

GOING FOR FINALS

KAMMERHOFER
REID-BROWN
SPÖTTL

B2

für AHS

VOLUME 2

Europäischer
Referenzrahmen

B2-

B2

B2+

Leseprobe



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2 SpaceX vs a tiny Texas neighborhood

Read the text about people who have Elon Musk's SpaceX company as their neighbour.

Complete the sentences (1–11) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

SpaceX vs a tiny Texas neighborhood

The Texans did not expect Elon Musk to move in; however, now his company, SpaceX, is causing chaos in one particular village.

In Texas, Boca Chica's residents have had to learn to live with Elon Musk's rocket business, or at least put up with it, for more than half a decade. Unfortunately for these residents, the company SpaceX's work is going to get even more troublesome very soon. This has been made even clearer by a recent explosion caused by the company's various tests. As a result, the business has offered to buy the residents' houses. Some have gladly accepted this offer. Other Boca Chica residents have turned it down, even though SpaceX's CEO, Elon Musk, is preparing to launch a rocket almost next door to the residents' houses.

There are very few people in Boca Chica who could have foreseen just how much of an impact SpaceX would have on their lives when the company moved into the village. Some have turned into space enthusiasts and support Elon Musk's vision, while others cause him issues at every turn. All this fuss and media attention, just because there's a new neighbor in town. One resident claimed, "the company isn't going anywhere, so it is trying its best to persuade us all to leave."

During launch operations, the company puts up two checkpoints in order to meet safety requirements from federal and county authorities. The only people allowed through the first checkpoint are the company's own staff and Boca Chica's residents. The checkpoint itself is around 15 miles away from the main village.

Every single Boca Chican says the same thing: in the days before SpaceX turned up, the village was a peaceful, beachy haven where not much happened, isolated from the hustle and bustle of



commercial activities. Today, however, the residents note that it seems pretty claustrophobic. Road closures have now become a common occurrence in the village. So have the disruptions caused by the company's tests, which are more intense than ever before. Almost every day the peaceful sounds of the breeze blowing through the trees and soft birdsong are punctured by the intrusive bangs, crashes and whirrs of heavy machinery, the company's noisy vehicles and the workers' radios.

Not long ago, the local sheriff handed out memos to the residents. The memos were because SpaceX was going to conduct significant tests of their main prototype. There was a danger that the prototype might overload and build up enough pressure to completely smash all the windows. Upon hearing a police siren, it was advised that the villagers remove themselves, and their animals, from the village while the tests took place.

Then came the letters, directly from the company this time. The letter claimed that the company, when it first moved into Boca Chica, did not expect the locals to experience such significant disruption

to their daily lives. Subsequently, the company admitted how difficult it would be to keep these disturbances to a minimum. The letters were accompanied by contracts which set out the offer to purchase the residents' homes. The company stated that the residents who accepted the offer were welcome to return for VIP events showcasing the spaceship's launch.

The Boca Chicans had long suspected that the company would try to get rid of them at some point. Even so, the letters came as a shock to a few of the residents. The letters explained that the company was offering to pay triple the market value of the homes. The residents were given only 14 days to decide whether they wanted to take up the offers or not.

| | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 0 | Because SpaceX has upset residents, Musk proposed ____. | <i>buying the residents' houses</i> |
| 1 | Not all residents ____. (Give <u>one</u> answer.) | |
| 2 | Musk's next project in Texas is to ____. | |
| 3 | SpaceX probably requires the inhabitants ____. | |
| 4 | When active rocket tests are taking place, SpaceX ____. | |
| 5 | Once far away from civilisation, Boca Chica now ____. | |
| 6 | Finding normal routes blocked has ____. | |
| 7 | People were informed by police that the company would ____. | |
| 8 | A failed trial run of the rocket could ____. | |
| 9 | Initially, SpaceX was unaware that residents would ____. | |
| 10 | Residents who sell their houses, will be invited to ____. | |
| 11 | For a while now, the villagers have felt that SpaceX wants to ____. | |

4 Fighting against wildlife trafficking

Read the text about illegal activity in Brazil.

