

## Article: Ten years without books by John Kuti

As I write this, I have half an eye on an old James Bond film that is showing on my computer. But this is a story about how I stopped watching TV and began reading again for pleasure, after ten years in which I hardly turned a page.

I suppose I was an avid reader of "literature" between the ages of nine and fourteen. I had enough time to be White Fang, Robinson Crusoe, and Bilbo Baggins and Jeeves. Of course there was room in the schoolboy's imagination for some real historical figures: Scott of the Antarctic, all of the Vikings, and Benjamin Franklin were good friends of mine.

Then, in adolescence, I began a long search for strange and radical ideas. I wanted to challenge my elders and betters, and stir up my peers with amazing points of view. Of course, the only place to look was in books. I hunted out the longest titles and the authors with the funniest names, I scoured the library for completely unread books. Then I found one which became my bible for the whole of 1982, it had a title composed of eleven long words and an author whose name I didn't know how to pronounce. It was really thick and looked dead serious. Even better, it put forward a whole world-view that would take days to explain. Perfect. I took it out of the library three times, proud to see the date-stamps lined up on the empty library insert.

Later, I went to university. Expecting to spend long evenings in learned discussion with clever people, I started reading philosophy. For some reason I never found the deep-thinking intellectuals I hoped to meet. Anyway, I was ready to impress with my profound knowledge of post-structuralism, existentialism and situationism. These things are usually explained in rather short books, but they take a long time

to get through. They were the end of my youthful reading.

Working life was hard to get used to after so much theory. It was the end of books for me. There didn't seem to be much in books that would actually get things done. To do things you had to answer the telephone and work a computer. You had to travel about and speak to people who weren't at all interested in philosophy. I didn't stop reading, you can't avoid that. I read all day. But no books came my way, only manuals and pamphlets and contracts and documents. Maybe most people satisfy their need for stories and ideas with TV and, to tell the truth, it was all I needed for ten years. In those days I only had a book "on the go" for the duration of aeroplane flights. At first I would come home and watch TV over dinner. Then, I moved the TV so I could watch it from bed. I even rigged up a switch so I could turn it off without getting out of bed. Then, one fateful day, my TV broke and my landlady took it away.

My new TV is an extra circuit board inside my computer. It's on a desk in front of a working chair and I can't see it from the bed. I still use it for the weather forecasts and it's nice to have it on while I'm typing this... but what to do last thing at night? Well, have another go with books.

Now, I just like books. I have a pile of nice ones by my bed and I'm reading about six simultaneously. I don't want to BE any of the characters. I don't care if a thousand people have already read them. I don't have to search through libraries. There are books everywhere and all of them have something to read in them. I have the strange feeling that they've been there all along, waiting for me to pick them up.

### Comprehension task

#### Multiple Choice

Read the questions below and select the right answer.

- The author probably read "Where the Wasteland Ends: Politics and Transcendence in Post-Industrial Society":
  - in 1972
  - in 1982
  - in 1992
  - in 1993
- When he was a boy, the author:
  - avoided books
  - looked at books but didn't read them
  - preferred videos to books
  - read enthusiastically
- Students at university used to spend the evenings:
  - discussing philosophy
  - reading short books
  - thinking deeply
  - the author doesn't say how they spent the evenings
- At work, the author:
  - didn't have to read
  - didn't have to read books
  - didn't have to read manuals and pamphlets
  - didn't have to read contracts and documents
- The author:
  - hardly read a book for ten years
  - doesn't read books
  - hasn't read a book for ten years
  - didn't read a book for ten years
- Now the author:
  - doesn't have a TV
  - has a TV next to his bed
  - has a computer with a TV inside it
  - has a computer instead of a TV

## Archaeology

by Paul Millard

Archaeology, like many academic words, comes from Greek and means, more or less, 'the study of old things'. So, it is really a part of the study of history. However, most historians use paper evidence, such as letters, documents, paintings and photographs, but archaeologists learn from the objects left behind by the humans of long ago. Normally, these are the hard materials that don't decompose or disappear very quickly – things like human bones and skeletons, objects made from stone and metal, and ceramics.

Sometimes, archaeologists and historians work together. Take, for example, the study of the Romans, who dominated the Mediterranean area and much of Europe two thousand years ago. We know a lot about them from their writing, and

to Australia about 70,000 years ago, but have been in South America for just 15,000 years. The evidence of archaeology has helped to show the shared origin and history of us all.



It is very unusual to find anything more than the hard evidence of history – normally, the bacteria in the air eat away at soft organic material, like bodies, clothes and things made of wood. Occasionally, things are different.

A mind-boggling discovery! In 1984, two men made an amazing discovery while working in a bog called Lindow Moss, near Manchester in the north of England. A bog is a very wet area of earth, with a lot of plants growing in it. It can be like a very big and very thick vegetable soup – walk in the wrong place and you can sink and disappear forever. After hundreds of years, the dead plants can compress together and make 'peat', which is like soil, but is so rich in energy that it can be burned on a fire, like coal.

The men were cutting the peat when one of them saw something sticking out – a human foot! Naturally, the men called the police, who then found the rest of the body. Was it a case of murder? Possibly – but it was a death nearly two thousand years old. The two men had found a body from the time of the Roman invasion of Celtic Britain. Despite being so old, this body had skin, muscles, hair and internal organs – the

some of their most famous writers are still quoted in English. We also know a lot about them from what they made, from their coins to their buildings. Archaeologists have worked on Roman remains as far apart as Hadrian's Wall in the north of England and Leptis Magna in Libya.

Of course, for much of human history, there are no written documents at all. Who were the first humans, and where did they come from? This is a job for the archaeologists, who have found and dated the bones and objects left behind. From this evidence, they believe that humans first appeared in Africa and began moving to other parts of the world about 80,000 years ago. The movement of our ancestors across the planet has been mapped from their remains – humans went

acid preserved the man's skin in the way that animal skin is preserved for leather coats and shoes.

How did he die? Understandably, archaeologists and other scientists wanted to know more about the person that they called, 'Lindow Man'. His hands and fingernails suggested that he hadn't done heavy manual work in his life – he could have been a rich man or a priest. They found that he hadn't died by accident. The forensic examination revealed that he had been hit on the head three times and his throat was cut with a knife. Then a rope was tightened around his neck. As if that wasn't enough, he was then thrown into the bog.

So, Lindow Man was killed using three different methods, when just one would have been sufficient. The archaeologists believe that he was sacrificed to three different Celtic gods, called Taranis, Esus and Teutates. Each god required a different form of death. A sacrifice to Teutates required drowning, which is why he was found in the bog. Nobody can tell the complete story of Lindow Man. The Romans said that the Celts made sacrifices every May to make sure that there was enough food that year. Was he a typical 'routine' sacrifice?

An archaeologist called Anne Ross has suggested that Lindow Man was a special case. Why would an important man be sacrificed to three gods? Perhaps it was in response to the Roman invasion of Britain, which started in the year AD 43, close to the time that Lindow Man died. He might have been killed to gain the help of the gods against the Romans. It didn't work. The Romans stayed in Britain for four hundred years and Lindow Man stayed in his bog for two thousand.

Say hello to Lindow Man! If you visit London, you can go and see Lindow Man at the British Museum, where he is spending some time in the company of more famous mummies from Egypt.

scientists who examined him were able to look inside the man's stomach and find the food that he had eaten for his last meal!

Why was this man so well preserved? It was because he was in a very watery environment, safe from the bacteria that need oxygen to live. Also, the water in the bog was very acidic. The

Whereas the bodies of the Egyptian kings and queens were intentionally preserved, Lindow Man is with us by accident. Whatever his origins, it is a fascinating experience to see him face to face. I recommend it.

### Activity 2

Choose the correct answer to each question.

From which language does the word archaeology come from?

- a. Greek
- b. Celtic

When did humans arrive in Australia?

- a. 70,000 years ago
- b. 15,000 years ago

Soft, organic material normally does what?

- a. Decompress
- b. Decompose

Where is Manchester?

- a. In the north of England
- b. In the south

What was Lindow Man's ethnic group?

- a. Roman
- b. Celtic

He was put into the water to please which god?

- a. Teutates
- b. Taranis

When did the Romans invade Britain?

- a. AD 43
- b. AD 34

How long did the Romans stay in Britain for?

