How many species of trees are found in an average 2.5 acre of the Amazon? **700**
9. How did the Amazon get its European name? **After the warrior women who attacked the first Europeans, Greek mythological group of warrior women.**

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10. What is the largest city on the Amazon? **Manaus**
11. How many species of plants are there thought to be in every 2.5 acres of the Amazon?  
**1400 - twice as many trees.**
12. What does the word diverse mean? **range of life or people/lots of different types**
13. Which of the following is the odd one out? anaconda, cobra, python, adder, **iguana.**
14. What was the nationality of the first European to see the Amazon? **Spanish**
15. Give an example of list used in the extract. From venomous frogs, to carnivorous piranhas, to river dolphins OR eat birds, fish, and rodents
16. How long is the Amazon? **3,500 kms**
17. Name a country identified in the passage through which the Amazon flows. **Brazil or Peru.**
18. How wide is the Amazon believed to expand to during the wet season? **48 metres or more.**
19. Why is the Amazon sometimes called the "River Sea". **because it is so vast/large.**



20. Give an example of a simile used in the extract? **trees look like watchtowers they are so thick.**
21. In which country is the largest city on the Amazon? **Brazil.**
22. Name one significant fact about the dolphins found in the Amazon? **their length at 2.4 metres or they change colour over their lifetime.**
23. What do anacondas eat? **bird, fish and rodents.**
24. In which direction does the Amazon flow? **West to East**
25. What does substantiate mean? **prove.**

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. cold polar arctic **turgid** wintry
27. brick mortar cement wood **scaffolding**
28. grief sorrow **fear** sadness misery
29. **calendar** week month year quarter
30. courage **recklessness** bravery valour audacity

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

31. predetermined ( 1 ) prerequisite ( 4 ) premonition ( 3 ) presentation ( 5 ) preliminary ( 2 )
32. revolutionary ( 5 ) revolted ( 4 ) revamped ( 1 ) revisited ( 3 ) revenue ( 2 )
33. stationary ( 3 ) stationery ( 4 ) stationed ( 2 ) stations ( 1 ) statutes ( 5 )
34. terrestrial ( 3 ) territorial ( 4 ) terror ( 5 ) torrential ( 2 ) teriyaki ( 1 )
35. villainous ( 4 ) village ( 2 ) villain ( 3 ) vilification ( 1 ) villous ( 5 )

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Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ence' (1) or 'ency' (2):

- 36. abs (1)
- 37. neglig (1)
- 38. effici (2)
- 39. clem (2)
- 40. luminesc (1)

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

- 41. (**childish** detrimental abolish) (against improved **adolescent**)
- 42. (**global** travel oceanic) (**international** starboard plane)
- 43. (free **caged** lock) (**restrained** amendment key)
- 44. (**row** boat sail) (tsunami **argument** canvas)
- 45. (**finger** addition knuckle) (punch slap **digit**)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

GLIB BULL BLUE GLUG

4734 2738 4712

- 46. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write that code here: 2377
- 47. Find the code for the word BUBBLE: 232278
- 48. Find the code for the word LIBEL: 71287
- 49. Find the word with the code 23748: BULGE
- 50. Find the word with the code 7348: LUGE

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The following extract is a letter to a previous donor to the Animal Relief Organisation:

Tuesday 3rd November 2008  
45 Beechwood Road  
Birmingham

Dear Mr. Jones,

We are writing to you in a time of dire need. Our planet's climate is changing rapidly, causing untold suffering to millions of animals across the world. Without your help, many of these animal species face extinction. Not only do these animals need our help, but we believe humanity has a moral obligation to help these animals - it is our burning of fossil fuels, our expansion of cities, and our rampant deforestation that is producing the change in climate and habitat that is driving these species to the brink of complete annihilation.

The burning of fossil fuels has dramatically increased the volume of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, leading to a rise in global temperatures. The effects of this have been seen at both poles, where shrinking ice caps and warmer waters have left polar bears with a reduced habitat and a reduction in food availability. This is because the warmer waters confuse seals, a polar bear's primary source of food, causing these seals to swim out into the open ocean, away from the polar bear population. Just last week, a team of volunteers sent by Greenpeace witnessed a polar bear, emaciated due to a lack of food, trapped on a floating piece of ice, too tired to swim and hunt. Without your help, polar bears may very well become extinct in the wild, which would be too great a tragedy to contemplate.

In an effort to slightly reduce their carbon footprint, some governments have resorted to wood-burning power stations, which produce a smaller quantity of greenhouse gases than their coal-burning counterparts. This is instead of investing in zero carbon energy sources such as solar, tidal, or wind power. The reduction in emissions is small, and has led to rampant deforestation in habitats with rich biodiversity, such as the Amazon rainforest, where an area the size of 3 football fields is being cut down every minute of every day. By 2030, at this rate, a quarter of the amazon will have been lost. Scientists estimate that there are thousands of animal species that have yet to be discovered and classified, with many of these residing in rainforests just like the Amazon. Not only is this rampant logging destroying the habitats of animals we know exist, it may well be destroying the homes of animals whose characteristics we can only guess at. One such animal may hold the cure to cancer, to HIV, to bird flu, to ebola. We may never know, if these chainsaws and woodcutters continue their invasion of one of the last great green places on Earth.

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But loss of animal life isn't just happening in the far flung reaches of the world. Here in the UK, the expansion of cities and the actions of this Conservative government provide a bleak future for England's wildlife. With sprawling metropolises such as London, Birmingham, and Manchester constantly expanding through housing, industrial, and retail park construction, the greenery around these cities is fast disappearing. This is causing the animals of the countryside, such as badgers, foxes, and even deer, to encroach into cities in order to find food. While foxes may well have adapted quickly to this new arrangement, badgers and deer have not been so quick to find food, with many either starving or being killed in traffic or train collisions. In addition to this, the government's intention to real the fox hunting ban would significantly reduce the number of foxes in the countryside, pushing an already threatened species to the brink of extinction.

With just £3 a month, you can stop this destruction to these habitats. The world needs your help. Will you stand up and be counted?

