

**SECONDARY**



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## Activity 1

### A. Read the texts. Match the animal pictures with the texts. Write A-C.

A. One of the rarest animals in the Sahara Desert is the addax. It is also known as the white antelope. It is a rather strange animal because its coat actually changes colour in different seasons. The addax has no natural enemies. However, since people have been coming to the desert in cars, the addax is in trouble. Tourists and hunters chase it. It is a slow animal, so it is an easy target for hunters. Its population is around 1,600.

B. The Amur leopard is a very rare leopard that lives only in the remote and snowy northern forests of eastern Russian's Primorye region. Its former range included Korea and northern China, but the Amur leopard is now extinct in those countries. In 2007, there were only 14-20 adult Amur leopards and 5-6 cubs. Threats facing the species include habitat loss due to logging, road building and urbanization, poaching (illegal hunting).

C. Blue whales are the largest animals on the Earth. They are even bigger than the biggest dinosaurs. Blue whales can weigh up to 200 tons. They are also the loudest animals. They are even louder than a jet engine. Like other large whales, blue whales are threatened by environmental changes including habitat loss and toxics in the oceans. Commercial whaling is not a threat for them anymore, but due to climate change and its impact on the animals they eat, they are near extinction.

1.



2.



3.



**B. Answer the questions.**

1. Why is the addax an unusual animal?

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2. Which one is **NOT** among the addax's enemies?

a. other animals in the desert   b. hunters   c. tourists

3. Why is addax's speed a disadvantage for it?

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4. Blue whales are even bigger than a jet engine.

**True   False**

5. Which one is **NOT** a reason why blue whales are endangered?

a. pollution in their habitats   b. commercial whaling   c. climate change

6. Amur leopard doesn't live in Korea now.

**True   False**

7. The biggest threat for Amur leopards is \_\_\_\_\_.

a. global warming   b. human activities   c. pollutions

## Activity 2

Read the text.

### Unusual Festivals

There are many famous festivals around the world. Some of them are very unusual. Cow Parade, The Hong Kong Bun Festival, and Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling Festival are three examples.

Cow Parade is one of the world's biggest public art events. It is organised in different cities such as Chicago, New York, Kansas City, Houston and London. Many artists paint a life-size model of a cow. Then they put the cows all around the city for people to look at. Cow Parade doesn't have to be serious. It is a public art exhibit that is fun for everyone. Most importantly, Cow Parade benefits charity. At the end of each event, artists sell their cows and give the money to a charity.

On the island of Cheung Chau in Hong Kong every year in early May, people organize a festival. It is around the time of Buddha's birthday, but the festival is not to celebrate Buddha's birthday. It celebrates the god Pak Tai, who drove pirates and illnesses away from the island. In the festival, the islanders pray for safety from pirates and illnesses. The festival lasts for seven days. For three of those days everyone on the island becomes a vegetarian. There is a parade with lion dances, dragon dances and musicians. Children put on colourful costumes. Their parents carry them high above their heads. The islanders make three 20-metre high bamboo towers and cover these with buns, which is a small cake with dried fruits. At midnight on the last day people light fires and then climb the towers to get the buns. They collect the buns and put them in their bags. When they come down from the towers, they give the buns to everyone who is watching.

People usually use cheese in sandwiches or pizzas. However, people use it for a different purpose at Cooper's Hill. They roll a large round cheese down the hill. People run after it as fast as they can. The person who catches the cheese wins the race. The winner takes the cheese home. It is a very dangerous festival. The hill is very steep and many people fall down and get hurt. Every year people break their arms or legs. There is always a big crowd of people watching – usually four or five thousands. There are about 50 people running. One of the four races is just for women.

Answer the questions. Which festival is that?

**Cow parade   Hong Kong Bun Festival   Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling Festival**

1. People don't eat meat on some days during this festival: \_\_\_\_\_
2. This festival is about a hero: \_\_\_\_\_
3. You need to be very careful if you join this festival: \_\_\_\_\_
4. People organize this festival to help others in need: \_\_\_\_\_
5. People organize this festival in more than one place: \_\_\_\_\_
6. In this festival you can eat the prize if you become the winner: \_\_\_\_\_
7. People make high towers in this festival: \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 3

**Read the text and answer the questions.**

#### Culture

San people, a famous tribe from Africa, live in the Kalahari Desert. They are also called *the Bushmen of Kalahari* or *Basarwa*. They have been living there for 30,000 years. That makes the San people one of the most ancient races!