- a. Four hundred years
- b. Two thousand years

Which city is Lindow Man in now?

- a. Manchester
- b. London
- c. Rome

What is the name of the museum?

- a. The British
- b. The Celtic
- c. The Egyptian

### Activity 3

In each of the questions there are words in **bold**. Decide in each case what these words refer to by selecting the correct answer.

1. 'Archaeology, like many academic words, comes from Greek and means, more or less, 'the study of old things'. So, **it** is really a part of the study of history.'

What does 'it' refer to?

- a. Greek            b. archaeology            c. academic words

2. '...but archaeologists learn from the objects left behind by the humans of long ago. Normally, **these** are the hard materials that don't decompose or disappear very quickly...'

What does 'these' refer to?

- a. archaeologists            b. humans            c. objects

3. 'Take, for example, the study of the Romans, who dominated the Mediterranean area and much of Europe two thousand years ago. We know a lot about **them** from their writing...'

What does 'them' refer to?

- a. the Romans            b. the Mediterranean area            c. two thousand years

4. 'This is a job for the archaeologists, who have found and dated the bones and objects left behind. From **this evidence**...'

What does 'this evidence' refer to?

- a. the bones            b. the objects            c. the bones and the objects left behind

5. '...one of them saw something sticking out – a human foot! Naturally, the men called the police, **who** then found the rest of the body.'

What does 'who' refer to?

- a. a human foot            b. the men            c. the police

6. 'Despite being so old, this body had skin, muscles, hair and internal organs – the scientists who examined **him** were able to look inside'

What does 'him' refer to?

- a. skin            b. this body            c. hair

7. 'So, Lindow Man was killed using three different methods, when just **one** would have been sufficient.'

What does 'one' refer to?

- a. method            b. Lindow Man            c. being killed

## Environmental Protest Groups

*Don't it always seem to go that you don't  
know what you've got 'till it's gone.  
They paved paradise and they put up a  
parking lot.*

*Joni Mitchell – Big Yellow Taxi*

Facts about the state of the global environment read like quotes on a poster for an epic Hollywood movie – expanding deserts in Africa, huge forest fires in Indonesia, serious shortages of fish in Europe, thousands of deaths from air pollution in Brazil, disappearing forests in the Amazon, melting ice-caps and increasing radiation levels in the polar regions. But just as there is no evil Lex Luther or Ernst Blofeld responsible for these disasters, there is no Superman or James Bond to save the world. The human race has caused these problems and we are going to have to work together to solve them.

However, many people feel that the governments of countries around the world are not taking environmental issues seriously enough. To allow the voices of concerned people to be heard, a large number of protest groups have been set up by ordinary people to raise awareness of the issues, and to put pressure on politicians to act before it is too late. A few of the organisations have become household names, particularly Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. Two smaller groups, **Surfers Against Sewage** and **Reclaim The Streets**, are less well known, but take themselves just as seriously.

### Surfers Against Sewage (SAS)

Surfers Against Sewage was founded in 1990 by water sports enthusiasts, who were becoming more and more concerned about the health risks they faced when using beaches in Cornwall in the UK. Human and toxic waste pumped into the sea was causing serious illnesses, and beach goers felt that they were "playing Russian Roulette with their health" every time they went into the water.

SAS alerted people to the problem by going to public events with their surfboards, where they handed out leaflets wearing wetsuits and gasmasks. They soon attracted the attention of the media and other concerned water users from around Britain and were able to put pressure on the government to ban dumping untreated waste in the sea, rivers and lakes. The group was so successful that in 1998, only 8 years after they started campaigning, the government agreed to spend 8.5 billion pounds on cleaning up Britain's aquatic environment.

Surfers Against Sewage has acquired a cool image over the years. In 1999 the director of *The Beach*, a Hollywood blockbuster starring Leonardo Di Caprio, wanted to use the SAS logo on actors' backpacks. SAS refused permission however, because they were concerned about the environmental damage that making the film had caused to the tiny tropical island of Phi Phi in Thailand.

### Reclaim The Streets (RTS)

Reclaim The Streets was started in London in 1991 to campaign "FOR walking, cycling and cheap, or free, public transport, and AGAINST cars, roads and the system that pushes them." RTS began by protesting against road building through unspoilt areas of the British countryside, and now have expanded their activities to draw attention to environmental, political, economic and social injustice around the world.

RTS campaigns by stopping traffic and turning roads and motorways into huge street parties. Members of the group dig up tarmac and plant trees, make beaches and paddling pools for children to play in, decorate the street with colourful banners, and give out free food and drink. A huge sound system is set up, bands, jugglers and clowns perform, and hundreds or even thousands of people dance and party. The carnival is usually broken up by the police after a few hours, and in the past some of the demonstrations have been marred by violence between police and protesters.

RTS doesn't have any clear aims, and says that it is a 'disorganisation' rather than an organisation, since there is no one in charge, but the methods that the group uses have caught on, and are now used worldwide. As the RTS website says, "The Reclaim The Streets idea has grown up and left home, street parties and suchlike often happen without anyone in RTS London hearing about them until afterwards."

### Protest and the Internet

Both SAS and RTS have extensive websites providing information about their activities, and providing links to like-minded groups around the world. It seems that nowadays the Internet is helping more and more people express their dissatisfaction with the status quo, and work together to find solutions to the problems that the modern world faces.

### True or False

Read the statements below and decide if they are true or false.

1. Surfers Against Sewage members like playing with guns.
2. Reclaim The Streets started in Cornwall.
3. The people who started Surfers Against Sewage like water sports.
4. RTS demonstrations are always peaceful.
5. The SAS organisation has been very successful.
6. Reclaim The Streets is against road building.
7. The SAS logo appeared in the film "The Beach".
8. RTS events sometimes attract thousands of people.

## Article: Collecting things - My Grandmother's elephant

By Chris Wilson

My grandmother had a beautiful elephant carved out of sandalwood on her dressing table which I secretly used to covet. I wanted it more than anything in the world. It was about the size of a football and had a cheeky smile. It was inlaid with tiny circular mirrors and mother of pearl, and had real ivory tusks and toenails. One day my sister said "Oh Grandma, please can I have it?" and, to my fury and disbelief, she just gave it to her! I immediately made two resolutions: 1) never to speak to either of them ever again. 2) To find another elephant just like it.

Ever since, I have been scouring the world. I have rummaged round junk shops and antique shops all over Europe, I have been to garage sales and flea markets in America, I have hung about in Arab souks and Indian bazaars, but I have never seen anything quite the same.

Along the way, however, I have acquired all sorts of other elephants and my collection has grown and grown. I have got black ebony elephants from Malawi, and a couple of ivory – all, I hasten to add, made a long time ago, before the ebony trees were chopped down and the ivory trade was made illegal. I also have soap stone elephants from Zimbabwe, and an exotic Congolese one carved out of bright green malachite. I have a whole family of wooden Thai elephants marching along the top of my piano – sometimes when I sit and play I could swear they are marching in time to the music. I have two very heavy, long legged elephants which I bought in Khan el Khalili, in Cairo, which I use as bookends, and an enormous fat one from the Sudan which I use as a coffee table. My search goes on, but it gets more and more difficult to find really good pieces. On recent trips to Africa I have noticed how the quality of the workmanship has deteriorated. In craft markets all over the continent you can find thousands of elephants, but they are nearly all shoddily made, churned out for tourists by people who probably have never seen a real elephant in their lives.

Why do people collect things? Probably many, like me, don't set out to do so. You just acquire

inside cereal packets. He's only got to get T-Rex and then he's got the whole set." "They are exploiting you" said Antonio. "They encourage children to become collectors so that you keep buying more and more. This is something new in our country. Soon we will all be fanatically collecting things, just like everyone else in the world".

Harshill, who is of Indian origin, had been silent all this time. He cleared his throat. "One good reason to collect things is that a collection is worth more - how do you say in English? More than the sum of its parts. If you sold your elephants one by one you wouldn't get nearly as much as if you sold the whole collection. So it is a way of saving money, a good investment."