Jackie Hewitt  
The Animal Relief Organisation

1. What have been the two effects of increase in global temperatures according to the letter from WWF? **shrinking ice caps and warmer waters (reduced habitat and reduced availability of food for polar bears also acceptable)**
2. What does deforestation mean? **cutting down of trees**
3. Identify one example of fossil fuel? **coal**
4. What is meant by the term "carbon footprint"? **carbon emissions produced**
5. What does encroach mean? **to intrude/come into**
6. What are the consequences for some animals as a result of city expansion? **hit by cars**
7. Which of the following terms is used to describe the expansion of towns and cities - **urbanisation** metropolis citywide street creation

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8. Which UK wildlife has been affected by the expansion of towns and cities according to the letter? Name two: **Fox, Deer, badger**
9. Birmingham is described as a "metropolis". What does this mean? **Sprawling city**
10. The writer suggests that the Amazon will be reduced by a quarter. When does he suggest this will occur by? **2030**
11. What does adapt mean? **change to suit new conditions**
12. Why has there been an increase in wood burning power plants? **to reduce CO2 emissions**
13. What other reasons, other than defence of known wildlife, are offered for the campaign to protect the rainforest? **Protection of unknown wildlife**
14. What do you think governments could do to reduce greenhouse gasses? **Use solar, tidal, wind, hydroelectric power**
15. How much is the organisation asking for in donations? **£3 a month**
16. Why do you think the writer is using examples of impact on UK wildlife? **Because Mr. Jones lives in the UK**
17. How has climate change impacted the polar bear? Give one consequence: **Less Food Availability and reduced habitat**
18. What is meant by the term climate change? **global temperature increase or decrease**
19. What is a volunteer? **someone who works without money**
20. Identify a list used in the letter. **London, Birmingham, and Manchester OR our burning of fossil fuels, our expansion of cities, and our rampant deforestation OR the cure to cancer, to HIV, to bird flu, to ebola OR such as badgers, foxes, and even deer OR housing, industrial, and retail park construction**
21. Which of the following is not listed as a disease in the passage?  
HIV Bird Flu **Swine Flu** Cancer Ebola



22. What is meant by a "moral obligation"? **Having to do something because it's the right thing to do**

23. What is meant by the term "tragedy"? **negative event causing great sadness**

24. What is the food source that polar bears rely upon? **seals**

25. The letter was received by Mr Jones on November 8<sup>th</sup>. How long did it take for it to arrive? **5 days**

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. Apple    Banana    Strawberry    **Chocolate**    Orange

27. Cheese    Milk    Eggs    **Beans**    Yoghurt

28. child    youth    **vitriolic**    adolescent    infancy

29. Library    Canteen    Classroom    Staffroom    **Helipad**

30. infinite    unbounded    **indestructible**    unlimited    inexhaustible

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

27. craze ( 4 ) crass ( 3 ) crash ( 2 ) crane ( 1 ) creep ( 5 )

28. knife ( 2 ) knoll ( 4 ) know ( 5 ) knick ( 1 ) knock ( 3 )

29. brash ( 4 ) brag ( 1 ) brave ( 5 ) brand ( 3 ) braille ( 2 )

30. bleak ( 1 ) blend ( 3 ) bless ( 4 ) blind ( 5 ) bleary ( 2 )

31. grief ( 4 ) grieve ( 5 ) greed ( 3 ) great ( 2 ) grease ( 1 )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ade' (1) or 'age' (2):

32. Promen (1)

33. rough (2)

34. hom (2)

35. retrogr (1)

36. invis (2)

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In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

- 37. (**break** hold fear) (drop **smash** terrify)
- 38. (take **gift** list) (give **present** word)
- 39. (**grieve** greave grave) (leg stone **mourn**)
- 40. (flee **exhausted** fumed) (chase crashed **tired**)
- 41. (received frog **specific** ) (**precise** gave toad)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

TREE FEAR HEAT FEET

5723 5774 6724

- 42. Which of the above words is missing a code? write the code here: 4377
- 43. Find the code for the word TEETH : 47746
- 44. Find the code for the word RAFT : 3254
- 45. Find the word with the code 6246 : HATH
- 46. Find the word with the code 46737 : THERE



The following passage is an excerpt from the novel "Shipwreck bay" :

Gentle waves slapped the side of the ship, which rocked ever so slightly back and forth as the ocean swayed beneath it. The hollow sound of the water on the hull served as a bleak reminder of its emptiness - the crew wouldn't last more than a few days now. Birds circled overhead, screeching every so often to each other. Jack reckoned they were vultures, here for us once the food ran out, but the captain dismissed that as folly, saying they were merely albatrosses attracted to our brightly coloured ship in search of scraps. They flew so high however, it was difficult to say who was right. Whatever they were, they'd come to the wrong place for scraps.

The ship had been becalmed for the past week and a half, the sails hanging limply from the mast like shirts on a washing line, with not so much as a whisper of wind to fill them. The first couple of days, the crew had rowed the ship, but when the reduced rations caused people to faint, the rowing stopped, the captain instead relying on the slow lapping of waves to propel us to our destination. But with no land in sight, and no way of knowing when the next wind will come, our chances of reaching Istanbul were looking very slim indeed. The crew were exhausted, the sun beat down on the decks, and even the captain, usually so cheery, was beginning to lose hope.

This trip was supposed to make us rich - that's what the captain had said two months ago when we'd set sail. In Istanbul we'd buy spices, silks, and wonders from the far east, returning them to Portsmouth where they'd sell for ten, twenty, a hundred times what we bought them for. It was Jack that had worked hard to convince me to come. He was 2 years older than me, and I'd always looked up to him. He'd been a baker's boy back home, but had hated the monotony of it - the long hours of nothing but staring into a dark oven. I envied his life then; I worked at the local textiles factory ensuring the looms didn't jam. I'd work longer hours, for less money, and I was always worried I'd lose a finger to the heavy machines, as I'd seen poor Oliver do just a week before we left. It was that which pushed me to it, in the end. Jack and I had said our farewells and gone down to the dock to sign up, ready to make our fortune and have our adventures. My mother had waved me off, with my 10 year old sister crying after me. She's only a year younger than me but she acts so childishly. I remember that time she lost her doll into the sea, and we spent ages...

"John!"

"Yes captain?" I replied, lost for a minute in my reminiscing.

"Head up to the crow's nest with my spyglass boy, lemme know if you see anything. I reckon we should be close to somewhere by now. We have to be!"

The captain chuckled, but I could see the desperation in his eyes. I cradled the spyglass to my chest as I scrambled up the rigging.

