

I. AN EASIER LIFE FOR THE LAZY GENERATION

One potentially useful development is earphones that can translate (1) _____ languages. You will be able to go to any country in the world and understand everything that is (2) _____ said.

Of course, you won't be able to reply, although who knows? Maybe (3) _____ the end of the decade, the inventors will (4) _____ designed a voice box that translates everything you say. Or, on the (5) _____ hand, maybe in the near future everyone will be speaking the same language anyway.

One machine that will (6) _____ be speaking at least ten languages is the hot-pizza vendor that is being developed in Spain. This machine will be able to cook frozen pizzas in 90 seconds and, from its location in the street, it will call out in different languages to (7) _____ customers.

A handy little gadget for the lazy gardener is the plant-waterer. This machine receives signals from the plant or flower (8) _____ it's becoming too dry and then waters it as required. Obviously, you need to remember (9) _____ keep a tank full of water with the gadget. So, will our gardens be blooming after this invention? Maybe. Alternatively you could just move to a (10) _____ country, like Britain.

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|---------------|------------|----------|----------|
| A. attract | B. be | C. being | D. by |
| E. definitely | F. foreign | G. have | H. other |
| I. rainy | J. to | K. when | L. which |

II. WHY BRITAIN SUFFERS A KISSING CRISIS

It's a dilemma for every British socialite – do you kiss the host or (1) _____ hands?

One in four Britons fails to see the point of social kissing and continues to think it is (2) _____. Sixty per cent would choose to just shake hands, and one in three thinks that social kissing is about 'pretending' to (3) _____ friendly.

Just one in ten Britons positively approves of kissing a new acquaintance; many see it as 'un-British' and avoid touching at (4) _____ if possible.

Fifty-one per cent of us suggest kissing women is OK, but admit being suspicious of kissing between men, and most people would attempt to pull away (5) _____ someone they did not know well tried to kiss them. They would also refuse to return an (6) _____ or unwanted kiss.

As you might expect to find, in close relationships (7) _____ all of us kiss our relatives and 80 per cent of us manage to kiss our closest friends. But, (8) _____ to psychologist Oliver James, when we British kiss virtual strangers, it has nothing to do with wanting to spread a little happiness, and rarely has the genuine warmth of the Spanish or Italians. In (9) _____, people actually resent having to put up with physical contact.'

When we go around kissing people we don't know very well, we're (10) _____ just desperately attempting to get close. Remember to be careful: big kissers aren't necessarily warm and giving – they may just be lonely.'

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|-----------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| A. according | B. all | C. be | D. being |
| E. embarrassing | F. fact | G. if | H. near |
| I. nearly | J. really | K. shake | L. unexpected |

III. UNEMPLOYMENT

It is undeniable that the vast (1) _____ of unemployed people around the world would like to have a job but can't get (2) _____ (although in countries where there is a 'welfare state' to provide benefits to unemployed people, and therefore guarantee them a minimum standard of living, some people believe that (3) _____ is less incentive for unemployed people to look for work).

Unemployment, therefore, is not a cheerful subject – but in many parts of the world, (4) _____ the beginning of the current global recession in 2008, it's (5) _____ in the news even more frequently than usual. Young people aged 16–24 have been particularly hard hit, and the unemployment rate for this group is now three times higher (6) _____ that for older adults worldwide.

In some countries the rate of youth unemployment has been rising even faster – in Spain, for (7) _____, it has almost doubled since 2008, leaving nearly half of this age group (8) _____ work. There are also regions such as the Middle East and North Africa where high youth unemployment is a long-standing rather than a recent problem.

It is difficult (9) _____ imagine a world without unemployment, particularly as the global population is predicted to increase from the present seven billion to at least nine billion by the middle of this century. For the time being, achieving economic growth is seen as the main way to reduce unemployment. There are some economists, (10) _____, who say that other measures will also be necessary – for example job-sharing, whereby a job done today by one person for, say, forty hours a week, will be done in future by two people working twenty hours each.

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|-------------|----------|----------|------------|
| A. example | B. been | C. for | D. however |
| E. majority | F. one | G. since | H. than |
| I. that | J. there | K. to | L. without |

IV. CHOCOLATE

Chocolate is a very special kind of food. Although certainly not a (1) _____ part of the human diet, it is loved for its delicious sweet (2) _____ and the way it melts in the mouth, and would be (3) _____ by many millions of people if it (4) _____ ceased to exist. Indeed, the global population of 'chocoholics' (people who find chocolate very difficult to resist) is very large. The most chocoholic countries in (5) _____ world are in Europe; Switzerland and Austria top the list with an annual average consumption of around ten kilograms of chocolate (6) _____ person, closely followed by Britain and Ireland.

