

"World blocks UK over new mutant virus strain"

GAP FILL

Forty countries have (1) blocked air, sea and land travel to and from the United Kingdom. Many European countries, Canada, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, and Colombia are (2) among the countries. The reason is because of a new strain of COVID-19 that is (3) spreading around the UK. The new coronavirus is a mutant - this means it has changed from the (4) original virus that started spreading at the beginning of the year. Some nations have blocked transport (5) links to the UK for a (6) few days; others for at least two weeks. Many countries say they are reviewing the (7) situation. The biggest problems are being caused by a travel (8) ban from France. A lot of the UK's food comes across the English Channel from France.

spreading

situation

links

blocked

ban

original

among

few

The UK government says the mutant virus is 70 per cent more (9) infectious than the original coronavirus. It said the mutant strain is so fast-spreading that it is "out of (10) control". London and many other parts of the country are now in (11) lockdown. The government has issued new rules about (12) mixing with other people. This means most people will only be able to spend Christmas with the people they live with. They cannot travel to see any other family (13) members or friends. An opposition leader said: "The news over the last 24 hours has been (14) deeply disturbing. The number of coronavirus cases has nearly (15) doubled in the last week." The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson assured people that there would be (16) enough food.

members

control

enough

mixing

doubled

infectious

lockdown

deeply

GAP FILL

The British Museum in the U.K. has reported record (1) levels of historical discoveries this year. People have found more than 47,000 (2) objects with metal detectors. Metal detecting is a big hobby in the U.K. Many people go out in the countryside to try and find old coins and other (3) treasure. This year, more people have been metal detecting. This is because of the coronavirus. Metal detecting is a good hobby that means (4) social distancing is very easy. People have been recording their finds on an (5) app on the British Museum's (6) website. The U.K. Culture Minister said: "It is brilliant to see the [app] growing from (7) strength to strength during lockdown thanks to garden discoveries and (8) digital reporting."

website
social
digital
objects
strength
levels
app
treasure

The British Museum said people have (9) dug up many exciting and interesting things this year. Perhaps the best find (10) among the new discoveries are two hoards of coins. One of the hoards contained 50 South African solid gold coins found 50 miles (11) northwest of London. The other coin hoard contained gold coins and one silver coin (12) featuring the British kings Edward IV and Henry VIII. Experts believe they were (13) buried in the 16th century. Another find was an ancient Roman (14) furniture fitting made of copper. It featured the face of the god Oceanus and dates to AD 43-200. The British Museum said the (15) app, "ensures finds, important for understanding Britain's past, are not lost but (16) instead recorded".

buried
instead
northwest
furniture
dug
featuring
among
app

Name _____
Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

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

Life on Mars?

For centuries, mankind has been fascinated by Mars. The closest planet to Earth is **observable** by the naked eye every fifteen years. This means that early man could see the so-called “Red Planet.” In fact, the first recorded notice of Mars was made by Ancient Egyptian astronomers. But it was not until the last 150 years or so that humans began to really think about the planet. That is when new telescopes made the surface of Mars visible. It is also when people began to assume that there was life on Mars.



Predictions about the Surface

In 1877, an Italian astronomer named Giovanni Schiaparelli set out to make a map of Mars. He saw something in his telescope that made him believe Mars to have what he called “canali.” Schiaparelli gave these canali the names of famous rivers on Earth. As a result, people mistranslated canali as canals, or rivers. In fact, he meant that Mars appeared to have channels or grooves on its surface. Making matters worse, those channels actually don’t exist! They were an illusion. Modern, closer looks at the surface of Mars have revealed that there are no canals or channels.

Despite not being there, the supposed canals led people to believe Mars had water. With water, there could be life. These astronomers predicted that Mars likely had life much like Earth. And science-fiction writers used that belief to make stories about Martian life. Books such as *John Carter of Mars* and *The Martian Chronicles* would become popular works over the next 75 years. And Hollywood movies would use these stories and others to make more Martian stories. Throughout the 20th century, millions still believed or at least imagined that there was life on Mars.