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I didn't think I'd see anything, but it broke up the bored ritual of sitting around on deck with the rest of the crew, some of whom couldn't even get up if they'd wanted to. Besides, the crow's nest was my favourite part of the ship: being so high, able to see so far, it made me feel like a bird, like I could just fly away if I chose too. I clambered over the top of the rigging into the nest, and looked out to the horizon. As expected, the sky was blue and the sea was blue and that's all that could be seen. except, maybe... I drew out the spyglass and put it to my eye to get a better look. There, dead ahead, just on the horizon, it looked like... It was!

"Land!" I yelled down to the crew, and the captain stood beaming up at me.

"Land ahoy!"

1. How long has the crew been at sea?

2 months

2. What is the name of the narrator?

John

3. Give one reason why the narrator wanted to leave his job in England:

Oliver/losing a finger/better pay

4. Which English port were they going to return to?

Portsmouth

5. Where are they travelling to?

Istanbul

6. What is the purpose of the voyage?

Trade/buy spices

7. Why had the crew given up rowing?

Too tiring

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8. Give an example of list form the passage:

**spices, silks, and wonders OR ten, twenty, a hundred times what we bought them for**

9. what is the name of the narrator`s friend?

Jack

10. How old is his friend?

13

11. Which of the following words is a synonym of boredom?

**-monotony**, exciting, interesting, seldom,

12. Give an example of the narrator`s reminiscing:

Any part of second half of Paragraph 3

13. What was the captain`s usual personality?

Cheery/Jolly/Happy

14. Where had the narrator`s friend worked before the voyage?

Bakery

15. Why did the narrator envy his friend's job? Give one reason:

better hours/better money/no danger

16. What job did the narrator do before the voyage?

Work in a textiles factory

17. What is a spyglass?

Telescope

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18. How do we know the captain was happy with what the narrator saw from the crow`s nest?

he beamed/smiled

19. The crew had been put on "reduced rations" what does this mean?

Less food

20. Why were the crew given reduced rations?

to conserve food

21. What was the danger in the narrator`s job?

losing a finger to machines

22. How do we know the crew were exhausted?

sitting around on deck/couldnt get up if they'd wanted to.

23. Which of the following is the odd one out – sales, rigging, crow`s nest, oar, mast.

24. Why had the ship come to a halt?

No wind

25. Name a bird claimed to be seen on the voyage:

Albatross/Vulture

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

26. flawless pristine **irreverent** unblemished unstained

27. verified **ignored** substantiated supported proven

28. blame fault **indemnity** responsibility accountability

29. harrowing traumatic **belated** upsetting disturbing

30. **insatiable** frustrated exasperated discontented disgruntled

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In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

31. feel ( 5 ) feed ( 4 ) feast ( 2 ) fear ( 1 ) fed ( 3 )

32. conservative ( 3 ) concrete ( 1 ) condescending ( 2 ) convoluted ( 5 ) constituent ( 4 )

33. genial ( 5 ) genesis ( 4 ) gendered ( 1 ) generous ( 3 ) general ( 2 )

34. harrowing ( 5 ) hardly ( 3 ) hardened ( 2 ) harken ( 4 ) harangue ( 1 )

35. leafy ( 2 ) leading ( 1 ) leaking ( 3 ) lean ( 4 ) least ( 5 )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ee' (1) or 'eer' (2):

36. engin (2)

37. employ (1)

38. nomin (1)

39. auction (2)

40. ven (2)

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

41. (delay **prevent** prolong) (**stop** hasten harangue)

42. (**religion** believe pray) (argue pilgrim **faith**)

43. (**old** sprightly vivacious) (slow **ancient** morose)

44. (light **draconian** easy) (dark **harsh** wicked)

45. (brain mind **thought**) (**idea** demanded body)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

CHAR	DRAB	BEAR	READ
8437	9438	5638	

46. Which of the above words is missing a code? write that code here: 7839

47. Find the code for the word CHEERED: 564484

48. Find the code for the word ARCHED: 385684

49. Find the word for the code 94387: BEARD

50. Find the word for the code 84356: REACH

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The following is a passage from a short story. Read the excerpt and answer the questions below:

The path to the house is littered with shards of broken glass, and dead leaves that fell earlier that autumn. Winter is yet to begin however, and the leaves keep falling. The silence is deafening here - all animals seemed to avoid this place like the plague. As tall as houses, trees stood charred and blackened on either side of the gravel, which crunched loudly underfoot. It looked as if a fire had swept through this place, but left the house mysteriously intact. The full moon stared down through the branches at me, unblinking in cold indifference. I should probably turn back, but if I do, it'll only exacerbate the problems I've got at school. I've not made any real friends since starting secondary school, apart from John and James. John will think I'm a coward for life if I turn back - he already thinks I'm a wimp. James won't like it much either, though I'm sure he'd get over it. I inhale deeply, steady my nerves, and slowly creep forward towards the house.

At the porch, I stop and look up. The house is horrendously dilapidated. All the windows in the house have been shattered, apart from one ornate stained glass piece fixed above the door. The door itself is a dark oak, weathered with age, which juxtaposes greatly with the cheap planks of whitewashed wood on the porch. A brass knocker, in the shape of a gargoyle, grimaces out from the wood. It's not a pretty sight. There's a faint smell of burning in the air, and a sudden gust of wind blows up ash, which gets into my eyes and stings like wasps. I can feel it on my face, dirtying my cheeks. Once I've blinked away the tears, I take another look at the house. The brick is old and red, stained by decades of soot to give it a look of earth or clay. The beams supporting the front of the house are decaying, and I can see woodlice scuttling across the old picket fence which stands outside. I go to knock on the door, but as I reach for the handle, it opens slowly inward of its own accord, the hinges screeching like an alley cat.

As the door swings open, I step into the atrium and I'm hit with the smell of dust and moth-balled cloth, like Aunt Gladys' front room. I see the source of the ashen smell from outside: a fireplace lies in the parlour room, with the remnants of a blaze scattered among the mantle. My heart beats a little faster... I thought this place had been abandoned, ever since the owner mysteriously disappeared decades ago. Who's been lighting fires? I feel a lump begin to form in my throat, but I force it down. John said I had to get up to the attic, and I've come this far so I may as well keep going.

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I search for the stairs, finding them behind an old wooden door half rotted away. The stairs themselves are riddled with splinters. The dust has been largely undisturbed, apart from a single set of footprints heading upstairs. There were none coming down. I gulp. The steep, broken, rickety stairs glare at me, but I had to keep going. I grab the bannister, which is polished brass, and slowly but surely creep up to the next story, finding the entrance to the attic already open. I clamber up the ladder and head inside.