About a thousand years ago, another African tribe moved south of Kalahari Desert area. They were surprised to find the San people already living there. The San people did not greet the newcomers with poisoned arrows. Instead, they welcomed them. They taught them how to be successful hunter-gatherers. Other tribes wandered into the area. They all lived together for a long time.

The San people live the same way today as they did thousands of years ago. They are still hunter-gatherers. They camp in one place, and then move on to find food. They know where and when wild plants are ready for harvest. Sometimes they make homes in caves. Sometimes they build huts made of branches and grass. But always, their homes are simple and part of the land.

One of the problems in Africa is droughts. The San try to find water in unusual places. They collect water in plants or in the stomachs of the animals they kill. They store the water they collect in eggshells, so they always have water to drink.

The San people are good storytellers. They tell stories about magical heroes and clever animals. The San people have their own language which includes clicking sounds. Even if you don't understand the language, you can still enjoy the stories because the San are great with the mimics and jests of people and animals.

The San people make their own medicines. They mix berries to make poisons and remedies. They know how to protect themselves from snake bites. They even have a secret substance they put in their campfires to discourage dangerous animals from visiting their camps. Scientists are working with the San people to learn about all these before this knowledge is lost forever.

1. Why do the San people move from one place to another?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where do the San people keep the water they collect?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. *Basarwa* is the name of the place where the San people live. **TRUE FALSE**

4. The San people are one of the oldest tribes. **TRUE FALSE**

5. The San people fought with the new tribes who arrived their area. **TRUE FALSE**

6. You don't need to speak the San people's language to enjoy their stories. **TRUE FALSE**

7. Dangerous animals stay away from the San people's camp

8. because of the poisonous food. **TRUE FALSE**

#### Activity 4

**Read the text.**

#### Unusual Collections

Hobbies differ like tastes. If you have chosen a hobby according to your character and taste, you are lucky because your life becomes more interesting. Collecting things is a very popular hobby. Almost everyone collects something at some period of their life: stamps, coins, books, records, postcards, toys, etc. There are also people who collect unusual things. Here are three examples.

Tony De Santis is an Italian magician. He owns the largest collection of Joker playing cards. He has 8,520 Joker cards. He got the idea in 1988 while playing a card game. Tony's collection is unique because all the Joker images on his cards are different. Tony travels to markets all over the world to find new items for his collection. He spends a lot of money on these joker cards. Some of his cards are very rare. He displays them on a wall.

Marketing and investment consultant Niek Vermeulen of the Netherlands built up the world's largest collection of airsickness bags with over 3,700 bags from over 800 different airlines. He holds the Guinness world record since 1986. One day, Niek used a sickbag to note down during a flight and put the bag in his briefcase. The idea for his collection was born. One can tell a lot about an airline's image from their airsickness bags. Some bags have no patterns on them, while others can win international design competitions. Niek and his family fly abroad each year and collect sickbags. His friends also help Niek. They bring him any unusual bags they come across in their travels. His

favourite bag is an airsickness bag from the NASA space shuttle Columbia which spent 16 days in space. Ahanjit Bhattacharya collects unclaimed money he found on streets. He started it in a strange way. While he was waiting at an empty bus-stop to catch the last bus to his home, he saw something near his feet. It was a one dollar bill! There was nobody around to claim it. While returning home, he wondered how much money one could collect this way. He decided to find out. He started collecting any unclaimed money he found on his way. In one year he collected \$17.91. In addition, he also found a 10 Euro cent, 5 GBP pence, 1 peso (Mexico) and 50 won (South Korea). This means that there's probably thousands of dollars flying around on the streets.

**Match the people with their collection. Write A-C.**

Tony De Santis    B. Niek Vermeulen    C. Ahanjit Bhattacharya

1.



2.



3.



## Activity 5

### Read the text.

Coconut Island is a beautiful, tropical island with, of course, coconut palms, golden beaches and clear blue sea. I'm sorry, I made a mistake there. Coconut Island was a beautiful island. There are still coconut palms, golden beaches and clear blue sea but not like before. So, what happened?

Well, the beach is full of people, sunbeds and umbrellas. The sea is full of speedboats, noisy jetskis and surfers. There are fewer palm trees because there are more and more buildings. Hotels, holiday resorts, guest houses, restaurants, swimming pools... you name it, Coconut Island has it. Paradise is no longer here, but the Paradise Hotel is.

