

**G R A M M A R**

Read the following text and fill in each gap with a proper verb tense, verb form, or verbal phrase. Use all the words given in brackets and put them in the correct word order. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. Spelling counts.

It is possible that a Mars crater once contained water that sloshed back and forth as a tide came and went. If that **1 ... (be)** true, Mars **2 ... (must, have)** a moon that **3 ... (be, exert, massive enough)** a gravitational pull on the planet's seas sufficient enough to create tides—one that was bigger than either of its current moons. Suniti Karunatillake at Louisiana State University and his team saw that traces of tidal activity **4 ... (seem, preserve)** in thin layers within sedimentary rocks in Gale Crater. They analysed the layers to obtain the period of the tides and the properties of the moon that helped cause them. If it **5 ... (exist)**, it **6 ... (be)** 15 to 18 times as massive as Phobos, Mars's largest moon.

The rocks the researchers base their conclusions on **7 ... (image)** by NASA's Curiosity rover. They contain alternating layers of different thickness and colour. Such layers **8 ... (call)** rhythmites, because they are a sign material was brought in by a wind or current with a regularly varying strength. In the case of tides on Earth, the incoming tide **9 ... (bring)** sand, which **10 ... (cover)** with fine mud. The Gale rhythmites contain thin, dark lines suggesting such "mud drapes", which "show a very close similarity with Earth tidal patterns", says team member Priyabrata Das, also at Louisiana State University.

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Continue reading the text and decide which **ONE** word best fits each gap (11-15). Write your answers in the space provided below the text. Spelling counts.

To strengthen their hypothesis, team member Ranjan Sarkar at the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research in Germany used a mathematical technique called a Fourier transform to analyse **11 ...** pattern of layering. **12 ...** identified additional periodicities in the layer thicknesses, suggesting both the sun and a moon were once driving the tide, just like on Earth.

But not **13 ...** is convinced. The lake inside Gale Crater, **14 ...** is 154 kilometres in diameter, was **15 ...** small to have tides, says Nicolas Mangold at the Laboratory of Planetology and Geosciences in Nantes, France, and a member of NASA's Perseverance Mars team.

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 11. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 13. _____ |           |

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_ /15 pts

## V O C A B U L A R Y

Complete gaps 1-10 in the following passage with the most suitable answer (A-D). Circle your answers.

You reach it for it before you've even opened your eyes, your thumb tracing the path to the unlock screen before your brain registers the day. It follows you everywhere, like a parasite, and losing or forgetting it feels like life is going to end. More often than not, you find yourself scrolling and "checking" on auto-pilot and in a **1 ...**, just in case you've missed something.

The pull of the glowing screen is so strong and so baked into our days that it feels impossible to resist. It has **2 ...** into every corner of life—from making phone calls to verifying identity to paying for fuel and groceries. There's the **3 ...** to document every **4 ...**, every cracked footpath, every sunset, even though the photos never match the moment. We tell ourselves we're staying informed and connected...but are we really?

Somewhere between the news alert, the work email, and the half-hour lost in an endless **5 ...** of reels, something else entirely is happening. We're searching but not quite sure for what. Smartphones promise connection and inspiration but rarely deliver the kind we truly crave. A notification sparks for a second, then fades, leaving behind an **6 ...** hunger.

Deep down we know the **7 ...** our phones have over us, but so many feel powerless to change this dynamic. How do we go back to how things were? For most of human history, the hunger for warmth, creativity, and meaning was satisfied in other ways—in the company of friends, in ritual and community, in the leisurely work of making, or in time spent with the natural world.

Today, we try to feed our souls through our devices, **8 ...** life as if it were a feed: quickly, distractedly, half-awake. And still, we are left empty.

Without a screen mediating every moment, you reclaim embodied presence. As Dr Shefali Tsabary says, "Life is to be experienced, not fought against, run from, or engaged **9 ...** ... To be conscious is to be with an experience as it's **10 ...** ." The now is what's sacred.

- |           |                      |                       |                        |                         |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>A</b> fear        | <b>B</b> shock        | <b>C</b> daze          | <b>D</b> trance         |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>A</b> seeped      | <b>B</b> stemmed      | <b>C</b> swept         | <b>D</b> soaked         |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>A</b> temptation  | <b>B</b> coercion     | <b>C</b> preoccupation | <b>D</b> compulsion     |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>A</b> tidbit      | <b>B</b> morsel       | <b>C</b> scrap         | <b>D</b> wink           |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>A</b> loop        | <b>B</b> twist        | <b>C</b> whirl         | <b>D</b> coil           |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>A</b> incredible  | <b>B</b> unquenchable | <b>C</b> insatiable    | <b>D</b> uncommon       |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>A</b> grasp       | <b>B</b> hold         | <b>C</b> grab          | <b>D</b> touch          |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>A</b> skipping    | <b>B</b> skimming     | <b>C</b> scanning      | <b>D</b> surfing        |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>A</b> unwittingly | <b>B</b> nonchalantly | <b>C</b> reluctantly   | <b>D</b> half-heartedly |
| <b>10</b> | <b>A</b> unfolding   | <b>B</b> occurrence   | <b>C</b> emerging      | <b>D</b> progression    |

Total Points \_\_\_\_/10pts

## READING COMPREHENSION

Read a review of a book about efforts to save the Amur tiger. Complete gaps (1-10) with the most suitable clause (A-M) from the list below. Three clauses will remain unused.