The attic is an endless cavern of darkness. It was a warm day outside, but here you can feel the chill to your very soul. My hair stands up on end, and I can feel the goosebumps run across my arms. What was it John said I would find up here? Suddenly I hear movement - a shuffling in the corner of the attic. I slowly edge forward...

"Who's there?" I shout, hoping its just a bird or a mouse, trapped up in here.

The shuffling starts again, and I move closer and closer to the sound, gearing myself up for anything and everything, scared and excited and anxious all at once until...

"Gotcha!" Yells John, lighting his torch so we can all see. James is there too, grinning in the corner. He always knew I'd make it really.

"We never thought you'd make it up here, congratulations man, welcome to the gang!" Says John. I smile too - I'm glad its all over. Suddenly, the trap door to the attic slams shut, and a deep-throated chuckle begins from somewhere in the attic. John, James and I look at each other - it's not one of us. John's torch goes out, and a disembodied voice says,

"Welcome to my home..."

1. What does the word 'charred' mean?

burnt, etc

2. Who thinks the narrator is a coward?

John

3. What time of year is it?

Autumn/ November/October

4. Who do you think is the better friend - John or James? Why?

James - nicer/not as mean/believes in narrator etc.

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5. What does the word 'exacerbate' mean?

to make worse

6. What does the word 'dilapidated' mean?

old and run-down/neglected etc.

7. How many windows are left intact in the house?

1

8. What material is the front door made from?

weathered oak - give 1/2 marks for word as true but vague.

9. What does the word 'grimace' mean?

ugly expression/bad facial expression etc.

10. Give a synonym for 'scuttling':

crawling/running etc.

11. What does the word 'remnants' mean?

small parts/evidence of something that came before etc.

12. Which of the five senses **isn't** used for description in the above passage?

Taste

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13. Give an example of a rhetorical question used in the passage:

who's been lighting fires?

14. What does the word "disembodied" mean?

without a body/ghostly etc.

15. Find three examples of similes in the passage:

as tall as houses/stings like wasps/screeching like an alley cat/like Aunt Gladys' front room

16. Find an example of a metaphor in the passage:

the moon stares/ an endless cavern of darkness

17. Give an example of a list used in the passage:

The front room is old, dirty, empty, and frightening

18. Who smiles in the attic?

James

19. Who laughs in the final paragraph of the passage?

ghost/unknown person

20. Which of the following words do you think best describes the house?

New   Contemporary   **Old**   Renovated   Polished

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21. How old do you think the narrator is?

11/12

22. What genre do you think this story is?

horror

23. What do you think the word 'juxtaposes' means?

compares with/contrasts with/ is different to etc.

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

24.library cafeteria classroom office    **cinema**

25.exhausted sleepy    **leviathan**    groggy    tired

26.grandiose    **malcontent**    extravagant    lavish    decadent

27.fledgling    juvenile    young    **quick**    childish

28.**mischievous**    intrepid    fearless    unafraid    undaunted

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

29.anthem ( 1 ) anthrax ( 3 ) anthropology ( 4 ) anthill ( 2 ) antithesis ( 5 )

30.federation ( 2 ) federal ( 1 ) fiduciary ( 4 ) fiddlers ( 3 ) fiscal ( 5 )

31.holistic ( 5 ) hallway ( 4 ) hallelujah ( 1 ) hallmark ( 2 ) hallowed ( 3 )

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32. gravitational ( 5 ) gravel ( 3 ) graves ( 4 ) grandiose ( 2 ) grabbing ( 1 )

33. detrimental ( 4 ) determination ( 2 ) detonation ( 3 ) destiny ( 1 ) detritus ( 5 )

Complete the following words by adding the prefix 'dis' (1) or 'im' (2):

34. **dis**enchanted

35. **dis**proportionate

36. **im**possible

37. **im**poorished

38. **im**personate

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

39. (**lamp** street pavement) (**light** chocolate concrete)

40. (**exodus** freedom truth) (**escape** light melodrama)

41. (irresponsibility laziness **blasphemy**) (**sacrilege** meningitis cabal)

42. (**lengthy** quick short) (noble sly **long**)

43. (**insidious** bereft ambivalent) (detrimental **surreptitious** delegation)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

STAT	MEAN	GONG	TENT	MINT
4873	9323	3573	6576	

44. Which of the above words is missing a code? write the code here:

MEAN - 4527

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45. Find the code for the word MATES:

42359

46. Find the code for the word SEATING:

9523876

47. Find the word for the code 93524876:

STEAMING

48. Find the word for the code 59867:

ENSIGN



The following passage is a letter written to a restaurant owner. Read the passage and answer the questions.

Tuesday 14th October 2016  
4 Marlborough Way  
London  
SW4 8WG

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am writing to complain about my recent visit to your restaurant last Saturday. The service was atrocious, the food was terrible, the drinks were far too expensive, and to top it all off the car park was unsafe. I sincerely hope the quality of your establishment increases markedly, as in my opinion it is not up to the standards I would expect from a dining experience in the West End. If your bistro was located in Brixton I would understand, but this level of service is just not up to scratch for the area you're set up in.

To begin with, we arrived and, after ten minutes of queuing, we were told that our request had not been met regarding our table. As my father is extremely old and suffers from immense back pain, my wife and I stressed the need for a soft-backed booth when placing our reservation. When we arrived, we were shown to a central table of hard-backed chairs. Ordinarily this would be absolutely fine, and the table itself was like an art piece it was so beautiful, but it would be detrimental to my father's health to endure sitting there for an extended period of time. When we informed the hostess of the mistake, she was rude and dismissive, believing our wish to be seated at a booth table to be a vain one. Eventually she relented and told us we could have a booth table, if we were willing to wait half an hour. Since the waiting area had soft-backed seats, we decided to do so.

Once we were finally seated at the table we'd requested, an extremely nice waitress Alice served us our menus and took our orders. However, I was disappointed to find that the kitchen had ran out of tuna steaks. What kind of restaurant runs out of the key ingredient in their signature dish? I ordered the sirloin steak instead, and asked for it to be cooked medium rare. When it arrived, it was extremely well done - the outside was black and rock hard. While Alice was very apologetic and had another cooked for me to the right level, it was still disappointing. I was also unable to eat with my family, as they had already received their meals.