Perhaps I'm the only one who has a problem with this? The tourists seem happy: the weather is wonderful, the food is tasty and cheap, and the sea is warm. The local people seem happy: there are many people selling things on the beach, there are lots more jobs and better roads. The developers are certainly happy, there is building work everywhere. So, why am I unhappy?

Well, I have a friend who was here five years ago. Her photo album is full of wonderful pictures of empty beaches. Also she has pictures of small, wooden bungalows on the beach. No need to book, she said, just turn up and you have the place to yourself – very basic, very cheap, very quiet and very peaceful.

Not anymore! The beach is never empty – it's packed all day! There is music blaring from the cafés, children are shouting and screaming, and the hotels are very expensive. Most of the hotels are full of holidaymakers who booked their trip months ago. I'm lucky to have a small room at the back of one hotel, and it's still expensive.

But perhaps this is progress? Not only are the roads better but there is also a new medical clinic. The local kids now speak English 'Mister, mister, you want t-shirt?' and there are many new businesses opening all the time.

Then I see an old woman trying to cross the road from her house to the shops. It's no longer a small, quiet road but a large and very busy one. She looks nervous and waits for someone to walk with her. The children no longer ride bicycles but race around the island on motorbikes. It's not so safe either – my friend stayed in a bungalow on the beach that had no lock. Now the hotel room says it's a good idea to put things in the safe box. Is this progress?

**Compare Coconut Island now with the island five years ago.**

**Just make notes, not full sentences.**

<b>Changes</b>	<b>Coconut Island 5 years ago</b>	<b>Coconut Island now</b>
<b>accommodation</b>	cheap bungalows	expensive hotels and resorts
<b>scenery</b>		
<b>employment</b>		
<b>transport</b>		
<b>noise</b>		
<b>security</b>		

### **Activity 6**

**Read the text.**

Robert Butler is known as 'Bamboo Bob' by his friends: he's a botanist, an agriculturalist and a leading expert on the bamboo plant. I went to ask him why he thinks bamboo is the most important plant in the world.

I found him at home in his garden but before I could ask any questions Bob had one for me. 'Is there any bamboo in your home?' I replied instantly that of course there wasn't, but he made me think again. Then I remembered that I had some lampshades made of bamboo in the bedroom, some bamboo canes in the garden to support my plants against the wind, and a bamboo tray. 'Bamboo,' said Bob 'can be used for almost anything.'

Before I could ask for some more examples he had another question for me – 'What do you know about bamboo?' I replied that I thought it was a beautiful tree, very tall and graceful with delicate leaves. I knew that it was one of the fastest growing plants in the world and that pandas liked eating it. Then Bob surprised me by saying that bamboo was not a tree at all but a grass, and that it could vary in height from dwarf, 30cm plants to giant timber bamboos that

grow to well over 30m. 'And just how fast can they grow?' he asked. I really had no idea – 10 or perhaps 20cm a day? Well, apparently a Japanese scientist had measured the growth of one variety of bamboo and claimed it had grown 60cm over a 24-hour period! That would have been in ideal conditions of heat, humidity and fertile soil explained Bob, but even in his garden he'd seen bamboo grow half that in a day. What was more remarkable, he added, was that some 20m tall bamboos reach that height in one growing season, which might be as short as two months! Now that is fast!

'And where does bamboo grow?' asked Bob. I felt more confident with my answer this time: It grew in Asia. Yes, agreed Bob, it grew in most Asian countries including India (with the largest bamboo forests), China and Vietnam. It grew in both tropical and subtropical climates, in jungles and high on mountains. It could also be found growing naturally in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. In fact it could be found on all the continents except Antarctica.

Bob told me that he had become fascinated by bamboo when, as a student, he went on an agricultural study trip to Asia. While in Vietnam he had stayed in a stilt house and after climbing the stairs to the first (and only) floor he was surprised, and a little alarmed, to discover the floor was made with strips of bamboo. 'I could see through the floor very easily,' recalls Bob 'and the strips were quite narrow, not whole poles of bamboo, I just knew I was going to fall through it!' Instead the bamboo held his weight quite easily. 'I then discovered that there are hundreds of millions of people who live in houses made from bamboo,' said Bob. 'In Bangladesh, most people live in bamboo houses. It provides not only walls and floors but also window frames, ceilings and roofs. It's amazing!'