On the way back to my hotel a young boy was selling a badly carved elephant by the side of the road. I didn't want it but I bought it because I felt sorry for him. Later I thought I should just have given him some money and let him try to sell it to someone else. It would never be part of my collection, each in its own special place in a different part of my house. I imagined walking round looking at them all and thought about what Harshill had said – it's a way of increasing the value of what you already have - but as

something, then another and another and then, once you've got a small collection you just keep adding to it. I have an uncle who collects key rings – he has hundreds of them from all over the world – but he can't remember how it started. Other people collect stamps, stones, beer cans, beer mats, match boxes, all sorts of things. For some it can become a total obsession and they will go to any lengths to get something. One of my colleagues collects Royal memorabilia, which to me is the ultimate in bad taste! Her house is crammed full of kitsch things like Coronation mugs, ashtrays with pictures of Charles and Diana, British flags, tea towels printed with Windsor Castle and even a toilet seat cover with Prince Andrew grinning widely up at you. What is this urge to possess all these things?

I recently discussed this question with a group of students in Mozambique and what rapidly became evident was that few of them had such an urge. "Why not?" I asked. "I don't know" said Anotonio. "It's just not in our culture". "Does that mean you're not as materialistic as Europeans?" Antonio laughed. "No way! We want cars and houses and fancy things just like anyone else, but we don't collect knick knacks, things we can't use". "I think it's because of our recent war" said Maria "and the state of the economy. For many years there was nothing to collect, except shells off the beach perhaps". "I collect shoes" said Teresa, who comes from Angola. "I have over seventy pairs. But I buy them to wear, not just for the sake of having them". "Oh come on!" laughed Antonio. "Anything you don't actually need you have for the sake of having it, and you can't possibly need seventy pairs!" "I do, I need every single pair!" she insisted. "So you are a collector!" "No I'm not!" "Yes you are!" shouted the whole class.

Paula stuck up her hand. "I'm a collector" she said. "I am a fan of Julio Iglesias and I have all his CD's, every one, even the latest which, I have to admit, isn't very good at all". "So why did you buy it?" I asked. "Well, because I've got all the others of course" she said. "And my son collects those little plastic dinosaurs you find

usual there was that niggling feeling that my collection, no matter how valuable, would never be complete. Not without my Grandmother's elephant! What a waste for it to be with my sister when it could be, should be, with me!" "Oh well, never mind, try not to be obsessed" I told myself.

Ever since though, I have been lying awake at night, thinking of it standing there on a brass table in her hallway, next to the window she always leaves open for her cat. Her dogs know me, so they won't be a problem when I climb over the wall in my gloves and balaclava. The whole operation will be over in less than five minutes. The only problem is, having acquired it, what will I do when my sister comes barging in to nose around, as she periodically does, and sees it in pride of place in my house? I'll have to keep it hidden and then what will be the point of having it? Oh dear. Perhaps I could have a special alarm that would only ring when my sister is on her way. No that's silly. I'll just have to move. To another country, under another name, far, far away. But even then, knowing her, she'll track me down. Oh – dear Reader, what would you do if you were me?

### True or false

Read the statements below and decide if they are true or false.

1. The writer kept his resolution not to speak to his sister every again.
2. His grandmother was unaware of how much he wanted it.
3. Ebony is a kind of wood.
4. It is difficult to find ebony nowadays.
5. The writer's Thai elephants actually move in time to the music.
6. Nowadays it is not easy to find well made elephants in Africa.
7. The writer is fond of Royal memorabilia.
8. People often decide in advance to start a collection.
9. Mozambicans do not collect things because they are not materialistic.
10. "For the sake of having it" means having something which is a necessity.
11. Paula bought Julio Iglesias' latest CD to "complete the set".
12. Antonio thinks it is a good thing to collect things.
13. If something is worth "more than the sum of its parts" it means the whole thing is worth more than the total value of all the individual parts.
14. The writer firmly intends to steal his sister's elephant.
15. "To go to any lengths" to get something means to travel anywhere, no matter how far, to get it.
16. If something in a room is "In pride of place" it means it is in the part of the room where the owner displays all the objects of which he/she is most proud.

## Article: Mobile phones by Craig Duncan

When Scotsman Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, it was a revolution in communication. For the first time, people could talk to each other over great distances almost as clearly as if they were in the same room. Nowadays, though, we increasingly use Bell's invention for taking photographs, accessing the internet or watching video clips rather than talking. Over the last two decades a new means of spoken communication has emerged: the mobile phone.

The modern mobile phone is a more complex version of the two-way radio. Traditional two-way radio was a very limited means of communication. As soon as the users moved out of range of each other's broadcast area, the signal was lost. In the 1940s, researchers began experimenting with the idea of using a number of radio masts located around the countryside to pick up signals from two-way radios. A caller would always be within range of one of the masts; when he moved too far away from one mast, the next mast would pick up the signal. (Scientists referred to each mast's reception area as being a separate 'cell'; this is why in many countries mobile phones are called 'cell phones'.)

However, 1940s technology was still quite primitive, and the 'telephones' were enormous boxes which had to be transported by car.

The first real mobile telephone call was made in 1973 by Dr Martin Cooper, the scientist who invented the modern mobile handset. As soon as his invention was complete, he tested it by calling a rival scientist to announce his success. Within a decade, mobile phones became available to the public. The streets of modern cities began to feature sharp-suited characters shouting into giant plastic bricks. In Britain the mobile phone quickly became synonymous with the 'yuppie', the new breed of young urban professionals who carried the expensive

Mobile phones, once the preserve of the high-powered businessperson and the 'yuppie', are now a vital part of daily life for an enormous amount of people. From schoolchildren to pensioners, every section of society has found that it's easier to stay in touch when you've got a mobile. Over the last few years mobiles have become more and more advanced. Firstly, we saw the introduction of built-in cameras, global positioning devices and internet access. More recently we have witnessed the arrival of the 'third generation' of mobile phones: powerful

handsets as status symbols. Around this time many of us swore that we would never, ever own a mobile phone.

But in the mid-90s, something happened. Cheaper handsets and cheaper calling rates meant that, almost overnight, it seemed that everyone had a mobile phone. And the giant plastic bricks of the 80s had evolved into smooth little objects that fitted nicely into pockets and bags. In every pub and restaurant you could hear the bleep and buzz of mobiles ringing and registering messages, occasionally breaking out into primitive versions of the latest pop songs. Cities suddenly had a new, postmodern birdsong.

Moreover, people's timekeeping changed. Younger readers will be amazed to know that, not long ago, people made spoken arrangements to meet at a certain place at a certain time. Once a time and place had been agreed, people met as agreed. Somewhere around the new millennium, this practice started to die out. Meeting times became approximate, subject to change at any moment under the new order of communication: the Short Message Service (SMS) or text message. Going to be late? Send a text message! It takes much less effort than arriving on time, and it's much less awkward than explaining your lateness face-to-face. It's the perfect communication method for the busy modern lifestyle. Like email before it, the text message has altered the way we write in English, bringing more abbreviations and a more lax approach to language construction. The 160-character limit on text messages has led to a new, abbreviated version of English for fast and instantaneous communication. Traditional rules of grammar and spelling are much less important when you're sitting on the bus, hurriedly typing 'Will B 15min late - C U @ the bar. Sorry! :-)'.  
  
micro-computers with broadband internet access, which will allow us to watch TV, download internet files at high speed and send instant video clips to friends.

Alexander Graham Bell would be amazed if he could see how far the science of telephony has progressed in less than 150 years. If he were around today, he might say:

*'That's gr8! But I'm v busy rite now. Will call U 2nite.'*



### Multiple choice

Read the questions and choose the right answer.

1. Modern mobile phone technology is based on:
  - a. two-way radio
  - b. global positioning devices
  - c. yuppies
2. More people bought mobile phones in the 1990s because:
  - a. traditional phones didn't work anymore
  - b. they were bad at timekeeping
  - c. mobile phones became a lot cheaper
3. The first mobile phone call took place between:
  - a. two scientists
  - b. two Scotsmen
  - c. two yuppies
4. Mobile phones are sometimes called cell phones because of:
  - a. a technical term for telephone masts
  - b. a technical term for mobile handsets
  - c. the number of mobile phones used in prisons
5. The first commercially available mobile phones looked like:
  - a. small, pocket-sized objects
  - b. telephone masts
  - c. giant plastic bricks
6. A text message saying 'Gr8! Will call U 2nite' means:
  - a. Great! I'll call you tonight.
  - b. Good grief! Please call William tonight.
  - c. I'll be 15 minutes late.