After we'd finished our meal, we decided to have an after-dinner coffee. As I've been trying to cut down on my caffeine, I ordered a lemonade instead. However, when we received the bill I found that my lemonade was being charged at £4.50. Considering I could purchase three two litre bottles of the same drink for the same price at the newsagents next door, your price was daylight robbery! While I understand you must make some money in order to pay for bills and wages, the fact that I could plainly see the waiter pouring the lemonade straight from the bottle, and it arriving almost completely flat, left a very sour taste in my mouth.

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Finally, when we went to find our car, we discovered that one of the windows had been smashed. We asked for the CCTV footage from the camera, but were informed that the camera was only a deterrent, and therefore there was no footage available. No doubt the criminals that vandalised our Ford Fiesta knew this. I was deeply shocked that the restaurant did not have adequate security facilities within their car park, and the assistance we received from the staff was given begrudgingly, without kindness, and was ultimately extremely unhelpful.

In conclusion, a dinner to celebrate my father coming out of hospital was significantly marred by the poor quality of service at your restaurant. Apart from the politeness of our waitress, the service was vile. Given that you are located in an extremely competitive area, I was surprised you could afford such poor care of your customers. I do not expect a refund for my experience, but I am writing to inform you that I will be actively discouraging my friends and family from visiting your establishment. I hope you are able to rectify these issues.

Regards,

Joshua Walken

1. What date did Joshua go to the restaurant?

Saturday 11th October 2016

2. Give an example of a list used in the passage:

The service was atrocious, the food was terrible, the drinks were far too expensive, and to top it all off the car park was unsafe

3. Where do you think is more well known for good restaurants: Brixton or the West End?  
Why?

West End - "would expect this in Brixton" in passage etc.

4. What do you think the word 'bistro' means?

Restaurant etc.

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5. What do you think the word 'detrimental' means?

to the harm of/ is bad for etc.

6. Who went to the restaurant?

Joshua, wife, and dad.

7. How long did it take for the group to be seated?

40 minutes

8. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:

like an art piece

9. What do you think the word 'rectify' means?

to make better/improve/change for the better etc.

10. What do you think the word 'relented' means?

to give up/ to stop etc.

11. Give an example of a rhetorical question used in the passage:

What kind of restaurant runs out of the key ingredient in their signature dish?

12. How much does a two litre bottle of lemonade cost next door?

£1.50

13. What does Joshua want to order from the restaurant?

tuna steak/the signature dish

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14. What did Joshua have for dinner?

sirloin steak

15. What is the restaurant's signature dish?

tuna steak

16. Do you think lemonade contains caffeine? Why/why not?

no - Joshua is giving up caffeine so drinks lemonade instead of coffee.

17. Why did Joshua go to the restaurant?

to celebrate his father coming out of hospital.

18. Define the word 'begrudgingly':

with reluctance etc.

19. Do you think there are a lot of restaurants in the West End? Why/why not?

Yes - 'competitive' etc used in the text

20. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:

daylight robbery

21. What do you think the word 'deterrent' means?

something which wards off/scares people away etc.

22. Who or what was the only redeeming feature of the restaurant's service?

Alice the waitress



23. Name three complaints made by Joshua:

No tuna/ long wait for booth/expensive lemonade/smashed window

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

24. concrete   wood   plastic   steel   **building**

25. malevolent   angry   tasty   furrowed   **quickly**

26. severe   **cemetery**   grave   extreme   dreadful

27. **library**   novel   atlas   encyclopaedia   thesaurus

28. river   stream   **mountain**   lake   sea

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

29. grievous ( 2 ) grim ( 3 ) gridlock ( 1 ) gristle ( 5 ) grime ( 4 )

30. flatulent ( 4 ) flatline ( 2 ) flattening ( 3 ) flounder ( 5 ) flabbergasted ( 1 )

31. ocelot ( 4 ) obsequious ( 3 ) omnipotent ( 5 ) oasis ( 1 ) oblong ( 2 )

32. amphitheatre ( 4 ) arthropod ( 5 ) amphibian ( 3 ) ambling ( 1 ) amorous ( 2 )

33. quickly ( 2 ) quizzical ( 5 ) quieter ( 3 ) quay ( 1 ) quivering ( 4 )



Complete the following words by adding the prefix 'dis' (1) or 'im' (2):

34. **distort**

35. **impolite**

36. **imbecile**

37. **immobile**

38. **disarray**

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

39. (**fleeting** maroon ramble) (sprint island **transient**)

40. (sovereign antibody **persistent**) (**determined** passive antithesis)

41. (gyroscope serrated **envelop**) (impervious **cover** gravitas)

42. (overgrown **knowledgeable** unguarded) (**smart** insipid swallow)

43. (**dramatic** responsible terrestrial) (well-known foraging **theatric**)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

HEEL LARD RAGE SANE SELL  
3745 6558 9715 8792

44. Which of the above words is missing a code? write the code here:

SELL - 3588

45. Find the code for the word SHARE:

36795

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46. Find the code for the word *GLEANED*:

1857452

47. Find the word for the code 1473651:

GNASHED

48. Find the word for the code 8573653:

LEASHES



The following extract is a news report dated 14th December 2017. Read the passage and answer the questions below.

### HUMAN CALCULATOR DISCOVERS ALIEN LIFE

The scientific world is in uproar today, after examples of alien life were discovered by famed mathematician James Madison on the surface of Mars. While the life in question is merely microbial, it confirms a theory long-held by many scientists: we are not alone in the universe. Living samples are currently being cultivated for transportation back to Earth, where dedicated teams of scientists wait eagerly for the opportunity to classify and experiment with the extraterrestrial lifeforms. The organic material will be sent via unmanned spacecraft, with the astronauts staying on in Mars. Madison and his crew are currently halfway through a 3 year expedition after landing on Mars 3 months ago, the stated purpose of which is to drill for possible oil deposits and mineral reserves.

According to Mr. Madison's reports, which have been released by NASA, the microbes were discovered at 01:42 AM GMT. Mr. Madison had been examining soil samples taken from the Sea of Calm crater near Mars' north pole when he discovered a strange green discolouration within the sample. When Mr. Madison examined this discolouration under a microscope, he found that it was in fact a bacterial colony. After thoroughly double-checking the sterilisation procedures on board the shuttle, Madison concluded that the only possible source of the bacterial colony was the surface of Mars.