Complete the sentences (1–9) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Fighting against wildlife trafficking

There are four primary types of illegal wildlife trafficking in Brazil. The first type is for products and souvenirs. The second type is for use in traditional medicine. People do crazy things to become healthier. For example, they believe that the hearts of dolphins can help to cure them. The third category is bio-piracy: the unfair exploitation of Brazil's biodiversity and local expertise. Locals might know which animals (or plants) could cure them of an infection or another health issue. When pharmaceutical companies learn that locals use, for instance, a frog's poison to treat an infection, they smuggle that frog back to their laboratories. There, they attempt to identify and then reproduce the active molecule – the component responsible for the curing of the infection. Then they patent it, which means that the locals are forced to buy the companies' expensive medicine.

The last, and largest, type of illegal wildlife trafficking in Brazil is to provide animals for the pet market. Birds are the most popular animals because it's im-

portant in Brazilian culture to have song birds and parrots in cages. Other animals which are often taken for pet markets include fish, reptiles, spiders and small mammals. While the illegal market is still incredibly large, some of these pets are able to be purchased legally from commercial breeders.



Even when the police manage to seize illegally traded animals, the question remains of what to do with them. Currently, the 'solution' suggested by the Brazilian Ornithological Society is to euthanise all seized animals from species that are not at risk of extinction or otherwise to keep them in centres which can be costly to run.

The alternative is to return the animals to the wild. In the past scientists have deemed this too risky for both the natural habitat and for the released animal. When it comes to rescued birds, for example, scientists do not know where to release them. Is it really necessary to return individual birds to the same area that they came from, or could they be returned to the wild in any suitable habitat? The answer to these

questions depends on the ecology, genetics and behaviour of the specific species, and depends especially on how isolated and differentiated the various populations of that species are.

If, say, rescued birds from one isolated population were released to breed with birds from a different population, the outcome could be catastrophic in future generations. This can come about either from a change in biological cycles (for instance, the baby birds hatching before there is enough food for the whole population) or from the gene complexes being broken up during genetic recombination. Either one of these results will make the birds less able to survive, much less thrive, in their environment.

Juliana is a volunteer researcher studying wild birds. Her work shows that re-release is possible.

During her PhD studies, Juliana analysed genetic similarity between bird populations. She travelled all around Brazil to gather blood samples from many different birds in many different areas and then examined their genomes to find out if an individual bird's origin could be identified. Juliana managed to apply her findings directly to the war against illegal wildlife trading. "I tracked the origin of 49 parrots seized in one city; they were all part of the same genetic group."

Her research identifies which areas are the most likely for exploitation of the birds, meaning that the police can take preventative measures. Some examples of possible measures include roadblocks checking for traffickers leaving the area with illegal animals, more legislation to protect the environment and social work within the local communities.

| | | |
|---|--|------------------|
| 0 | Some people think parts of certain animals are able to ____. | <i>cure them</i> |
| 1 | Seeing that natural healing methods are effective, companies ____. (Give <u>one</u> answer). | |
| 2 | Due to the new drugs' copyright, native residents have to ____. | |
| 3 | Brazilians' favourite animals are birds which they ____. | |
| 4 | Although wildlife trafficking is common, wild animals can still ____. | |
| 5 | One option for dealing with non-endangered animals is to ____. (Give <u>one</u> answer.) | |
| 6 | Regarding saved birds, experts are not sure ____. | |
| 7 | If birds are put back in the wrong place they might be ____. (Give <u>one</u> answer.) | |
| 8 | Juliana collected material from her test subjects in order to ____. (Give <u>one</u> answer.) | |
| 9 | Juliana's work allows the authorities to ____. | |

1

Endangered dragons in Indonesia

You are going to listen to a radio programme about Komodo Island, where rare animals live.

