

# GYAKORLÓ ISKOLÁK ANGOL NYELVI VERSENYE

## **MYSTERY**

2022. OKTÓBER 26.

1. iskolai forduló feladatsora

Versenyző neve: .....

Kategória: .....

Iskolája: .....

Felkészítő tanára: .....

## TASK 1

Read the article about the ancient Maya. Some parts of sentences have been left out from the text. Your task is to reconstruct the text by filling in the gaps (1-11) from the list (A-M) below. Write the letters in the white boxes next to the numbers as in the example (0). Remember that there is one extra letter that you do not need.

### Maya Secrets

The Maya world remains shrouded in mystery, and many misconceptions about the people and their history endure.

**The Maya haven't disappeared.** Just as the fall of Rome didn't mean the end of Romans, the decline of great Maya metropolises, such as Guatemala's Tikal, which reached its apex in the ninth century, doesn't mean the (0)\_\_\_\_. Guatemala, southern Mexico and the Yucatán Peninsula are home to many more predominantly Maya regions. Their (1)\_\_\_\_ continue on. There are more than 20 distinct Maya peoples within Guatemala, each with their own culture, style of dress, and language, and hundreds of thousands more Maya live beyond the borders.

**The Maya don't believe the end of the world is coming.** Apocalyptic movies may suggest the Maya believe the end of the 5,000-plus-year calendar is an end-times moment, but that's just not true. Many Maya may celebrate the beginning of the next 5,125-year cycle of the Long Count calendar just as we celebrated the new millennium. They believe that a new era will usher in an age of (2)\_\_\_\_ among the diverse peoples on the planet.

**The ancient Maya developed the concept of zero.** Zero in the Maya written language was often represented by a (3)\_\_\_\_. The Maya numerical system is based on factors of 20. So Maya numbers are composed of units of 1, 20, 400, and so on. To write the number 403, for example, a Maya would use a symbol for one unit of 400, zero units of 20, and three units of 1. That's how they derived the concept of zero.

**The Maya were fans of the sauna.** Ancient Maya enjoyed steamy stone saunas, known as temascal in Yucatán Peninsula, or tuj in the Maya language of Quiché. Ancient Maya built saunas of stone or adobe mud – (4)\_\_\_\_. They combined water with fire-heated rocks to create steam, and sometimes elder leaves were added to the mix.

**Blood sports were important in the ancient Maya world.** Many Maya cities contained a ball court where teams of the best athletes would try to vanquish each other. The heavy, often soccer-size ball was made from hard rubber; some scholars think that (5)\_\_\_\_ the balls. The games were cultural spectacles followed by human sacrifices. Not everyone thinks it was (6)\_\_\_\_. A guide in Tikal firmly believes it was the winners.

**Some Maya pyramids were built to reflect astronomical events.** It's no secret that the Maya were (7)\_\_\_\_. Many great Maya structures, reflect astronomical events. During equinoxes, an undulating shadow called the "serpent" slithers along the side of Kukulcan's northern staircase. This is caused by the angle of the sun hitting the nine main terraces. Also at Chichén Itzá is El Caracol, known as the observatory, which is linked to the orbit of Venus. El Caracol's front staircase targets Venus's most northern position, and the corners of the building align with (8)\_\_\_\_\_.

**No one knows what caused the rapid decline of the Maya civilization.** Starting in the eighth century and accelerating in the ninth, Maya cities suddenly declined; (9)\_\_\_\_. Cultures that had developed highly advanced (10)\_\_\_\_, as well as intricate social structures, rapidly fell apart. No one knows why. Among the theories: increased war among Maya city-states, overpopulation that led to environmental degradation such as depleted soil, and (11)\_\_\_\_. Other theories suggest that the enlargement of the ruling class of royalty and priests, and continued demand for temple extravagance, created an imbalance without enough productive workers. Likely it was a combination of the above factors.

- A) the sun's position at the summer solstice sunrise and winter solstice sunset
- B) you can see monumental pyramids at all these sites
- C) these were used for health and spiritual fulfillment
- D) irrigation, agriculture, astronomy, and building techniques
- E) the losers who were offered to the gods
- ~~F) indigenous people have vanished~~
- G) climate change resulting from deforestation
- H) higher consciousness, greater peace, and enhanced understanding
- I) human skulls were sometimes placed inside
- J) their people either died or retreated from these great metropolises
- K) shell-shaped glyph
- L) advanced astronomers
- M) cultural traditions, agrarian lifestyle, and celebratory festivals

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>F</i>											

**TASK 2**

You are going to read a short text about the mysterious circumstances in which Edgar Allan Poe died. Some words have been removed from the text. Your task is to fill in the gaps with the appropriate word from the list below. Write your answers in the grid below, as in the example (0). Remember that there are three extra words that you do not need.