## "Feeding the world" why we need rice by Clare Powell

Rice is low-fat and high in energy, and you can mix it with just about anything to make a wide variety of tasty nutritious dishes. Ask anyone from any country in the world to tell you their favourite rice recipe and you will get a wide selection, ranging from sushi in Japan to risottos in northern Italy.

Rice is closely connected to the culture of many societies. Hindu and Buddhist religions use rice as a religious offering. Burmese folklore uses rice as a central part of their creation story; the gods gave the first people of Burma rice seeds and directed them to Burma, where the rice would grow well. A Chinese proverb says that 'precious things are not pearls and jade but the five grains, of which rice is the finest.' Chinese myth tells how, after severe floods, there was nothing to eat and the people were starving. One day they saw a dog coming across the fields, and hanging onto the dog's tail were bunches of long yellow seeds. The seeds grew into rice and the people survived.

The origins of rice are uncertain, because rice has been grown for so many thousands of years. In several Asian languages, the words for food and rice, or for rice and agriculture, are the same, one of the facts that points to Asia as the origin of rice. It is certain, however, that rice cultivation is one of the most important developments in history, for rice has fed more people over a longer period of time than any other crop.

The demand for rice is growing steadily, with consumption stretching beyond the traditional rice growing areas in Asia. You can find rice fields in Europe, Latin America and Australia.

However, Asia is still the biggest rice producer, accounting for 90% of the world's production and consumption of rice.

Rice is a staple food for many countries. In parts of Africa and Asia, many poorer urban families get over half their daily calories from rice. As the world population increases, can rice keep up? To meet growing demands, rice production has to be raised by at least 70% over the next three decades. The area devoted to rice cultivation cannot grow, so much international research is being done to find ways of growing rice on less land.

Rice needs a good water supply to grow. Water is wasted daily all over the world and estimates suggest that most Asian countries will have severe water problems by 2025. It takes 5000 litres of water to grow a kilo of rice, yet many rice growing areas in Asia and Africa are drought-prone. Scientists need to develop varieties of rice that can withstand sudden heavy rains and compete with weeds.

Worryingly, rice production is affected by global climate changes. Global warming is caused by toxic gas emissions in developed countries. The rise in global temperature cuts rice-growing time, and ultra violet light radiation from the sun reduces tolerance to disease. Methane gas, one of the culprits of global warming, is, ironically, a by-product of wet lowland rice cultivation. Methane-producing bacteria thrive in wet rice fields and the plants themselves send the gas into the atmosphere. Water management could reduce methane emissions, but practical methods that do not reduce rice yields still have to be found.

### Comprehension task

#### Multiple Choice

Read the sentences and select the right answers.

- Rice is produced...
  - all over the world.
  - only in Asia and Africa.
  - only in China and Japan.
- In Chinese mythology, people were saved from starvation by...
  - a dog carrying rice in its mouth.
  - a dog carrying rice seeds on its tail.
  - a dog carrying rice on its tail.
- According to a Chinese saying, rice is...
  - more important than other grains but less important than pearls and jade.
  - less important than other grains but more important than pearls and jade.
  - more important than other grains and more important than pearls and jade.
- 90% of rice is...
  - eaten in Asia.
  - eaten and produced in Asia.
  - produced in Asia.
- Rice production must increase by 70%...
  - in the next three years.
  - in the next thirty years.
  - in the next three hundred years.
- A by-product of rice production is methane which...
  - has no effect on global warming.
  - helps global warming to increase.
  - stops global warming.
- Global warming means changes in the earth's temperatures which...
  - increases the amount of time rice can grow.
  - decreases the amount of time rice can grow.
  - has no effect on the amount of time rice can grow.

## Read the article

### Conspiracies

by Richard Sidaway

Are you convinced that your government is in contact with UFOs? Do you think that President Kennedy was the victim of more than one assassin? Do you get the feeling that we are being watched? Then you are probably a believer in conspiracy theories.

The recent success of the 'Da Vinci Code' alleging that the Catholic Church has suppressed the truth about the death of Jesus shows how such theories can take hold of the popular imagination.

#### Everyone loves a conspiracy

They say that there are two basic explanations for dramatic or world-changing events. The conspiracy theory assumes that tragedies such as the death of Princess Diana in Paris were not just accidents but were carefully planned and carried out by a group of powerful people operating behind the scenes for various sinister motives. The cock-up theory of history says that **such events** are probably caused by a combination of human incompetence and bad timing.

The conspiracy theory is, naturally, much more attractive because humans can be seen as powerful shapers of their own destiny, rather than the weak and fallible creatures they are. And because **they** are usually impossible to prove either one way or the other, conspiracy theories are limited only by the human imagination.

#### The real thing

Of course, there have been some real conspiracies through the ages. The Gunpowder Plot in England in 1605 to get rid of the King of England, or the July 20<sup>th</sup> plot to kill Hitler in 1944, were taken seriously enough at the time - the

fraud. **This** didn't prevent the horrific attempt by the Nazis to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe during the Second World War.

#### The downright silly

Some conspiracy theories can be quite entertaining. Take the case of the humble light bulb. Who would believe that companies had known for years how to make **one** that lasts for much longer than normal, but formed a cartel to suppress it from the market because it would mean their profits would be drastically affected.

And what about the carburettor that can make a car run 300 miles on a single gallon of petrol but has been kept from consumers deliberately? Or the automobile company that tried to get control of trams in cities so that people would buy more cars instead of using public transport?

Some people even believe barcodes are a population-control device used by a secret

conspirators confessed after being tortured and they were then executed.

Secret societies are a matter of historical record too, with their initiation rites, hierarchy, secret signs and elaborate rituals. **Some**, like the Brotherhood of the Rosicrucians, were mystical or religious in nature. Others are more social or political in character like the Freemasons, whose members have included writers, generals, politicians and even kings. They formed the opposition to the Catholic Church in Southern Europe, for example, and supported the pursuit of rational thought, scientific endeavour and liberal democracy.

#### Verging on the paranoid

But just because you say you have discovered a plot and brought some people to trial doesn't mean that a conspiracy really existed. In the dying days of Stalin's regime, a group of Jewish medical professionals were accused of conspiring to poison Soviet leaders and overthrow the state. **Hundreds** were arrested and executed. The Doctors' Plot of 1953 was just one in a long line of purges necessary to maintain the climate of fear by which the Communist Party ruled. **It** was more a symptom of Stalin's anti-semitism and paranoia than a real conspiracy.

#### Tragic consequences

The longest-running conspiracy theory is probably the one about the Jews wanting to take over the world. Such ideas have served as the justification for acts of random, irrational violence against Jewish communities over the centuries, and led to the systematic persecution of the Inquisition. A book was published in the 1920s supposedly giving documentary proof of such a world conspiracy, but it was later exposed as a

unnamed organisation intent on world domination and that the numbers hide the mark of the devil...

And the death of Diana? Well, apparently the driver wasn't really drunk and there was a lot of carbon monoxide in his blood. A letter had been written by the Princess just before the accident happened claiming that someone wanted to get rid of her, and the French authorities never carried out a post-mortem to find out the cause of her death. These isolated facts supposedly add up to a secret plot by intelligence agencies to prevent the destruction of the British monarchy.

#### An awful warning

Whatever you do, though, don't let your life be dominated by conspiracy theories or you could end up like the former footballer and TV sports commentator who currently believes that the world is going to be taken over by a secret brotherhood of reptiles, and has published various books giving details. His writings sell very well in some parts of the world, but there must be easier ways of being popular in Canada ...

**After reading**

**Exercise 1**

What do the words in **bold** in the text refer to?

**1. such events**

- a. conspiracy theories
- b. powerful people operating behind the scenes
- c. tragedies such as the death of Princess Diana

**2. they**

- a. conspiracy theories
- b. humans
- c. weak and fallible creatures

**3. Some**

- a. initiation rites
- b. elaborate rituals
- c. secret societies

**4. Hundreds**

- a. Jewish medical professionals

- b. people
- c. Soviet leaders

**5. It**

- a. the Communist Party
- b. The Doctors' Plot
- c. a long line

**6. This**

- a. the fact that the book was exposed as a fraud
- b. documentary proof of such a world conspiracy
- c. a book

**7. one**

- a. a cartel
- b. a conspiracy theory
- c. a light bulb

**Exercise 2**

The phrases in the first table below all use the **passive** because the people involved are not known or because what happened is more important than who did it.