Then in Hong Kong he witnessed another scene that confirmed how strong bamboo was. 'I was watching some men building one of those skyscrapers and I realised that the scaffolding was swaying in the wind. Then getting nearer I saw that the men weren't using steel scaffolding, but bamboo!' Astonished by this he spoke to the foreman who explained that bamboo was much better to use than steel, iron or aluminium. There were three reasons: it was almost as strong as steel, but it was lightweight so easy to transport and set up, and very flexible too so that it bent in strong winds without breaking - ideal scaffolding material then for a country prone to typhoons. 'With the added benefit of not getting too hot to touch in the scorching sun either!' grinned Bob.

Finally it was in Japan that Bob found out how durable the plant was too. 'There I discovered that some bamboo plants which had been growing near ground zero at Hiroshima in 1945 had survived the atomic blast and sent up new shoots within days.' Bob also saw bamboo used for building bridges, for musical instruments and furniture. Inspired he returned home and has been an ardent fan of bamboo ever since, growing it, writing books about it and studying it. 'There are about 1,500 documented traditional uses for bamboo, from fishing baskets to flowerpots, from flagpoles to fences, from firewood to fodder,' said Bob. "Which reminds me – come and have lunch with me.'

We went inside and sat down to eat. I wasn't surprised that the food was presented in beautiful bamboo bowls. What I hadn't expected was that to the vegetables he had added some bamboo - bamboo shoots! 'They're low in fat and calories, and a good source of fibre and potassium,' said Bob. As I ate the crisp, tasty shoots I thought perhaps Bob was right – bamboo is the most important plant in the world after all!

**With a partner try and answer the following questions:**

1. What kind of plant is bamboo?
  - a. tree
  - b. bush
  - c. grass
  
2. How tall can bamboo grow?
  - a. 20m
  - b. 30m
  - c. 40m
  
3. How long can a 20m bamboo take to grow?
  - a. 2 weeks
  - b. 2 months
  - c. 20 weeks
  
4. Where can bamboo be found growing?
  - a. only in tropical climates
  - b. only in tropical and subtropical climates
  
  - c. everywhere except Antarctica
  
5. Which sentence is true?
  - a. Bamboo is almost as strong as steel
  - b. Bamboo is much stronger than steel
  - c. Steel is much stronger than bamboo
  
6. After the atomic blast in 1945 in Hiroshima bamboo started growing
  - a. a few days later
  - b. a few weeks later
  - c. a few months later
  
7. Bamboo provides food
  - a. only for pandas
  - b. only for pandas and other bears

- c. for humans and animals

## Activity 7

### Read the text.

Tina: "For an important birthday my father offered to buy me something special. He said he'd like to buy me some pearl earrings but instead of taking me to a shop in town we drove to a large workshop called Pearl World in the countryside. It was while we were driving there that I realised I knew very little about pearls. I knew they were beautiful of course but, to be honest, I wasn't exactly sure what pearls were. My head was full of questions: "Are pearls animal, vegetable or mineral, or something else? Why do they have that lovely shine on them? Why are they expensive? Why do oysters have pearls inside them, and are they only found in oysters? Is it easy to tell the difference between real and fake pearls? What are cultured pearls? Where in the world do they grow – do they grow? Are they rare?" Feeling rather embarrassed by my ignorance I began to look forward to not only receiving but also learning more about pearls.

Luckily for me the lady who showed us around was very helpful and more than willing to answer my daft questions. Pearls, it seems, are an organic gem. They are found in bivalve molluscs (shellfish which have their shell in two parts) such as mussels or oysters, but mainly oysters. Natural pearls are formed by accident, through a defence reaction of the shellfish. It seems when an irritant has penetrated the shell, for example parasites, larvae or fragments of shell (but not grains of sand which the oyster is used to) the oyster isolates the foreign body by building up layers of calcium carbonate and conchiolin. Each pearl is made up of thousands of these layers, which are so minute they are difficult to see through a microscope. For jewellers the combination of calcium carbonate and conchiolin is called nacre, but most people call it mother-of-pearl. In the past, because natural pearls are only made by chance, thousands of oysters had to be found for only one pearl, so they were therefore incredibly expensive.

Today, however, pearls are cultured by man. An irritant is deliberately placed in the oyster, often a small bead, and the oyster is placed back in the water. Once the bead has been covered in nacre and a pearl has been formed it is harvested, usually three years later. Most cultured pearls are produced in Japan where the process was first developed. In the South Pacific, where the waters are warmer, larger oysters produce large South Sea cultured pearls and Tahitian black pearls. Freshwater pearls are cultivated in freshwater mussels, mostly in China. It makes sense then that cultured pearls are usually less valuable than natural pearls.

