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# TOEFL

## Exercícios Extras de Reading





## The Neanderthals

Early archeological discoveries have **brought about** a serious change towards the Neanderthals. Neanderthals had previously been characterized more as primitive grunting beasts than beings with intelligence and compassion. However, evidence suggests that they possibly have shown more learned skills and social compassion that it had ever thought.

**A** The Neanderthals lived during a period that extended from at least 40,000 to 100,000 years ago in several different environments ranging from relatively hot and dry to freezing regions. **B** They differed from modern man in that they had stronger and heavier bones and facial structure with more projecting brow, a wider nose and bigger teeth. **C** Casts made of Neanderthal brains by archeologists show little difference in size from **those** of modern man. **D**

The scientists got the conclusion that Neanderthals were rather skilled stone craftsmen. They are well known for their production of stone tools, which included scrapers and pointed objects. The techniques that they used to produce these tools prove a clear and notable technological advance over their **predecessors**. The edges of their stone tools have been analyzed under microscopes for evidence of how the tools may have been used. Many of the tools seem to have been used for working with wood, both for moving around large branches and for doing more detailed work on smaller pieces. Other tools were used to prepare food, such as vegetables or meat and other tools had the purpose of working with leather and other animal skins and fur.

A believable **picture** of Neanderthals has come about in the last years as the archeologists have claimed that, in addition to the known skill to develop tools in a splendid way, they also showed evidence of beliefs and social rituals, aspects that provide evidence of humanlike way of thinking and feelings. Their **cemeteries** have been found in France and Iraq. Neanderthal remains in these sites have provided **proof** of social organization and rituals. One skeleton was found with a crushed skull; the blow on the top of the head probably had been the cause of death. After studies of this skeleton, it was discovered that while he had been alive, this man was handicapped with a defect that had limited the use of his upper right side, he suffered from arthritis and he was blind in one eye. It is believed that he had survived into old age due to the help of others, who probably provided him food not allowing him to die because he was not **fit** anymore.



Another skeletal of an adult male was found with pollen from eight different flowers, including ancestors of today's hyacinth, bachelor's button, and hollyhock; as the flowers could not grow in the caves where they were buried, experts are convinced that they had been put around the body in a burial ritual. In another cemetery, the body of a young child was found with a deposit of ibex horns near it. These findings about Neanderthals lead to a picture of them as beings with emotions and feelings that go along with rituals and social behavior.

1. The sentence “brought about” in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:
  - A) Carried
  - B) Raised
  - C) Led
  - D) Caused
  
2. The word “those” in paragraph 2 refers to :
  - A) Teeth
  - B) Casts
  - C) Brains
  - D) Archeologists
  
3. The word “predecessors” in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to
  - A) Ancestors
  - B) Precedents
  - C) Survivors
  - D) Successors
  
4. It is not stated in the text that Neanderthal tools were used to :
  - A) Chop wood
  - B) Make woven clothing
  - C) Prepare things to eat
  - D) Prepare animals fur and skin
  
5. The word “picture” in paragraph 4 could be best replaced by:
  - A) Fantasy
  - B) Photograph
  - C) Conception
  - D) Sight



6. The author refers to cemeteries in paragraph 4 in order to:
  - A) Indicate that Neanderthals buried their dead as the predecessors had
  - B) Make a point about the use of Neanderthals tools in the construction of cemeteries
  - C) Demonstrate that Neanderthals were unsuccessful in their attempt to initiate social rituals
  - D) Provide an example of Neanderthals social ritual
  
7. The word proof in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:
  - A) Evidence
  - B) Motivation
  - C) Details
  - D) Logic
  
8. Which of the following is stated in the passage about Neanderthal burial sites?
  - A) They have been found only in one area
  - B) They all seem to demonstrate the existence of Neanderthal social structure
  - C) They have all held the remains of old people
  - D) They have all been surrounded by flowers
  
9. The word “fit” in paragraph 4 could best be replaced by:
  - A) Healthy
  - B) Appropriate
  - C) Necessary
  - D) Old
  
10. Which of the sentences below expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 4? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
  - A) The large number of flowers found in a particular cave proves that the skeleton was a Neanderthal.
  - B) The fact that the flowers could not have grown there indicates that the burial site must have been moved.
  - C) Because only pollen and not actual flowers was found, experts believe that there had originally been more than eight types of flowers.
  - D) Because of the pollen around one grave, experts believe that the body was buried during a ceremony.
  
11. An ibex in paragraph 4 is most likely a type of:



- A) Clothing
- B) Weapon
- C) Animal
- D) Gemstone

12. Look at the four squares that indicate where the following sentence can be added to paragraph 2

**Neanderthals have been found in areas as diverse as deserts like in regions of the Middle east and glaciers.**

- A)
- B)
- C)
- D)



## The Hippopotamus

One of the largest animals that we can find in Africa is the hippopotamus. It is smaller only than the elephant and the rhinoceros. **Its** name has origin from two Greek words that mean “river horse”. People usually shorten its long name to “hippo”, which is easier to use.

Despite being a very big and heavy animal, it has an affinity for the water. It can walk along the bottom of the water instead of **floating** on the top of the water. The hippo remains underwater very easily for three to five minutes and it may stay under for up to half an hour before coming up to breathe.

This animal **has very little in common** with the horse in spite of its name. On the other hand it has many more things in common with the whale. When a hippo comes up after a stay under the water of a lake or a river, it releases air through a blowhole, in the same way the whales do. As other features that they have in common, we can mention the fact that they are almost completely hairless and the thick layers of **blubber** that they have for protection.

