

GRAMMAR

Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. Then circle the correct option on the following page.

I (1) ____ to be a creative writer. At different points in my life, I've tried fiction, sports writing, poetry, journalism, and plays. But in my last year of college, I (2) ____ that I wasn't good enough. When I thought of what it meant to be a 'writer', I thought of legends like William Shakespeare and Mark Twain, or brilliant award-winning authors like Margaret Atwood. I felt like I was a million miles away from that level. My plans to get my degree in creative writing suddenly felt silly.

After exploring other possibilities, I ended up studying (3) ____ cognitive psychology. At first, it was difficult to decide (4) ____ until I started to look back at my creative writing ambitions. I spent a summer in my parents' basement (5) ____ articles and books on the scientific study of creativity.

One of the first things I (6) ____ was that there were two ways of thinking about creativity: 'little-c' and 'Big-C'. Little-c was everyday creativity, the type of activities that the average person (7) ____ do, such as building a bookcase or learning to play popular songs on the guitar. Big-C was reserved for geniuses.

I didn't know it then, but I (8) ____ by a 'genius bias'; that is, I believed that the only real creativity was that (9) ____ brilliant creators. I didn't value my own creativity enough. My writing was clearly not at the Big-C level, but I would come to find that the category of little-c was too broad to describe what most people engage in. So, it is easy to minimise, or simply not even recognise, your own creative potential.

Many people think that an individual's artistic talents, such as drawing, writing, or playing a musical instrument, are the best way to determine if they are creative. This is what creativity researchers have called (10) ____ 'art bias'. Even people who realise that creativity takes other forms might still limit their understanding of creativity only to the fields of science or business. Yet you can show creativity (11) ____ countless activities, from organising storage space to fixing a hole in your wall to training the local crows so they bring you shiny objects.

Similarly, many people have a 'novelty bias', which means that they focus only on the aspect of creativity that requires originality. But creativity includes much more than just (12) ____ something new. For one, a creative product should also be useful or task-appropriate. If I served you a dish of scrambled lint with plastic shards and a fresh glass of otter juice, you (13) ____ agree that it is a unique meal, but it's not what most people would call creative.

Finally, the 'mad genius' stereotype links creativity closely with mental illness. Many of the key studies include serious mistakes and even reliable studies that do indicate some connection between mental illness and creativity do not show that one (14) ____ to the other. If anything, it is more likely that creativity has enough positive benefits that those who suffer may be drawn to express (or distract) themselves with creativity.

These biased ways of thinking about creativity might make it less likely that you, or any other person with creative potential, (15) ____ to working creatively in the first place. It's also possible that these biases have prevented you from recognising the creative work that you are already doing.

(Adapted from Kaufman, J.C.: 'Are you an artistic genius?' *AEON*, October 26, 2023.
[online]. Retrieved from: <https://aeon.co/essays/you-can-be-truly-creative-if-you-let-go-of-your-assumptions>)

G R A M M A R – continued

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. A) had always wanted | B) has always wanted | C) always wanted | D) have always wanted |
| 2. A) decide | B) decided | C) deciding | D) decides |
| 3. A) <i>no article</i> | B) the | C) a | D) an |
| 4. A) what interested me most | B) what most me interested | C) what me most interested | D) most what interested me |
| 5. A) devour | B) devours | C) devouring | D) devoured |
| 6. A) discover | B) discovered | C) discovering | D) discovers |
| 7. A) can | B) can be | C) could have | D) could |
| 8. A) have been affected | B) was affecting | C) had been affected | D) am affected |
| 9. A) from | B) of | C) by | D) with |
| 10. A) the | B) a | C) <i>no article</i> | D) an |
| 11. A) on | B) in | C) at | D) of |
| 12. A) producing | B) produce | C) produced | D) produces |
| 13. A) should | B) must | C) might | D) would |
| 14. A) lead | B) led | C) leading | D) leads |
| 15. A) will attract | B) is going to attract | C) attracts | D) will be attracted |

1 point/correct answer**Total: _____ / 15 pts**

V O C A B U L A R Y

Read the text *How Street Dogs Spend their Days* and complete the sentences with the correct form of the word written in brackets.

How Street Dogs Spend their Days

When you think of dog (1) _____ (**BEHAVE**), you may imagine catching a ball or walking on a leash. But more than 70 per cent of the world's dogs aren't pets. Indian (2) _____ (**BIOLOGY**) decided to find out what these dogs do all day in India. The (3) _____ (**RESEARCH**) note that the Indian Native dog generally lives on the streets, surviving on human charity and garbage. They live either (3) _____ (**INDIVIDUAL**) or in small groups, anywhere from big cities to forests. The female dogs typically have one litter a year, either in spring or autumn, but less than half of the pups survive to (4) _____ (**ADULT**).

To find out what these dogs' days are like, the researchers observed street dogs on several occasions between 2008 and 2011, looking at three different cities. They observed the dogs' (6) _____ (**ACTIVE**) during the day at times when both humans and dogs are typically active – avoiding midday, when dogs usually rest away from the heat, and stopping at 7:30 p.m., when it became too dark to see the dogs in (7) _____ (**LIGHT**) spots. The researchers picked a random road within one of the areas and began walking, marking down the obvious age, sex, activity, and vocalisations of any dog they saw.

"For each dog, only the behaviour seen during the (8) _____ (**SIGHT**) was recorded," they write. "For example, if a dog was seen scratching itself and then sniffing grass, scratching was recorded."

The researchers recorded 1,941 dog sightings. They found that there were no great (9) _____ (**DIFFER**) between the activities of the dogs in different locations, of different ages, or different sexes.