Mr. Madison is perhaps best well known for the Louie Forgeron documentary *Humans At The Limit*, which followed the lives of several men and women with incredible skills. He achieved special acclaim for his mental arithmetic ability - specifically the ability to derive the factors of very large numbers previously thought to be prime, and managing to do so without technical assistance. Given the title of human calculator by the presenter, Mr. Madison won the viewers' hearts with his "shy, aloof, amicable personality and quick, dry wit", according to director Derek Windbourne. It was only a year after the show was released that Mr. Madison was accepted onto NASA's astronaut program. Mr. Madison was then accelerated through the 4 year program, allowing him to embark on this mission a mere 3 years after starting training.

The information available on the alien life form itself is limited, given that substantial testing will only occur once the sample reaches a laboratory on Earth. However, NASA's Chief Science Officer Denise Lumley issued a statement earlier saying: "the life form that has been discovered is most similar in its make-up to that of an *Acanthamoeba polyphaga*, or Amoeba cell.

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However, while all life on Earth is based upon the extreme abundance of water, it seems that this particular organism has adapted to utilise the significant silicon deposits which are present on Mars' surface. We hope further study of the organism will provide us with a unique insight into the possibility of other, more complex life on other planets previously thought to be uninhabitable."

Talking to the media via video call, Mr. Madison described his "wonder" at being the first person to make contact of some sort with alien life, and talked in more general terms about the difficulty of long space missions. "I really miss my family," he said, "and it gets even more difficult at this time of year. This is the second time now I'm going to miss the holiday season because I'm stuck here on this limitless expanse of sadness and sand. It snowed last year and I missed my son's first snowman." His wife and 3 children have been contacted for comment.

**John Jameson, Science Editor**

1. What does the word 'microbial' mean?

small/bacterial etc

2. What does 'extraterrestrial' mean?

alien/not from the world etc.

3. What is Mr. Madison's current job?

astronaut

4. Roughly when did the mission to Mars leave Earth?

~14th June 2016 - accept June 2016

5. What was the original purpose of the mission?

to find oil and minerals etc.

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6. If EST is four hours behind GMT, at what time in EST were the life forms discovered?

9:42 pm

7. Define the word 'derive':

to find/discover etc

8. What does the word 'sterilisation' means?

to make clean/to remove bacteria

9. Find an example of alliteration in the passage:

aloof, amicable

10. Do you think the mission was a success? Why/why not?

Yes because they found alien life OR no because they didn't find mineral deposits OR not sure as they haven't finished their mission yet. Mark comes from their reasoning, not their initial answer.

11. Which two of the following people currently work in the television industry, according to the passage? Circle each:

**Derek Windbourne**

Denise Lumley

James Madison

**Louie Forgeron**

12. Which special time of the year is Mr. Madison most sad about missing?

Christmas

13. According to the article, roughly how long does it take to get to Mars from Earth?

1 year 3 months

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14. Define the word 'uninhabitable':

nothing living can survive there/no way to support life etc.

15. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:

human calculator/limitless expanse of sadness

16. How are the lifeforms getting back to Earth?

unmanned shuttle

17. What colour are the lifeforms?

green

18. How many children does Mr. Madison have?

3

19. Define the word "abundance":

a lot of/a large amount/no shortage etc.

20. In what year was the TV program *Humans At The Limit* released?

2012

21. Who wrote the article?

John Jameson





22. Give an example of a list in the article:

shy, aloof, amicable personality

23. Who gave James Madison the title of 'Human Calculator'?

Louie Forgeron/the presenter

24. Where exactly were the lifeforms found?

Sea of Calm/north pole of Mars. 'Mars' on its own is too vague.

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other words are vehicles.

25. weather    rainy    sunshine    **water**    climate

26. unrelenting    **quick**    relentless    continuous    unceasing

27. **happy**    voracious    unquenchable    gluttonous    greedy

28. large    leviathan    gigantic    huge    **endogenous**

29. peculiar    strange    odd    weird    **confused**

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for

example, bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

30. tarantula ( 4 )    tandoor ( 3 )    tally ( 1 )    tambourine ( 2 )    testing ( 5 )

31. children ( 2 )    childless ( 1 )    chimpanzee ( 3 )    chips ( 4 )    cholera ( 5 )



32. graduate ( 2 ) gratitude ( 4 ) graceful ( 1 ) granular ( 3 ) gravitas ( 5 )

33. livery ( 5 ) liberation ( 1 ) literature ( 3 ) litigation ( 4 ) literal ( 2 )

34. ambiguous ( 3 ) ambivalent ( 4 ) ambience ( 2 ) ambulance ( 5 ) ambidextrous ( 1 )

Complete the following words by adding the prefix 'anti' (1) or 'inter' (2):

35. **inter**mediate

36. **anti**thesis

37. **inter**active

38. **inter**net

39. **anti**biotic

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

40. (**ignore** annoy bother) (enjoy **disregard** discuss)

41. (harrowing **incensed** severe) (**enraged** scared great)

42. (**immediate** imbecile imbibed) (incredulous indentured **instantaneous**)

43. (**radical** radiation random) (revolt **revolutionary** resistance)

44. (judgmental **judgment** judicial) (decriminalise **decision** decadent)

45. The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

REAL	AFAR	ALES	SING	FREE
2589	1732	4317	1614	

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46. Which of the above words is missing a code? Write the code here:

FREE - 6433

47. Find the code for the word SAILING:

2157589

48. Find the code for the word SNAILS:

281572

49. Find the word for the code 2577534:

SILLIER

50. Find the word for the code 712342:

LASERS



Read the following extract, and answer the questions below:

Wednesday 18th August  
34 Hearst Street  
San Antonio  
Orange County  
California  
OC4 71J

Dear Arun,

How's it going? I just thought I'd send you a letter since I've been out here for a month now. It seems like just yesterday we were graduating, and saying goodbye to Professor Crimin's awful lectures - they were hell on earth! I'm sorry I'm not going to be there for your 21st birthday on Friday, but I'm sure you and the other guys will have a good time without me. I should be able to make it back for Jack's birthday in November, but if not I'll definitely be back at Christmas to see my parents, so we can hang out then.

