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English: Main Test

Suggested time: 25 minutes. Answer questions 1-26.

Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

Bats

- ¹ On a warm summer evening, just as the sky fades from blue to grey, a small dark shape may flicker past a garden hedge. It twists, dives and vanishes before you can be sure you saw it at all. Many people take it for a bird, but it is something far more surprising: a bat.



Flying mammals

- ⁵ Bats are mammals, like cats, dogs and humans. Their babies are born alive rather than hatched from eggs, and the mothers feed them on milk. Yet bats can do something that no other mammal can: they fly. Flying squirrels glide from tree to tree, but only bats can flap their way through the air and stay up for as long as they choose. A bat's wing is really a hand. Its
- ¹⁰ long, thin finger bones are joined by stretchy skin, so a flying bat is, in a sense, rowing through the air with its fingers.

There are more than 1,400 kinds of bat in the world, about a fifth of all the mammal species on Earth. The smallest, the bumblebee bat of Thailand and Myanmar, weighs about two grams, less than a sugar cube. The largest,

¹⁵ the flying foxes, have wings that can stretch one and a half metres from tip to tip. Eighteen kinds live in Britain. The commonest, the common pipistrelle, weighs about five grams and could fold itself into a matchbox. Like most British bats, it is nocturnal: it sleeps through the day and comes out at dusk.

Seeing with sound

- ²⁰ 'As blind as a bat,' people say, but the saying is wrong. Bats can see, and some see very well. Eyes, however, are of little use for hunting tiny insects in the dark. So how does a bat find a moth in a pitch-black wood?

The answer is echolocation. As it flies, a bat gives out a stream of very high-pitched calls, most of them far too high for human ears. When a call

²⁵ strikes an object, an echo bounces back. By listening to the echoes, the

bat can tell how far away something is, which way it is moving and even how big it is. As it closes in on an insect, it calls faster and faster until the separate calls blur into a buzz. All of this happens in a fraction of a second, and it lets a bat snatch a gnat from the air without slowing down. A common pipistrelle can eat up to 3,000 insects in a single night, so gardeners who dislike midges have good reason to be grateful.

Some surprising facts about bats

- Three kinds of vampire bat live in Central and South America. They feed on blood, usually from cattle or birds, and need only about two tablespoons a night.
- Fruit bats help to spread the seeds of many tropical plants and to pollinate their flowers.
- A tiny European bat called Brandt's bat has been recorded living for more than forty years.

A year in the life of a bat

Because British bats feed on insects, every winter brings a problem: there are hardly any insects to catch. Their answer is to hibernate. From about November until March or April, they hang in cool, quiet places such as caves, old tunnels and the roof spaces of buildings. Their bodies cool and their heartbeat slows right down, so they use very little of the fat they stored in autumn. A bat that is woken too often in winter may burn up its store and starve before spring.

In summer, female bats gather in groups called maternity roosts, often in the roof of a house or barn. Each mother usually has a single baby, called a pup, which clings to her fur and feeds on her milk. After three or four weeks, the pups make their first nervous flights into the dusk.

Bats in danger

Over the last hundred years, the number of bats in Britain has dwindled. Old barns have been turned into houses, many hedgerows and ponds have disappeared, and pesticides have reduced the insects that bats need. Bright lights along roads and footpaths cause trouble too. Some kinds of bat will not cross a brightly lit gap, so a single lamp can cut them off from the hedge or stream where they feed.

For these reasons, every kind of bat in Britain is protected by law. It is illegal to disturb a bat in its roost or to block its way in, even if the roost is in your own loft. Volunteers help by counting bats on summer evenings with a small machine called a bat detector, which turns the calls into clicks and ticks that people can hear. Different kinds call at different pitches, so an experienced listener can tell them apart without seeing them at all.