Match each of the phrases with a form of the passive in the second table below.

We are being watched	A book was published	A letter had been written
humans can be seen as	...has been kept from	don't let your life be dominated
medical professionals were accused of	their profits would be drastically affected	the world is going to be taken over

Form	Phrase
Future	
Imperative (negative)	
Present Continuous	
Modal present	
Present Perfect	
Past simple (x2)	
Past perfect	
Conditional	

## **Biotechnology**

Nowadays in the news you can read a lot about biotechnology and the controversies about it and perhaps you ask yourself what it is exactly. Well, this article is going to give you a brief history of the field of biotechnology and show you that, although the word “biotechnology” was first used in 1919, we have been using biotechnology for many thousands of years in ways that are completely uncontroversial. It will also look at the more modern developments which have started intense debate.

### **Beer and Cheese**

When you are drinking a cold beer on a hot day, or eating a delicious cheese sandwich, you can thank biotechnology for the pleasure you are experiencing. That’s right! Beer, bread and cheese are all produced using biotechnology. Perhaps a definition will be useful to understand how. A standard definition is that biotechnology (or biotech for short) is the application of science and engineering to the direct or indirect use of living organisms. And as you know, the food and drink above are all produced by the fermentation of micro-organisms. In beer, the yeast multiplies as it eats the sugars in the mixture and turns them into alcohol and CO<sub>2</sub>. This ancient technique was first used in Egypt to make bread and wine around 4000BC!

### **Antibiotics**

Antibiotics are used to prevent and treat diseases, especially those caused by bacteria. They are natural substances that are created by bacteria and fungi. The first antibiotic was made in China in about 500BC – to cure boils. In 1928 Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin and it was considered a medical miracle. Modern research is looking at the creation of super-antibodies which can kill bacteria and viruses inside the cells that house them.

### **Cleaning up**

Our modern consumer society produces a lot of waste which needs to be disposed of safely and without harmful end products. Environmental biotechnology can help. Indeed, the use of bacteria to treat sewage was first practised in 1914 in Manchester, England. Vermiculture or using worms to treat waste is another environmentally-friendly practise and the end product is a natural fertiliser. Bacteria have even been developed to help with problems such as oil spills. They convert crude oil and gasoline into non-toxic substances such as carbon dioxide, water and oxygen and help create a cleaner, healthier environment.

### **Modern times**

These examples of biotechnology are accepted by most people. However, the discovery of the DNA structure by Watson and Crick in 1953 was the beginning of the modern era of genetics and the following areas of biotech are very controversial. Read on...

### **GM food**

The genetic modification of plants and crops has been in practice for many years. This involves changing the genetic code of these plants so that they are more resistant to bad conditions like drought, floods and frost. Supporters of GM food say that it can offer the consumer better quality, safety and taste and for over a decade Americans have been eating GM food. However, things are very different in Europe where genetically modified food is very strictly regulated and regarded with deep suspicion by the public. GM food has even been called “Frankenfood” in the press, a term inspired by the novel Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. There is a great cultural divide between

America and Europe over whether such food is safe to eat and will not harm the environment and the discussion is still in progress.

### **Cloning and stem cell research**

1997 saw the birth of Dolly the sheep, the first animal cloned from an adult cell. This was a remarkable achievement which created world-wide debate on the ethical issues surrounding cloning. International organisations such as the European parliament, UNESCO and WHO all declared that human cloning is both morally and legally wrong. However, we need to make a distinction between reproductive cloning and therapeutic cloning. Nowadays the idea of reproductive cloning – creating a copy of another person - is no longer interesting for researchers. Instead therapeutic cloning is creating excitement in the biotech world. Key to this technique are stem cells, which are master cells that have the potential to become any other kind of cell in the body e.g. nerve cells, blood, heart muscle or even brain cells. Stem cells themselves have generated a lot of controversy as it was believed that only human embryos could provide them. However, it now appears that adult stem cells offer the same possibility. This would mean that a patient who suffered a heart attack could provide doctors with his adult stem cells which could then be implanted back into his heart and used to create heart muscle, replacing the muscle that was damaged. As the genetic code is identical, there would be no problem of the body rejecting the implant as, unfortunately, happens with organ transplants. In the future, biotechnologists hope that stem cells could be used to grow entire organs. In this way biotechnology offers the hope of revolutionising medical treatment.

In this brief overview of the history of biotechnology we have jumped from making bread to making human organs - an enormous leap- and it is clear that these modern practices raise many controversial issues. However, despite the debate, we can imagine that as biotechnology has been around for many years, it will still be around for some time to come - but who knows where it will take us?

### **ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE**

1. Making yoghurt can be considered biotechnology in action.
2. Biotechnology started in 1919.
3. Antibiotics are a modern invention.
4. Bacteria can cause diseases.
5. Environmental biotechnology produces a lot of waste.
6. Genetic modification of plants started in 1953.
7. GM foods are easily available in the U.S. and Europe.
8. Frankenfood is the name given to GM food because it is considered unnatural.
9. Cloning involves making copies of humans.
10. Researchers believe that adult stem cells could be used to create body parts.

## Read the article

### How to start a cooperative and change the world

by John Kuti

#### The pioneers of cooperation

The idea of the co-operative is one of the greatest British inventions. To be more exact, it all began with a small shop in Toad Lane, Rochdale in Lancashire.

At the time of the 'Rochdale pioneers' (the 1840's) there were a number of suggestions as to how the lives of ordinary people could be improved:

1. Teetotalism: One simple answer was that their problems all came from drinking alcohol. All they had to do was stop drinking and keep the money for their families.

2. Chartism: Another opinion was the argument for democracy. The supporters of this view said that when everybody had the vote, the laws that kept poor people poor while the rich got richer would be changed.

3. Cooperation: the opinion that won... to work with the laws as they were and the very little money that they had.

People can easily work together for a short time. Examples of co-operation without money changing hands are everywhere, and often it's the only way for the poorest people to achieve anything. Neighbours in slums might agree to clean out a drain, in a remote village they can set up a rota for bringing water. It's easy to understand how everyone benefits from this sort of agreement, but the Rochdale pioneers wanted to do more than that. They wanted to create an alternative to capitalism, a way of organising their lives which would completely change their situation and, finally, change the world.

#### How to start

The process of setting up your cooperative is

they couldn't make the interest payments on loans. Maybe the pioneers discussed and thought about their expenses more seriously because they had saved every penny of it themselves. The pioneers didn't want to give credit in their business either. Customers in their shop had to pay on the spot in cash. At that time, a lot of other shops offered credit to poor customers and took the payment when the workers received their wages.

#### Have cooperatives changed the world?

Nowadays, there are examples of very big and successful cooperatives: a lot of people in Britain do their shopping in John Lewis or Co-op supermarkets. A lot of people in Spain do theirs in Eroski. Unfortunately they haven't changed the world, and I think this is mainly because they have not followed their own principles. They only share a small part of their profits, they do not work especially to provide things that poor people need or limit themselves to their local neighbourhoods. It seems that their success as business organisations has made them less radical and less effective as tools of development.

Five principles of the co-op movement which can still change the world:

1. Start with the most essential products. When the first cooperative shop opened in Rochdale on 21st December 1844 there were only four items on sale: flour, butter, sugar and oatmeal. As the business grew they added tobacco and tea, and later meat, books and magazines were sold on another floor of the building.

2. Produce and sell things within your own community

going to be long and difficult. The pioneers began with 28 members who each paid a subscription of 2 pence a week. I think it was important that they all knew and trusted each other, and that all of them had the same problems. They had to collect enough to rent a shop, their first project, at ten pounds a year. The records of early meetings show that they discussed how to spend every penny. If you calculate with old money there are 240 pence in a pound, so they had to be patient and start small.



#### Credits for the poor

It was impossible for the pioneers to borrow any money to begin their project. They tried to get advances from their employers but this was unsuccessful and caused the members a lot of problems at work because they got a reputation as radicals and trouble-makers. More recent experience, like the success of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, shows that a very small amount of money can be a vital start for the very poor.