Imitation pearls, on the other hand, are often made from glass beads and are coated in a solution containing fish scales, this makes them easier to spot that they are fake. The Pearl World lady had three pearls for us to look at. She wanted to us to decide which one was a fake,

which one was cultured and which one was natural. Well, they all three looked the same to my dad and me! So she suggested we decide if one was heavier or lighter than the others. We agreed that one seemed a little lighter. Then she told us to, very carefully, rub the pearls along the edge of our teeth. The lighter pearl was much smoother, like glass, whereas the other two had a slightly rough surface. "That's the fake one, real pearls are heavier and the layers of nacre have a texture like fine sandpaper." Feeling pleased with ourselves we were then disappointed to learn that only jewellers can tell the difference between a cultured and a natural pearl. "One way this is done is by x-raying the pearl. If the centre is perfectly round it has been placed in the oyster to produce a perfectly round pearl. If the centre is irregular the jeweller realises it is genuine and gives it a higher value."

She also went on to explain that jewellers can recognise a fake pearl by its lustre. She made us look at the real pearls and to tell us what colour they were. The more we looked, however, the more colours we saw. The pearls were not just cream or pink; there were lots of other colours too. "That's iridescence," she explained. "The successive layers of nacre that are deposited are translucent and the way they overlap causes the light falling on the pearl to break up. The reflection and refraction of the light creates this beautiful lustre which pearls are famous for. Real pearls keep this lustre, whereas in a fake pearl it is less intense and will fade." The real pearls did indeed look incredible, and I was pleased that the time had now come for us to choose the earrings.

When my mother saw them she was delighted, and I suspect a little jealous. "Ah, but maybe these aren't real, maybe they're imitation!" she suggested, which of course allowed me to prove otherwise as I could now impart my newfound knowledge of pearls!"

**A.** Can you solve the following anagrams? What do the four things all have in common?

- a r a p e l \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- b r e b a m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- c r o a c l \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- d r l y o v \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**B.** Which is the correct definition of the following words as used in this text?

- a. cultured
  - 1. well educated
  - 2. grown for medical or scientific study
  - 3. grown artificially
- b. organic
  - 1. produced without artificial chemicals

2. produced by living things
  3. connected with the organs of the body
- c. minute
1. extremely small
  2. very detailed, careful and thorough
  3. sixty seconds
- d. penetrate
1. to see a way into or through sth
  2. to succeed in entering or joining an organization, a group, etc. especially when this is difficult to do
  3. to go into or through sth
- e. isolate
1. to separate sb/sth physically or socially from other people or things
  2. to separate a part of a situation, problem, idea, etc. so that you can see what it is and deal with it separately
  3. to separate a single substance, cell, etc. from others so that you can study it
- f. irritant
1. a substance that makes part of your body sore
  2. something that makes you annoyed or causes trouble
- g. cultivate
1. to prepare and use land for growing plants or crops
  2. to try to get sb's friendship or support
  3. to grow plants or crops
- h. imitation
1. an act of copying the way sb talks and behaves, especially to make people laugh
  2. made to look like something that is more valuable or expensive
  3. the act of copying sb/sth
- i. impart
1. to pass information, knowledge, etc. to other people
  2. to give a particular quality to sth

## Activity 8

### The Melting pot

- A. Look at the melting pot. Do you know what all the words mean? Divide them into two groups: types of food and adjectives to describe food. Use the words to describe a typical dish from your native country.



Type of Food

Adjectives used to describe food

Type of Food	Adjectives used to describe food

## **Bigger and bigger**

**By Brian Wyndham, Health Correspondent**

Obesity is now a problem all over the world, including in developing countries. Why does obesity exist in the world today? Why is it a serious problem? And what can we do about it?

### **The definition**

Obesity happens when you take in more calories than you use. If you eat more calories than you use, the body produces fat.

### **The causes**

- In general, people eat more now than in the past.
  - Food contains more fat and sugar.
  - People eat bigger meals.
  - People eat more snacks and fast food.
- People don't exercise enough and spend more time watching TV.

### **The problem**

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that obesity is a serious health problem. It causes heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. Experts say that the number of people with diabetes will double in the next 25 years.

### **The remedy**

Turn off the TV! These days, children start watching TV when they are two years old, and more and more young children have TVs in their bedroom. A Columbia University study found that children who have a TV in their bedroom have a higher chance of becoming obese

than those who don't.