The Truth

Only in the past fifty years, as NASA has sent actual spacecraft to Mars, have these reports been broken. The Mariner Missions and later the Viking spacecraft sent back close-up images of Mars. They showed a dry planet lacking any sign of water, life, or the ability to form life. So the idea of Martian life remains more fiction than science.

- 1) As used in paragraph 1, the word **observable** means able to be
 - A. **seen**
 - B. reported
 - C. explained
 - D. felt
- 2) According to information in the second paragraph, why did astronomers think there were canals on Mars?
 - A. because spacecraft detected water on the surface
 - B. because Giovanni Schiaparelli said there were canals there
 - C. because Egyptian astronomers first predicted they were there
 - D. **because of a poor translation of an Italian** word

A. grooves
B. telescopes
C. water
D. air

A. prove that astronomers have often been wrong about Mars
B. discuss changing ideas about life on Mars in history
C. argue that life is not possible on any planet other than Earth
D. suggest that astronomers may one day find life on the surface of Mars

Three red curved lines are drawn on a background of horizontal black lines. Each line starts at a different point and curves downwards and to the right, ending at a different point. These lines represent the 'f' shape in cursive, showing how it would look when written multiple times.

A hand-drawn diagram on lined paper. It consists of two parallel red lines. The top line starts at the top of the page and extends to the right, ending with a small hook. The bottom line starts further to the left and extends to the right, ending with a small hook. The two lines are roughly parallel and slanted downwards from left to right.

Simple Tenses Worksheet 1

A. Use the correct tense. (Simple Present / Present Progressive)

1. Normally I start (start) work at eight o'clock but I am starting (start) at 7 this week. We are busy just now.
2. We go (go) camping every year. It's a good cheap holiday. Hotels cost (cost) too much.
3. What's that smell? Something is burning (burn) in the kitchen.
4. I (work) overtime this month because I am working (save up) to buy a car.
5. He smokes (smoke) thirty cigarettes a day but at the moment he is trying (try) very hard to cut down.

B. Use the correct tense. (Simple Past / Past Progressive / Simple Present)

1. The dentist's waiting room was full of people. Some were reading (read) magazines, others were just turning (just / turn) over the pages. A woman was knitting (knit), a child was playing (play) with a toy car. Suddenly the door opened (open) and the nurse said (say) "Next, please."
2. What were you doing (you / do) between 9.00 and 10.00 yesterday?
3. Yesterday Luis was crossing (cross) a street when a truck turned (turn) the corner very fast and almost hit (hit) him.
4. Last Saturday while Sally was cleaning (clean) out the attic, she found (find) her grandmother's wedding dress.

PREPOSITIONS

KEY

1. My mother begged me to listen **to** her.
2. The stranger stared **at** me in surprise.
3. They saved me **from** certain death.
4. In the last election I voted **for** the Green Party.
5. After I heard what had happened, I apologised **to** him.
6. I borrowed the car keys **from** my best friend.
7. We agreed **on** attending the meeting separately.
8. She applied **for** a job at the local newspaper office.
9. We added a few shots of rum **to** the drink to make it tastier.
10. The hunter aimed **at** the deer and killed it with one shot.
11. Dad suffered **from** Parkinson's disease during his final years.
12. I pray **for** my family every day.
13. My brothers congratulated me **on** winning the school finals.
14. Mary and a few other girls headed **for** the new restaurant at the far end of town.
15. The president had to resign **from** office after the scandal became public.
16. We arrived **at** the station ten minutes early.
17. The bank robber was able to hide **from** the police for a few days.
18. Jack depends **on** his father to give him the money he needs for his new company.
19. I would not like to comment **on** what I heard on TV.
20. John admires her **for** her bravery.
21. She separated **from** her husband five years ago.
22. Frank is my best friend. I know I can rely **on** him.
23. The attractive woman smiled **at** me. I think she liked me.
24. I am not doing what you asked me because I don't work **for** you anymore.
25. We had to adapt **to** the cold weather so we brought a few warm clothes with us.

Conjunctions Such or So

Add such or so to the following sentences.