First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, complete the sentences (1–10) using a maximum of 4 words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you. After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.



| | | |
|----|--|------------------------------------|
| 0 | Labuan Bajo has been chosen to become ____. | <i>a major tourist destination</i> |
| 1 | Labuan Bajo's goal is to pull in ____. | |
| 2 | One of Bali's environmental problems is ____. (Give <u>one</u> answer.) | |
| 3 | Today, Labuan Bajo is a town which is ____. (Give <u>one</u> answer.) | |
| 4 | Guidebooks called the area of the National Park ____. | |
| 5 | The form of tourism the country favours is ____. | |
| 6 | The governor wanted to make access to the park pricier to lower ____. | |
| 7 | The governor also wanted to shut down the park during ____. | |
| 8 | The governor's measures were vetoed by ____. | |
| 9 | During Covid-19, the only people allowed on Komodo are ____. | |
| 10 | It could be that the virus makes ____. | |

16

Famous people as role models

You are going to listen to five people speaking about the person they admire most.

First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, match the speakers with their statements (A–L). There are two extra statements that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you. After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.



| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|--|
| Speaker 1 | 0 | F | 1 | |
| Speaker 2 | 2 | | 3 | |
| Speaker 3 | 4 | | 5 | |
| Speaker 4 | 6 | | 7 | |
| Speaker 5 | 8 | | 9 | |

Which role model ___?

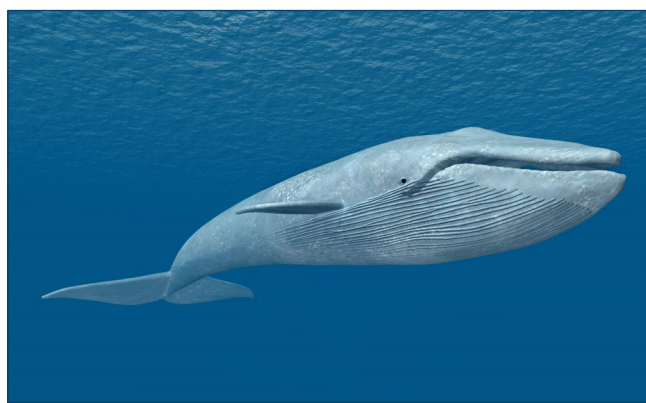
| | |
|----------|---|
| A | donates to charitable causes |
| B | was an idol for members of marginal groups |
| C | encouraged young people to respect minorities |
| D | died in a mysterious way |
| E | contributed to a change in young people's interests |
| F | slept very little |
| G | was the first person to fly around the globe |
| H | was a politician who was calm and easygoing |
| I | ensured peace for their country when s/he was in office |
| J | was a source of motivation for women in their field |
| K | was personally acquainted with the speaker |
| L | changed their approach to political resistance |

2 Can a blue whale swallow a man?

Read the text about the biggest animal in the world.

Some words are missing from the text. Complete the text by writing one word for each gap (1–14) in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Quite interestingly, a blue whale's throat is almost exactly the same diameter as its belly button (which is about the size of a salad plate), but a little smaller than its eardrum (which is more the size of a dinner plate).



For eight months of the (0) year, blue whales eat practically nothing, but during the summer they feed almost continuously, eating (1) up to three tons of food a day. (2) As you may recall from school biology lessons, their diet (3) consists of tiny, pink, shrimplike crustaceans called krill, which go down like honey. Krill come conveniently served in huge swarms that can (4) reach more than 100,000 tons.

The word *krill* is Norwegian. It comes from the Dutch

word *kriel*, (5) meaning "small fry", but is now also used to mean both pygmies and "small potatoes." Krill sticks have been marketed (6) with great success in Chile. But krill mince was a bit of a disaster in Russia and South Africa (7) due to dangerously high levels of fluoride. It came from the krill's shells, which were too small to pick off individually before mincing.