Stop eating junk food! Many US schools have stopped serving junk food in their cafeterias. Others are banning soft drinks, sweets and French fries, and are serving healthy food such as grilled chicken, salads, and fruit juices in place of junk food.

### **Exercise!**

Experts say a bad diet and little exercise are making obesity a serious problem. Exercising is a great way to fight obesity and feel healthier.

#### **B. Discuss the statements below in pairs. Are they true or false?**

1. Obesity is a problem only in developed countries.
2. It happens if you eat too much fat.
3. Diabetes will probably happen as a result of obesity.
4. Children who have a television in their room are less likely to become obese.
5. Many schools in the United States are trying to prevent obesity.

## Activity 9

### A. Read the texts. Are the following statements about your reading True, False or Not Given?

#### Reading A - Flags for communicating: reading A

In sport: In motorbike or motorcar racing, flags are used to communicate with the drivers. The most famous flag is the black and white chequered flag that is waved to show that the race has finished and there's a winner. Other coloured flags include those which inform drivers to slow down or stop. In football when an assistant referee spots an offside offence he raises his flag, but the height of the raised flag also signals where the foul took place.

At war: The international sign for a ceasefire, or a request for negotiation, is the white flag. Usually it's the weaker party who wants to negotiate, so the flag is often associated with surrendering. If someone is waving a white flag, they are not allowed to be shot at, nor can they start shooting. However, in countries where white is the colour of mourning a white flag can be seen as not meaning surrender.

At sea: It is a legal requirement for all ships to fly flags, known as ensigns, showing their nationality. These can be exactly the same as the national flag, or a variation of it. If in foreign waters, the ship should also fly the flag of the country it is visiting – otherwise it can be assumed the ship is willing to fight! In addition, when arriving at a foreign port the ensign must make it clear whether or not there's anything aboard that customs should know about. If there's commercial cargo on board which hasn't been declared, the captain can be arrested for smuggling. Other maritime flags include semaphore flags which can be used to communicate between ships over short distances. The semaphore system uses two short poles with square flags, which a flag person holds in different positions to signal letters of the alphabet and numbers. When at sea the flags are red and yellow, but if used on land they are red and white. Flags on the beach can inform would-be swimmers whether or not it's safe to swim. In the UK, a red flag indicates danger and nobody should go in the water. In Europe, a blue flag indicates that the beach and water are clean.

#### Reading B - National flags:

At each Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games the first country to enter the stadium during the Parade of Flags is Greece. The Greek flag is always raised at the Closing Ceremony too in recognition of where the games first took place. The flag of Scotland is the oldest national flag still in use and dates from the ninth century. It's a cross in the shape of an 'x', called a saltire. Jamaica also has this design. However, the oldest state flag comes from Denmark and dates

from at least the fourteenth century. Most flags in use today were designed during the last 200 years.

The flags of Morocco and Vietnam are similar. Both have a red background with a large five-pointed star in the middle. However, they are both influenced by very different cultures. The former has Islamic origins. The flag of Turkey dating from 1844 is almost identical to the last flag of the Ottoman Empire. Its crescent, and then the five-pointed star which was added later, have become symbols of Islam and have inspired flags from other Muslim states including Morocco, as well as Tunisia, Malaysia and Pakistan. This includes one of the world's newest flags: Iraq's redesigned flag includes a pale blue crescent on a white background, although there is no star. Vietnam's flag, on the other hand, has communist origins. The flag of the Soviet Union with its golden hammer and sickle (representing the workers) and five-pointed star (representing communism) on a red background influenced communist countries such as Vietnam, along with the People's Republic of China, Angola and Mozambique. Mozambique's flag is the only one that features a modern weapon, and there has been discussion about whether the AK-47 should remain.

Other unique flags include the Nepalese flag which is the only national flag not to be rectangular. Instead there are two triangles, one on top of the other. The flag of Libya is the only flag to consist of a single colour (green) and with no other design on at all. And the flag of Cyprus is also unique in that it features a map of the whole of the country on it; no other flag does this.

#### **Reading c** - International organizations' flags:

The Olympic flag has five interlocking rings of blue, dark yellow, black, green and red. These colours, on a white background, were chosen because at least one of them was on every national flag at the time it was designed (in 1913). It made its first appearance in the Antwerp games of 1920. Even today every national flag has at least one of the six colours.

The United Nations flag, adopted in 1947, has a pale blue background, with a white map of the world in the centre framed by olive branches. The view of the Earth is centred on the North Pole, with the surrounding olive branches representing peace.

