

# ENGLISH COMPETITION

2024.



EMBERI ERŐFORRÁS  
TÁMOGATÁSKEZELŐ

FOR YEAR 9 AND 10 STUDENTS IN GRAMMAR AND SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CATEGORY

SCORES: TASK 1 \_\_\_\_\_

TASK 2 \_\_\_\_\_

TASK 3 \_\_\_\_\_

TASK 4 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_



Nemzeti  
Tehetség Program



EMBERI ERŐFORRÁSOK  
MINISZTERIUMA

TEACHER'S (COORDINATOR'S) SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

## TASK 1

You are going to read an article about the effects of climate change in Antarctica. Some words are missing from the text. Use the words in brackets to form the words that fit in the gaps (1-10). Then write the appropriate form of these words in the chart after the text. Use only one word for each gap. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

### HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS TURNING ANTARCTICA GREEN

When you think of Antarctica, plants probably aren't the first things that come to mind. After all, Earth's icy southernmost continent is the largest desert in the world, not only (0) *bitterly* (*bitter*) cold but exceptionally dry; there are places in Antarctica that haven't seen liquid water for millions of years. All the same, Antarctica does have a few unique plant species all of its own, and in recent years, they've been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (*thrive*).

Climate change is dramatically (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (*alter*) the polar climate, and with record-low levels of ice, Antarctica's flowering plants are spreading at (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (*precedent*) rates. Only two species of complex, flowering plants call the continent home, but a warming climate is allowing them to expand. While most of Antarctica is still (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (*blanket*) by a permanent layer of ice and snow, plants can now be found growing in places that were once thought completely (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (*hospitable*) to them.

Of all of climate change's effects over the past decade, the thriving plants in Antarctica are one of the most (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (*pronounce*) — and alarming. But as a place with no permanent human residents, the entire continent remains out of most people's view, so many of us are unaware of how much it's changing. A study published in *Current Biology* explains this in some detail, describing how the continued warming is leading to more ice-free areas, leading to a "striking (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (*expand*)" in the amount of area covered by plants. Researchers think it's mostly driven by warmer air over the continent during summer.

### THE LOST FORESTS OF ANTARCTICA

Antarctica hasn't always been a land of ice, and most of its scant handful of plants are true natives. They're actually post-apocalyptic survivors — their ancestors lived in a far more verdant Antarctica millions of years ago. Around 90 million years ago, the continent was home to a lush rainforest. At the time, most of Earth was covered by the ancient Tethys Ocean, and

Antarctica was still physically attached to other continents such as Australia. Those ancient plants left behind abundant fossils, like the fossil leaf shown above.

The continent's last severe shift in climate began around 34 million years ago. Throughout the age of the dinosaurs, Earth's environment was much warmer. Even as it drifted south, Antarctica remained ice-free until the whole planet began to cool, and the poles began to slowly freeze into ice caps. Around 15 million years ago, its green and temperate forests slowly changed, becoming icy, probably (8) \_\_\_\_\_(**resemble**) the forests found in Siberia today.

All the same, the climate of Antarctica has seemingly always been very sensitive to changes in Earth's climate. Occasional warm spells in the past have had dramatic (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (**impact**) there. According to a study published in the journal Nature Geoscience, this included a brief period around 15 million years ago. Examining the soil, scientists discovered evidence of once-abundant plant life, suggesting that the coastline of Antarctica may have (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (**temporary**) turned green, before continuing to become the frigid place it is today.

(0)	<i>bitterly</i>	
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
(10)		

**10 points/**

## TASK 2

You are going to read an article about elephants and how they bring luck. Some words are missing from the text. Your task is to choose the most appropriate word from the list (A-M) for each gap (1-8) in the text. Write the letter of the appropriate word in the white box after the text. You can use each word only once. There is one extra word that you do not need to use. There is one example (0) at the beginning.

