



International English Olympiad
“Formula of Unity” / “The Third Millennium”
Year 2022/2023. Final round



Tasks for grades R7–R8

1. Fill in the gaps with one of the given words.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1) I want to go somewhere very unpopular. Let's choose a place in the middle of _____. | A) anywhere |
| 2) I haven't come _____ with a solution yet. | B) out |
| 3) We _____ acquainted last summer. | C) got |
| 4) We've already _____ by to his cousin's house. | D) to |
| 5) You'd better hurry up. Otherwise, we will run _____ of time. | E) come |
| 6) If you could drive we _____ not be here now. | F) would |
| 7) I couldn't find my wallet _____. | G) rather |
| 8) _____ put it mildly, you are not right. | H) if |
| 9) You look at me as _____ I were insane. | I) nowhere |
| 10) I'd _____ you explained your point of view. | J) up |

2. Answer the questions about an article (author: Nick Chater, Professor of Behavioural Science, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick; published: November 1, 2019).

Curious Kids: how did humans think about things, before they had language to think with?

How did humans think about things, before they had language to think with? — Katie, aged 11, Sydney, Australia.

When we think, most of us have the feeling that words flow through our minds. If you stop to “listen” to your own thoughts, though, you will be amazed by how jumbled and chaotic they are. Our inner voice is something of an inner mumblor, creating a stream of disconnected words and phrases, rather than crystal-clear speech.

It is easy to imagine that we think in whatever language we speak — whether English, Spanish or Mandarin. But this is entirely wrong: language can express some of the results of our thinking, but it's not the thinking itself.

Get it?

For example, think about what happens when you “get” a joke — like this award-winning joke by comedian Tim Vine:

I've decided to sell my Hoover ... well, it was just collecting dust.

Whether you laugh or groan (I rather like it), you need to do a lot of thinking to figure out what the joke even is.

You'll need to remember that “collecting dust” is usually a snide remark about something that just sits in a cupboard, unused, so that dust settles on top of it. And you'll realise that hoovers are made especially to suck up or collect dust, so it's silly to criticise them for doing that. And that's why the joke is funny.

You must have reasoned along these lines, or you wouldn't have “got” the joke. But I bet you reacted to the joke long before you had thought about what it meant using words.

And that is always true: the thoughts come first, and the expression of our thoughts in words, whether out loud, or in our heads, comes later and much more slowly — if at all.

Another example is the complex thinking you need to do when playing a fast-moving video game. You might sometimes say “oh no!” or “got you!” as you play, but if I were to try and make you say all your plans out loud in words, you would slow to a snail's pace.

Smart species.

So we can, and do, think about things without language, all the time. I don't think in English, but I can report some of my thoughts in English, when I have the time to do so.

And it turns out that people who have aphasia — which means they sometimes can't use or understand language, perhaps because they had a stroke — can do difficult maths, problem solving and reasoning tasks, so long, of course, as these don't involve language.

You can test this yourself, by shutting down your inner voice. Simply repeat a single word quickly, either out loud or in your head — a trick psychologists call “articulatory suppression”.

You'll find that while you're repeating the word, you can no longer think using words, but you can still plan, reason and imagine, pretty much as normal.

But even though we don't think in language, it does help us make our thoughts clear. In fact, the real magic of language is that it helps us share our thoughts with other people.

This means we don't have to face the world all by ourselves — we can learn from the cleverness of the generations who have gone before us. This lets humans develop the really complicated scientific theories, laws, financial systems, histories and stories that make our lives so incredibly rich.

So we can, and do, think without language. But the invention of language is the special trick that makes us so amazingly smart as a species.

- 1) Our inner voice is aimed to arrange our thoughts in the correct order.
A) True B) False C) Not stated
- 2) Our reaction to jokes happens automatically without our control.
A) True B) False C) Not stated
- 3) Aphasia has some psychological roots.
A) True B) False C) Not stated
- 4) You can sometimes shut your inner voice down.
A) True B) False C) Not stated
- 5) Memory of generations helps us to develop many spheres of our life.
A) True B) False C) Not stated

3. There are 10 beginnings of small dialogues. Choose the best answer for each situation from the list.

- 1) — I don't understand these Italians, they eat pasta every day!
— Don't judge them. _____
 - 2) — I hope we'll find a solutions to this problem.
— Absolutely! _____
 - 3) — Ahhh... When will they come?
— Stop waiting! _____
 - 4) — I don't want to take this garbage out!
— You'd better do it. _____
 - 5) — I'm afraid of being in need.
— It's normal. _____
 - 6) — Can you imagine? Billy ignored my advice.
— It's not your fault. _____
 - 7) — We could invest our money in this field. It looks like a long-range business plan.
— You'd better analyze all the risks. _____
 - 8) — Have you heard? He's cheated on her! She spent all her time on him.
— I hope he will never do it again, because the outcome was bad for him. Anyway, it's a good lesson for all of us: _____
 - 9) — Betty, you can not quit our team right now.
— I know that _____ But I don't have another choice.
 - 10) — I don't feel like risking.
— Don't you? _____
- A) "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link."
B) "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."
C) "A watched pot never boils."
D) "No man is an island."
E) "Don't bite the hand that feeds you."
F) "When in Rome, do as the Romans."
G) "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."
H) "Fortune favors the bold."
I) "Necessity is the mother of invention."
J) "Cleanliness is next to godliness."

4. Complete the sentences with ONE missing word.

- 1) You should _____ called him earlier. It's too late now.
- 2) To cut a long story _____, we aren't involved in decision-making.
- 3) Try to avoid silly mistakes. You _____ them in every sentence.
- 4) The prisoner got _____ with punishment after his escape.
- 5) If I _____ been there I would have saved everybody.

5. Imagine that you are a journalist and you want to write an article about any device that doesn't exist in real life (100–250 words, articles and contractions are counted as ONE word each). Tell people about it. Don't forget to write:

- the name of the device,
- its functions,
- why people should buy and use it.