The narrow size of a blue whale's throat means it couldn't swallow a man. The only whale with a throat wide (8) enough to swallow a whole person is the sperm whale and, once inside, the intense acidity of the sperm whale's stomach juices would make (9) it impossible. The celebrated case of the "Modern Jonah" in 1891, in (10) which James Bartley claimed to have been swallowed by a sperm whale and rescued by his crewmates fifteen hours later, (11) was been nailed as a fraud.

Apart (12) from its throat, everything else about the blue whale is big. At 105 feet in length, it is the largest creature that has ever lived – three (13) times the size of the biggest dinosaur and equivalent in weight to 2,700 people. The whale's tongue weighs more than an elephant and (14) its heart is the size of a family car. It also makes the loudest noise of any individual animal: a low frequency hum that can be detected by other whales more than 10,000 miles away.

| | |
|---|------|
| 0 | year |
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |

| | |
|----|--|
| 8 | |
| 9 | |
| 10 | |
| 11 | |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | |

7

Picky eaters

Read the text about people who do not like everything they eat.

Some parts are missing. Choose the correct part (A–Q) for each gap (1–14). There are two extra parts that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.



We all know a picky eater or two. Maybe you have that one friend who refuses to (0) ___ a sushi restaurant even though she has never tried it. Or the one who turns her nose up at the mention of anything green. Maybe you are the picky eater, avoiding culinary adventures (1) ___ because you are convinced you will (2) ___ new and gross-looking food is put on your plate. You are (3) ___ by certain foods and refuse to eat them.

But (4) ___ that some people are picky eaters when others are willing to (5) ___ anything that is edible? Turns out, there is no single explanation for your picky eating habits, (6) ___, experts suggest a combination of genetics and environment (7) ___.

It's normal for children to go through a picky stage when they are toddlers, maybe two or three years old, and that seems to (8) ___ evolutionarily. When our primitive ancestors first tried new foods, they had to (9) ___ to avoid being poisoned. But as we get older, if we continue to avoid new foods, pickiness (10) ___.

No one just wakes up on their 30th birthday suddenly liking broccoli. You have to eat it, and eat it, (11) ___, you may start to like it. It may take a new cooking method, or just the right (12) ___. And you just may never like broccoli, (13) ___ how hard you try. As long as your diet is healthy overall and you're getting enough vegetables from other sources, that's fine.

But to even have a shot at being less picky, you definitely have to be committed. The most common (14) ___ wanting to change is social. Expanding your eating horizons can make everything from date night to a vacation easier and more enjoyable.

| | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------|---------------|----------|-------------------|
| A | and eventually | G | hate whatever | M | try pretty much |
| B | are to blame | H | make sense | N | type of seasoning |
| C | at all costs | I | no matter | O | way of eating |
| D | be cautious | J | put off | P | what it is |
| E | but rather | K | reason for | Q | why is it |
| F | can persist | L | set foot in | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

1 Building peace

The United Nations Association announced the world's first *Young People's Peace Essay Competition*. Young people are asked to submit their essays answering the question:

***Can young people play a role
in building peace?***

Winners will receive a certificate and a financial reward. You have decided to send in an essay.



You should answer the question above and give reasons for the position you take.

In your **essay** you should discuss:

- ways to build peace between nations
- how young people can contribute to building peace
- ideas to make young people enthusiastic about peace

Give your essay a **title**. Write about **400 words**.

18

Preserving water resources

Your school work on climate change has led you to the information and request below.

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF WATER

Australia's bushfires are the latest examples of what can happen when we don't have enough water. The problem is becoming more apparent every day.

Our latest studies outline how demand for water will be greater than the supply by much more than first expected. We need interested and informed volunteers to help support our online project "Preserving Water Resources".

Join the conversation: @PreservingWaterResources

Claire Simons,
Global Director, Water



You have decided to write to Claire Simons.

In your **email** you should:

- outline problems caused by limited water resources
- suggest ways people could save water
- persuade Ms Simons to accept you as a volunteer

Write around **250 words**.