

GAP FILL

"Panda conservation drive harms other mammals"

Zoologists have long (1) _____ saving the giant panda from the brink of extinction as a conservation success (2) _____. For decades, the panda has been the "poster animal" for all endangered species. It is even on the (3) _____ of the World Wildlife Fund. The International Union for Conservation of Nature removed it from the endangered species list in 2016, although it remains "(4) _____". Many conservationists are now (5) _____ this has come at a cost to other (6) _____, especially those sharing its habitat. A study published in the (7) _____ Nature Ecology and Evolution found that the leopard, snow leopard, wolf and Asian wild dog have almost disappeared from the (8) _____ of areas in which the giant panda lives.

story
concerned
vulnerable
majority
hailed
journal
logo
mammals

Researcher Professor Sheng Li, from Peking University, (9) _____ the efforts to protect the giant panda but lamented this has come at the (10) _____ of some of China's larger, carnivorous mammals. Since panda conservation areas were (11) _____ in the 1960s, Asian wild dogs have disappeared from 95% of protected (12) _____, leopards from 81%, wolves from 77%, and snow leopards from 38%. Professor Li said his findings "(13) _____ the insufficiency of giant panda conservation for protecting these large (14) _____ species". However, he added: "Failing to safeguard these large carnivore species does not (15) _____ the power of the giant panda as an umbrella that has effectively (16) _____ many other species."

established
sheltered
commended
erase
indicate
expense
reserves
carnivore

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

"Scientists discover why shaving blunts razors"

Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor blades become blunt (1) _____ repeated use. They did research into why razor blades lose their (2) _____. Razor blades are 50 times harder than the hairs they cut. Even (3) _____ human hair is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages the edge of the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless steel. They are usually (4) _____ with tougher materials like hardened carbon. The MIT scientists said that each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes (5) _____ amounts of damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in one shaving session. This means the life of a razor blade is (6) _____ and will need to be replaced regularly.

The researchers used powerful microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got a close-up (7) _____ of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged in a (8) _____ of ways. One way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade. This chip becomes bigger (9) _____ it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses (10) _____ ability to cut cleanly and becomes blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to...make better metals. In (11) _____ case, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the hard material would fail." He said his team is "aiming (12) _____ solve an important engineering problem".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) post | (b) after | (c) follow | (d) then |
| 2. | (a) sharpen | (b) sharply | (c) sharp | (d) sharpness |
| 3. | (a) through | (b) though | (c) thou | (d) thought |
| 4. | (a) jacketed | (b) clothed | (c) coated | (d) worn |
| 5. | (a) tiny | (b) tinted | (c) tinny | (d) teeny |
| 6. | (a) limited | (b) incorporated | (c) public | (d) private |
| 7. | (a) stare | (b) gaze | (c) watch | (d) view |
| 8. | (a) variety | (b) various | (c) varied | (d) varied |
| 9. | (a) was | (b) as | (c) has | (d) thus |
| 10. | (a) their | (b) them | (c) its | (d) what |
| 11. | (a) what | (b) as | (c) this | (d) much |
| 12. | (a) for | (b) to | (c) at | (d) by |

Name _____

Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Algebra

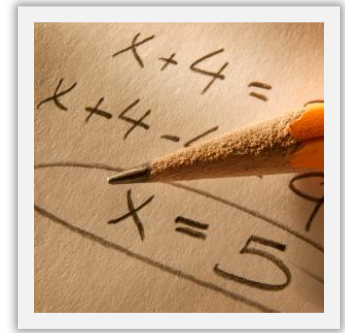
You are at a store that is having a sale. In the sale, if you buy two of anything, you get the third for half off. You have \$50. What is the most expensive thing you can buy?

The world we know is filled with things we do not know like the situation above. Mathematicians know this as well as anyone. Because of this, they invented an entire branch of mathematics to work with uncertain facts. That is, of course, algebra.

Algebra is broadly defined as the branch of mathematics devoted to doing arithmetic on objects that are not necessarily numbers. Mathematicians use algebra to either find unknown numbers or to find numbers that do not even exist. Algebra allows us to find the number of objects we can purchase with \$50. But it also allows us to find the number of objects we could purchase with any amount of money.

Though algebra always existed in idea, it was not until the end of the 16th century that it existed in a more structured form. The French mathematician François Viète was the first to introduce notations for algebra problems. Before him, the Greeks and Arabs had come up with ways of finding unknowns. But they had not come up with a way of writing the problems so that they could be used again and again with different unknowns. Viète set up a structure and system of symbols for writing down all algebraic problems so that the specifics could change from situation to situation. That structure is still widely used today, even though he did not even have the equal sign (=) to use!

