

How Venus fly traps developed a liking for meat

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

Fill in the gaps with the correct word from the table below.

New research (1) d light on how carnivorous plants like the Venus fly trap developed a (2) d for meat. A study from the University of Würzburg in Germany suggests that subtle changes (3) b the genetics of plants led to some becoming carnivorous. These changes led to the development of some of nature's most (4) c species. Carnivorous plants adapted novel and devious ways to entice and snare insects. The Venus fly trap uses clam-like leaves that (5) c shut when an insect crawls between them. The pitcher plant is shaped like a vase - insects go inside and then cannot crawl up the (6) a insides. The sundew plant has long sticky leaves, which roll up after insects get stuck on them.

Researchers in a variety of (7) b collaborated in the study. They included computational evolutionary biologist Jörg Schultz and plant biologist Rainer Hedrich. They sequenced and compared the (8) a of carnivorous plants to non-carnivorous plants. They discovered that meat-eating plants developed from the same common ancestor about 60 million years ago. Dr Schultz said: "We were able to (9) b the origin of carnivorous genes back to a (10) c event that occurred many millions of years ago in the genome of the last (11) c ancestor of the carnivorous species." Dr Rainer added: "The function of these genes is related to the ability to sense and digest animals and to utilise their (12) d."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) caves | (b) shacks | (c) cabins | (d) sheds |
| 2. | (a) taster | (b) tasted | (c) tasty | (d) taste |
| 3. | (a) by | (b) in | (c) at | (d) on |
| 4. | (a) pressure | (b) myriad | (c) ingenious | (d) spectacle |
| 5. | (a) close | (b) clip | (c) snap | (d) boot |
| 6. | (a) slippery | (b) properly | (c) surly | (d) surely |
| 7. | (a) lawns | (b) fields | (c) parks | (d) patches |
| 8. | (a) genomes | (b) gnomes | (c) gnocchi | (d) gnostic |
| 9. | (a) etch | (b) trace | (c) sketch | (d) draw |
| 10. | (a) multiply | (b) times | (c) duplication | (d) addition |
| 11. | (a) heath | (b) dale | (c) common | (d) moor |
| 12. | (a) sentient | (b) recipients | (c) ingredients | (d) nutrients |

Car rental group Hertz files for bankruptcy

GAP FILL

From <https://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/2020/05/25/hertz-files-for-bankruptcy/>

The car rental company Hertz has (1) **filed** for bankruptcy protection in the US after (2) **plummeting** rentals. Hertz is the world's second largest car rental company and is a (3) **household** name. It operates over 10,200 franchises in 150 countries on six continents. It is one of the highest-profile companies to file for bankruptcy because of COVID-19. It had already (4) **furloughed** or laid off more than 20,000 of its employees as rentals dried up worldwide. This is about half of its global (5) **workforce**. It said: "The impact of the pandemic on travel demand was (6) **sudden** and dramatic, causing an abrupt decline in the company's revenue and future (7) **bookings**." Hertz had \$18.8 billion of (8) **debt** on its books as of March the 31st.

furloughed
debt
workforce
plummeting
bookings
filed
sudden
household

Hertz was (9) **founded** in 1923 when John Hertz of the Yellow Cab and Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Company bought a small car rental company. He (10) **pioneered** what he called a "drive yourself" system, making available just a dozen Model T Ford cars to customers. His (11) **mission** was, "to be the most customer-focused, cost-efficient (12) **vehicle** and equipment rental company in every market." CNN wrote about how the pandemic has (13) **impacted** Hertz and the entire car rental industry. It said rentals have been "devastated by the (14) **plunge** in travel since the pandemic hit earlier this year". It added: "Nearly two-thirds of its (15) **revenue** comes from rentals at airport locations, and air travel has fallen (16) **sharply**."

pioneered
vehicle
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Nonfiction Reading Comprehension Test

Hummingbirds

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Have you ever heard the sound of a hummingbird? They make a buzzing noise when they fly. They make this noise because they beat their wings so fast. They beat their wings up to 80 times a second. All that flapping makes a lot of noise. That's why we call them hummingbirds.

Hummingbirds fly in a unique way. They move their wings so fast that they can hover. This means that they can stay in one spot in the middle of the air, like a helicopter. Sometimes they fly or hover upside down. They are the only bird that flies backward.

