

ВОЗРАСТНАЯ ГРУППА 7-8 классы

LISTENING

Task 1. You will hear a news report about dolphins. Complete the sentences. Write no more than one word or a number in each gap. You will hear the recording twice. Now you have fifty seconds to read the task. (Pause)

Last week, a twenty-eight-year-old diver who went swimming in the Red Sea with a group of dolphins learnt the hard way just how caring these creatures can be. When the diver was suddenly attacked by a shark, they saved him by forming a 1.circle around him and frightening the shark away.

It's not the first time such a rescue has happened and it's been known for some time that dolphins will do for humans what they do for their own kind. They are, in fact, the only animals in the world whose 2.brain matches ours in terms of size, and their intelligence and ability to feel emotions continue to fascinate. For some time now, their healing powers have been well known. A swim with a group of dolphins, for example, is a recognised 'medical' activity for everyday problems such as 3.stress. But some dolphins are playing a far more serious medical role for us than that.

Amanda Morton, who suffered from a life-threatening illness, argued that being with dolphins saved her life because they were able to 4.read her feelings. 'They knew how I was feeling,' she was quoted as saying. And it's the idea that they actually 'care', that they are gentle, happy creatures that want to befriend us, which has led to projects with children as well. In one such project, dolphins are being used to help children who are slow learners learn to read. The dolphins do things like carrying small 5. boards on their noses. These boards show words or pictures which the children are asked to identify. When the children get it right, they spend more time swimming with the dolphins and touching them and they see this as a reward. So what is it that makes contact with dolphins so powerful? They certainly have an engaging 6. smile ... in each jaw they have up to fifty-two teeth, but rather than frightening us to death, it's one of the warmest greetings in the world! They're also fantastic swimmers to watch. The spotted dolphin has been observed reaching 7. twenty miles an hour and keeping this up for two days at a time. And they know they're good at it so they show off in front of humans by diving in and out of the water and showing us just how much fun they're having. They're great communicators too. They make all kinds of fascinating high-pitched noises. They catch fish, for example, by sending out sound 8.waves which tell them everything they need to know – where it is, what it is and how big it is.

Dolphins have always been in focus of different research. Doctors and other 9. scientists are eager to watch and study them in their natural surroundings.

People don't necessarily harm dolphins on purpose, but they trap them in fishing nets and pollute the water they swim in. Pollution, in fact, is one of the dolphin's greatest problems. So with all the good they do for us, isn't it time we started caring about them?

Now listen again (the recording repeats)

Now you have twenty seconds to check your answers.

Pause

Now move to Task 2.

Task 2. You will hear Dr. Waterstein talking about strange inventions. Choose the correct answer for each question. Now you have forty seconds to read the task. (Pause). Now we are ready to start.

Well, I used to work in a government office which gave licenses to inventors, and gave out money for research. I learn all about the funny things people have developed and produced in the past. It's quite amazing! And I can give some of my favourites. They are really useful, like the modern toilet, and medicines like aspirin, but perhaps it's the useless inventions which are more fun. There have been so many. I am always surprised by the time and effort adult men, and women, will put into trying to solve a problem they have found.

The examples are endless. I remember the ladder for spiders to climb out of the bath, and the moustache protector and trainer, which was worn around the ears and in front of the face. It can't have been very comfortable. But my absolute favourite must be the two-handed glove, which was developed to allow loving couples to walk hand-in-hand even on the coldest winter's day. Who says scientists aren't romantic?

Though some inventions seem to be really crazy. Look, glasses for chickens are a very funny idea. But they were to protect the eyes, not to help them see. Some inventions can be disastrous, like the hat with a gun fixed in it. The first test broke a poor soldier's neck, and so the idea was given up.

Maybe you can ask me why people waste time on such strange ideas. But you know, they're not really wasting their time. Even the funniest inventions are often the result of a brilliant piece of problem solving. In fact, most ideas have a serious purpose and come to us because someone wants to meet a particular need. The other thing to remember is that not all inventions were made to be built or used. A lot of them are created just for the pleasure of thought and the joy of drawing a detailed diagram. These people are artists as well as scientists!

And we are still inventing things today. My latest favourite is an invention which every language student will love: the slow-talk radio. It's the answer to every student's prayers! A brilliant piece of technology which puts a quarter of a second of silence between the words spoken on the radio. Naturally, it's a machine which is in its beginning stages, but just imagine how much it would help you to understand. It can be changed, too, so that the space is shorter or longer. Marvellous! What is coming next?

Now listen again (the recording repeats)

This is the end of the listening task.