I know I kind of left in a rush, so I'm not sure how much you know about my new set up out here. To make sure I don't miss anything, I'll just start from the beginning. When I was in my second year at university, I invented an app called Greggo, thinking I could change the world, and released it this March. Ambitious, right? It was an app named after my brother which was able to translate spoken speech into a variety of different languages instantaneously. It was a breath of fresh air to the translation world. The interest was high and the applications were almost limitless: global telecommunications, business meetings, diplomatic missions, hospitals and other public services all wanted to have it integrated with their current software. Can you imagine the time and money that would be saved by switching to this app from hired translators?

A month after it was released, I got a call from a major app development start-up in California, saying they wanted to offer me a job. I'd just been offered a £40,000 a year job with another firm here in the UK, but I had to check this offer out. The company is run by Jake Heinemann, the famous coder, ethical hacker, gamer, and web designer. That's why I flew out straight away. They gave me some coding problems to solve, and asked me questions about Greggo. It was the first time I'd talked to someone who was genuinely interested in the technology and coding behind the app, rather than just being interested in the money it could generate. It turned out the interviewer was the boss of the company too, and he was very impressed. This place is like heaven. I'm serious Arun, it's like I'm living in a dream. I've got a great office with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking a lake. The office has beanbags, sleep pods, table tennis tables, and free ground coffee, and to top it all off I'm working with some of the best programmers in the world!

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However, it's not without its difficulties. I'm working long hours, which is a pain because I'd really love to go out and explore California. While I'm earning double what I could be earning back in the UK I'm not having the time to spend it. I'm working weekends too so its difficult to do sightseeing, and difficult to relax in general. My supervisor, Jim, assures me that this is what it's like for the first few months, but it gets better. I hope that's true - I don't think I could live like this forever, even if it is a lot of fun. I also have to drive to work, which is a shame because the roads here are frightening; everyone is always in such a rush. two days ago I was nearly hit by an SUV which must have been travelling at 120 mph down the freeway, which is twice the legal speed limit! The driver swerved into my lane without indicating. I miss the roads back in Chelmsford - its difficult to get surprised by a tractor travelling at walking pace!

I've left my address at the top so feel free to write back. Are you and Anna are well? Congratulations on the engagement! See you in a few months,

All the best,

Jacob

1. When did Jacob leave for California?

18th July/July

2. Who is Arun to Jacob? circle the most likely answer:

**University friend**      Father      Brother      Boss

3. When was Arun born?

20th August 1995

4. Who do you think Jack is?

another friend/friend go Jacob's/friend of Arun's

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5. Give an example of a rhetorical question used in the passage:

Can you imagine the time and money that would be saved by switching to this app from hired translators?

6. Define 'instantaneously':

instantly/quickly etc.

7. Give two examples of a list used in the passage:

global telecommunications, business meetings, diplomatic missions, hospitals and other public services/The office has beanbags, sleep pods, table tennis tables, and free ground coffee

8. What does the word 'integrated' mean?

combined/added/joined to etc.

9. Define the term "start-up":

new company/business. accept just 'business'

10. Do you think Jacob likes his new job? Why/why not?

Yes. "so much fun"

11. Where do you think Chelmsford is? circle the answer:

In the city      by the sea      in a desert      **in the countryside**

12. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:

like a dream

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13. What is an 'SUV'?

a car/large car/vehicle etc

14. What does Jacob want to do in his spare time?

sightsee in California

15. Give three complaints Jacob has made about his job:

long hours/works weekends/has to drive to work. "it's a nightmare" too vague

16. What is the legal speed limit on the freeway, according to the passage?

60mph

17. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:

hell on earth/ this place is heaven

18. In what month did the start-up approach Jacob about a job?

June

19. Which word best describes the roads in California according to the passage? Circle your answer:

Quiet      Polluted      **Scary**      Long

20. Who interviewed Jacob?

Jake Heinemann - do not accept "boss of the company"

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21. What is the name of Jacob's app based on?

his brother

22. What is Jacob's current salary?

£80,000

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

23. chocolate    **cola**    eggs    bread    cake

24. silence    quiet    tranquility    **freedom**    noiseless

25. group    collection    gang    gathering    **friend**

26. legend    **news**    myth    story    fable

27. amicable    friendly    nice    kind    **reserved**

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for

example, bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

28. breathing ( 5 ) brash ( 4 ) brains ( 3 ) blatant ( 2 ) blasting ( 1 )

29. fledgling ( 2 ) flightless ( 3 ) floundering ( 4 ) feathered ( 1 ) frank ( 5 )

30. gangrenous ( 2 ) gathering ( 3 ) glandular ( 4 ) guarded ( 5 ) gamble ( 1 )

31. detrimental ( 4 ) deterred ( 3 ) deathly ( 1 ) dragon ( 5 ) delightful ( 2 )

32. flatulent ( 2 ) flowering ( 4 ) flavoursome ( 3 ) fickle ( 1 ) frightened ( 5 )

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Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ism' (1) or 'able' (2):

33. communism

34. probable

35. culpable

36. surrealism

37. metabolism

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

38. (**grow**, believe, flight) (hold, walk, **increase**)

39. (heaven **freedom** evening) (**liberty** quiet hell)

40. (**happy** sad reserved) (**gleeful** bored angry)

41. (boring **irrelevant** exciting) (**useless** slow ambiguous)

42. (**severed** broken famous) (unknown screw **cut**)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

SEES	GLEE	GLIB	GANG	SANE
7893	7855	1625	1551	

0 - N

1 - S

2 - B

5 - E

6 - U

7 - G

8 - L

9 - I

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43. Which of the above words is missing a code? write the code here:

GANG - 7627

44. Find the code for the word BLESSING:

38511927

45. Find the code for the word BEAGLES:

3567851

46. Find the word for the code 863581:

LABELS

47. Find the word for the code 627851:

ANGLES



22nd April 2016

Dear diary,

I'm sorry it's been two months since my last entry - I've only just got my luggage back! It got lost when I flew out here. The airport managed to leave it in Birmingham, and then somehow it was flown to Berlin in Germany, and it's been trying to catch me up as I travel ever since. Finally, here in Barcelona, I've got hold of it again. It's been a nuisance though, having no clothes. I've had to live off clothes and toiletries I bought in South Africa - I've missed all my favourite shirts!