**How did Edgar Allan Poe really die?**

Edgar Allan Poe, who famously (0)\_\_\_\_\_ the gothic poem 'The Raven', died in 1849. Baltimore. Election Day. It was raining and dark on 3rd October 1849 when a man was found lying in the (1)\_\_\_\_\_ in a state of raving delirium, wearing shabby, (2)\_\_\_\_\_ clothes that were not his own. He could not – or would not – explain how he came to this place, nor how he found himself in someone else’s (3)\_\_\_\_\_. He spent the next three days in the hospital, (4)\_\_\_\_\_ by wild hallucinations, calling out the name of a man nobody knew. By 7th October, America’s most famous (5)\_\_\_\_\_ writer was dead.

Edgar Allan Poe’s death was as horrifying and (6)\_\_\_\_\_ as one of his stories, and the subject of a rash of theories, from murder to (7)\_\_\_\_\_ to alcoholism to suicide to an infectious disease like (8)\_\_\_\_\_ or syphilis. There has even been the suggestion that he fell (9)\_\_\_\_\_ to ‘cooping’ – where victims are shanghaied, drugged and forced to repeatedly (10)\_\_\_\_\_ for a political party before being left for dead. Sometimes they were given new clothes to (11)\_\_\_\_\_ their identity.

To confuse (12)\_\_\_\_\_ further, all medical records mysteriously (13)\_\_\_\_\_, if indeed any were ever made. The upshot? Nobody knows what happened to Poe, because he never (14)\_\_\_\_\_ the lucidity to explain. The clairvoyant poet Lizzie Doten (15)\_\_\_\_\_ he did return to Earth to dictate some poems, which she published. But his ghost apparently forgot to mention anything about his death.

- A. ~~penned~~                      F. claimed                      K. vote                      P. garb
- B. regained                      G. ill-fitting                      L. mysterious                      Q. crippled
- C. disguise                      H. horror                      M. place                      R. mutilated
- D. rabies                      I. mugging                      N. gutter                      S. matters
- E. murderous                      J. victim                      O. vanished

<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>A</b>															

### TASK 3

You are going to read about a well-known phenomenon we often experience. Some of the lines contain an extra word that should not be there. It is either grammatically incorrect or does not fit in with the meaning of the text. Some lines may be correct. Indicate the correct lines with a tick (✓) or write the incorrect word in the space provided for each line. There are two examples (00 and 0) at the beginning.

#### Science Unlocks the Mystery of Brain Freeze

The mind-numbing pain of "brain freeze" is a feeling those of us who love 00) ✓  
to quickly slurp down a cold drink know all too well. The scientists have 0) The  
never fully been able to explain why brain freeze happens, but now a 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
new study is offering some insight. The study it was actually conducted 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
in an effort so to better understand migraine headaches, since it turns 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
out migraine sufferers are more likely to get their brain freeze. 4) \_\_\_\_\_  
So that researchers theorized brain freeze and migraines 5) \_\_\_\_\_  
may have a common mechanism: changes in brain blood flow. 6) \_\_\_\_\_  
To look at this effect, they induced brain freeze in study participants 7) \_\_\_\_\_  
and then have looked at what was happening in their brains. 8) \_\_\_\_\_  
What they found was that one particular artery in the brain became 9) \_\_\_\_\_  
rapidly dilated, it flooding the brain with blood, when participants 10) \_\_\_\_\_  
felt brain freeze. As soon as the same vessel constricted, each 11) \_\_\_\_\_  
participants' pain went away. So, that explains why your head feels as 12) \_\_\_\_\_  
like it's going to explode when you take a few too many bites of cold ice 13) \_\_\_\_\_  
cream. But does it also explain why some of us unfortunate souls get 14) \_\_\_\_\_  
migraines? Researchers think a similar change in blood flow could the 15) \_\_\_\_\_  
cause migraines and other types of headaches. 16) \_\_\_\_\_  
Finding a way to control blood flow into the brain could offer relief to  
migraine sufferers, though we'll all probably have to keep enduring brain  
freezes until the end of time.

#### **TASK 4**

Read the article about an adventure mystery, where parts of some sentences have been removed. Your task is to reconstruct the text by filling in the gaps (1-10) from the list (A-L) with the matching ending. Give your answers in the boxes below the task as in the example (0). There are two extra letters you do not need.