The Rochdale pioneers were against credit on principle, and at the time, maybe they were right. Other similar projects ran into problems because

This means making things that low-income people need and use. In 1840s Rochdale it was difficult for workers to buy even basic foods. Nowadays maybe the problems are furniture, shoes or a taxi service. Cooperatives also work successfully to give housing and banking services in poor areas.

3. Do not link the cooperative with any religious or political views

The co-operators agreed to let people discuss any question at their meetings, but the organisation itself did not depend on any religious or political ideas. This seems to have helped the society to survive. New members wanted to join because of the practical benefits of buying from the shop. Anyone could join and it wasn't important what political or religious opinions they had. It also meant that when the members disagreed about theoretical issues, it did not affect the organisation.

4. Use some resources for education

From the very start, the pioneers wanted to put a proportion of their profits into an educational fund. This, in time, became a library and a news-room on the first floor above the shop. The Mondragon group of cooperatives, which began in Spain about 100 years later, started with a school which taught practical subjects like mechanics and electronics.

5. Share the profits

Members of the coop paid in a weekly sum of 2 pence, which later rose to three. However these payments made them the owners of the shop and they received money back, five percent interest on the money plus their share of any profit the shop made.

### Exercise 1

Below are 10 questions or statements about the text. For each one, choose the **best** answer, based on the information in the text.

1. What countries were the Rochdale Pioneers from?

- (a) Spain
- (b) Britain
- (c) Bangladesh

2. What countries are the Mondragon group from?

- (a) Spain
- (b) Britain
- (c) Bangladesh

3. What countries is the Grameen Bank from?

- (a) Spain
- (b) Britain
- (c) Bangladesh

4. The rent for the first shop in Rochdale was:

- (a) ten pounds a week
- (b) ten pounds a month
- (c) ten pounds a year

5. The Rochdale pioneers wanted to:

- (a) give poor people the right to vote
- (b) stop poor people drinking alcohol
- (c) stop poor people borrowing money in shops

6. The Chartists wanted to:

- (a) give poor people the right to vote
- (b) stop poor people drinking alcohol
- (c) stop poor people borrowing money in shops

7. The teetotalers wanted to:

- (a) give poor people the right to vote
- (b) stop poor people drinking alcohol
- (c) stop poor people borrowing money in shops

8. In the text, which phrases beginning with 'ON' means 'immediately and in the same place'?

- (a) on principle
- (b) on the spot
- (c) on sale

9. In the text, which phrases beginning with 'ON' means 'you can buy it'?

- (a) on principle
- (b) on the spot
- (c) on sale

10. In the text, which phrases beginning with 'ON' means 'because of a moral or philosophical opinion'?

- (a) on principle
- (b) on the spot
- (c) on sale



## READING AND SPEAKING

### Life fifty years from now

- 1 The future is difficult to predict. What things in our lives today do you think scientists fifty years ago did NOT predict?
- 2 Look at the text *Life in 2060*. Read the introduction and paragraph headings 1–7 only. What do *you* predict about the topics?
- 3 Which sentences a–g do you think go with which topic?
  - a Lost limbs will regrow, hearts will regenerate.
  - b This knowledge will help reduce suicide rates, one of the major causes of death worldwide.
  - c ... the most sensational discovery ever, that is, confirmation that life really does exist on Mars.
  - d It is now routine to extend the lives of laboratory animals by 40%.
  - e ... your fridge will 'know' when you are low on milk or any other item, ...
  - f Soon their existence will be no more controversial than the existence of other galaxies 100 years ago.
  - g It could cause a global revulsion against eating meat ...
- 4 Read the article and put sentences a–g in the right place.
- 5 Are these statements true (✓) or false (✗)?
  - 1 Women will be able to give birth aged 100.
  - 2 It will be possible to replace all the parts of the body.
  - 3 Animal parts will be used for transplantation.
  - 4 Scientists think that computers won't ever do the work of the human brain.
  - 5 Scientists believe that if we can talk to animals, we won't want to eat them.
  - 6 Alien life has already been found on Mars.
  - 7 There could be an infinite number of other universes.
  - 8 The walls in your house will change colour to suit your mood.
  - 9 Your armchair will help you do your housework.
  - 10 Pills will replace food.

#### What do you think?

- Read the article again and underline the predictions that most surprise you.  
Which do you believe will definitely happen?  
Which might happen?  
Which do you believe won't happen?
- What predictions can you make? Choose from these topics:

transport	jobs	television	communication
the home	food	clothes	sport

# Life in

An international group of forty scientists have made some very surprising predictions about the future. They say that in the next fifty years the way we live will change beyond our wildest dreams. Here are some of their predictions. You may find some of them surprising.  
BEA ROSENTHAL reports.

## 1 Life expectancy

Within 50 years, living to a 100 while still enjoying active, healthy lives will be the norm. Professor Richard Miller of the University of Michigan says: '\_\_\_\_\_ We will be able to do the same for humans.' So with regular injections, centenarians will be as vigorous as today's sixty-year-olds. Women will be able to give birth well into old age; their biological clocks could be extended by ten years.

## 2 Growing body parts

Professor Ellen Heber-Katz says: 'People will take for granted that injured or diseased organs can be repaired in much the same way as we fix a car. \_\_\_\_\_ Damaged parts will be replaced. Within 50 years whole-body replacement will be routine.' But doctors will need huge supplies of organs for transplant. Where will they come from? Scientists say these could be grown inside animals from human cells.

## 3 Understanding the brain

We don't yet know how the brain gives us our awareness of being alive. 'But,' says Professor Susan Greenfield of Oxford University, 'in 50 years' time we may have a clearer idea of how the brain generates consciousness.' Studies of the brain and the nature of consciousness will bring much greater understanding of disorders such as schizophrenia and depression. \_\_\_\_\_ Other scientists go further than Professor Greenfield. They believe that by 2060 computers will develop their own consciousness and emotions. Human beings may eventually be replaced by computers in some areas of life.

# 2060

## 4 Understanding animals

Thanks to a device which can 'read' emotions, feelings, and thoughts, we will be able to 'talk' to animals. The story of \*Dr Dolittle will be fact, not fiction. This could first work with primates, then mammals, then other vertebrates, including fish,' says Professor Daniel Pauly from Canada. '[redacted]', so we might all become vegetarian.'

\* fictional character for children

## 5 Discovering aliens

A number of scientists predict that the biggest breakthrough in the next 50 years will be the discovery of extra-terrestrial beings. Dr Chris McKay of NASA says: 'We may find evidence of alien life frozen in the ancient permafrost on Mars.' Scientists hope that the current interest in space missions to this planet means that there is every chance of making [redacted]. Dr McKay also believes that evidence of alien life forms may even be found here on Earth.

## 6 Parallel universes

Advances in quantum physics will prove that there are parallel universes. In fact there may be an infinite number of them. These universes will contain space, time, and some of them may even contain you in a slightly different form. For years parallel universes only existed in the works of science fiction, but now Professor Max Tegmark says: '[redacted].'

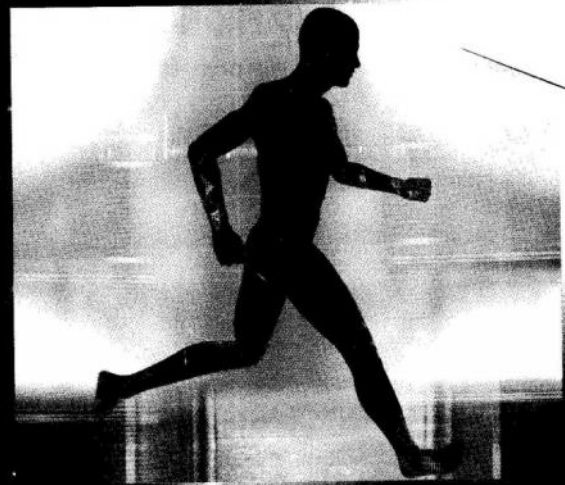
## 7 Our homes

What might our houses be like in the second half of the 21st century? This is Professor Greenfield's prediction:

As you enter the living room, sensors will detect your presence and the walls will start to glow. Talk to the walls and, activated by your voice, they will change to a colour of your choice, 'pink' to 'green' to 'blue', whatever suits your mood.