1. The main idea of the text is:
  - A) the characteristics of the hippo
  - B) the largest animals
  - C) the relation between the hippo and the whale
  - D) the derivations of animals names
2. The possessive “Its” in line 2 refers to
  - A) elephant
  - B) rhinoceros
  - C) horse
  - D) hippopotamus
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the rhinoceros is
  - A) smaller than the hippo
  - B) equal in size to the elephant
  - C) a hybrid of the hippo and the elephant
  - D) one of the two largest types of jungle animals



4. According to the passage, what is the longest time that the hippos are able to stay underwater?
  - A) Three minutes
  - B) Thirty minutes
  - C) Nine minutes
  - D) Five minutes
  
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the word hippopotamus is usually shortened to the word “hippo” because is:
  - A) the original name
  - B) scientifically more accurate
  - C) simpler to pronounce
  - D) easier for the animal to recognize
  
6. The word “floating” in line 5 is similar in meaning to
  - A) breathing
  - B) sinking
  - C) flapping
  - D) drifting
  
7. The expression “has very little in common” in line 8 could be replaced by
  - A) shares few things in common
  - B) is not usually found
  - C) has very little experience
  - D) has little contact
  
8. The word “bubbler” in line 12 is closest in meaning to
  - A) fat
  - B) scar
  - C) bubbles
  - D) wrinkles
  
9. The text mentions that one of the ways that the hippo is similar to a whale is that
  - A) they both breathe underwater
  - B) they both have blowholes
  - C) they both live on the bottom of rivers and lakes



D) they are both named after horses

10. The text states that the hippo does not

A) like water

B) resemble the whale

C) have much hair

D) have a protecting coat



## Esperanto

The optician Ludwik Lazar Zamenhof created a language more than a century ago, the Esperanto. It is an artificial language which he believed it would help the communication worldwide and avoid the misunderstanding among people.

When he first tried to create a language, he invented monosyllabic words such as ab, ac, ba, be and ce. Although these words were short, they were not easy to memorize or very clear to understand.

After that, he tried to create a plain language to be taught and learned. He used a different technique, using words that sound like the ones that were known to people, with an easier grammar. Suffixes were used as one of the way to do it. For instance, all the nouns in Esperanto end in “o”, the word love is “loveto” and the word peace is “paco”. The adjectives end in “a”, as we can see in “fêlica” which means happy and “inteligenta” that means intelligent. He also used prefixes to have a practical language. He chose to use “mal” to mean the opposite, so the word “malfêlica” means unhappy and the word “malsprita” means stupid.

Dr.Zamenhof used the penname Dr.Esperanto, exactly the same name that he used for the language and it means “a person who hopes”. Although it is not a very well-known language nowadays, some clubs did begin popping up in Europe, America and Asia around 1905, when the First Congress of Esperanto took place in France, counting with 700 people from 20 different countries. Other congresses were held once a year after that, but in 1914, they had to cancel it due to the World War I.

(10 A) Nowadays, it is believed that about more than a quarter of a million people are fluent in Esperanto (10 B) besides its ups and downs. (10 C) These people are taking actions not only to keep the language alive but planning to see its growth. (10 D)

1. The topic of the passage is
  - A) using language to communicate internationally
  - B) one man’s effort to create a universal language
  - C) a language developed in the last few years
  - D) how language can be improved



2. According to the text, Zamenhof had as a goal to create a universal language
  - A) to solve cultural differences
  - B) to provide a more complicated language
  - C) to become famous
  - D) to create one world culture
  
3. Look at the word “plain” in paragraph 3. The closest meaning to this word is:
  - A) complex
  - B) flat
  - C) simple
  - D) decorative
  
4. After reading the text, we can say that the Esperanto word “malespera” means
  - A) hopeless
  - B) wait for
  - C) hopeful
  - D) hopelessness
  
5. The expression “popping up” in paragraph 4 could be best replaced by
  - A) skipping
  - B) opening
  - C) disappearing
  - D) decreasing
  
6. The reason that Dr. Zamenhof chose the name Esperanto for this language is:
  - A) because it was his penname
  - B) because this name means ”a person who hopes”
  - C) because he had the hope that the World War I would end soon
  - D) because he believed it would be easy to learn it
  
7. It can be inferred that the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Esperanto took place in
  - A) 1913
  - B) 1909
  - C) 1907
  - D) 1905
  
8. After reading the text, we can conclude that the 10<sup>th</sup> World Esperanto Congress
  - A) had people from 20 different countries



- B) was scheduled for 1915
  - C) had 4.000 attendees
  - D) never took place
9. The expression “ups and downs” is closest in meaning to
- A) highs and lows
  - B) skies and grounds
  - C) floors and ceilings
  - D) learnings and teachings
10. The following sentence could be added in paragraph 6
- “It may seem a huge number, but it is rather small when compared to the more than a billion English speakers and billion Mandarin Chinese speakers nowadays.”
- A) 10 A
  - B) 10 B
  - C) 10 C
  - D) 10 D
11. The paragraph that describes the predecessor to Esperanto is
- A) the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph
  - B) the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph
  - C) the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph
  - D) the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph
12. This text would be most likely belong to a course on
- A) French History
  - B) English grammar
  - C) Politics
  - D) Applied linguistics
13. The last paragraph discusses
- A) how current supporters of Esperanto are encouraging its growth
  - B) other Zamenhof’s accomplishments
  - C) the disadvantages of using an artificial language
  - D) to renew Esperanto among people



### **Answer Key The Neanderthals**

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. D
11. C
12. B

### **Answer Key The Hippopotamus**

1. A
2. D
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. C

### **Answer Key Esperanto**

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. D
9. A
10. C



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11. B

12. D

13. A