#### **Has science solved one of history's greatest adventure mysteries?**

A 62-year-old adventure mystery that has prompted conspiracy theories around Soviet military experiments, Yetis, and even extraterrestrial contact may have its best, most sensible explanation yet—one found in a series of avalanche simulations based in part **(0)**\_\_\_\_\_ used in the movie *Frozen*.

In an article published today in the journal *Communications Earth and Environment*, researchers present **(1)**\_\_\_\_\_ that a bizarrely small, delayed avalanche may have been responsible for the gruesome injuries and deaths of nine experienced hikers **(2)**\_\_\_\_\_ in Russia's Ural Mountains in the winter of 1959.

In what has become known as the Dyatlov Pass incident, ten members of the Urals Polytechnic Institute in Yekaterinburg—nine students and one sports instructor who fought in World War II—**(3)**\_\_\_\_\_ on a skiing and mountaineering expedition on January 23, 1959.

One student **(4)**\_\_\_\_\_ turned back, but the rest, led by 23-year-old engineering student Igor Dyatlov, continued on. According to **(5)**\_\_\_\_\_ later found on the scene by investigators, the team made camp on February 1, pitching a large tent on the snowy slopes of Kholat Saykhl, **(6)**\_\_\_\_\_ in the language of the region's Indigenous Mansi people.

The nine—seven men and two women—were never heard from again.

When a search team arrived at Kholat Saykhl a few weeks later, the expedition tent was found **(7)**\_\_\_\_\_ and it appeared cut open from the inside. The next day, the first of the bodies was found near a cedar tree. Over the next few months, as the snow thawed, search teams gradually uncovered more spine-chilling sights: All nine of the team members' bodies **(8)**\_\_\_\_\_ some in a baffling state of undress.

Each body was a piece in a grim puzzle, **(9)**\_\_\_\_\_. A criminal investigation at the time blamed their deaths on an "unknown natural force," and the Soviet bureaucracy kept the case quiet. The lack of detail about this shocking event, an apparent massacre that transpired in a

deeply secretive state, gave rise to dozens of long-lived conspiracy theories, from clandestine military tests to Yeti attacks.

In the wake of renewed media interest and pervasive outlandish hypotheses, Russian authorities **(10)**\_\_\_\_\_ around the Dyatlov Pass incident and concluded in 2019 that an avalanche was primarily responsible for the nine deaths.

- ~~A. on car crash experiments and animation~~
- B. camera film and personal diaries
- C. were scattered around the mountain's slope,
- D. data pointing to the likelihood
- E. just barely sticking out of the snow,
- F. who never returned from a planned 200-mile adventure
- G. but none of the pieces seemed to fit together
- H. held one of the keys to solving the mystery
- I. recently reexamined the case
- K. whose name can be interpreted as "Dead Mountain"
- L. increased the weight of the snow burden on the slope
- M. with joint pain
- N. headed into the frigid wilderness

<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>A</i>										

## **TASK 5**

*You are going to read an article discussing the elements of a good mystery story. The headings of this article have been removed. Your task is to match the paragraphs marked (1-9) with the headings (A-L). Remember that there are two headings that you do not need. There is an example (0) at the beginning.*

### **Elements of a Mystery Story**

The mystery genre has been entertaining readers for hundreds of years. A good mystery has certain literary elements to intensify the suspense and build up to a big finale. These elements include:

**0) \_\_\_\_\_:** A great mystery should invite the reader to try to solve the crime, and a great opening is critical to piquing their interest. A mystery should start with just enough information about the crime to build intrigue from the first line. This is the defining moment when a reader chooses whether or not they want to continue. If the dramatic element is missing from the beginning, the reader expects the rest of the book to be the same. The first chapter should initiate the mystery, aligning the reader with the central character on the crime-solving adventure.

**1) \_\_\_\_\_:** Stories in this genre should create an ominous, uneasy mood to support the anxiety of an unknown antagonist lurking in the shadows. Think of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes slinking through the London fog in search of a killer. Settings in mysteries also offer opportunities to plant clues and red herrings.

**2) \_\_\_\_\_:** The event that fuels the plot in a mystery novel is central to the narrative. Revealed in the first chapter, it creates the central conflict that launches the investigation, sending the main character on their quest and spurring the narrative arc.

**3) \_\_\_\_\_:** At the heart of every mystery is a main character determined to solve the crime. Mystery writer Raymond Chandler created private detective Philip Marlowe to be a crime solver in his novels. A writer can raise the stakes by making the detective personally invested in solving the crime. The character development of the sleuth is important; they need a backstory that connects them to the crime or the killer, and a motive that explains why solving this crime is important to them.

