

GRAMMAR

TASK I. Fill in the gaps (1–15) with the correct words. Use one word for each gap and complete the text. Write your answers into the spaces provided.

Badger rescued after falling down manhole

A curious badger got 1. _____ trouble when he fell down 2. _____ open manhole behind one of the buildings in Colwyn Bay.

Early in 3. _____ morning, a passer-by was walking to work
4. _____ he came across the animal at the bottom of the hole and quickly called for help, worried that the badger 5. might _____ injured.

A team from the RSPCA and the local badger group soon turned up. It was complicated to pull the badger 6. _____ of the manhole, 7. _____ they brought special equipment and long poles to reach 8. _____ safely to the frightened animal.

The rescue took several minutes 9. _____ the badger kept moving around, but the team stayed calm and worked carefully.

Luckily, the animal 10. _____ not hurt. As 11. _____ as they lifted him to the surface, he ran off into the nearby bushes.

Dan Rose from the badger group explained that 12. _____ this time of the year badgers often look 13. _____ food before winter and sometimes end up in places 14. _____ they shouldn't be. He added that he was glad locals reacted quickly.

15. _____ prevent any more accidents, the office staff covered the manhole up and checked the area for other dangers.

(Adapted from Holly Harrison: Badger rescued after falling down manhole. *BBC*. November 12, 2025. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn40dkkpzv5o>.)

Total _____ / 15 points

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 1A – úlohy**VOCABULARY**

TASK I. Read the text about a red panda from Slovakia. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

Hertfordshire Zoo has welcomed a young female red panda named Nila as part of a breeding programme to help protect the 1. _____ (**danger**) species. Nila, who is 17 months old, was born in Slovakia and has come to the UK to be paired with the zoo's male red panda, Ash. There are fewer than 10,000 red pandas left in the wild because their forest habitat is being destroyed and they are often poached for their fur or sold 2. _____ (**legal**) as pets. The zoo 3. _____ (**success**) bred a cub with another pair in 2022. Nila arrived through a European breeding programme that aims to protect species at risk of 4. _____ (**extinct**). "She has settled in well and is already exploring her new enclosure," said head keeper James Cork. She was named after a 5. _____ (**conserve**) from Nepal who worked to restore red panda forests. The zoo says Nila is curious and intelligent, and keepers hope she and Ash will bond soon, helping global conservation efforts.

(Adapted from Nicola Haseler: Red panda arrives at zoo. *BBC*. November 12, 2025. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgjdx176vevo>.)

Total _____ / 5 points

TASK II. Complete the text explaining how to cook chips with the correct form of the words in the box below. There are two extra words.

<i>spoon starch bowl knife tea cook saucepan oven tray soak cut boil</i>
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Begin by 6. _____ floury potatoes into chips that are about 1cm thick. Then 7. _____ them in a 8. _____ of cold water. This prevents them from going brown and rinses off excess 9. _____ that could cause the chips to stick together. Drain the chips and pat them dry with a 10. _____ towel. Fill a deep, heavy-based 11. _____ no more than half full with vegetable oil. Heat the oil until a bread cube dropped into it sizzles gently. Using a slotted 12. _____, lower a few chips at a time into the hot oil. Fry for about eight minutes until the chips are tender, but not browned. You need to fry the chips twice, once to partially 13. _____ them and a second time in hotter oil to give them crispiness and colour. Increase the oil temperature and lower the chips back into the oil. Fry them until they are crisp and golden-brown. Remove the chips and set aside to drain on kitchen paper. If you need to, chips can be kept warm in the 14. _____, spread out on a 15. _____ in a single layer. The oil can be left in the pan to cool completely. It may be used for frying 3-4 times more.

(Adapted from BBC: How to cook chips. *BBC*. [online]. Retrieved from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/techniques/how_to_cook_chips.)

Total _____ / 5 points (0.5 points each)

READING COMPREHENSION

TASK I. Read the text carefully and choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D) for each question. Circle your answer.

Study finds shouting may stop gulls stealing food

University of Exeter researchers put a closed box of chips on the ground to attract herring gulls and watched the effect different recordings had on them. Once a gull approached, they played either a recording of a male voice shouting the words “no, stay away, that’s my food”, or the birdsong of a robin – a small bird with an orange-red chest.