Many people believe (7) _____ eating chocolate has a mood-enhancing effect. There is disagreement, (8) _____, about whether this is due to the ingredients of chocolate or the significance attached to eating it. Some scientists (9) _____ suggested that chocolate releases chemicals in the brain that create feelings of happiness, (10) _____ others believe the happy feelings might only occur because people see eating chocolate as a way of being nice to themselves.

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|---------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| A. have | B. however | C. into | D. missed |
| E. of | F. per | G. suddenly | H. taste |
| I. that | J. the | V. K. vital | L. while |

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V. THE UNEXPLAINED

I (1) _____ to like reading books about unexplained things (2) _____ ghosts and UFOs, but I never really believed (3) _____ any of that stuff, and I still think there's probably a scientific explanation (4) _____ all of it.

I have a friend who says he once saw a (5) _____, but he already believed in ghosts before it happened. For me it's obvious that people who believe in spooky things are more (6) _____ to think they've experienced them.

Anyway, he says that (7) _____ he was staying with friends who live in a very old house, he saw the ghost of a woman (8) _____ in weird clothes, like she was from hundreds of years (9) _____. He says he saw the woman in his bedroom when he woke up in the middle of the night. But his friends had already told him that they believed the house (10) _____ haunted. I think he was probably dreaming, or maybe he just made up the whole thing.

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|---------|------------|---------|-----------|
| A. ago | B. dressed | C. for | D. ghost |
| E. have | F. in | G. like | H. likely |
| I. used | J. was | K. when | L. which |

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VI. HOW TO BE A GOOD GUEST

There is very (1) _____ information on how to be a good guest. My parents once had a couple to stay. They came for a week and stayed and stayed. And stayed. Then (2) _____ last it was time to say goodbye and my parents ran upstairs to celebrate. Mother jumped onto the table and started to dance while my father circled below her. 'They've gone! They've gone!' they (3) _____. Then they stopped. The guests were standing in the living room door. 'We forgot to leave our key,' they said.

Being a guest is a (4) _____. It is also a kind of work. It is something you (5) _____ be good at. Actually, the rules are quite simple. Come about ten minutes after the time you (6) _____ told. Check that you are wearing the clothes the hostess wants you in, admire the house, admire the food, try to eat (7) _____, talk to your neighbours, ask them questions, laugh at (8) _____ jokes and don't be the last to leave.

Being a Good Guest is a performing art and you take on the (9) _____ of actor. Just as a good host tries to make their guests (10) _____ comfortable, so good guests must play their part and create the impression that they are relaxed and happy at all times.

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|------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| A. at | B. can | C. every | D. everything |
| E. feel | F. few | G. little | H. role |
| I. shouted | J. skill | K. their | L. were |

VII. THE BREAD SLICER

Two American towns (1) _____ to be the home of sliced bread: Chillicothe in Missouri and Battle Creek, Michigan. Journalist, Kathy Stortz Ripley, is in (2) _____ of Chillicothe. When she was researching the town's history, she came (3) _____ a news item dated 7th July 1928 announcing that the Chillicothe Baking Company (4) _____ started marketing wrapped loaves of sliced bread. There was an advertisement on the same page that read 'The greatest forward step in the (5) _____ industry since bread (6) _____ wrapped: Sliced Kleen Maid Bread'. Ripley did some more research and found that (7) _____ inventor of the slicing machine, Otto Rohwedder, had almost vanished from the history books. Rohwedder, a jeweller by trade, spent thirteen years working on his invention (8) _____ persuading bakers to give it a try. He sold his patent in 1930 before sliced bread had really caught (9) _____. It was the Wonder Bread company (10) _____ made sliced bread truly famous with an advertising campaign showing smiling families packing sandwiches for picnics.

A. across
E. favour
I. the

B. baking
F. had
J. then

C. before
G. on
K. was

D. claim
H. that
L. will

VIII. THE HERMANUS WHALE FESTIVAL

This festival, which takes (1) _____ in late September, is both an environmental and arts festival and lasts (2) _____ four days. The festival is held in honour of the (3) _____ return of the Southern Right whales to the shallow waters of Walker Bay and the coming (4) _____ spring. Thousands of people gather at the seaside resort of Hermanus (5) _____ watch the whales from the high cliffs of the town. It (6) _____ said to be one of the best places in the world to watch whales from.

Apart (7) _____ whale-watching, the festival also has many concerts and other arts performances for festival-goers to attend and (8) _____ attractions include the crafts and food stalls lining the streets of the town centre. While visitors are enjoying these attractions they don't (9) _____ to worry about missing out on whale spotting as Hermanus boasts the world's only 'whale crier' (10) _____ alerts visitors to the arrival of whales on his kelp horn.