The European flag has been used since the 1950s and appears on all the euro currency banknotes, and the stars of the flag appear on euro coins. Many people think that each star represents one member country of the European Union but this is not true. The number of stars is fixed at 12 regardless of how many countries are members (in fact by 2006 there were 25 member states). The gold five-pointed stars are in a circle on a dark blue background and each one is placed in the position of the hours on a clock. They are placed with one of their five points at the top; the stars do not rotate.

Both the Red Cross and Red Crescent movements are named after the design of their flags. The red cross design is a reversal of the Swiss national flag because the organization was founded

by a Swiss called Henry Dunant. Both flags are considered protection symbols in conflict. The red crescent was first used by the Ottoman Empire so as not to alienate Muslim soldiers and was formally recognized in 1929. Over 150 countries use the red cross and over 30 use the red crescent, some use both. However, in 2005 a third protection symbol was introduced: The Red Crystal. This distinctive emblem is 'devoid of any religious, political, ethnic or other connotation'. Eritrea and Israel are likely to be the first two countries to use it. The countries using both the red cross and the red crescent may also start using the red crystal.

**Reading A:** Flags are rarely used for communicating nowadays. T / F / NG

**Reading B:** Most national flags are red, white and blue. T / F / NG

**Reading C:** The ICRC has two different flags: the red cross and the red crescent. T / F / NG

**B. Choose the gap with the corresponding word(s).**

1. Both flags are \_\_\_\_\_ protection symbols in conflict.
2. In the UK, a red flag on the beach \_\_\_\_\_ danger.
3. Mozambique's flag is the only one that \_\_\_\_\_ a modern weapon.
4. The height of the raised flag also \_\_\_\_\_ where the foul took place.
5. The Libyan flag is the only one to \_\_\_\_\_ of a single colour.
6. The stars on the EU flag do not \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Turkish flag has \_\_\_\_\_ flags from other Muslim states.
8. The United Nations flag was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1947.
9. Without the flag of the country being visited, it can be \_\_\_\_\_ the ship is willing to fight.

## Activity 10

### Read the text.

I can't believe I'm doing this! It's 4.30 in the morning, pitch black and freezing cold. Nevertheless I find myself getting out of bed and getting dressed. A car horn sounds as I'm putting on a thick coat and wrapping a scarf around me. I grab a hat and join Jim Nightingale in his car. He doesn't seem to mind it's cold and dark, in fact he's smiling. "You're going to love this," he says as we drive off to the nearest park, I'm not so sure.

Jim is what we call a 'twitcher'. This doesn't mean that he's got a nervous twitch, it means he's mad about our feathered friends. At any opportunity he'll be watching quietly, and sometimes excitedly, through his binoculars at a bird. He always has his guidebook to hand, although he seems to know all the birds he sees! Don't get me wrong, I like birds, but I just don't get as crazy about them as Jim. Recently, when he found out that I had never heard the dawn chorus he insisted that we meet at this unearthly hour and head for the local park.

So here we are, luckily Jim has brought hot coffee and a warm rug to sit on. If anyone can see us they must think we're mad – a picnic in the park before the sun rises! After ten shivering minutes there is a very faint light over the eastern side of the park, a suggestion of the day ahead. "Listen," whispers Jim. I listen, nothing. Then clearly and loudly a bird starts singing. "That's the robin, he's usually first." After a few seconds another bird joins in "A blackbird" and then another "A blue tit". It's amazing, twenty minutes later the whole park is alive with the shrieking, calling, singing of birds! And yes, it's wonderful! The noise is incredible, the lighter the sky becomes the louder the birds sing, an incredible avian concert.

"Wow, so they do this every morning?" I ask in disbelief. "Most mornings there are some birds singing but the best time is at the end of the winter and during the spring. May and June are the peak months for birdsong." "So are they singing because they're happy?" "Not really," Jim laughs, "in fact they're hungry but they need to do two things. One is to defend their territory and the other is to find a female – by singing they can achieve both." Jim sees my puzzled face and explains. "The birds are nearly always males, they want to have an area of their own to breed. By singing louder and more strongly than other males means that they keep their territory. Some of the birds are quite cunning – they mimic the call of other birds so it sounds like there are many birds nearby, not just the one. Also they know that the females are listening so they want to impress, they develop and redevelop their songs and these can get quite complex. A bird that has a good repertoire, and can sing so heartily even when it's hungry, is sure to get a mate for the spring." By now Jim is having to speak quite loudly because the noise of the singing has really intensified.