Hummingbirds are small. One type called the bee hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world. Bee hummingbirds weigh less than a penny. They are just a little bit bigger than bees. I guess that's where they get their name.

Bee hummingbirds build tiny nests. They use cobwebs and bits of bark to make their homes. Their homes are only an inch around. This is big enough for their eggs though. Their eggs are smaller than peas. People have found these tiny nests on a clothespin.

Hummingbirds move fast. It takes lots of energy to move as fast as they do. This means that they need to eat a lot of food. Their favorite food is nectar, a sweet liquid inside of some flowers. They drink more than their own weight in nectar daily. They have to visit hundreds of flowers to get enough nectar to live. They can only store enough energy to survive through the night. They live on the edge.



Hummingbirds don't use their long beaks like straws. They have a tongue just like you. They use their tongues for eating. They flick their tongues in and out of their mouths while inside of flowers. They lap up nectar. Flowers give them the energy that they need.

Hummingbirds help flowers too. They get pollen on their heads and bills when they feed. Flowers use pollen to make seeds. Hummingbirds help pollen get from one flower to the next. This helps flowers make more seeds. More seeds means more flowers. More flowers means more food for hummingbirds. Isn't it nice how that works out?

1. Why are they called hummingbirds?
 - a. They are very light
 - b. They sing when they fly
 - c. **Their wings make a humming sound**
 - d. Their song sounds like humming

2. How do hummingbirds eat?
 - a. They drink nectar through their beaks like a straw.
 - b. They chew up flower petals with their beaks.
 - c. They use their heads and bills to eat pollen.
 - d. **They lap up nectar with their tongues.**

3. How do hummingbirds help flowers?
 - a. They drink nectar.
 - b. They eat pollen.
 - c. **They bring pollen from one flower to the next.**
 - d. They plant seeds.

4. According to the text, which does the bee hummingbird use to make nests?
 - a. straw
 - b. concrete
 - c. **bark**
 - d. sticks

5. Which best describes the main idea of the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Hummingbirds move fast.
 - b. Hummingbirds like to eat nectar.
 - c. **Hummingbirds use lots of energy and eat often.**
 - d. Hummingbirds drink their own weight in nectar every day.

6. Which statement about bee hummingbirds is **not** true?
 - a. Bee hummingbird eggs are smaller than peas.
 - b. Bee hummingbirds weigh less than a penny.
 - c. Bee hummingbirds have built nests on clothespins.
 - d. **Bee hummingbirds do not grow larger than bees.**

7. What is unique about the way that hummingbirds fly?
 - a. They can fly faster than any other bird.
 - b. They can fly longer than any other bird.
 - c. **They can fly forward and backward.**
 - d. They can only fly for a few seconds at a time.

8. Which best defines the word **hover** as used in paragraph two?
 - a. **To stay in one spot in the air**
 - b. To clean an area thoroughly
 - c. An animal that has hooves
 - d. To move your wings very fast

9. Why do flowers need pollen?
 - a. Flowers eat pollen.
 - b. Pollen attracts hummingbirds.
 - c. Hummingbirds eat pollen.
 - d. **Flowers use pollen to make seeds.**

10. Which title best describes the main idea of this text?
 - a. *Bee Hummingbirds: The World's Smallest Bird*
 - b. *Pollination: How Birds and Flowers Work Together*
 - c. ***Hummingbirds: Unique and Uniquely Helpful***
 - d. *Interesting Facts About Birds*