A. annual
E. is
I. part

B. another
F. need
J. place

C. for
G. of
K. to

D. from
H. other
L. who

IX. MY FIRST JOB

Hardly (1) _____ in my year at school had a job, and if they did, it was only helping their parents with whatever they did, but I really wanted to earn some of my (2) _____ money and be able to spend it on whatever took my fancy. The trouble was that (3) _____ weren't any jobs around at the time and even fewer for a teenage girl without any skills or qualifications. My parents had a friend who owned an apple orchard and was complaining to them one night about (4) _____ difficult it was to get people to pick the apples. I overheard – and that was how my career as a fruit picker began. The (5) _____ pickers were almost all women in their thirties and forties and I was the baby of the group. They were nice to me, (6) _____ at the beginning when I was very new not just to the orchard but to the whole experience of working. If you wanted to make any money, you had to pick very fast because we (7) _____ paid a wage, but our money was based on the number of wooden crates we filled (8) _____ apples. The other women, who almost all worked in pairs, filled nine or ten of these a day but my record working on my own was a rather pitiful two. Still I (9) _____ have a bit of money in my pocket at the end of the week which was (10) _____ I wanted, after all.

A. anyone
E. how
I. there

B. did
F. other
J. weren't

C. especially
G. own
K. what

D. everyone
H. specially
L. with

X. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

Although there is a great (1) _____ of variation within each gender, on the average men and women discuss a surprisingly different range of topics. (2) _____ to some studies, women and men ranging in age from seventeen to eighty described the range of topics each discussed with friends of the (3) _____ sex. Certain topics were common to both men and women: work, movies, and television proved to be frequent topics for (4) _____ groups. The differences (5) _____ men and women were (6) _____ striking than the similarities. Female friends spent much more time discussing personal and (7) _____ subjects, relationship problems, family, health and reproductive matters, weight, food and clothing. Men, on the other (8) _____, were more likely to discuss music, current events, sports and business. Women were more (9) _____ to gossip about close friends and family. By contrast, men spent more time gossiping about sports figures and media personalities. These differences (10) _____ lead to frustration when men and women try to converse with one another.

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|--------------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| A. according | B. between | C. both | D. can |
| E. deal | F. domestic | G. hand | H. likely |
| I. many | J. more | K. same | L. side |

XI. BRINGING UP CHILDREN

In bringing up children, every (1) _____, regardless of ethnicity, income, education, or geographic (2) _____, watches eagerly the child's acquisition of each new skill. However, (3) _____ is often tempting to hurry the child beyond his natural learning rate, which can set up (4) _____ feelings of failure and states of worry in the child. This (5) _____ happen at any stage. A baby might be (6) _____ to use a toilet too early, a young child might be encouraged to learn to read before he knows the meaning of the words he reads. On the other hand, (7) _____, if a child is left alone too much, or (8) _____ any learning opportunities, he loses his natural enthusiasm for life and his desire to find out new things for himself. Parents vary greatly in their degree of strictness (9) _____ their children. Some may be especially strict in money matters. Others are severe over times of coming home at night or punctuality for meals. In (10) _____, the controls imposed represent the needs of the parents and the values of the community as much as the child's own benefit.

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|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| A. dangerous | B. for | C. forced | D. general |
| E. it | F. location | G. might | H. mothers |
| I. parent | J. though | K. towards | L. without |

XII. PANDA BEAR

Panda is the (1) _____ for two nocturnal Asian mammals: the red panda and the giant panda. The red panda, also (2) _____ as lesser panda and cat bear, is found at high elevations in (3) _____ Himalayas. It resembles a raccoon but has a longer body and tail and a more rounded head. Its (4) _____ fur is rust colour to deep chestnut, with black on the under parts, limbs, and ears. The red panda spends (5) _____ of its time in trees but feeds on the ground, eating primarily bamboo (6) _____ but also fruit and roots. The giant panda superficially (7) _____ a bear. The body is chiefly white, and the limbs are brownish black, with the dark colour extending up over the shoulder. The ears and eye patches are black. Giant pandas live in restricted (8) _____ of the high mountain bamboo forests of central China; their diet consists entirely of bamboo shoots. Rare in the (9) _____, they produce young poorly when they are not in their natural environment. Giant pandas (10) _____ protected by law in China.

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|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| A. are | B. areas | C. known | D. leaves |
| E. left | F. lot | G. much | H. name |
| I. resembles | J. the | K. thick | L. wild |