

*Конкурс понимания устной речи*

Watch the video ONCE and mark the following statements as TRUE (1), FALSE (2) or NOT STATED (3).

1. The man is annoyed with the boy at first.
2. Adam's grandfather looks like Joseph.
3. Adam finds Joseph an interesting man.
4. Adam is a good student.
5. Joseph's wife passed away.
6. Adam has never given Katie a present.
7. Joseph doesn't like laughing.
8. Katie is Adam's only girlfriend.
9. The man sounds quite pessimistic about his future.
10. The boy went home.

*Конкурс понимания письменной речи*

Read the text and choose the correct answers to the questions below.

**The evolution of birds**

Analysis of birds and of reptilian fossils indicate that birds belong to the group called theropods. Several species of dinosaurs closely related to birds had feathers with vanes, and a wider range of species had filamentous feathers. Such findings imply that feathers evolved long before powered flight. Among the possible functions of these early feathers were insulation, camouflage, and courtship display.

Many of the characteristics of birds are adaptations that facilitate flight, including weight-saving **modifications** that make flying more efficient. For example, birds lack a urinary bladder, and the females of most species have only one ovary. Living birds are also toothless, an adaptation that trips the weight of the head.

A bird's most obvious adaptations for flight are its wings and feathers. Feathers are made of the protein B-keratin, which is also found in the scales of other reptiles. The shape and arrangement of the feathers form the wings into airfoils, and they illustrate some of the same principles of aerodynamics as the wings of an airplane. Power for flapping the wings comes from contractions of large pectoral (breast) muscles anchored to a keel on the sternum (breast-bone). Some birds, such as eagles and hawks, have wings adapted to soaring on air currents and flap their wings only occasionally; other birds, including hummingbirds, must flap their wings continuously to stay aloft. Among the fastest birds are the appropriately named swifts, which can fly up to 170 km/hr.

Flight provides numerous benefits. It enhances hunting and scavenging; many birds consume flying insect, an abundant, highly nutritious food resource. Flight also provides ready escape from earthbound predators and enables some birds to migrate great distances to exploit different food resources and seasonal breeding areas.

Flying requires a great expenditure of energy from an active metabolism. Birds are endothermic; they use their own metabolic heat to maintain a high, constant body

temperature. Feathers, and in some species layers of fat, provide insulation that enables birds to retain **their** body heat. The lungs have tiny tubes leading to and from elastic air sacs that improve airflow and oxygen uptake. This efficient respiratory system with a four-chambered heart keep tissues well supplied with oxygen and nutrients, supporting a high rate of metabolism.

Flight also requires both acute vision and fine muscle control. Birds have excellent eyesight. The visual and motor areas of the brain are well developed, and the brain is proportionally larger than those of amphibians and nonbird reptiles. Birds generally display very complex behaviours, particularly during breeding season, when they engage in **elaborate** courtship rituals.

How did flight evolve in the therapods? In one scenario, feathers may have enabled the small, running dinosaurs chasing prey or escaping predators to gain extra lift as they jumped up into the air. Or, small dinosaurs could have gained traction as they ran up hills by flapping their feathered forelimbs – a behaviour seen in birds today. In a third scenario, some dinosaurs could have climbed trees and glided, aided by feathers. Whether birds took to the air from the ground up or from the trees down, an **essential** question being studied by scientists ranging from paleontologists to engineers is how their efficient flight stroke evolved.

By 150 million years ago, feathered therapods had evolved into birds. Archaeopteryx, which was discovered in a German limestone quarry in 1861, remains the earliest known bird. It had feathered wings but retained ancestral characteristics such as teeth, clawed digits in its wings, and a long tail. Archaeopteryx flew well at high speeds, but unlike a present-day bird, it could not take off from a standing position. Fossils of later birds from the Cretaceous show a gradual loss of certain ancestral dinosaur features, such as teeth and clawed forelimbs, as well as the acquisition of innovations found in extant birds, including a short tail covered by a fan of feathers.

