

EXTRA Lesson 8 - English comprehension: Missing words and sentences ('CLOZE') Y5/6

In this extra resource, you find some English comprehension challenges for curious children aged 9-11. These 'puzzles' can help them to learn to understand factual texts and retain information. Each little task has a wildlife theme. I hope they are useful and fun ☺

TIP: It's not difficult to create your own 'cloze' tests. You can even use the Christy book: pick e.g. a blog, remove some of the words and create a word/sentence bank.

MISSING SENTENCES

LEVEL 1 Auks

Sentence bank

A hungry sailors	C especially sand eel	E old rabbit burrows	G excellent swimmers	I tiny (15 cm) and
B the coast	D sea birds that	F the species	H the great auk	J puffins

Auks are (1) _____ look a bit like penguins. Some are (2) _____ some are big (45 cm). Our biggest auk, (3) _____ was the only auk that couldn't fly. Sadly, this meant that (4) _____ had no trouble catching it, until (5) _____ was wiped off the earth, over 150 years ago. All auks are (6) _____ and divers, but when they walk, they look very clumsy. Everybody loves (7) _____ and luckily, you can still see this species in Britain. They hang out on the cold open ocean in the autumn and winter, but come back to (8) _____ in spring. They move into (9) _____, or dig their own, on cliff tops to lay just one egg. Puffin parents can hold several fishes in their beaks. The greedy chick eats for England and after just six weeks, it is ready to leave the burrow. Every night, it goes out to sea. Puffins have gone down in numbers because of a decline in fish stock, (10) _____, their favourite food.

LEVEL 2 Seals

Sentence bank (only use seven answers)

A are protected and can't be hunted	C thrive in cold seas	E are well protected	G have always been very valuable	I live around Britain
B are very cuddly	D very difficult to breathe	F are a threat too	H have reacted strongly	J live in South America

Two of the 33 species of seal on our planet (1) _____: grey and common seals. Seals (2) _____ and (3) _____ thanks to a thick layer of blubber (fat) and a cosy fur coat. The downside of having a beautiful coat is that seals (4) _____ for hunters. In Britain, seals (5) _____, but in 1988 an aggressive virus killed a third of all common seals in the North Sea. Oil spills (6) _____, as the oil sticks to their ears, nose and throat and makes it (7) _____.

Answers 1 & 2:

1 D	2 I	3 H	4 A	5 H	6 G	7 J	8 B	9 E	10 C
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1 I	2 E	3 C	4 G	5 A	6 F	7 D
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LEVEL 3 Jays

Sentence bank

A excellent memory	D lice and other parasites	G only take the first leaves away	J access drinking water	M to use tools
B other birds and even cats	E tawny owls, by copying their calls	H only get back to them	K their cousins	N rooks and jackdaws
C the ants to spray a liquid	F very intelligent	I pest insects	L liquid	O brilliant

Jays are (1) _____, just like (2) _____: crows, magpies, ravens, (3) _____. They have (4) _____ and know how (5) _____. They can even learn how to (6) _____ by dropping stones in a bowl or tube with water until the water level is high enough! They are (7) _____ at imitating the sounds of (8) _____. You couldn't tell the difference, unless you saw the jay. They even chase away predators, such as (9) _____. Jays eat (10) _____ and acorns. They pick ripe and undamaged acorns and store them underground for winter and early spring, when food is scarce. They do this up to a few kilometres away from the tree. They usually remember where they have left the acorns, but often (11) _____ after they have germinated. When this happens, they (12) _____ and leave the young plant to carry on growing. Jays help oak forests to spread and grow into strong trees. Jays can get really bothered by (13) _____, but have found a clever solution. They spread their tails and wings in an ants' nest, inviting (14) _____ (formic acid) onto their feathers to chase the jays away. This is precisely what they were hoping for, as the (15) _____ helps kill the lice!

