

G R A M M A R

Complete the article by filling in the gaps with the proper verb form or verb tense. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. Example: (00) *was watching*

Troubled Blood

With a quick glance at the still-closed front door of the house he 00 (watch), Strike opened the book and skim-read a couple of pages, looking up at regular intervals to check that SB 01 (emerge, yet).

The first chapter, which Robin hadn't marked, but which Strike flicked through anyway, dealt summarily with Margot's childhood and adolescence. Unable 02 (gain) access to anybody with particularly clear memories of his subject, Oakden had to fall back on generalities, supposition, and a good deal of padding. Thus Strike learned that Margot Bamborough most likely '03 (dream) of leaving poverty behind'. Word count was boosted by the information that the mini-skirt 04 (popularise) by Mary Quant, that London was the heart of a thriving music scene, and that the Beatles had appeared on America's *Ed Sullivan Show* around the time of Margot's nineteenth birthday. 'Margot would have been excited by the possibilities 05 (offer) to the working classes in this new, egalitarian era,' C. B. Oakden informed his readers.

Strike glanced up again at the front of the house into which SB 06 (disappear). Still no sign of him. Turning back to C. B. Oakden, the bored Strike skipped ahead to the first place Robin 07 (mark) as of interest.

Strike glanced up yet again at the house, saw no change, and flicked to the end of the book, which concluded in a final burst of speculation, supposition, and half-baked theory. On the one hand, Oakden implied that Margot had brought tragedy on herself, that fate had punished her for 08 (be) too bold, while hoisting herself hubristically out of the class into which she 09 (be) born. On the other hand, she seemed 10 (live) her life surrounded by would-be killers.

Strike was on the point of closing the book when he noticed a line of darker page edges in the middle, suggesting photographs, and opened it again. All were of poor quality and featured Margot only incidentally. Objects appeared 11 (protrude) out of the lawn close to the house: upon closer examination, Strike concluded that they were the beginnings of walls or columns. It looked as though a summerhouse was under construction.

Walking across the lawn behind two people, unaware that she 12 (photograph), was Margot Bamborough, barefooted, wearing denim shorts and a T-shirt, carrying a plate and smiling at somebody out of shot. Strike deduced that this picture 13 (take) at the staff barbecue Margot had organised. The Phillips house was certainly grander than he'd imagined.

Two pictures featured the St John's practice Christmas party. Decorations 14 (drape) over the reception desk and the waiting room cleared of chairs, which had been stacked in corners. All heads were turned away from the camera, except one. An unsmiling older man in a suit was the only person who seemed 15 (give) notice that the picture was about to be taken.

(Adapted from *Troubled Blood* by Robert Galbraith, 2020, pp. 280-290)

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 01 | 09 |
| 02 | 10 |
| 03 | 11 |
| 04 | 12 |
| 05 | 13 |
| 06 | 14 |
| 07 | 15 |
| 08 | |

Total Points:/15pt

VOCABULARY

Read the article below. Use the word given in CAPITALS at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Will ripped jeans go out of fashion?

'Ripped jeans, which – 00 – seemed to be a fad, have now **INITIAL** 00initially.....
 been popular for at least 10 years. People wear them to dinner
 in – 01 – restaurants, as well as doing yard work. Do you **SCALE** 01
– 02 – a demise any time?' **SEE** 02
 Forget 10 years. Pre-ripped jeans, because that is what we
 are talking about, have been with us for more than three decades.
 Their – 03 – has surged and warned, but ever since designers **POPULAR** 03
 appropriated the – 04 – of workwear, punk, and hippie garb, **SIGNIFY** 04
 these ripped-for-you jeans have never – 05 – gone away. They **ENTIRE** 05
 simply became known as 'distressed denim'.
 While you can argue the – 06 – of purchasing your distress **AUTHENTICITY** 06
 rather than creating it – 07 –, you cannot argue with designers' **YOU** 07
– 08 – to leverage the human desire for shortcuts, or fashion's **ABLE** 08
 fundamental skill at absorbing the trappings of the – 09 – and **GROUND** 09
 turning them into style.
 'I don't see ripped jeans going – 10 – soon,' Benjamin Talley **ANY** 10
 said. – 11 – he would know, as he is a denim specialist who **PRESUME** 11
 has worked on the jeans lines of – 12 – brands, including **NUMBER** 12
 Khaite, Walmart, and Rag & Bone.
 'I feel the – 13 – of more destroyed jeans in the premium **RESURGE** 13
 and luxury market,' he said.
 As to why, it may have something to do with the current vogue
 for all things 1990s and 2000s, the original – 14 – of mass **DAY** 14
 distressed denim. It may also have to do with the – 15 – **DETERIORATE** 15
 of dress codes in the post- – 16 – world. Not to mention the **DOWN** 16
 discussion about – 17 – and upcycling. **SUSTAIN** 17
 Then, too, it probably has something to do with the allure of
 a garment that seems to tell a story of a life well-lived and
 the – 18 – of the language of denim. **UNIVERSAL** 18
 In what may be a supreme example of fashion irony, the
 more – 19 – the ripping, the more expensive the jeans. **DISTINCTION** 19
 Denim is seen as an American staple, and a blank canvas
 with – 20 – possibilities. One that really does withstand **LIMIT** 20
 the test of time.