The Siberian tiger is an awesome animal, with “cuts of black and washes of orange,” writes conservationist Jonathan Slaght, a roar like “some terrible tide,” at home in the bitter winters of Russia’s far east, the only tiger to share a home with bears. More precisely, geographically, it is the Amur tiger, **1 ...**, one of Asia’s largest watersheds. The Amur delineates the border between Russia and China in the east, **2 ...**, and the potted fortunes of their tiger, that form the spine of Jonathan Slaght’s compelling new book *Tigers Between Empires: The journey to save the Siberian tiger from extinction*.

There may once have been upwards of 3,000 tigers **3 ...**. Already under threat, in 1947 the Soviet Union became the first country in the world to legally protect tigers. For a time, their numbers rallied, Slaght tells us. But large carnivores have always had a particular way of mirroring human politics. The collapse of the Soviet Union impoverished people in these far-flung reaches of the country, **4 ...**. By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, tigers were severely threatened on both sides of the border, their numbers decimated by hunting, logging, the poaching of their prey, and a general sense their presence was indicative of a backwards civilisation.

It was into this environment that the New Englander Dale Miquelle arrived to manage the Siberian Tiger Project. In 1992, Miquelle landed in Primorye, the furthest eastern reach of Russia, hard up against the Sea of Japan, a land of wild, untrammelled forests and rich, intact ecosystems. Slaght, **5 ...**, is a wonderful guide, his descriptions of this unique landscape bristling with detail and feeling. As I read, I ached to be there, where cliffs forested with Korean pine and oak meet the ocean, and tigers prowl the beaches.

Slaght, also a field biologist, understands the obsession of those working on the project, some from the US, most Russian, **6 ...** to ski after tiger tracks. There is a shifting cast of both humans and tigers, and we become as wedded to the fortunes of the cats—proud Olga, brave Severina, orphaned Zolushka—as we do to the people, **7 ...** one individual at a time. As is so often the case, changing the narrative is as important as the science. In one moving scene, a farmer recounts how he chose not to shoot Olga because of the stories Miquelle had told him about her. Coexistence was possible, Miquelle realised, because **8 ...**.

In an era of surging nationalism, the project, and this book, is a timely reminder of **9 ...**. For 30 years, Americans and Russians worked side by side, driven by a greater, shared purpose, with remarkable results. So little was known about Amur tigers when they began, and their dedication and pioneering techniques have given this magnificent animal another chance.

In 2022, Miquelle left Russia, **10 ...**. Foreign-run non-governmental organisations were no longer welcome in the country. But when he left, the area of Amur tiger habitat under protection was six times larger than when he had arrived. There are 500 of the tigers in the wild, twice as many as in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Nothing is stable; we can take nothing for granted. But such hope is a heady tonic for today’s world.

**READING COMPREHENSION**  
**(continued)**

- A** whose survival had long seemed uncertain
- B** who have dragged them back from the brink
- C** 30 years after he began his work
- D** and it is the interplay of these two great empires
- E** forcing them to turn back to trapping to survive
- F** reflecting broader changes in attitudes toward wildlife
- G** who happily head into the woods for weeks
- H** what collaboration across borders can achieve
- I** its range fanning out from the Amur basin
- J** which attracted considerable international attention
- K** who has spent decades here himself
- L** the farmer saw her now as an individual
- M** spread across this vast tract of north-east Asia

**Total points \_\_\_\_\_/10pts**

## LISTENING COMPREHENSION

You will listen to a report about the wetland restoration project on the Don River in Toronto. For questions 1 to 5, circle one correct answer according to the information you hear. You will hear the text only once.

1. The initial discovery of living seeds beneath Toronto's waterfront occurred when \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. scientists dug into the wetlands as part of a research project
  - B. ecologists noticed unusual plant-like formations in soil samples
  - C. construction workers uncovered unexpected green shoots
  - D. engineers investigated the causes of flooding in the area
  
2. The buried wetlands had been covered with soil and gravel in the past mainly to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. eliminate untamed wilderness near the city
  - B. provide space for residential expansion
  - C. create farmland suitable for cultivation
  - D. stabilise the shoreline for harbour expansion
  
3. When the wetland restoration project on the Don River first began, the area was described as a place that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. supported only a few hardy plants
  - B. showed no visible signs of vegetation
  - C. had recently begun to recover naturally
  - D. was densely covered with invasive weeds
  
4. For Shelley Charles, the project provided confirmation that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Indigenous knowledge predetermined the success of the restoration project
  - B. traditional ecological understanding anticipated the scientists' discoveries
  - C. ignoring Indigenous knowledge caused major ecological failures
  - D. traditional ecological concepts can be as valid as modern engineering solutions
  
5. According to Shelley Charles, the wetland restoration project on the Don River differed from other projects because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the site was given an Indigenous name to reflect cultural heritage
  - B. the area saw the return of wildlife that supports the ecosystem
  - C. a new island was created to change the appearance of the landscape
  - D. machine operators treated the soil and plants with exceptional care

Total points \_\_\_\_\_ / 5pts

**Zoznam použitej literatúry:**

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