

Welcome to the English Language Contest!  
 Be sharp, be keen, be smart!  
 Good luck!

**I. (12 points) Read the texts below and decide which variant A, B, C or D best fits each space.**

Let me tell you something that happened \_\_\_ (1) time ago in India. Well ... a large dinner party was being given by a colonial official and his wife. The guests, as you \_\_\_ (2) guess, were army officers and government attachés and their wives, and an American naturalist.

They were all sitting at a long table and, towards the end of the dinner, at one side of the table a discussion sprang \_\_\_ (3) between a young girl and a colonel. The girl insisted women no longer jumped on a chair at the sight of a mouse. The colonel said they still \_\_\_ (4). All the other men at the table \_\_\_ (5) with the colonel.

"Without exception, a woman's reaction to any crisis is to scream", he said. "And while a man may feel like it, yet he has that ounce more of control than a woman has. And that is what \_\_\_ (6)!"

The American scientist did not \_\_\_ (7) the argument: he sat watching the faces of \_\_\_ (8) guests. Suddenly, he saw a strange expression come over the \_\_\_ (9) of the hostess. She was staring \_\_\_ (10) ahead, the muscles of her face contracting slightly. With a small gesture she called one of the \_\_\_ (11) boys. She whispered something to him. The boy's eyes widened: he turned quickly and left the room. No one \_\_\_ (12) saw this, nor the boy when he put a bowl of milk on the verandah outside the glass doors.

- |     |              |                 |              |            |
|-----|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| 1.  | A some       | B a little      | C a few      | D any      |
| 2.  | A shall      | B should        | C may        | D must     |
| 3.  | A down       | B up            | C off        | D on       |
| 4.  | A had done   | B are doing     | C have done  | D did      |
| 5.  | A agreed     | B were agreeing | C had agreed | D agree    |
| 6.  | A weighs     | B counts        | C says       | D contents |
| 7.  | A agree      | B nod           | C accepted   | D join     |
| 8.  | A the others | B the other     | C another    | D others   |
| 9.  | A look       | B face          | C nose       | D eyes     |
| 10. | A all        | B just          | C straight   | D right    |
| 11. | A poor       | B chubby        | C native     | D big      |
| 12. | A else       | B different     | C other      | D either   |

**II. (15 points) Fill the gaps in the text below with ONE suitable word.**

From the dawn (1) \_\_\_ time, extinction has usually progressed (2) \_\_\_ what scientists call a natural or background rate. Today the tempo is (3) \_\_\_ faster. Many scientists believe this is (4) \_\_\_ sixth great wave - the sixth mass extinction (5) \_\_\_ affect life on Earth. We were not here for any (6) \_\_\_ the previous mass extinctions, but this time our sheer preponderance is driving the slide to oblivion.

We have more (7) \_\_\_ doubled our numbers in half (8) \_\_\_ century, and that is the most obvious reason (9) \_\_\_ there is less room for any other species. We are taking (10) \_\_\_ living room to grow our food, their food to feed ourselves. We are exploiting them, trading in them, squeezing them to the margins of existence - and beyond. Often the choice (11) \_\_\_ hard: conserve a species (12) \_\_\_ feed a community, tourists' dollars or turtles' nests. Our pillage (13) \_\_\_ the natural world has been likened (14) \_\_\_ burning down the medieval libraries (15) \_\_\_ Europe, before we have even bothered to catalogue their contents.

**III. (20 points) Rephrase the following sentences so that the meaning stays the same and using the word in capitals. You must not change the word in capitals.**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. The last time I saw him was before he left for London.<br>I _____ since he left for London.               | <b>SEEN</b>     |
| 2. 'Be careful! The building's about to collapse!'<br>'Look out! The building _____ collapse!'               | <b>TO</b>       |
| 3. They will ask to see your passport at the airport.<br>You will _____ your passport at the airport.        | <b>SHOW</b>     |
| 4. Mary would rather go to the cinema than the theatre.<br>Mary wants to go to the cinema _____ the theatre. | <b>INSTEAD</b>  |
| 5. You'd better go to bed if you are tired.<br>I think _____ if you are tired.                               | <b>YOU</b>      |
| 6. Contrary to our expectations, Alan came home early.<br>We _____ Alan to be late, but he came home early.  | <b>EXPECTED</b> |
| 7. 'I will help you', he promised.   | <b>HELP</b>     |

He promised he \_\_\_\_\_ me.