Sink into your glowing cyber-armchair, relax in the knowledge that the house computer will perform all your everyday household tasks. The voice system in the chair will address you by name and advise a change in position that will be better for your spine.

In the kitchen, [redacted] and it will automatically send orders to the supermarket. However, it is in the kitchen where 'new' meets 'old'. Food remains in its old-fashioned form. Pills, so confidently predicted in the 20th-century to replace food, exist, but nobody wants them. There is too much pleasure in cooking, chewing and tasting all kinds of food.



## Finally

Predicting the future has occupied mankind for generations. However, not always successfully. The huge influence of many of today's technical marvels, such as the Internet or mobile phones, was never predicted.

## ESERCITAZIONI

Read the text and choose the missing word for each of the numbered gaps.  
Mark your answers (A, B, C or D) on your answer sheet.

### Making Tea

Fill the kettle <sup>(26)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ cold water and  
turn on the switch. While the water is heating up put  
the teabags <sup>(27)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the teapot and  
arrange the cups and saucers on a tray. Fill a small



jug with fresh milk and put some sugar <sup>(28)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a bowl. When the



water has boiled pour it <sup>(29)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the  
teabags, put the lid on the teapot and leave the tea to  
stand <sup>(30)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about five minutes. Then  
enjoy a delicious cup of tea!

26. A with

B in

C for

D to

27. A on

B onto

C into

D with

28. A at

B on

C onto

D in

29. A onto

B into

C at

D in

30. A during

B for

C since

D under

Read this article on tourism then answer the questions that follow by choosing True (A), False (B) or Not in Text (C). Mark your choice on your mark sheet.



### ***Tourism, did you know ... ?***

In eighteenth century Britain, only a few extremely rich people travelled abroad. They would go on a 'Grand Tour' of Europe lasting sometimes up to two years.

In Italy, they often bought wonderful works of art very cheaply.

Even up to the middle of the nineteenth century only people who had a lot of money could afford to travel to other parts of Britain. However, when railways were built, more and more ordinary people could also go to the coast, if only for a weekend or even for a day.

The traditional British seaside holiday really only entered the nation's way of life at the beginning of the twentieth century when workers started to be given holidays with pay.

In the second half of the twentieth century the availability of cheaper air travel meant that tour operators could offer 'package holidays' (flights and hotel accommodation all arranged and included in a special single price). Spain and the Mediterranean area became extremely popular for holidays.

In 1913 Blackpool, a large seaside town in the north of England, had 4 million visitors, mainly from the cotton-mill towns in Lancashire.

Nowadays people fly to more distant places for their holiday. Today a 400 passenger aeroplane can fly non-stop from London to Johannesburg in 11 hours, and from London to Bangkok in 14 hours. The United States of America is now a very popular destination. About 43.5 million Britons now go abroad for a holiday every year.

1. Not many people travelled overseas from Britain in the eighteenth century.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

2. Those who went on a 'Grand Tour' were usually very rich.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

3. Works of art were usually very expensive to buy in Italy.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

4. Before railways were built, few ordinary people were able to enjoy the coast.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

5. Once people had holidays with pay, they started going away to the seaside more often.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

6. Many visitors from the south of England went to Blackpool for their holidays.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

7. Blackpool has always been the most popular seaside town in Britain.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

8. The British invented the 'package holiday'.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

9. Large planes flying from London to Bangkok have to stop for more fuel on the way.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

10. Nowadays, it is as quick to fly from London to Bangkok as to Johannesburg.

**A = True      B = False      C = Unknown**

## History

Not many people know <sup>(16)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Cardiff used to be a Roman settlement. The Romans <sup>(17)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ lived there guarded the point where the River Taff joined the Bristol Channel. Many Roman household articles have been discovered <sup>(18)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ tell us a lot about the people <sup>(19)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ lives were spent living on the banks of the Taff. There are still reminders of Roman times, including <sup>(20)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ is thought to be one of the finest Roman gateways in Britain. On the site of the Roman camp, the Normans built a castle, part of <sup>(21)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ still exists. They defended the castle against the Welsh, <sup>(22)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ attacked it more than once. The castle <sup>(23)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ visitors come in great numbers to see, was rebuilt in the nineteenth century by the architect William Burges, <sup>(24)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ was famous for his marvellous designs. The park in <sup>(25)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ it stands, is also a major attraction in the city centre.



16. A which B who C whom D that
17. A who B whose C which D who's
18. A which B what C who D whose
19. A whose B which C who D that
20. A who's B whose C who D what
21. A which B who C whom D whose
22. A whose B who C which D who's
23. A whom B that C whose D who
24. A whose B which C who D that
25. A who's B whose C who D which

Fill the gaps in the sentences selecting the correct missing word (A, B, C or D).  
Mark your selection on your answer sheet.

26. "I missed the last bus home, so I \_\_\_\_\_ take a taxi."

- A had to      B must      C can      D have to

27. "Congratulations, you've won one million euros. If I were you, I  
\_\_\_\_\_ invest the money for the future."

- A can      B could      C must      D would

28. "He wasn't very nice to you. He \_\_\_\_\_ apologise for that!"

- A couldn't      B mustn't      C should      D have to

29. "You can't go home yet. You \_\_\_\_\_ finalise this project first."

- A can      B had to      C must      D could

30. "We \_\_\_\_\_ watch the film last night because the DVD was  
broken."

- A mustn't      B couldn't      C can't      D shouldn't



Read the text and choose the missing word for each of the numbered gaps.  
Mark your answers (A, B, C or D) on your answer sheet.

Put 150ml of cream <sup>(31)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a saucepan and allow it  
<sup>(32)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ boil. Mix 250g of chopped plain chocolate into the cream and  
stir for <sup>(33)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ five minutes. Put the mixture into a bowl and allow it to  
cool, then place it <sup>(34)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a refrigerator <sup>(35)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ one  
hour. Cover a baking tray <sup>(36)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ silver foil. Form the mixture into  
balls and place them <sup>(37)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the baking tray. Put 50g of cocoa powder  
<sup>(38)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a bowl and cover the balls in cocoa <sup>(39)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
rolling the balls around in it. Don't eat them all <sup>(40)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ once.

31. A with                      B in                      C for                      D to
32. A on                      B to                      C into                      D with
33. A about                      B on                      C onto                      D with
34. A on                      B into                      C at                      D about
35. A during                      B for                      C since                      D under
36. A with                      B into                      C for                      D to
37. A onto                      B to                      C into                      D with
38. A about                      B on                      C into                      D with
39. A by                      B into                      C at                      D on
40. A during                      B for                      C since                      D at

Select the correct answer (A, B, C, or D) to fill the gaps in the conversation. Mark your answer on your answer sheet.



"Hi Joell I \_\_\_\_\_ 41 \_\_\_\_\_ you for years. I thought that you \_\_\_\_\_ 42 \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia."

41.     **A**   have seen                    **B**   don't see  
       **C**   haven't seen                **D**   didn't see
42.     **A**   are living                    **B**   went to live  
       **C**   are going to live           **D**   have lived

"That's right. We \_\_\_\_\_ 43 \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia about six years ago, just after I \_\_\_\_\_ 44 \_\_\_\_\_ school."

43.     **A**   went to live                **B**   are going to live  
       **C**   are living                   **D**   have lived
44.     **A**   left                            **B**   will leave  
       **C**   am leaving                 **D**   have left



"I \_\_\_\_\_ 45 \_\_\_\_\_ that it's a great place to live."

45.     **A**   am hearing                 **B**   hear  
       **C**   will hear                   **D**   won't hear

"It is! The climate is fantastic so I \_\_\_\_\_ 46 \_\_\_\_\_ any day of the year."

46.     **A**   can surf                     **B**   can surfing  
       **C**   could have surfed       **D**   have surfed



"So why are you back in Cardiff?"

"Just now I \_\_\_\_\_ 47 \_\_\_\_\_ around Europe before I go back to university."

47.     **A**   will travel                 **B**   am travelling  
       **C**   travelled                   **D**   travel



"That sounds great. Where \_\_\_\_\_ 48 \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment."

48.      **A** did you stay                      **B** have you stayed  
             **C** are you staying                **D** do you stay

"At my aunt's. She \_\_\_\_ 49 \_\_\_\_ in the same old house."