Please answer these questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.) You should choose the best answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

- 1 What makes bats different from all other mammals?
- A They can fly rather than only glide.
 - B Their babies are born alive.
 - C They feed their young on milk.
 - D They are active only in the dark.
 - E They use their fingers to swim.
- 2 "As blind as a bat," people say, but the saying is wrong." (line 20)
What does the writer think of this saying?
- A It describes bats kindly.
 - B It proves that bats cannot see.
 - C It rests on a mistaken belief.
 - D It is true of the largest bats.
 - E It explains how bats find food.
- 3 "So how does a bat find a moth in a pitch-black wood?" (line 22)
Why does the writer ask this question?
- A to check whether the reader already knows the answer
 - B to suggest that bats rarely catch moths
 - C to show that the writer is unsure of the facts
 - D to prove that bats have poor eyesight
 - E to lead into the explanation that follows
- 4 How can a bat tell how far away an insect is?
- A It hears the insect's wings beating nearby.
 - B It watches the insect with its eyes.
 - C It follows the smell of the insect.
 - D It feels the air move with its wings.
 - E It listens to echoes.
- 5 'snatch' (line 29)
What does this word suggest about the way a bat catches a gnat?
- A It is slow and careful.
 - B It is noisy and clumsy.
 - C It is quick and sudden.
 - D It is gentle and polite.
 - E It follows a long chase.

- 6 Which TWO things happen to a bat's body when it hibernates?
Choose TWO.
- 1 It cools down.
 - 2 It hunts in caves.
 - 3 Its heartbeat slows.
 - 4 It builds a nest.
 - 5 It feeds a pup.
- A 1 and 3
B 2 and 5
C 3 and 5
D 2 and 4
E 1 and 4
- 7 'A bat that is woken too often in winter may burn up its store and starve before spring.' (lines 37-38)
Why might this happen?
- A It cannot find its way back to the cave.
 - B Other animals attack it while it is awake.
 - C There are hardly any insects to replace the fat it uses.
 - D Its heartbeat slows down far too much.
 - E It forgets how to catch insects in winter.
- 8 What is a maternity roost?
- A a winter cave full of sleeping bats
 - B a summer gathering of mother bats
 - C a box put up by volunteers
 - D a place where pups are left alone
 - E a nest built by the father bats
- 9 Which of these is NOT given as a reason why there are fewer bats than there used to be?
- A barns turned into houses
 - B harsher winters
 - C the loss of hedgerows and ponds
 - D pesticides killing insects
 - E bright lights on footpaths
- 10 Look at the section 'Bats in danger'. What is the main message of this section?
- A Every kind of bat in Britain is now protected by law.
 - B Volunteers are the best people to count and study bats.
 - C Bright lights along paths help bats to find their insects.
 - D Changes made by people have made life harder for bats.
 - E Nobody knows why bat numbers in Britain have fallen.

Spelling Exercise

Questions 15-20. In this exercise there are some spelling mistakes. On each numbered line there is either one mistake or no mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. If there is no mistake, mark N.

15	Desperate for a drink after the race,	the exhausted runners queued	at the refreshment tent	beside the finishing line.
	A	B	C	D

N There is no mistake.



16	My grandmother's favourite programme	is a quiz show about	ancient civilisations and	extraordinary inventions.
	A	B	C	D

N There is no mistake.



17	The newsagent on the corner	sells magazines, sweets	and all kinds of stationary	for school.
	A	B	C	D

N There is no mistake.



Test 1 - Answers and explanations

Answers and Explanations

Practice Test 1

Practice Test answers

P1	A	P3	D		
P2	A	P4	C		

Main Test answers

1	A	10	D	19	D
2	C	11	E	20	C
3	E	12	D	21	A
4	E	13	E	22	D
5	C	14	A	23	D
6	A	15	A	24	N
7	C	16	N	25	A
8	B	17	C	26	C
9	B	18	A		

Practice Test explanations

P1 A

'We do the edges first of all'.

P2 A

A patient person is calm and willing to wait.

P3 D

'Swimming' doubles the 'm' before '-ing'.

P4 C

'I'll' is short for 'I will' and needs an apostrophe.

Main Test explanations

1 A (Comprehension)

Line 7: bats 'can do something that no other mammal can: they fly', whereas flying squirrels only glide.

2 C (Comprehension)

The writer says 'the saying is wrong' because bats can see, some very well.