1. He won't be able to finish studying those reports at the office. He wants to ____ at home.
A) look for them B) look after them
C) **look them over** D) look them up
2. Some of the tenants are upset because the landlord won't ____ the building.
A) keep off B) keep on C) keep up with D) **keep up**
3. Many of the items ____ were given to the poor.
A) sell B) sale C) sold to D) **not sold**
4. Mr. Green received all the complaints ____ to our office.
A) **sent** B) were sent C) sending D) be sent
5. Anyone ____ in hunting can come with me.
A) interesting B) **interested**
C) was interested D) was interesting
6. War and Peace is a long novel ____ by Leo Tolstoy.
A) **written** B) it was written
C) was written D) wrote
7. Have you met the new secretary ____ last week?
A) **hired** B) was hired
C) she was hired D) when she was hired
8. ____ entering the hall, he found everyone waiting for him.
A) At B) While C) **On** D) In
9. His parents died when he was young, so he was ____ by his aunt.
A) brought out B) grown up
C) **brought up** D) grown
10. You can't rely ____ him to do the job properly.
A) **on** B) with C) to D) in
11. Don't make him ____ it if he doesn't want to.
A) **do** B) doing C) to do D) done
12. He rushed out of the room, ____ the door as he went.
A) slam B) **slamming** C) slams D) slammed
13. He arrived without ____ us that he was coming.
A) warn B) **having warned**
C) have warned D) to warned
14. The man ____ for a bus were knocked down when a lorry skidded and ran off the road.
A) wait B) **waiting** C) waited D) were waiting
15. After ____ all the doors and windows thoroughly, I went to bed.
A) check B) have checked
C) **having checked** D) have been checked
16. The man is going to drown ____ ~~nobody~~ ^{anyone} jumps into the river to save him.
A) in case B) **unless** C) so D) that
17. Martin hasn't got a library ticket, ____ he can't borrow books from the library.
A) **so** B) unless C) if D) that
18. ____ you have driven a car like this, you will never want to drive any other car.
A) **Once** B) In case C) Although D) Therefore
19. He looked ____ he had seen a ghost.
A) as B) **as if** C) like D) because
20. Don't use the car ____ it is absolutely necessary.
A) if B) so C) because D) **unless**
21. You can take books out of the library ____ you bring them back.
A) **provided** B) unless C) because D) so
22. It is ____ an expensive hotel that only the rich can afford it.
A) ___ B) very C) so D) **such**
23. The restaurant was ____ crowded that we couldn't get a table.
A) ___ B) such C) **so** D) very
24. He has ____ large feet that he can't get shoes to fit him.
A) so B) ___ C) very D) **such**
25. He gave me ____ good advice that I was able to save thousands of pounds.
A) ___ B) very C) so D) **such**
26. ____ it is getting late; I suggest we break off now.
A) As though B) So C) **As** D) Where
27. ____ I can see, he has no intention of paying the bill.
A) **As far as** B) So C) Because D) When
28. We will have a picnic on Saturday ____ it rains.
A) if B) as if C) however D) **unless**
29. He meets ____ people that he can't remember all their names.
A) **so many** B) so much C) very many D) too many
30. ____ he does his work, I don't mind what time he arrives at the office.
A) **As long as** B) As C) Unless D) So
31. ____ a good thing you didn't get caught.
A) That's B) **It's** C) What is D) There is
32. We'll go to Paris for our holiday ____ it isn't too expensive.
A) unless B) **provided** C) so D) except
33. It looks ____ it is going rain.
A) that B) as C) **as if** D) like
34. ____ the weather was fine, I opened all the windows.
A) **As** B) Because of C) Due to D) Since that
35. I'll leave him a note ____ he'll know where we are.
A) **so that** B) that C) in order that D) for
36. ____ he worked all day, he couldn't finish the job.
A) Even B) In case C) So D) **Although**
37. ____, the music company cancelled the record contract.
A) **The band having broken up**
B) The band has broken up
C) They have broken up the band
D) The band broke up
38. It's difficult to make both ends meet these days, the taxes ____ so high.
A) with B) **being** C) are D) be
39. Customers ____ with the product can return it to the store.
A) who buy B) bought C) purchased D) not satisfied
40. He ate all the meat ____.
A) A) giving him B) **given to him**
C) gave to him D) had given to him
41. Most tarantulas, ____ occur in the temperate zone, live in the tropics.
A) which they B) some of them
C) **several species of which** D) several species also
42. ____ two years ago, Rita's car costs five thousand dollars.
A) **Purchased less** than B) To buy a car
C) Expensive cars D) Buying automobile
43. Mrs. Smith answers all the letters ____ to her husband.
A) **sent** B) send for C) are sent D) sending
44. I have two cars, ____.
A) and so do I B) **both of which are** old
C) all of them stolen D) and I do too
45. Ronald Eliot, ____, is in my English class.
A) his brother is a pilot B) **whose brother is a pilot**
C) who's his brother a pilot D) whose not a pilot
46. Anyone ____ in taking the course can enroll next week.
A) wants B) is interested C) **interested** D) wanting
47. "Sunflowers" is one of many beautiful pictures ____ by Vincent van Gogh.
A) **painted** B) was painted
C) it was painted D) when it was painted
48. Raymond has two brothers, ____.
A) **both of whom live in Turkey** B) whom they live in Turkey
C) both of them live in Turkey D) one of them lives in Turkey
49. ____ only two elderly people who were enjoying the beautiful weather.
A) ___ B) As many as C) **There were** D) It was
50. There were twenty people near the scene, ____ saw the accident.
A) **all of whom** B) most C) whom D) both of them