As much as you might hate doing algebra in school, you have to like the fact that it exists in the world. Try living before Viète in a world where we cannot all agree on how to find unknown information. Of course, such a world itself would be unknown, so how could we even describe it?



- 1) The main function of paragraph 2 is to
 - A. challenge a common theory
 - B. introduce the main topic
 - C. answer the question posed in the first paragraph
 - D. explain the importance of the history of algebra

- 2) According to the passage, algebra
 - A. allows one to find unknown numbers
 - B. is the branch of mathematics devoted to the use of money
 - C. involves the use of symbols to describe known shapes
 - D. cannot be used for real-world problems

- 3) Paragraph 3 mostly provides
 - A. a purpose for the passage
 - B. a practical application of algebra
 - C. a definition of algebra
 - D. a description of the history of algebra

TRANSITION WORDS

Transition words are used to link sentences and ideas. If you use them correctly, your writing will be easier to understand and more mature. Look for transitions when you are reading the newspaper, a magazine, or a book. Notice how other writers have used these words, then try to use them yourself in your own writing.

Directions: For practice, use the transitions at the right in the sentences at the left. In each group, use a transition only once. Read each sentence carefully so that you can choose an appropriate transition. Capitalize when necessary.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. I would like to see you tomorrow, _____ let's have lunch together. | for example |
| 2. My sister loves to eat, _____ I don't care much about food. | finally |
| 3. When you begin an exercise program, you must be careful not to overdo it.
My father, _____, hurt his back by exercising too hard without warming up first. | but
so
still |
| 4. She had looked everywhere for a job; _____, she was called for an interview. | beyond
to the left |

-
- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 5. She had been studying for hours. _____, she hoped to do well on the test. | similarly
third
nevertheless |
| 6. First, Mary went to the store. _____, she went to visit her mother. | however |
| 7. I would like to read many books; _____, I don't seem to have enough time to read. | as a result
then |
| 8. John ate and ate; _____, he never gained weight. | for instance |
| 9. Joe ate too fast. _____, he had indigestion. | therefore |

-
- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 10. He stayed up too late last night; _____, he slept until noon. | meanwhile |
| 11. I want you to buy milk, eggs, and fruit juice; _____,
I want you to be sure to get cereal and ice cream. | furthermore
first |
| 12. I was concentrating on my homework. _____,
the soup boiled over. | third
in fact |
| 13. _____, I will boil the water. Second, I will brew the tea,
and _____, I will serve it. | until then
consequently |
| 14. _____, I will boil the water. Second, I will brew the tea,
and _____, I will serve it. | in contrast |
| 15. Jane studies all the time; _____, Billy never studies. | |

Test your understanding of basic grammar rules and sentence patterns with this exercise.

1. The man I owed money demanded immediate payment.

- who
- whom
- to whom

The man demanded immediate payment. I owed money to him. When we connect these two clauses, the relative pronoun whom replaces the pronoun him. The preposition 'to' is retained.

2. The four brothers are always ready to go to help.

- each other's
- one another's
- other's

Each other is used when referring to two people and one another is used when referring to more than two people.

3. This is the woman son was abducted.

- who's
- whose
- of whose
- of whom

This is the woman. Her son was abducted. The relative pronoun 'whose' replaces possessive pronouns like her, his and their.

4. The flight at 3.30.

- arrive
- arrives
- will arrive

We use the present simple to talk about future events that are part of a time table.

5. When I was young, I cricket every day.

- was practising
- practiced
- would practice

To talk about past habits, we can use would + infinitive. The past simple is also possible here.

6. it possible, I would visit London

- Were
- Was
- Should

Were it possible means the same as if it were possible.

7. it prove to be true, I shall resign from the committee.

- Would
- Could
- Should

'Should it prove to be true' means the same as 'If it proves to be true'.

8. many faults, he was a good man at heart.

- despite
- In spite of having
- Owing to

In spite of and despite mean the same. The expression 'despite having' is also possible here.

9. Were you to trust him?

- enough foolish
- foolish enough
- so foolish

As an adverb enough goes after the adjective it modifies, so foolish enough is the correct option. Infinitive structures are not used after so.

10. The faster you run, yourself.

- you exhaust sooner
- sooner you exhaust
- the sooner you exhaust

The same structure 'the + comparative + subject + verb' is used in both clauses.

11. If you played games regularly, you get so fat.

- won't
- wouldn't
- wouldn't have

In the second conditional, we use a simple past tense in the if-clause and would + infinitive in the main clause.

12. She cooking when the guests arrived.

- has not finished
- had not finished
- was not finished

The past perfect is used to talk about the earlier of two past actions.

PLAY AGAIN !