(Adapted from *New York Times*, November 9-10, 2024, p. 19).

Total Points:/10pts

R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

Read the following passage taken from a book by Matt Haig. For questions 01-10, decide which of the sentences (A-M) above the article best fit into each of the numbered gaps in the article. There are three extra sentences.

An extract from *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

- A** where the stairs were
- B** she didn't deserve to be happy
- C** to cause Izzy other discomfort
- D** to see their faces properly
- E** carrying the sign this time
- F** she'd never seen before
- G** there hadn't been a reason
- H** heading towards the stairs
- I** she continued to walk
- J** to be in love
- K** which were indisputably lovely
- L** whose face couldn't be seen
- M** things had faded between them

- | | |
|----|-------|
| 01 | _____ |
| 02 | _____ |
| 03 | _____ |
| 04 | _____ |
| 05 | _____ |
| 06 | _____ |
| 07 | _____ |
| 08 | _____ |
| 09 | _____ |
| 10 | _____ |

The last message also included emojis of whales and waves. Nora felt a warm glow. Not just from the pictures, – 01 –, but from the contact with Izzy. When Nora backed out of her wedding to Dan, Izzy had insisted that she come to Australia with her. They'd mapped it all out, a plan to live near Byron Bay and get jobs on one of the whale-watching boat cruises.

They had shared lots of clips of humpback whales in anticipation of this new adventure. But then Nora had wobbled and backed out of a swimming career, and a band, and a wedding. But unlike those other things, – 02 –. Yes, she had started working at String Theory and, yes, she felt the need to tend to her parents' graves, but she knew that staying at Beford was the worst option. And yet she picked it. Because of some strange predictive homesickness that festered alongside a depression that told her, ultimately, – 03 –. That she had hurt Dan and that a life of drizzle and depression in her hometown was her punishment, and she hadn't the will or clarity or, hell, the energy to do anything. So, in effect, she swapped her best friend for a cat.

In her actual life, she had never fallen out with Izzy. Nothing that dramatic. But after Izzy had gone to Australia, – 04 – until their friendship became just a vapour trail of sporadic Facebook and Instagram likes and emoji-filled birthday messages.

She looked back through the text conversations between her and Izzy and realised that even though there was still ten thousand miles between them, they had a much better relationship in this version of things.

When she returned to the pub, – 05 –, Dan was nowhere to be seen so she locked the back door and waited a while in the pub hallway, working out – 06 –, and unsure if she actually wanted to follow her tipsy sort-of husband up there.

She found the stairs at the rear of the building, through a door that said *Staff Only*. As she stepped on the beige raffia carpet – 07 –, just after a framed poster of *Things You Learn in the Dark* – one of their favourite Ryan Bailey movies, which they had watched together at the Odeon in Belford – she noted a small picture on a sweet little windowsill.

It was their wedding photo. Black and white, reportage-style. Walking out of a church into a shower of confetti. It was difficult – 08 – but they were both laughing and it was a shared laugh, and they seemed – as far as a photograph can tell you anything – – 09 –. Izzy was there, and Ravi too, looking more like an accountant than a drummer, standing next to a bespectacled woman – 10 –.

(Adapted from *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, pp. 51-52)

Total points:/10pts

Participant Number: _____

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 35. ročník, celoštátne kolo 2024/2025, kategória 2C2 úlohy

PROGRESSIVE TESTING – phrasal verbs with set

Write phrasal verbs with *PICK* and explain their meaning. You will score 1 point for every three correct examples.

For example:

pick on sb = to choose a person and criticize or treat them unfairly

L I S T E N I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

You will hear a text about the Black Mambas. For each statement, decide whether it is true (T), false (F), or not stated in the text (NS). Write the letter representing your answer. You will score half a point for each correct answer. You will hear the text only once.

- 01 ____ The Black Mambas is a unit that was called this because the black mamba snake is amazing and beautiful.
- 02 ____ The unit continues to work on traditional anti-poaching efforts.
- 03 ____ The number of poaching incidents in the area where they work has risen to 63 per cent.
- 04 ____ Despite having been born in the town, Leilah could see animals only in books.
- 05 ____ As a teenager, Leilah experienced something that completely changed her life.
- 06 ____ Leilah believed that rhinos' horns were cut while they were sleeping.
- 07 ____ After completing her studies, Leilah became passionate about protecting and conserving wildlife.
- 08 ____ The unit received an award in the category of unarmed caretakers.
- 09 ____ Poachers don't know Leilah although they come from the same community.
- 10 ____ Leilah thinks that carrying guns can be less inspiring than education.

Total points: _____/5

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Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – celoštátne kolo 2024/2025

Vydal: NIVAM – Národný inštitút vzdelávania a mládeže, Bratislava 2025