They tested a total of 61 gulls across nine seaside towns in Cornwall and found nearly half of those exposed to the shouting voice flew away within a minute. In contrast, 70% of gulls exposed to the robin song stayed near the food for the duration of the experiment.

The team said they found 15% of the gulls exposed to the speaking male voice flew away, while the rest walked away from the food, still sensing danger. Dr Neeltje Boogert of the Centre for Ecology and Conservation at the Penryn campus said: “So when trying to scare off a gull that’s trying to steal your food, talking might stop them in their tracks but shouting is more effective at making them fly away.”

The university said the experiment was designed to show that physical violence was not necessary to scare off gulls, and the researchers used male voices as most crimes against wildlife were carried out by men. “Most gulls aren’t bold enough to steal food from a person; I think they’ve become quite vilified,” said Dr Boogert.

“What we don’t want is people injuring them. They are a species of conservation concern, and this experiment shows there are peaceful ways to deter them that don’t involve physical contact,” added Dr Boogert.

In 2020, a study by scientists at the University of Exeter found gulls were more likely to be attracted to food which had been handled by humans. In the study, scientists offered herring gulls a choice of two identical food items, from which 79% of the gulls went for items they had seen in human hands.

In 2019, researchers at the university also found the secret to protecting your seaside chips from scavenging gulls was to stare at them. The study revealed birds were more likely to steal food when they avoided the gaze of their victims. Gulls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, so it is an offence to intentionally injure or kill any gull, or to take, damage, or destroy an active nest or its contents.

(Adapted from Lisa Young: Study finds shouting may stop gulls stealing food. *BBC*. November 12, 2025. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czjp8kz1x8yo>.)

1. What was the main goal of the experiment conducted by the University of Exeter researchers?

- | | |
|--|--|
| A) to punish gulls for stealing food | C) to study the types of food gulls prefer |
| B) to show that gulls can be frightened away without any physical harm | D) to prove that robins are more aggressive than gulls |

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 1A – úlohy**READING COMPREHENSION (continued)**

2. According to the experiment, which method made gulls most likely to fly away?

- A) *playing the song of a robin* C) *a shouting male voice*
B) *speaking in a calm male voice* D) *staring at the gulls*

3. According to the 2020 study mentioned in the text, how do gulls behave toward food that has been handled by humans?

- A) *They are more inclined to take it than untouched food.* C) *They prefer food they have not seen people touch.*
B) *They usually ignore it because humans are nearby.* D) *They only take food that smells strongly.*

4. Why did the researchers use male voices in the experiment?

- A) *male voices are louder than female voices* C) *male voices scare gulls more effectively*
B) *the majority of crimes against wildlife are committed by men* D) *female voices cannot be recorded clearly*

5. Which statement is true according to the text?

- A) *It is legal to injure gulls if they steal your food.* C) *Gulls are protected under law and should not be harmed.*
B) *Shouting at gulls is the only way to protect your food.* D) *Gulls are only protected during the breeding season.*

_____ / 5 points

TASK II. Correct the statements below based on the text you have read. Underline the incorrect information and write only your correction on the corresponding line.

6. They tested a total of 61 gulls across nine seaside towns in Devon and found nearly half of those exposed to the shouting voice flew away within a minute.

7. The researchers reported that 15% of the gulls who heard the female voice took off, while the others moved away from the food because they still felt threatened.

8. Research conducted in 2019 discovered that gulls were more interested in food after it had been touched by people.

_____ / 3 points

TASK III. Find the words in the article that are similar in meaning to the following definitions.

9. not frightened of danger or taking risks

10. to look at someone or something for a long time and not move your eyes

_____ / 2 points

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TASK I. You will hear a BBC reporter talking about artificial intelligence (AI). Listen carefully and for questions 1-5, decide whether the statements are true (T), false (F), or not mentioned (NM) in the recording. Circle your answers. You will hear the recording twice.

1. **T / F / NM** Google Bard AI was introduced to the public within six months of ChatGPT's release.
2. **T / F / NM** The algorithms used by AI primarily acquire information from their own experiences.
3. **T / F / NM** The main strength of current AI algorithms is their ability to adapt and generalize knowledge from one situation to a completely different one.
4. **T / F / NM** A key reason why infants and children are highly adaptable is because their physical bodies are constantly changing, providing new experiences.
5. **T / F / NM** AI already beats human intelligence in all areas.

Total _____ / 5 points

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