### WHY ELEPHANTS ARE CONSIDERED GOOD LUCK

There are plenty of (0) A about elephants, one of which is that the ancient animal can bring good luck. A popular symbol for jewelry and (1) \_\_\_\_\_, it's also common to see elephant statues used as decor. This isn't just a random coincidence, though. Elephants are considered to be lucky creatures and can bring different meanings to your life and home depending on where they are placed and what they are used for. In India, the god Ganesh (also referred to as *Ganesh*) is an elephant-headed figure who is highly (2) \_\_\_\_\_, and living elephants on Earth are said to be "living incarnations" of him, per PBS, making elephants a vital part of Hindu tradition and mythology.

According to Britannica, Ganesh is believed to have the ability to clear life paths by removing obstacles. The god can also generally achieve his goals by pushing aside any issues that stop him from getting what he wants. Over time, this connotation of Ganesh's ability to achieve goals carried over and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ into elephants being perceived as lucky in general.

### THE POPULAR ANIMAL CARRIES LOTS OF SYMBOLIC MEANING

Speaking to MindBodyGreen, numerologist Johanna Augusta expanded on what exactly elephants can symbolize. "*Elephants represent many positive influences, ranging from strength and good fortune to health, happiness, and spiritual well-being,*" Augusta shared. The numerologist also mentioned Ganesh, stating how, in India, the divine figure is "honored for his wisdom, fortune, triumphs, and (4) \_\_\_\_\_." Elephants also often symbolize transformation and growth.

In parts of Africa, elephants represent high standing in the community, power, strength, and wealth, and are sometimes associated with royalty. In the Southeast Asian nation Cambodia, elephant statues are popular as they (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to good fortune and protection, and are often installed in places of worship and used in rituals. According to Cambodia Travel,

elephants' powers even go beyond (6) \_\_\_\_\_ positive life outcomes. For believers, the revered animals are thought to work as a channel between the spirit world and the living world.

**THE GENTLE CREATURES HAVE LONG SYMBOLIZED MANY POSITIVE THINGS IN THE HOME**

Within the home, elephants mean different things in different areas. For example, some believe that elephants placed near the front door will give your home protection (via The Spruce). If you wish to achieve *feng shui*, the Chinese art of creating harmony by arranging objects in a particular way, place your elephant statues outward. It's also said that elephants at the door will also (7) \_\_\_\_\_ positive energy and prosperity, therefore bringing you plenty of luck. You could also have an elephant statue in your bedroom for good energy while you sleep, or near your desk while you work.

Elephants can also represent luck in the form of abundance and good things to come. This (8) \_\_\_\_\_ from the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, who is associated with abundance and usually seen with four elephants by her side. Via Waxing Poetic, elephants also commonly symbolize abundance when they are portrayed with rain clouds. The idea is that elephants will (9) \_\_\_\_\_ these clouds and bring a good harvest (a direct reference to farming communities). Finally, like in African culture, elephants can be considered lucky due to their (10) \_\_\_\_\_ physical strength, which in turn could give you strength in tough times.

- A) myths
- B) equate
- C) germs
- D) revered
- E) trinkets
- F) disperse
- G) evoke
- H) evolved
- I) immerse
- J) abundance
- K) bestowing
- M) stems

(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A										

**10 points/**

### TASK 3

You are going to read this article about a cross-cultural friendship between two girls. Some sentences have been left out from the text. Your task is to reconstruct the text by filling in the gaps (1-10) from the list (A-K) below. Write the letters in the chart after the text. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

#### A CROSS-CULTURAL FRIENDSHIP

I am the 16-year-old daughter in a Foreign Service family. (0) C. I can't remember a time when it was different. Yet I did not realize how unusual my life really was until after I became friends with a girl named Lana.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_. Lana was in my fourth-grade class. She was Serbian and spoke halting English, but I was more than capable of filling any gaps in the conversation. I was drawn to her calm demeanor, and later delighted by her quick wit. When she invited me to her house, I was happy to accept.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_. Instead of her parents driving us – the only mode of transportation with which I was familiar – we headed to the nearest bus stop. After getting off the bus, we dodged cars in a bustling main street, and hiked past apartment buildings and grocery stores. (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

Lana's austere house brought me down to earth. (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Eventually I made the connection between the starkness of her home's interior and the news footage I had seen of bombings and rallies in Belgrade. Lana and her parents were refugees: they had what they needed for a decent life, but very little beyond that.