So, there's a lot for me to fill you in on. After the hour long train ride from my house to the airport, and another 2 and a half hours waiting to board, I got on the plane. Landing in Johannesburg was a cool experience, as you fly so low over the buildings you can almost see into peoples' windows, as if the entire city were a doll's house. Once the plane landed after an 8 hour flight, I tracked down the taxi rank (without my baggage of course) and headed out to the hotel, which was only a 15 minute taxi ride away. The driver took me past some of the worst slums in Johannesburg, and was telling me all about his life growing up there. He said he'd seen Mandela get arrested, and was one of the many thousands who took to the streets to celebrate his release.

After a few days in Johannesburg, I traveled north to Harare in Zimbabwe, where I saw some of the most beautiful natural waterfalls in the world. The water comes cascading over the side of the cliff like rainfall, creating a permanent rainbow, and that water filters down into various pools where you can go bathing. The food there was brilliant too - fantastic beef and lamb, marinated for hours in local spices and often served in a flatbread. They also had some of the best wildlife I've seen so far on the trip, but I think I'll see better when I get out to Thailand. There were lions, elephants, hyenas, coyotes, and all manner of lemurs and monkeys to gawk at. The lemurs were my favourite - jumping around and popping out of holes, they were so funny!

After a quick stop in Nairobi in Kenya, crossing over the equator, I flew out to Morocco and travelled up to Spain, taking a ferry over the Strait of Gibraltar. The journey over sea was only a couple of hours, but I saw so much! We had dolphins swimming alongside the boat as mermaids, and the sky was a living artwork of albatrosses. The only disappointing thing was that the waters were very choppy, so I had to spend most of the journey clinging to a bowl inside. You know how I am when travelling. It also got colder the further north I travelled - Spain was nowhere near as hot as Kenya had been.

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Now I'm in Barcelona in Spain, and the architecture's amazing. I've just been to see the Sagrada Familia at sunset, and the light coming in through the stained glass windows was simply breathtaking. The squares here are amazing too - there's always live music going on, the smell of paella dishes fills every street, and everyone is laughing and dancing until late into the night. The food here has tasted so good too - lots of citrus flavours with melt-in-the-mouth meat. In addition to this, I've finally got my clothes back, so no more weird shirts from South Africa for me!

I'm looking forward to Thailand and Burma next week, and in a month I'll head home back to the real world. I'll try and write here everyday like I used to, now I've got the diary back. Hopefully I'll have more great adventures to record!

Narinder

1. Roughly what date was Narinder's last entry into his diary?

22nd February 2016/ February 2016

2. Why did Narinder have no clothes?  
lost his suitcase

3. What did Narinder miss most from his suitcase?

his shirts

4. Give an example of a simile used in the passage:

as if the city were a dolls house/like rainfall

5. How long did it take for Narinder to get to his hotel in Johannesburg from his house?

11 hours 45 minutes



6. Where did Narinder's taxi driver grow up?

slums in Johannesburg

7. Where were the most beautiful waterfalls?

Zimbabwe/Harare

8. Give an example of a list used in the passage:

There were lions, elephants, hyenas, coyotes, and all manner of lemurs and monkeys to gawk at

9. Give an example of alliteration used in the passage:

architecture's amazing

10. Name the only sense not used to describe Narinder's holiday:

touch

11. Give an example of a metaphor used in the passage:

as mermaids/a living artwork

12. Which country do you think is closer to the equator according to the passage- Kenya or Spain?

Kenya

13. What does the word 'marinated' mean?

spiced/left to flavour/ soaked in spices etc.



14. Why was the ferry trip disappointing for Narinder?

got travel sick

15. How long in total will his holiday be?

3 months

16. Where does Narinder think will have the best wildlife?

Thailand

17. What is the name of the stretch of water that separates Morocco from Spain?

Strait of Gibraltar

18. What do you think 'paella' is?

food

19. Which of these forms of transport did Narinder **not** use? Circle the answer:

**Car**      Train      Aeroplane      Taxi

20. What was Narinder's favourite animal?

lemur

21. Where did Narinder's luggage get sent to by mistake?

Berlin



22. How many countries has Narinder visited so far?

4

23. How regularly does Narinder write in his diary normally?

every day

24. What two countries does Narinder have left to visit?

Thailand, Burma

In each following question, circle the word that does not belong in the group. For example,

Bike    **Moon**    Car    Lorry    Aeroplane

'moon' is the odd one out here, as all the other word are vehicles.

25. feverish    sick    ill    **quiet**    unwell

26. broken    fragmented    shattered    destroyed    **old**

27. monument    **office**    memorial    statue    obelisk

28. exacerbate    aggravate    worsen    **disprove**    magnify

29. Earth    Mars    **Germany**    Jupiter    Saturn

In each of the following questions, put the words into alphabetical order. for example,

bike ( 2 ) bite ( 3 ) bump ( 5 ) bulge ( 4 ) barn ( 1 )

30. free ( 3 ) framed ( 2 ) friend ( 5 ) flee ( 1 ) fresh ( 4 )

31. grey ( 5 ) graded ( 1 ) grand ( 2 ) great ( 3 ) gree

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32. favoured ( 2 ) flavoured ( 4 ) fashioned ( 1 ) fleeting ( 5 ) feathered ( 3 )

33. admonished ( 2 ) adolescent ( 3 ) adoration ( 4 ) abrogation ( 1 ) android ( 5 )

34. gloating ( 5 ) glamour ( 4 ) glamorous ( 3 ) geography ( 1 ) geology ( 2 )

Complete the following words by adding the suffix 'ate' (1) or 'ion' (2):

35. aggregation

36. suffocate

37. ablate

38. aerate

39. emulsion

In these questions, find two words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning.  
For example,

(cheat **learn** follow) (chat **study** lead)

40. (**grade** read write) (**mark** speak hear)

41. (**free**, fall, escape) (rise, chained, **complimentary**)

42. (estimate, **abhor**, affluent) (poor, know, **detest**)

43. (**celebration**, feathered, amble) (run, **commemoration**, wooden)

44. (old, broken, **steep**) (sheer, **fixed**, wrinkled)

The number codes for three of these four words are written in random order. Work out the code to answer the questions:

DEAD PEER RING PART TEAR

7332 6352 1351 2948

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45. Which of the above words is missing a code? write the code here:

PART - 7526

46. Find the code for the word DRIPPING:

12977948

47. Find the code for the word REPEATED:

23735631

48. Find the word for the code 82336:

GREET

49. Find the word for the code 6257731:

TRAPPED