We listen together for a while and then slowly but surely, as the sun emerges above the trees, the birds stop singing. "Now it's light enough to find food, that's the end of the show today."

We walk back to Jim's car. "I didn't realize there were so many birds in the town," I say "Yes, but not as many as before. Some birds are better at living in towns and adapting to a human world. For example, in big cities the blue tit adjusts its song so that it can be heard more easily over the sound of traffic. In quiet streets the bird has its usual tone, but in busy, noisy

streets with a lot of traffic the birds sing higher so that the females can still hear them. By adapting like this means they have a better chance of surviving. Unfortunately, other birds aren't so clever. The sparrow used to be a very common bird, you could see it everywhere, but the population has dropped 87% over the last thirty years. The increasing noise and light from our cities means that they are unsuitable for many breeding birds."

Driving home I'm trying not to yawn too much. "But sometimes I hear a bird singing loudly at night, why is that?"

"Ah, that's the robin. As you saw it was the dawn which triggered the birds to start singing, and the robin is usually first because it's the most light sensitive. So if it wakes up at night and sees a streetlight shining then it thinks it's morning and starts singing. People don't realize how their actions can affect wildlife. However, feeding the birds and putting up nest boxes helps a lot."

Back in bed I'm pleased that Jim made me listen to the dawn chorus, but I also feel sad that some birds are disappearing. As I set my alarm to wake up in a few hours' time, I also make a mental note to visit the pet shop when I awake.

**Find the words or expressions that have the same meaning as:**

- a very dark \_\_\_\_\_
- b birdwatcher \_\_\_\_\_
- c birds \_\_\_\_\_
- d very early in the morning, and perhaps annoying \_\_\_\_\_
- e shaking slightly because you are cold \_\_\_\_\_
- f to do with birds \_\_\_\_\_
- g good at tricking or cheating (people) \_\_\_\_\_
- h to copy \_\_\_\_\_
- I all the songs that a singer knows \_\_\_\_\_
- J to make something happen suddenly \_\_\_\_\_
- k to remember something without writing it down \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### Activity 1

A. 1.B 2.C 3.A

B. 1. Its coat changes colour in different seasons. 2. a. other animals in the desert 3. It becomes an easy target. 4. False 5. b. commercial whaling 6. True 7. b. human activities

### Activity 2

1.Hong Kong Bun Festival 2.Hong Kong Bun Festival 3.Cooper’s Hill Cheese Rolling Festival  
4.Cow parade 5.Cow parade 6.Cooper’s Hill Cheese Rolling Festival 7.Hong Kong Bun Festival

### Activity 3

1.to find food 2.in eggshells 3.F 4.T 5.F 6.T 7.F

### Activity 4

1.C 2.B 3.A

### Activity 5

Changes	Coconut Island 5 years ago	Coconut Island now
accommodation	cheap bungalows	expensive hotels and resorts
scenery	empty beaches, lots of palm trees	beaches full, many buildings
employment	fewer jobs	people sell things on the beach, new businesses inc. hotels and restaurants
transport	small roads, bicycles	big roads, motorbikes
noise	quiet and peaceful	v. noisy – music, jet skis
security	safe, no need for lock	need to use safe box

### Activity 6

1.c 2.b 3.b 4.c 5.a 6.a 7.c

### Activity 7

**A.** a. pearl b. amber c. coral d. ivory

**B.** a. 3 b. 2 c. 1 (careful with pronunciation: /mal'nju:t/ not /'mlnlt/) d. 3 e. 1 f. 1 g. 3 h. 2 i. 1

### Activity 8

**A.**

Kinds of food: rice, onion, corn, eggs, beans, potato, flour, tomato, garlic, pasta

Adjectives: tasty, bland, spicy, delicious, mild, sweet, salty, hot, bitter, horrible

**B.**

1. false (including developed countries)
2. false (if you eat more calories than you use)
3. true
4. false (more likely)
5. true

### Activity 9

**A.** Reading A. F; Reading B. NG; Reading C. F

**B.** 1. considered 2. indicates 3. features 4. signals 5. consist 6. rotate 7. influenced 8. adopted  
9. assumed.

### Activity 10

**a.** pitch black; **b.** twitcher (this is a colloquial term); **c.** our feathered friends (coll); **d.** at an unearthly hour; **e.** shivering; **f.** avian (e.g. avian flu); **g.** cunning; **h.** to mimic; **i.** a repertoire; **j.** to trigger; **k.** to make a mental note