I don't know what Lana thought of me, but she must not have seen then shallow, naïve kid I felt like in that moment, because the afternoon went perfectly. We entertained ourselves in the same way our grandparents had – no television, no video games – and that became the standard for our afternoons. (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Another day we built a pillow fort that stretched through three rooms.

For four years, Lana and I explored Prague together. (6) \_\_\_\_\_. There, while we dangled our legs and basked in the rare sunshine, I explained the United States to her and she explained Milosevic's Serbia to me. We rode our scooters to the Hotel Praha pool, the grocery store, and the park.

Lana told me once about an American bomb that had landed near her house. (7) \_\_\_\_\_. I was angry that bombs happened to real people, not just faces on CNN.

On September 11, 2001, it was Lana who helped me understand the magnitude of what had occurred. (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Together we tried to comprehend why complete strangers would want us dead, all because of what seemed like ancient history. While I had never had to face such animosity before, Lana was familiar with being written off as an "arrogant Serb."

Now I'm back in the U.S., in high school in a comfortable suburb near Washington, D.C., and Lana is back home in Belgrade. (9) \_\_\_\_\_. It is easy to overlook the news from Baghdad in favor of celebrity gossip.

Lana and I have stayed in touch. We talk on the phone, covering the meaning of life, the Kosovo situation, as well as my homecoming dress. (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Though we face the hurdles of school, finances, and a couple of thousand miles, we are both enchanted by the idea of exploring together once more.

**A) I remember thinking, where are all her things?**

**B) The trip proved to be an adventure.**

~~**C) Guatemalan huipiles (traditional hand-woven blouses) adorn our walls, and Zambian baskets sit on our shelves.**~~

**D) When we cut through just the right patch of trees, we would come out on a rocky cliff overlooking the city.**

**E) By the time we reached her front gate, I felt a heady rush of adrenaline at having done something so independent.**

**F) For the past two years, we've been planning a trans-Europe backpacking trip.**

**G) Once, we spent hours writing secret messages with burnt-out matches, then passing them from her lower balcony to the one above.**

**H) I was deeply shocked at this connection to a previously abstract event.**

**I) As an American teenager, it's easy to turn up my iPod and tune out the world.**

**J) We had relocated to Prague just months before the new millennium, to a house within walking distance of the international school.**

**K) We sat outside on the dewy grass and a discussed how it felt to be hated.**

(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
C										

**10 points/**

#### TASK 4

You are going to read an installment from a world-famous novel written by Herman Melville. The last couple of letters of some words are missing. Your task is to complete the words with the missing letters on their lines in the text. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

(...). Some years ago—never mind how long (0) **prec i s e l y**—having little or no money in my purse, and nothing particular to interest me on shore, I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part of the world. It is a way I have of driving off the (1) **spl \_ \_ \_** and regulating the circulation. Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself (2) **invol \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** pausing before coffin (3) **ware \_ \_ \_ \_ \_**, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I meet; and especially whenever my hypos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from (4) **delib \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** stepping into the street, and (5) **metho \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** knocking people's hats off—then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can. This is my substitute for pistol and ball. With a (6) **philo \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** flourish Cato throws himself upon his sword; I quietly take to the ship. There is nothing surprising in this. If they but knew it, almost all men in their degree, some time or other, (7) **che \_ \_ \_ \_** very nearly the same feelings towards the ocean with me.

There now is your (8) **ins \_ \_ \_ \_** city of the Manhattoes, belted round by (9) **wha \_ \_ \_ \_** as Indian isles by coral reefs—commerce surrounds it with her surf. Right and left, the streets take you (10) **water \_ \_ \_ \_**. Its extreme downtown is the battery, where that noble mole is washed by waves, and cooled by breezes, which a few hours previous were out of sight of land. Look at the crowds of water-gazers there.

