

"Dogs wear body armour to stop eagle attack"

GAP FILL

Dog (1) owners in Alaska and Canada are buying special vests for their pets. The vests are to (2) protect the pets from attacks by bald eagles. In recent weeks, a number of pet dogs have been taken away by the birds of (3) prey. The number of bald eagles has risen greatly in Alaska. There have been many conservation (4) efforts, which has seen the bald eagle population increase. Conservationists (5) estimate there are now around 30,000 of the eagles in Alaska. While bird lovers are (6) happy about this, pet owners are worried. The eagles have a 2.4-metre (7) wingspan. They are strong enough to pick up and fly away with a 6-kilogram animal. The eagles are already a nuisance for (8) farmers as they are killing chickens.

happy
wingspan
efforts
owners
farmers
prey
estimate
protect

The special vest that pet owners are buying is called the CoyoteVest. It is a protective jacket that was (9) designed to protect small dogs from coyotes. A coyote is a wild dog that is (10) similar to a wolf. It is common across North America. The CoyoteVest has a (11) variety of spikes and other sharp things on it to protect the pet. Some of the vests have (12) brightly coloured whiskers that are meant to (13) scare birds away. It is made of a material called Kevlar, which is used in (14) bulletproof vests. The Kevlar protects a small dog from the (15) teeth of a larger dog. The CoyoteVest company said its vest helps to, "slow down or prevent a surprise attack and give you enough time to react before (16) serious injury occurs" to a pet.

brightly
similar
bulletproof
variety
serious
designed
teeth
scare

"Scientists find animal with biggest ears"

GAP FILL

Have you ever (1) wondered what animal has the biggest ears? Of course, it's the African elephant. We all know this. Scientists know this. However, scientists have looked at what (2) animal has the biggest ears for its body (3) size. The elephant has big ears but it also has a (4) giant body. Zoologists from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City have found out which animal has the biggest ears (5) relative to its body size. And the answer is... the long-eared jerboa. Not many people know about this (6) cute, big-eared creature. It is a rodent. It lives in the (7) deserts of China and Mongolia. It is a nocturnal creature, which means it is (8) active at night and sleeps during the day.

Zoologist Mary Ellen Holden (9) described the jerboa. She said its body measures about 10 centimetres (not (10) counting its long tail). Its ears are 3.8 to 5 cm long. This means its ears are 40 to 50 per cent as long as its body (11) length. The elephant's ears are just 17 per cent of its body length. Professor Holden said: "The jerboa has the longest ears for the size of its body in the (12) entire animal kingdom." Professor Holden explained why some animals have large ears. They usually live in very hot (13) areas. Large ears help an animal to keep (14) cool in the heat. Their ears are large, (15) thin and have many tiny blood (16) vessels. The blood releases heat from the body into the air, which helps the animal cool down.

Topic: **TO BE or TO HAVE?** 1 | level: **Beginner/Intermediate**

Complete each of the following sentences with the correct form of the verb **TO BE** or the verb **TO HAVE**:

1. I _____ cold. (= I feel cold)
a) have **b) am**
2. I _____ a cold. (= I am sick)
a) am **b) have**
3. _____ a little hungry.
a) **I'm** b) I've
4. He _____ a lot of money.
a) has b) is
5. These students _____ very smart.
a) have **b) are**
6. Thomas _____ two children.
a) has b) is
7. I _____ sleepy.
a) have **b) am**
8. Mary _____ 24 years old.
a) has **b) is**
9. The athletes _____ tired.
a) don't have **b) are not**
10. He _____ your purse.
a) has b) is

topic: **Auxiliary Verbs (to be, to do, to have) 1**

Fill in each blank space with the correct auxiliary verb:

1. _____ he changed much over the years?
a) **Has** b) Does c) Is
2. _____ she Polish?
a) Has b) Does **c) Is**
3. _____ he like to drive at night?
a) Has **b) Does** c) Is
4. _____ you normally read before you go to bed?
a) Do b) Are c) Have
5. _____ I look tired?
a) **Do** b) Am c) Have
6. _____ you seen that movie several times already?
a) Do b) Are **c) Have**
7. _____ he leaving tomorrow?
a) Has b) Does **c) Is**
8. _____ she been to Greece before?
a) Has b) Does c) Is
9. _____ they coming at 7?
a) Do **b) Are** c) Have
10. _____ they always cheat?
a) Do b) Are c) Have



topic: **ARTICLE or NO ARTICLE?**

For each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with either "a", "an", "the", or "no article".

1. _____ Chinese is a difficult language to learn.
2. **The** _____ general's army attacked the city at night.
3. I like to play _____ basketball.
4. My parents gave me **a** _____ basketball for my birthday.
5. She is **the** _____ prettiest girl in the school.
6. I have **an** _____ idea! Let's go bowling.
7. I have borrowed _____ money from her before.
8. My first apartment was on _____ Orange Street.
9. **The** _____ dress she is wearing is blue.
10. He is **a** _____ real gentleman.

topic: **SIMPLE PRESENT OR PRESENT CONTINUOUS?**

ANSWERS: 1)try 2)Are you talking 3)am going 4)do you normally eat 5)leaves 6)we're eating
7)have 8)Are you having 9)eat 10) is trying

topic: **Irregular verbs (simple past/present perfect) 1** | level: **Beg./Intermediate**

ANSWERS:

1)b 2)b 3)a 4)a 5)a 6)b 7)a 8)a 9)b 10)b

topic: **Basic Modals Exercise 1**

ANSWERS:

1)a 2)b 3)b 4)a 5)a 6)b 7)b 8)a 9)a 10)a