1. The wind was so strong that it blew my hat off my head.
2. Sue is such a good pianist that I'm surprised she didn't go into music professionally.
3. The radio was so loud that I couldn't hear what Michael was saying.
4. The food was so hot that it burned my tongue.
5. Alison did such a poor job that she was fired.
6. Professor James is such a stern taskmaster that lazy student's won't take his class.
7. The restaurant patron at the table near us was so belligerent that we all felt embarrassed, especially when he swept everything off the table and demanded his money back.
8. Small animals in the forest move about so quickly that one can barely catch a glimpse of them.
9. The intricate metal lacework on the Eiffel Tower in Paris was so complicated that the structure took more than two and a half years to complete.
10. Charles and his brother are such hard-working carpenters that I'm sure they'll make a success of their new business.
11. The children had so much fun at the carnival that they begged to go again.
12. There are so many leaves on a single tree that it is impossible to count them.
13. So few students signed up for the course that it was canceled.
14. I feel like I have so little energy that I wonder if I'm getting sick.



● Sentence Completion 2 *(low-intermediate level)*

Directions: Choose the best word(s) to complete each sentence.

1. Mr. Marley is usually very _____, but last Christmas he gave one thousand dollars to charity. How _____!
A. ugly ... beautiful
B. selfish ... generous
C. greedy ... terrible
D. sarcastic ... funny
2. Joanna makes delicious _____. She is a great _____.
A. cupcakes ... baker
B. songs ... singer
C. bread ... artist
D. paintings ... teacher
3. Because this suit was on sale, I got it for a _____ price.
A. higher
B. similar
C. lower
D. worse
4. Anita doesn't _____ the lesson, so she _____ a question.
A. like ... ignores
B. understand ... asks
C. fail ... has
D. learn ... answers
5. Caleb hates _____. He does not eat lettuce or carrots.
A. sports
B. cats
C. cooking
D. vegetables
6. Gary is _____. He always says "please" and "thank you."
A. polite
B. ugly
C. artistic
D. strong
7. David is _____. He is about to give a speech in front of a large audience and he is afraid of public speaking.
A. patient
B. nervous
C. angry
D. frustrated
8. I am afraid of flying. For this reason, I do not like to ride in _____.
A. submarines
B. trains
C. limousines
D. airplanes
9. My family went to the _____ yesterday. We saw two _____ and a giraffe.
A. airport ... helicopters
B. beach ... shells
C. zoo ... elephants
D. supermarket ... tomatoes
10. English is _____, but math is _____!
A. hard ... easy
B. great ... good
C. fun ... weird
D. new ... interesting



● Sentence Completion 3 *(low-intermediate level)*

Directions: Choose the best word(s) to complete each sentence.

1. Estelle wants to buy a new car, so she is _____ her money.
A. spending
B. **saving**
C. losing
D. stealing
2. Nelson is a _____. He is mean to people and makes them feel _____.
A. chef ... hungry
B. clown ... happy
C. doctor ... good
D. **bully ... bad**
3. Mr. Morrissey is the _____ of a company. He tells all of the other workers what to do.
A. student
B. passenger
C. banker
D. **boss**
4. Although Gail _____ in California, she now lives in Texas.
A. **was born**
B. died
C. is working
D. travels
5. Tabitha asked for _____ ketchup for her French fries. She really likes ketchup.
A. no
B. less
C. **extra**
D. red
6. Last Tuesday, Wesley brought delicious _____ to school. He shared them with everyone.
A. puppies
B. pencils
C. **cookies**
D. ideas
7. I put the cake on the _____ shelf so that the children cannot reach it.
A. lowest
B. middle
C. **highest**
D. smallest
8. Because Ben _____ a rule today, he was punished.
A. **broke**
B. made
C. invented
D. learned
9. Gloria does not know how to _____ her shoes yet, but she is _____.
A. wear ... barefoot
B. buy ... trying
C. **tie ... learning**
D. find ... hiding
10. After Ronda _____ the dish, she promised to buy me a new one.
A. washed
B. ate
C. **broke**
D. purchased