

**G R A M M A R**

**Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense. Write your answers in the space below the text.**

Kevin Adams 00) \_\_\_\_\_ (love) trains. He first 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (see) one when he was four years old and he 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (think) it was great. Nowadays, he 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to a different railway station every week and 4) \_\_\_\_\_ (write down) the engine number of every train he sees. He 5) \_\_\_\_\_ (do) this since he was eight. By the time he was fifteen, he 6) \_\_\_\_\_ (collect) over 10,000 different engine numbers in various counties. Once, while he 7) \_\_\_\_\_ (stand) in a station in Cheshire, he 8) \_\_\_\_\_ (experience) something very unusual. He 9) \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for over an hour for a train to go by when suddenly he 10) \_\_\_\_\_ (notice) a very old steam train coming down the track. It 11) \_\_\_\_\_ (not/stop) at the station and, as it was passing, Kevin noticed that all the passengers 12) \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) old-fashioned clothes. When he told the station guard about this, the poor man 13) \_\_\_\_\_ (turn) pale. He said that no steam train 14) \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) through that station for years, and that the last one 15) \_\_\_\_\_ (crash), killing everyone on board.

00) *loves*

8) \_\_\_\_\_

1) \_\_\_\_\_

9) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

10) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

11) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

12) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

13) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

14) \_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_

15) \_\_\_\_\_

**1 point / correct answer****Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 15 pts**

**V O C A B U L A R Y****A. Complete the sentences with the appropriate phrasal verbs.**

- We arranged to meet at five o'clock last Saturday but Susan didn't \_\_\_\_\_ on time.  
A) give in                      B) look up                      C) put out                      D) turn up
- I had better leave; I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ my welcome.  
A) take in                      B) go off                      C) run down                      D) wear out
- Mike is a rich man because he \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money last month.  
A) went through                      B) figured out                      C) came into                      D) fell behind
- My sister decided to \_\_\_\_\_ cycling as she needed to lose weight urgently.  
A) go against                      B) take up                      C) run into                      D) hand in
- As we have been informed that the weather will get worse, we have decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the match.  
A) put off                      B) take out                      C) make up                      D) go by

**B. Match the idiomatic expressions with their explanations by writing completing the table below.**

There are two explanations you won't need.

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. to bite the bullet               | a) to live in a way that is honest and moral            |
| 2. to nip something in the bud      | b) to listen to somebody eagerly                        |
| 3. to be on the straight and narrow | c) to react to a situation without thinking it through  |
| 4. to shoot from the hip            | d) to stop something at an early stage                  |
| 5. to face the music                | e) to accept responsibility for something you have done |
|                                     | f) to do something that is unpleasant, but necessary    |
|                                     | g) to do something carelessly                           |

1	2	3	4	5

**1 point / correct answer**

**Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts**

## R E A D I N G C O M P R E H E N S I O N

## Turn off the light every time you can

When we look up at the night sky and cannot see the stars, it is not always due to cloudy weather.

**(1)** \_\_\_ Experts call this phenomenon light pollution. With excessive artificial lighting, not only is the work of astrophysicists harder, but it can even affect the natural processes of the human body.

When there is too much light from the street in the bedroom at night, for example, it may cause a disorder in the production of hormones. These hormones, as for example melatonin, manage the inner clock, the so-called biorhythm.

A four-year international study has shown that chronically breaking circadian rhythms can lower the quality of sleep and cause problems with metabolism and immunity, and could eventually lead to serious diseases such as obesity, diabetes, or depression. Altogether 18 countries, including Slovakia, were involved in the project.

**(2)** \_\_\_ For insects, lighting works as a trap: the insect revolves around the light, gets exhausted, and dies of hunger. On the other hand, the concentration of insects in one place could serve as an easy dinner for predators, such as bats or birds. **(3)** \_\_\_ When lighting a desk, we should cast light on the keyboard or something on the top of the desk, but not the walls or ceiling. Every lamp should work in the same way. Street lighting is often badly constructed; in the past ball-shaped lamps were often used, but these lamps would shine in all directions, not only downward as they should. The purpose of street lamps is to provide light on roads or sidewalks, not up to the sky. Street lighting is not the only case of bad construction. **(4)** \_\_\_ Rome and London, for example, turn off illumination of sights at night.

Experts agree that one of the most important things is to direct light. A lamp should emit light at obtuse angles down to the ground. Also, lamps should be shaded by flat glass to direct light only to the place where it is necessary. **(5)** \_\_\_ It would work similar to traffic lights – when a pedestrian walks around, only the necessary lamps would turn on. Recently, many towns have been changing street lighting to LED lighting. Even though they lower the cost of electricity with this step, they often decide to have the lighting turned on for the whole night. Turning off lights where we do not need them is definitely the right direction. Some countries, like Italy, Slovenia, Germany or Switzerland, have already accepted regulations on lowering light pollution, whether at a local or national level.

Dark-sky places, areas with low light pollution which are under protection to keep the sky dark, are divided into five different categories. The first such European park appeared in 2009 in Hungary. The Canadian national park Mont-Mégantic was the first internationally protected dark-sky area, created in 2007. In Slovakia, there are several dark-sky parks; the darkest sky is in National Park

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Poloniny. (6) \_\_\_ Experts do not want to turn off all the lights indefinitely, but better control over lighting could change the level of light pollution.

**A. For questions (1) – (6), decide which sentence (A) – (G) below the text best fits each of the numbered gaps in the article. There is one extra sentence which does not fit any of the gaps.**

**Write the correct letter in the blank chart provided below.**

(A) However, these parks are not certified international dark-sky parks.

(B) Lights illuminating sights or billboards are often pointed upwards from the bottom, thus exceeding the space needing to be lit.

(C) Street lighting sensors or buttons to turn it on are also helpful.

(D) Too much light from streetlights or buildings may be the reason the stars are dim.

(E) Even a small lamp on your desk may become a source of light pollution if its light is ill-directed.

(F) Every time you turn off a light for half an hour, the amount of money saved is very small.

(G) Humans are not the only ones to suffer due to artificial lighting; the ecosystem could be hurt as well.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)

**B. According to what you have read, decide whether the statement is true (T), false (F) or not stated (NS). Circle the correct answer.**

7. T / F / NS There are 18 European countries which have already gone for lowering light pollution.

8. T / F / NS In Slovakia there are a few certified dark-sky parks.

9. T / F / NS There is a verified connection between artificial lighting and health issues.

10. T / F / NS Well-constructed lighting should shine in all directions.

**1 point / correct answer**

**Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 pts**

L I S T E N I N G   C O M P R E H E N S I O N

You will hear some information about smog in Beijing. Listen carefully and answer the questions below. For items 1–2 write the correct word(s) and for items 3–5 circle the correct answer. You will hear the text twice.

1. What food did BBC reporter John Sudworth compare the smog to? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 word)
2. Exhaust emissions from motor vehicles, coal burning, \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words) from the north and local construction dust are the main sources of pollutants in Beijing.
3. According to the alert scale, the level of air pollution in Beijing has never before been worse.  
A) true  
B) false  
C) not stated
4. People in Beijing considered the red alert warning deficiency unimportant.  
A) true  
B) false  
C) not stated
5. According to what you have just heard, decide which summary about the current situation in Beijing is correct.  
A) The use of some vehicles has been banned because the air pollution is at a dangerous level.  
B) Driving has been made illegal because the air pollution is at a dangerous level.  
C) There's a state of emergency because the air pollution is at a dangerous level.

**1 point / correct answer**

**Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 5 pts**