1. The word modifications in the passage is closest in meaning to
  - A) Made different
  - B) Made better
  - C) Made smaller
  - D) Made modern
2. According to Para 2, how did birds adapt to achieve efficiency flight?
  - A) They developed new, lighter organs.
  - B) Their muscles became smaller over time.
  - C) Most of their weight was distributed in their heads.
  - D) Heavy teeth disappeared during evolution.
3. In Para 3, the author explains the term ‘keratin’ by
  - A) Identifying it in feathers and scales
  - B) Comparing it to airfoils
  - C) Providing a definition in the text
  - D) Describing the way it looks

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Кировская область, 2022 – 2023 учебный год  
Муниципальный этап  
9 – 11 классы

4. According to Para 3, which of the following is TRUE about the wings of birds?
- A) All birds flap their wings constantly by using breast muscles.
  - B) Eagles and hawks have wings that propel them at 170 km/hr.
  - C) The airfoils of birds function like the wings on airplanes.
  - D) Wings are attached to airfoils in the bird's skeletal structure.
5. The word **their** in the passage refers to
- A) Feathers
  - B) Species
  - C) Layers
  - D) Birds
6. The word **elaborate** in the passage is opposite in meaning to
- A) Simple
  - B) Quiet
  - C) Sad
  - D) Short
7. The word **essential** in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A) Very clear
  - B) Very important
  - C) Very difficult
  - D) Very new
8. According to the passage, how did theropods develop flight?
- A) Engineers believe that they flapped their wings to gain lift.
  - B) Scientists have proposed several different possibilities for flight.
  - C) Paleontologists think that they glided down from high trees.
  - D) Researchers confirm that flight began with running and jumping.
9. According to Para 8, what can be inferred about Archaeopteryx?
- A) A feathered fantail was prominent.
  - B) Lift off was achieved by running or gliding.
  - C) Teeth had been replaced by a beak.
  - D) The habitat extended throughout Europe.
10. All of the following are mentioned as adaptations to the bird's anatomy to accommodate flight EXCEPT
- A) The arrangement of feathers
  - B) A high metabolic rate
  - C) Very sharp eyes
  - D) Small legs and feet

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*Лексико-грамматический конкурс*

Part 1

For questions 1 – 5 find the word which best completes each sentence in the group.

1.  
 He works hard – he is in \_\_\_\_\_ of a department.  
 Can I \_\_\_\_\_ my phone while I’m at your place?  
 They \_\_\_\_\_ too much for their food – it’s not worth it.
  
2.  
 After Robinson Crusoe’s ship wrecked, he found himself on a \_\_\_\_\_ island.  
 A group of vultures were circling over his head while he was making his way through the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 I love you so much that I’ll never \_\_\_\_\_ you.
  
3.  
 Be very careful while in the city. Somebody may pick your \_\_\_\_\_.  
 The whole town was his. Even the mayor was in his \_\_\_\_\_.  
 He reached into the \_\_\_\_\_ to produce his passport.
  
4.  
 Can I buy a \_\_\_\_\_ of first-class stamps here?  
 We strongly recommend you to \_\_\_\_\_ now as the offer is limited.  
 I’m in my teacher’s black \_\_\_\_\_ for not handing in my essays on time.
  
5.  
 Parents’ praise helps to \_\_\_\_\_ their child’s self-esteem.  
 He was tall and of a muscular \_\_\_\_\_.  
 We need to \_\_\_\_\_ bridges between the Western and Eastern communities.

Part 2

For questions 1 – 15 read the text below and look carefully at each line. Mark the correct lines with (+). If a line has a word which should not be there, write it out.

0	I passed through my test three weeks ago, so I	through
00	still drive with a certain amount of caution. My mother	+
1	gave to me her car, and I get some help with tax and	
2	insurance because it’s so much expensive. I think	
3	cost and crime are the most negative aspects of	
4	owning a car, and you have to realize about how	
5	powerful and possibly dangerous a car can be.	
6	I enjoyed the learning to drive and my instructor was	
7	very patient and uncritical. I’ve been noticed that	

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8	other drivers are not as patient as when you don't	
9	have L-plates anymore. I haven't had any accidents	
10	or near misses yet – the worst thing that could happened	
11	was when I broke out a wing mirror during a lesson.	
12	A near miss is probably a good thing because it	
13	makes you to be more careful. Safe driving has a lot to	
14	do with attitude. In my opinion, 17 is too young to	
15	begin learn to drive. Perhaps 20 would be a better age.	

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Imagine that you have entered a competition for the best story. You should write a funny story (200 – 250 words) based on the photo below.

Don't forget to:

- give your story a title;
- try to make it original;
- include examples of direct OR indirect speech;
- include descriptions of feelings and emotions of the main character(s);
- invent an expected ending.

