

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО, МЛАДЕЖТА И НАУКАТА
ДЪРЖАВЕН ЗРЕЛОСТЕН ИЗПИТ ПО
АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК
29 май 2013 г., Вариант 1

PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: *You will hear a text about **Lake Hillier** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B or C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

Lake Hillier is a lake on Middle Island in Western Australia. Middle island is the largest of the islands and islets that make up the Bay of Isles, a group of about 105 islands and over 1,200 ‘obstacles to shipping’. The most notable feature of this lake is its colour, rose pink. It is such a significant distinguishing feature of the archipelago that even air passengers often take note of it. From above, the lake appears a solid bubble gum pink. The colour is permanent, as it does not change when the water is taken in a container. The length of the tiny lake is about six hundred metres.

The shallow lake is surrounded by a belt of white salt and dark green forests. A narrow strip of white dunes and sand separates the lake from the ocean’s deep waters.

The first reported sighting of Lake Hillier dates back to the journals of Matthew Flinders, a British navigator and hydrographer in 1802. Flinders had climbed Middle Island’s highest peak to survey the surrounding waters and from there he saw that remarkable pink lake. John Thistle, the ship’s master, collected some of the lake’s water and found it to be extremely salty. However, the reason why it’s pink remains a mystery.

The pink colour of other salt lakes in the region, for example Pink Lake, arises from the pigment created by microorganisms when the salt content of the lake water is higher than that of the ocean water, the temperature is high enough and suitable light is provided. So those lakes are not always pink in colour.

But scientists cannot actually figure out why Lake Hillier is so stubbornly pink. Despite their efforts, it refuses to turn blue, green, or even brown, as a lake should be. They think that the colour may be a result of the mixture of sodium bicarbonate, or baking soda, and sea salt found in the lake.

Although the source of the pink colour has not been definitively proven in the case of Lake Hillier, it is safe to swim in, as it is just another salt lake that happens to be pink.

Directions: *You will hear a text about **female bullfighters** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **2 minutes** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **4 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B or C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

Female bullfighters date back to the 18th century, but women could fight bulls only by permission of local authorities. In 1808, the new Bonaparte king, Napoleon's eldest brother, known as Joseph I of Spain, gave a royal blessing to female bullfighters.

In 1900, a 20-year-old bullfighter known as 'La Reverte' debuted in the Madrid bullring. What's odd about that? La Reverte was a female bullfighter. Her name was Maria Salomé. She remained a crowd favourite for seven years, until 1908, and was especially popular with women.

However, in 1908, women were banned from bullfighting. The Spanish government decided it was immoral for women to fight bulls. Some retired, some emigrated to Latin America. La Reverte was also to be banned from the ring. But she wasn't worried. Why?

She was actually a *he*. At the conclusion of one of her final bullfights, when she was banned, Maria Salomé took off her wig and fake breasts, revealing she wasn't a woman, but a man, named Agustin Rodriguez. This claim was accepted. Did La Reverte resume a bullfighting career as a man? Nope. Bullfighting fans instantly turned on him, angered by the cheating and Rodriguez was never successful as a bullfighter. Within the year, he left Madrid and retired quietly in Majorca.

Directions: *You will hear a text about a man who wanted to benefit from an insurance company twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have 4 minutes to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B, C or D. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers.*

A man, who had bought a case of rare, very expensive cigars, insured them against fire! Within a month, he had already smoked his entire stockpile of precious cigars, and was now due to make a single premium payment on the insurance policy. Instead, the man filed a compensation claim against the insurance company.

In his claim, the man stated that he had lost the cigars "in a series of small fires." The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason that the man had consumed the cigars in a normal way.

The man sued the insurance company - and won! In delivering his ruling, the judge stated the following. First, the man held a policy from the company, which had guaranteed that the cigars could be insured; also the company had agreed to insure the cigars against fire, without defining what it considered to be unacceptable fire; as a result, it was obligated to compensate the man for his loss.

To avoid a lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company reluctantly accepted the judge's decision and paid the man \$15,000 for the rare cigars he'd lost in the fires. After the man cashed his check, however, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 cases of arson. The insurance company had used the man's testimony from the previous case as evidence against him, so he was convicted of intentionally burning the rare cigars and sentenced to 24 consecutive one-year terms in prison.