(11) **Circum \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** the city of a dreamy Sabbath afternoon. Go from Corlears Hook to Coenties Slip, and from thence, by Whitehall, northward. What do you see? — Posted like silent (12) **sent \_ \_ \_ \_** all around the town, stand thousands upon thousands of mortal men fixed in ocean (13) **rev \_ \_ \_ \_**. Some leaning against the spiles; some seated upon the pier-heads; some looking over the (14) **bulw \_ \_ \_ \_** of ships from China; some high aloft in the rigging, as if striving to get a still better seaward peep. But these are all (15) **land \_ \_ \_ \_**; of week days pent up in lath and plaster—tied to counters, nailed to benches, (16) **clin \_ \_ \_ \_** to desks. How then is this? Are the green fields gone? What do they here?

But look! here come more crowds, pacing straight for the water, and seemingly bound for a dive. Strange! Nothing will content them but the (17) **extr \_ \_ \_ \_** limit of the land; (18) **loit \_ \_ \_ \_** under the shady lee of (19) **yon \_ \_ \_** warehouses will not suffice. No. They must get just as nigh the water as they possibly can without falling in. And there they stand—miles of them—leagues. (20) **Inla \_ \_ \_ \_** all, they come from lanes and alleys, streets and avenues—

north, east, south, and west. Yet here they all unite. Tell me, does the magnetic virtue of the needles of the compasses of all those ships attract them thither?

Once more. Say you are in the country; in some high land of lakes. Take almost any path you please, and ten to one it carries you down in a dale, and leaves you there by a pool in the stream. There is magic in it. Let the most absent-minded of men be **(21) plun** \_ \_ \_ in his deepest reveries—stand that man on his legs, set his feet a-going, and he will **(22) infal** \_ \_ \_ \_ lead you to water, if water there be in all that region. Should you ever be **(23) ath** \_ \_ \_ \_ in the great American desert, try this experiment, if your caravan happen to be supplied with a metaphysical professor. Yes, as every one knows, meditation and water are **(24) wed** \_ \_ \_ for ever.

But here is an artist. He desires to paint you the dreamiest, shadiest, quietest, most **(25) ench** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ bit of romantic landscape in all the valley of the Saco. What is the chief element he employs? There stand his trees, each with a hollow trunk, as if a **(26) her** \_ \_ \_ and a crucifix were within; and here sleeps his meadow, and there sleep his cattle; and up from yonder cottage goes a sleepy smoke. Deep into distant woodlands winds a mazy way, reaching to **(27) overl** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ spurs of mountains bathed in their hill-side blue. But though the picture lies thus **(28) tran** \_ \_ \_ , and though this pine-tree shakes down its sighs like leaves upon this shepherd's head, yet all were vain, unless the shepherd's eye were fixed upon the magic stream before him. Go visit the Prairies in June, when for scores on scores of miles you wade knee-deep among Tiger-lilies—what is the one charm wanting? — Water—there is not a drop of water there! Were Niagara but a **(29) cata** \_ \_ \_ \_ of sand, would you travel your thousand miles to see it? Why did the poor poet of Tennessee, upon suddenly receiving two handfuls of silver, deliberate whether to buy him a coat, which he sadly needed, or invest his money in a pedestrian trip to Rockaway Beach? Why is almost every robust healthy boy with a robust healthy soul in him, at some time or other crazy to go to sea? Why upon your first voyage as a passenger, did you yourself feel such a mystical vibration, when first told that you and your ship were now out of sight of land? Why did the old Persians hold the sea holy? Why did the Greeks give it a separate deity, and own brother of Jove? Surely all this is not without meaning. And still deeper the meaning of that story of Narcissus, who because he could not grasp the **(30) torm** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , mild image he saw in the fountain, plunged into it and was drowned. But that same image, we ourselves see in all rivers and oceans. It is the image of the ungraspable phantom of life; and this is the key to it all.

**30 points/**