8. Thanks to Dana, he passed the exam.

FOR

\_\_\_\_\_, he wouldn't have passed the exam.

9. My house is too small to have a big party.

NOT

My house is \_\_\_\_\_ to have a big party.

10. Jim first flew on a plane at the age of twenty.

WHEN

Jim was \_\_\_\_\_ on a plane.

**IV. (8 points) Put the verbs in brackets in the right tense and voice.**

When I first \_\_\_\_ (1-meet) Tina, I \_\_\_\_ (2-dislike) her at once. She \_\_\_\_ (3- wear) skin-tight pedal pushers, a flashy, floppy top, and sneakers with no socks- bizarrely inappropriate even at our very informal company. Soon, Nina \_\_\_\_ (4-pump) me doggedly for information about the new department I \_\_\_\_ (5- run), where she \_\_\_\_ (6- hope) to get a permanent job. Not a chance, I \_\_\_\_ (7- think). *Not if I \_\_\_\_ (8- have) anything to say about it.*

**V. (10 points) Read the text below and use the words given in capitals below to form words that fit in the gaps. The words in capitals are given in the order in which you need to use them.**

**0 –RECEIVE; 1 – FAIL; 2 – PAIN; 3 – BELIEVE; 4 – THOUGHT; 5 – CHILD; 6 – EXPECT; 7 – ACCOMPLISH; 8 – PARTICULAR; 9 –FEARFUL; 10 – NECESSARY ;**

Just as women are afraid of 0 receiving, so men are afraid of giving. To extend himself in giving to others means to risk (1)\_\_\_\_\_, correction and disapproval. These consequences are most (2)\_\_\_\_\_ because deep inside his unconscious he holds an incorrect (3)\_\_\_\_\_ that he is not good enough. This way of (4)\_\_\_\_\_ was formed and reinforced in (5)\_\_\_\_\_ every time he thought he was (6)\_\_\_\_\_ to do better. When his (7)\_\_\_\_\_ went unnoticed or were unappreciated, deep in his unconscious he began forming the belief that he was not good enough. A man is (8)\_\_\_\_\_ vulnerable to this belief. It generates within him the fear of failing, so he doesn't try. If his biggest (9)\_\_\_\_\_ is inadequacy, he is naturally going to avoid any (10)\_\_\_\_\_ risks.

**VI. (10 points) Read the text below and look carefully at each line. If the line is correct, put a tick (✓). If it has a word that should not be there, write this word on the line, as in the examples. (10 points)**

Today the jigsaw puzzle is even treated like a toy, so it might seem	0 even
strange that the British Library, the strongroom of a nation's learning,	00 ✓
recently paid a such large sum of money for one.	1
John Spilsbury's 1766 map of Europe is large part	2
of the first published set of jigsaw puzzles and probably the only	3
one to have been survived in the original form. The idea of combining	4
learning with play gained wide acceptance and the	5
map puzzle was it to become a popular 18 <sup>th</sup> century development	6
of every such ideas. Lady Charlotte Finch, governess to the young George IV,	7
is believed to have invented it. But it was mapmaker John Spilsbury who has spotted the	8
potential of the invention. He began producing puzzles to 'facilitate the teaching	9
of geography'. His puzzles had only become a craze that lasted well into the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.	10

**VII. (25 points) Write a 8-10 narrative paragraph which includes these:**

a ferocious dog, a door-to-door salesman, a strong wind

**SCRIETI RASPUNSURILE PE FOAIA DE RASPUNS (ANSWER SHEET). BARATI TOATE SPATIILE NECOMPLETATE. TIMP DE LUCRU: 3 ORE. NU SE ACORDA PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.**