

**Муниципальное автономное образовательное учреждение
дополнительного образования детей
Центр дополнительного образования детей
«Стратегия»**

Письменное задание по дисциплине «Английский язык» для 9 класса

Reading

Time: 20min

Read the article and match the paragraph summaries (A-G) from the box below with each paragraph (14-20).

- A** A language Ken helped save
- B** Ken's ability to learn languages quickly
- C** How Ken learnt languages
- D** Ken's origins
- E** Reasons for protecting languages under threat
- F** Ken's involvement in language theory
- G** The biological basis of language

Kenneth Hale, Master Linguist

14. SOMETIMES Kenneth Hale was asked how long it would take him to learn a new language. He thought ten or fifteen minutes would be enough to pick up essentials if he were listening to a native speaker. After that he could probably converse; obviously not fluently, but enough to make himself understood. To those whose education, however admirable in other respects, had provided only rudimentary language skills, he seemed a marvel.

15. As many of these languages had no written grammar or vocabulary, and indeed were spoken by few people, Kenneth picked them up orally. His tip for anyone who pressed him for advice on learning a language was to talk to a native speaker. Start with parts of the body, he said, then common objects. After learning the nouns, you can start to make sentences and get attuned to the sounds.

16. This is all the more confusing as language is much more complex than, say, simple arithmetic, which often takes years to master. It is often hypothesised that language is an innate human faculty, with its own specialised system in our brain.

17. He spent his childhood on a ranch in Arizona and started his education in a one-roomed school in the desert. Many years later, lecturing at MIT, he still felt most comfortable in cowboy boots. On his belt was a buckle he had won at a rodeo by riding bulls, and he had the slightly bowed legs of a horseman. His students were impressed that he could light a match with his thumbnail.

18. One Indian language at its last gasp was spoken by the Wopanaak, the tribe that greeted the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620. It is now spoken again by several thousand people around Cape Cod. A Wopanaak who studied under Kenneth is preparing a dictionary of her language. 'Ken was a voice for the voiceless,' said Noam Chomsky. And he worked tirelessly to learn endangered languages.

19. Despite these setbacks, Ken did contribute to an understanding of the apparently innate human capacity for speech. He made a number of what he called 'neat' discoveries about the structure of language, and had an instinctive sense of what all languages had in common. After his retirement from MIT, he said he would 'really get down to work', an ambition he was unable to achieve, though his other achievements were considerable.

20. And these people are often particularly upset by a scholarly argument which surfaces from time to time about the desirability of keeping alive languages that have little chance of survival. Occasionally the argument turns nationalistic. For example, is what Kenneth called the 'revitalisation' of Welsh merely a nuisance in Britain where, obviously, English is the working language? Kenneth Hale had an indignant answer to that question. 'When you lose a language', he told a reporter, 'you lose a culture, intellectual wealth, a work of art. The damage that's done is irreparable. It's like dropping a bomb on a museum, the Louvre.'

Use of English

Time: 15min

Task 1

For questions 21-30 read the text below and decide which word (A, B, C or D) fits the space best.

Example: (0) just

On the other hand?

We left-handed people lack collective pride. We **(0) just** try to get by, in our clumsy way. We make **(21)**_____ demands and we avoid a fuss. I used to say whenever someone watched me sign my name and remarked that he or she was also left-handed: "You and me and Leonardo da Vinci!" That was a weak joke, **(22)**_____ it contained my often unconscious desire to belong to *Left Pride*, a social movement that **(23)**_____ far doesn't exist but I hope may one day come. There are many false stories about the left-handed **(24)**_____ circulation: for example, a few decades ago someone wrote that Picasso was left-handed, and others kept repeating it, but the proof is all **(25)**_____ the contrary. The great genius Einstein is often still claimed as one of ours, also **(26)**_____ proof. And sadly there is also no truth in the myth that the left-handed tend to be smarter and more creative.

(27)_____ the amount of research that has been carried out, researchers in the field still find it hard to decide precisely what we mean by left-handed. Apparently a third of those who write with their left hand throw a ball with their right. **(28)**_____, those using their right hand for writing rarely throw with their left. A difficult skill that becomes crucial at a most impressionable age, writing defines **(29)**_____ you will call yourself. I have never used scissors, baseball bat, hockey stick or computer mouse with anything but my right; **(30)**_____ so, I think I'm left-handed as does everyone else.

21	A	some	B	few	C	little	D	any
22	A	yet	B	while	C	still	D	even
23	A	so	B	as	C	this	D	by
24	A	on	B	by	C	in	D	under
25	A	for	B	at	C	to	D	on
26	A	despite	B	without	C	lacking	D	beyond
27	A	Although	B	However	C	Nevertheless	D	Despite
28	A	However	B	Whereas	C	Despite	D	Unlike
29	A	what	B	how	C	this	D	which
30	A	more	B	yet	C	even	D	and

Task 2

For questions 31-34 look at this gender-biased advertisement for an airline. Change the underlined words into more neutral equivalents to make the advertisement politically correct.

Example: 0. businessman – *business person*

Now! Eagle Airlines offers even more to those who need comfort.

Any 0. businessman knows 31. he must arrive fresh and ready for work no matter how long the journey. With Eagle Diplomat-Class you can do just that. Let us fly you to your destination in first-class comfort, looked after by the best-trained 32. air hostesses in the world. And, what's more, your 33. wife can travel with you on all international flights for only 25% of the normal fare! We even sell fancy 34. American Indian crafts on board!

Task 3

For questions 35-44, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Computers that do everything

Computer users have had the (0) **ability** to play games for many years

but now their (35).... has gone beyond playing games and they can do (36)... anything. Once computer diaries and calculators just

helped organize our working lives, and the games provided (37)....

The (38)... between humans and computers was clearer. In the past, a computer was (39)... a machine and no substitute for the

(40).... and companionship of human being. You can now tell a computer your problems and it can ask you about your (41)...

feelings and (42)... . There is no need for them to reach out to their family or friends and psychologists will soon be (43)...

Many people find this situation (44).... and clearly object to the way people use computers to escape from reality.

ABLE

PERFORM

PRACTICAL

ENTERTAIN

RELATE

SIMPLE

WARM

PERSON

ASPIRE

EMPLOY

TOLERATE

Creative Writing

Time: 45 min

**Write your own version using the beginning and the end of the story.
You should write about 200 words.**

During the Christmas rush in London the intriguing story was reported of the tramp¹ who apparently through no fault of his own found himself locked in a well-known chain store late on Christmas Eve.

The tramp was released from prison after seven days. The judge awarded no compensation to the store for the food and drinks the tramp had consumed.

¹ Tramp - бродяга