Many people in India dislike street dogs, thinking of them as dangerous or (10) _____ (**ANNOY**). They sometimes fight over food and may carry diseases. However, the researchers found little sign of aggression. In fact, the dogs spent most of their time relaxing. In fifty-three per cent of the sightings, the dogs were inactive (coded as "sleep," "laze," or "sit").

(Adapted from Gershon, L.: 'How Street Dogs Spend their Days'. *JSTOR Daily*, June 7, 2022. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://daily.jstor.org/how-street-dogs-spend-their-days/>)

1 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 10 pts

READING COMPREHENSION**Seven Things You Might Not Know About Cranberries**

There are a couple of different cranberry species that grow naturally in the northern hemisphere. The name 'cranberry' is an English shortening of the German *kraanbere*, which translates to 'crane berry' – so named because the flowers were said to look like the bird's head. **(1)** ____

American cranberries were eaten by this continent's native peoples long before any Europeans showed up. Unsurprisingly, since they are so healthy, cranberries were one of the ingredients in pemmican, a pounded meat/fat and nut/fruit mixture that was eaten as a snack on long journeys.

Cranberries have helped in the fight against diseases. High in vitamin C, the whole berries travel extremely well and can last a year after being picked if they're stored properly.

The cranberry is a strong fruit that grows well in sandy, acidic places with water. There are not many places like this in the world. **(2)** ____ In 1828, New Jersey, known for its cranberry region called the Pine Barrens, was the first place where people planted the berries instead of just gathering them from the wild.

The upper Midwest was an important player in making cranberries a big commercial crop. Kimberly Aime tells the story of how Wisconsin became the cranberry capital of the United States. **(3)** ____ Aime notes that the central part of Wisconsin became famous for its 'red gold' cranberry crop in the second half of the nineteenth century. She found an old help-wanted poster from 1884: 200 cranberry pickers were needed; wages were 75 cents per bushel, and there was a special train to take them to the fields. In 1889, the area known as Bearss, Wisconsin, was renamed Cranmoor to celebrate the success of cranberries.

Cranberries can float on water. Each berry, which can be red, white or a mix of these colours, has four air pockets inside that make them float like a buoy. Watching the gathering of cranberries is interesting. **(4)** ____ The colourful berries float on the water and farmers gather them out of the water with a vacuum.

(5) ____ Most cranberries are made into juices, juice blends, and cranberry sauce in a can. Americans eat 400 million pounds of cranberries per year—20% of that is eaten during Thanksgiving.

(Adapted from Wills, M.: 'Seven Things You Might Not Know About Cranberries'. *JSTOR Daily*, November 21, 2018. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://daily.jstor.org/seven-things-you-might-not-know-about-cranberries/>)

READING COMPREHENSION – continued

A. Read the article *Seven Things You Might Not Know About Cranberries*. Decide which of the sentences (A)–(E) best fits into each of the numbered gaps (1)–(5) in the article. Write the correct letter in the blank chart provided below. There are three extra sentences.

- a) Cranberries were first grown commercially in the nineteenth century.
- b) Cranberry festivals are celebrated in many countries around the world, marking the start of the harvest season.
- c) Only about five per cent of the cranberries in the United States are sold fresh.
- d) Today, the state produces about 65% of all cranberries in America.
- e) In October, the fields where they grow are filled with water.
- f) Cranberries were once used as a natural dye for clothing and fabrics.
- g) English colonists named the North American berries after the species they knew back in England.
- h) Unlike other berries, cranberries are primarily grown in urban areas due to their unique soil requirements.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

B. For questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer. Circle the correct answer.

1. The German word *kraanbere* was adapted in English because...
 - a. it was easier to pronounce.
 - b. it sounded more appealing.
 - c. of the similarity with an animal species.
 - d. it was shorter and simpler.
2. American cranberries were part of the diet of...
 - a. European settlers only after the 19th century.
 - b. animals in the wild exclusively.
 - c. English colonists in England.
 - d. native peoples before Europeans arrived.
3. Cranberries have been useful in preventing diseases due to their...
 - a. high vitamin C content.
 - b. low cost and availability.
 - c. attractive colour and shape.
 - d. ease of growing.
4. Pemmican, which included cranberries, was eaten...
 - a. only during special ceremonies.
 - b. as a snack on long journeys.
 - c. as a daily meal by native peoples.
 - d. exclusively by European settlers.
5. Most cranberries in the United States are used to make...
 - a. fresh fruit salads.
 - b. dried snacks.
 - c. juices and sauces.
 - d. decorative items.

1 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 10 pts

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

You will listen to an article titled *The Meaning of Tanning*. Pay close attention, and for each statement, decide whether it is true (T), false (F), or not stated in the article (NS). Circle the correct answer for each statement. You can score up to five points in this exercise.

1. **T / F / NS** Tanning has always been a sign of wealth and leisure throughout history.
2. **T / F / NS** Today, advertisements often show tanned people as ideals of health, attractiveness, and wealth.
3. **T / F / NS** Coco Chanel declared tanning out of fashion in 1929.
4. **T / F / NS** Tanning salons became popular in the United States in the 1950s.
5. **T / F / NS** Tanning beds were invented in the 1920s.
6. **T / F / NS** Vannini and McCright found that most people think tanning is unhealthy.
7. **T / F / NS** Clients of tanning salons, sometimes called 'tanorexics' or 'tanoholics', may use UV beds daily.
8. **T / F / NS** UV beds in tanning salons can also be used for medical purposes.
9. **T / F / NS** Tanning salons lost popularity soon after they opened.
10. **T / F / NS** In Asia tanned skin is considered more attractive than pale skin.

0.5 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 5 pts

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