49.      **A** is still living                      **B** still lived  
             **C** could still live                    **D** will be living



"And you're still a terrible ice-skater! Come on. I \_\_\_\_ 50 \_\_\_\_ you around the rink."

50.      **A** am racing                          **B** raced  
             **C** could have raced                **D** will race

Read this information about Sienna. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate form of the verb in brackets.

### Sienna

Sienna is a town of about 60,000 inhabitants in the beautiful Tuscany region of central Italy. Centuries back, it used to be as rich and important as its neighbour Florence, which is only 65 kilometres away, but after a number of wars, it



(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) weak and never

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) much larger. However, even in

the Sienna of today, the narrow streets in the centre of town are much as they

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) many hundreds of years ago. The old walls that

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ (build) to protect the town are still there, wonderfully preserved.

Visitors do not have to worry about traffic; quite simply, cars (5) \_\_\_\_\_

(not allow) into the old parts of the town, or the huge central square which is one of

the most magnificent in the whole of Europe. The town square (which is actually in the shape of a half-circle) (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (know) as the *Campo*.

Every year in August a famous bare-back horse race (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (take place) around the *Campo*. This tradition dates back to the late thirteenth century.

There are ten riders, one for each of the ancient districts or 'quarters' of the city.

Thousands of people stand in the middle of the square to watch. The stones

(8) \_\_\_\_\_ (cover) in earth and sand to make a race track for the horses.

Each of the races (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (last) only a few minutes, but they are fast,

very exciting and colourful! The district that wins (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (give) a large flag, the *Palio*, to keep until the next year's races. People come from all over the world to watch the races.

Joel is speaking to his dad after getting back from holiday. Read the conversation and then rewrite it reported speech like in the example.

Example:



Hi Dad, I've arrived back safely from holiday.

***Joel told his dad he had arrived back safely from holiday.***

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21. That's great. Did you have a wonderful time?



22. It was fantastic, the weather and the food were perfect.

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23. Have you given your aunt her birthday present yet?



24. Oh no, I completely forgot! But it is in my suitcase.

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25. Well make sure you remember to give it to her tomorrow.



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Read these sentences and then rewrite them in the correct form of the passive.

Example: *Christopher Columbus brought cocoa beans to Spain in 1502.*

Cocoa beans were brought to Spain by Christopher Columbus in 1502.

26. *The Aztecs and Mayas of Central America made the first chocolate drink.*

The first chocolate drink.....  
.....

27. *They mixed cocoa beans and water to make a drink called "chocolatl".*

Cocoa beans and water.....  
.....

28. *The Aztecs added pepper to their chocolate.*

Pepper.....  
.....

29. *The Spaniards sweetened chocolate by adding sugar.*

Chocolate.....  
.....

30. *The English did not discover chocolate until about 1650.*

Chocolate.....  
.....

Fill in the gaps in the conversation by selecting the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Mark your answers on your answer sheet.



Thank you for <sup>21</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ me interview you at such short notice, Miss Dawson. I'm so thrilled to meet you. I'm one of your biggest fans. I <sup>22</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ your work for many years.

21. A let B to let  
C not letting D letting
22. A am admiring B have admired  
C admire D admires

Thank you for <sup>23</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ me how old I am! I made my first film thirty years ago when you <sup>24</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ still in short trousers! You must still <sup>25</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at school!



23. A reminding B remind  
C reminded D remembering
24. A are B was  
C were D have been
25. A be B been  
C being D have been



Yes I think I was. My mum <sup>26</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you too. I <sup>27</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to take her to the premiere of your latest film, *The Journal of Jennifer James*, and she is really looking forward to it. I believe you <sup>28</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of weight for the part, didn't you?

26. A was liking B is liking  
C has always liked D doesn't like
27. A promise B have promised  
C will promise D would promise
28. A gain B will have to gain  
C would have to gain D had to gain

Yes I did, over twenty kilos. I had to eat so much pasta! If I <sup>29</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ how difficult it was going to be, I <sup>30</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the part!



29. A had known B have known  
C knew D haven't known
30. A won't have taken B not taken  
C wouldn't have taken D will have taken

Here is a conversation between two friends, Sue and Janet. Write each verb in brackets in the correct tense. The first one has been done for you.



I wish I had brought (bring) my camera. The view from here is terrific!

Yes it is, isn't it? Do you remember the view from the hotel balcony when we were in Corfu last year? We <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (see) right over to the mainland, couldn't we?



Yeh. The thing that I remember most is the swimming. We <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go swimming) every day and since we came home I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not go swimming) once.

Neither have I, but I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the gym every week for the last six months and running on the treadmill for an hour at least.



That's good. After the holiday I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (intend) to join a gym but I never got round to it. Which gym do you go to?

I <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the old gym in Highbury Street but it <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (close down) by the council two months ago because some of the equipment wasn't safe. So then <sup>11</sup> I joined the new gym by the university in London Road.



It's great. <sup>13</sup> It has all the latest equipment and a fabulous sauna and steam room.



I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not try) a sauna before, but <sup>14</sup> I've always wanted to.

<sup>15</sup> You should try it. It's really good for you. You <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
(treat) yourself!



Good idea. Does the new gym have a website?

Yes, it does. I think I have the address on a card in my wallet.



Great. I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (contact) the gym tonight and find out more about it.

Complete the following sentences in the same way as the example using the word must or mustn't, should or shouldn't, could or couldn't, would or wouldn't or will or won't.

Example:

I was in the other room. I couldn't hear the conversation,  
could I ? (I /not hear)

46. Her hair's too long. \_\_\_\_\_ short,  
\_\_\_\_\_ ? (she/cut)

47. I'm relying on you. \_\_\_\_\_ me,  
\_\_\_\_\_ ? (you/not disappoint)

48. We're at customs now. \_\_\_\_\_ our passports,  
\_\_\_\_\_ ? (we/show)

49. If we booked another ticket, \_\_\_\_\_ with us,  
\_\_\_\_\_ ? (he/come)

50. There is a speed limit! \_\_\_\_\_ above 70mph,  
\_\_\_\_\_ ? (you/not go)



## Traduci in inglese i seguenti testi.

1. L'area archeologica di Agrigento è un sito di grande bellezza che fu fondato come colonia greca nel 6° secolo A.C. e diventò una delle principali città del Mediterraneo. Essa è situata nella costa meridionale della Sicilia e il sito originale è stato conservato secondo criteri che rispettano la sua forma originaria.
2. Sondaggi recenti mostrano che oggi il 40% delle famiglie britanniche possiedono un computer, quindi all'età di sette anni i bambini hanno già sviluppato un interesse per i videogiochi. Alcuni medici dicono che i bambini potrebbero diventare tanto dipendenti da smettere di fare i compiti e perfino rubare denaro per comprare i videogiochi. Tuttavia sono necessari ulteriori studi per concludere che i videogiochi causano problemi.
3. Gli scienziati studiano la gente di Okinawa, un'isola del Giappone, dal 1970. Stanno cercando di capire perché gli abitanti di Okinawa vivono più a lungo di chiunque altro. Potrebbe essere a causa della loro dieta che consiste di frutta, verdura e soya, oppure perché essi mangiano il 20% di cibo in meno delle persone nei paesi occidentali.
4. Si dice che ridere ogni giorno faccia vivere sette anni più a lungo perché riduce lo stress. Un medico di Bombay ha iniziato lo yoga della risata nel 1997. Da allora viaggia in tutto il mondo e fonda centinaia di club della risata. Una cosa è certa: anche se ridere non fa vivere più a lungo, certamente fa sentire meglio.
5. Uno dei vantaggi del vivere in città è la vita notturna. Il centro della città è sempre vivace la sera e c'è un'ampia varietà di bar, discoteche e ristoranti dove andare. Se si è più interessati alla cultura e alle attività culturali, si può andare al cinema, al teatro, ai concerti, ecc. Tuttavia, le città sono affollate e possono essere sporche e pericolose.
6. Gli effetti dei cambiamenti del clima si possono già vedere nella nostra vita quotidiana. Le estati stanno diventando più calde e gli inverni più umidi. Alcune specie animali scompariranno e certe malattie, come ad esempio l'asma (asthma) e il cancro stanno diventando più comuni. Per ridurre il riscaldamento globale le nazioni del mondo dovranno agire insieme e collaborare.