LEVEL 4 Knots

A muscles	D spiders	G shingle	J molluscs	M winter
B call their own name	E fly south and group	H free up space for fat tissue	K when flying in flocks	N go on their long-haul flights
C fine and course	F crab and other animals with shells	I the sea shore	L water pressure	O the tundra

Some people think that the name knot comes from the Danish King Canute, who set his throne by (1) _____ where knots were foraging the tide line. However, 'knot' is actually 'onomatopoeic': (2) _____ knots (3) _____. Knots breed on (4) _____ in the far north of Europe, Russia and Canada. But, in winter they (5) _____ together in very large numbers. In Morecambe Bay (Lancashire), about 70 000 birds come together each year! This is 16% of all knots that (6) _____ across Europe and North Africa. The reason knots love Morecambe Bay so much, is that five large rivers come together in the estuaries. There are lots of fantastic feeding areas, with (7) _____ sand and silt and mud. And there are large salt-marshes and (8) _____ beaches. In spring and summer, they feed on tiny water creatures, such as (9) _____ and larvae. In winter, they thrive on hard-shelled molluscs. Knots are very clever with their bills. They use the nerve-endings on the lower half of their bill to detect changes in (10) _____ when they poke around for food. These changes are caused by (11) _____ buried under wet sand. Dinner is ready! They are also very good at storing fat before they (12) _____. At that point, they reduce the size of their stomachs and guts to (13) _____. In winter, when they feed on harder foods, with shells, their special grinding stomach or 'gizzard' grows bigger. It has thick walls full of (14) _____ to grind up the (15) _____ that are eaten whole. As soon as the birds reach the breeding grounds, the gizzard shrinks again.

Answers 3 & 4:

1 F	2 K	3 N	4 A	5 M	6 J	7 O	8 B	9 E	10 I
11 H	12 G	13 D	14 C	15 L					

1 I	2 K	3 B	4 O	5 E	6 M	7 C	8 G	9 D	10 L
11 J	12 N	13 H	14 A	15 F					

Wildlife 'Cloze tests' – fit in the missing sentences in the correct place

I - Changes in wildlife populations

(A) seeing Darwin's brilliant theory	(D) disappeared from the English countryside alone.
(B) lost their larval food plants	(E) evolved into new species, adapting to climate change
(C) have been adapting and evolving very rapidly	(F) losing species

- 1) In the last 200 years, a total of 421 beasts, birds, bugs and plants have

The great auk, wild cat and the large tortoiseshell butterfly are just three examples

- 2) The sad thing is that we are still

and much faster than would naturally happen.

- 3) Large tortoiseshells for example

because of Dutch elm disease in 1953. They were very common and widespread in Victorian times.

II - Did yew know..

(A) Are often veterans and may have been around for up to five thousand years.	(G) If the groundskeeper possesses artistic and horticultural prowess
(B) Birds love yew berries and yew berries love birds, so to say;	(H) And you can find yew trees across Europe, North Africa and parts of the Middle East.
(C) When yew branches were harvested, they would grow back very quickly.	(I) Thanks to the rich mix of ages and varying exposure to the elements
(D) With an increasing number of vicars embracing sheep to graze their church grounds	(J) And are used by cattle rustlers
(E) And farmers don't like them in their fields,	(K) They were used in Roman cuisine, with excess fruit ending up in pig fodder and
(F) But thousands of trees were felled in the Middle Ages	(L) Which are applied to sedate and put down farm animals when there are too many

- 1) Common yews have poisonous leaves, bark and seeds

as the toxins can kill livestock.

- 2) Their bright red berries (actually seed caps) are not poisonous, however.

their droppings help the seeds to germinate.

- 3) They were once very common in the UK,

The wood was used to make the English longbows for Medieval warfare.

- 4) The trees that survived, mostly in churchyards,

You can safely conclude that yews are not easily *ausgespielt*.

5) If you visit a village churchyard, look out for old yew trees.

the trees may come in all sorts of shapes.

ANSWERS I: QUESTION 1 D QUESTION 2 F QUESTION 3 B

ANSWERS II: QUESTION 1 E QUESTION 2 B QUESTION 3 F QUESTION 4 A QUESTION 5 G

III - Water voles

(A) marine molluscs and other protein-rich filter feeders	(F) Water voles are idle rodents
(B) when predators intrude.	(G) to keep going;
(C) in order to defer survival;	(H) Water voles are inoperative engineers
(D) the lush stems and leaves of aquatic plants	(I) there are bed and nest rooms at different levels in the steepest parts of the bank
(E) Water voles are effective diggers	(J) unpalatable rhizomes

1) -----
that create large burrow systems into the banks of rivers and canals.

These burrows are cleverly devised:

2) -----
and underwater entrances give the voles a safe escape route

3) -----

4) Water voles are forced to consume a vast amount of calories,

about 80% of their body weight every day!

5) They usually relish
-----,
but occasionally they'll have an invertebrate for snack.

ANSWERS III:

QUESTION 1 E
QUESTION 2 I
QUESTION 3 B
QUESTION 4 G
QUESTION 5 D

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