Phrasal Verb Gap Fill Worksheet C-D

Complete this exercise by choosing one of the phrasal verbs given in the box below. Each phrasal verb is used one time. Sometimes, you must use a pronoun between the main verb and the particle. If this is the case, the required pronoun can be found in brackets after the space.

Remember the tenses!

1. They decided to name their son Arthur like after the husband's father even though she wanted to **call him after** _____ (him) her brother Vincent.
2. We don't want to **call off** _____ the baseball match now. A lot of people have already bought tickets.
3. My father was **called up** _____ into the army when he was only 17.
4. My aunt is a type of nurse. She **cares for** _____ elderly people at a residential care centre.
5. The 3 men who robbed the First National Bank were confronted by the most technologically advanced security system developed for a bank but they still managed to **carry it off** _____ (it).
6. With property prices so high now, you should **cash in** _____ on your house before they fall again.
7. She needs to **catch on** _____ to what her boss is doing behind her back. She will go to jail with him!
8. Seeing as I have the day off today, I will **catch up** _____ on my correspondence.
9. Try and get your brother to **cheer up** _____. He looks thoroughly miserable!!
10. Every air crash **chips away** _____ at the public's confidence in the airlines.
11. The new owners will be here on Monday so we need to **clear out** _____ totally by then.
12. The police say they are **closing in** _____ on the serial killer after his ex-wife came to them.
13. I fear Mary has **come down with** _____ the flu again. She catches it off the other kids at school.
14. John planned the speech meticulously and everything **came off** _____ really well. It was a great success.

15. The union has come around to the restructuring plan after several weeks of tough negotiation.
16. The photocopier isn't working so I have to copy out this document by hand.
17. Mandy will be away all next week so I want you to cover for her.
18. When I arrived to vote, I found that my name had been crossed off the list - someone else had voted in my name!
19. The passenger pigeon died out in the USA in the 19th Century.
20. I think the government should do away with all laws pertaining to public speech and expression.
21. We are totally lost Mike. Why don't we double back and try and find our original path.
22. The general meeting dragged on for two hours longer than anticipated.
23. If we want that yacht, you realise we will have to draw out all our savings from the bank.
24. Stop beating about the bush, Tony. What are you driving at when you say "more money"? Do you want a pay rise or not?

| | |
|--|--|
| carry off cover for do away with copy out close in draw out catch up call after catch on come round drag on clear out | die out double back care for cross off come down with drive at cheer up come off call up call off cash in chip away |
|--|--|

That's Not A Noun!

Look at the list of verbs in the box below. They are also all, incredibly, nouns. Try to select the correct ones to fill the spaces

go
swim
play

drive
count
stand

hold
climb
pull

try
fly
drop

1. The very tight election was only decided after the fifth count when the challenger accepted defeat by only 38 votes.
2. I had hoped the sore muscle was just a strain but the physio confirmed that it was a pull.
3. A touchdown in American football is the equivalent to a try in rugby.
4. Our company was really helped when we managed to get a stand at the local trade fair.
5. There is a fly in the room. It has been buzzing around annoying me for more than an hour.
6. It is illegal to put any type of pressurized gas container in luggage which will be put into the hold of an aircraft.
7. After lunch, I went for a swim in the lake, but the water was too cold.
8. We had a recruitment drive at my local sailing club and eventually signed up more than twenty new members.
9. You need hardly any of that lotion on your hands - just a drop.
10. Getting to the summit from where we had started in the morning involved a climb of about 8000 feet in total.
11. Shakespeare wrote over twenty plays in his writing career.
12. Can I have a go on your motorbike if I promise to be really careful?