**4) \_\_\_\_\_:** A mystery is often called a whodunit because the culprit is unknown until they're caught at the end. The story follows their movements, which propel the story forward. The main character and the reader discover the criminal's identity as the plot reaches its climax.



5) \_\_\_\_: A mystery plot is in constant motion thanks to a cat-and-mouse narrative thread. The pacing will quicken the closer the plot moves towards the climax and the closer the main character gets to solving the crime.

6) \_\_\_\_: They are the literary element that allows mystery stories to engage readers on a deeper level than other types of fiction. The reader becomes an amateur sleuth, trying to discover the identity of the culprit. When writing mysteries, an author needs to have an organized writing process to keep track of what clues they're creating, when they appear, and who knows what in order to make sure the plot lines make sense.

7) \_\_\_\_: Mysteries often drop hints of things that will happen in the future. A writer can hint at a future event with a small clue or through character dialogue. Writers can be more or less direct, either subtly hinting at future events or explicitly stating what will happen.

8) \_\_\_\_: A good mystery throws the reader off track. These false clues build tension by creating other suspects and distracting the detective—and the reader—and leading them away from the real culprit. A writer creates such false clues by placing extra emphasis on an object, event, or character that catches a reader's attention, making that element seem more significant than it really is to the storyline. In Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, there are 10 characters who are all potential suspects. Christie creates red herrings by killing off each character one by one, creating plot twists that send the reader into new directions in search of the killer.

9) \_\_\_\_: At the end of great mystery novels there is the big reveal—the sleuth discovers the identity of the culprit. An ending should also provide an alibi for any other suspects to strengthen the identity of the real killer and eliminate doubt, tying up loose ends.

<b>A) A satisfying ending</b>	<b>G) Suspenseful dialogue</b>
<b>B) Point of view</b>	<b>H) Narrative momentum</b>
<b>C) Red herrings</b>	<b>I) A trail of clues</b>
<b>D) A crime</b>	<b>J) An atmospheric setting</b>
<b>E) A sleuth</b>	<b>K) Foreshadowing</b>
<b>F) A strong hook</b>	<b>L) A villain</b>

<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>F</i>									

## TASK 6

You are going to read an article about an undersea shipwreck. Some words are missing from the text. Your task is to write the missing words in the gaps (1-10) in the text. Use **only one word** in each gap. Write your answers in the numbered gaps opposite. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

### Researchers reveal secret find of 340-year-old sunken royal warship

LONDON, June 10 (Reuters) - A royal warship that sank off (0)\_\_\_\_\_ east coast of Britain more than 300 years ago while carrying a future king was unveiled by researchers on Friday who kept the discovery (1)\_\_\_\_\_ for 15 years to protect the wreck from damage.

In 1682, King James II of England, who was the Duke of York at the time, (2)\_\_\_\_\_ to narrowly escape the sinking ship named "The Gloucester" which went down off the coast of eastern England after (3)\_\_\_\_\_ a sandbank. He became king of England, and King James VII of Scotland three years later.

"The discovery promises (4)\_\_\_\_\_ fundamentally change understanding of 17th-century social, maritime and political history," said Claire Jowitt, Professor of Early Modern Cultural History at University of East Anglia.

"It is an outstanding example of underwater cultural heritage of national and international importance."

(5)\_\_\_\_\_ final location, some 45km (28 miles) off the coast from Great Yarmouth, was a mystery until it was discovered by diving brothers Julian and Lincoln Barnwell in 2007 after a four-year search.

"On my descent (6)\_\_\_\_\_ the seabed the first thing I spotted were large cannons laying on white sand, it was awe-inspiring and really beautiful," said Lincoln Barnwell.

The shipwreck revealed various historical artefacts, (7)\_\_\_\_\_ a bottle bearing a glass seal with the crest of the Legge family - ancestors of the first U.S. President George Washington.

"Because the ship sank so quickly, nobody would (8)\_\_\_\_\_ rescued anything," Jowitt said, describing it as "a fantastic time capsule".

Other artefacts include navigational equipment, personal possessions, clothes and wine bottles - some with their contents intact.

The university estimated that between 130 to 250 people might have died in the incident, (9)\_\_\_\_\_ they said had threatened to change the course of history.

Six years after the sinking Catholic James II was ousted by the Protestant William of Orange in the 1688 "Glorious Revolution", paving the (10)\_\_\_\_\_ for the future constitutional monarchy in Britain.

- 0) *the* \_\_\_\_\_
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

## **TASK 7**

*In this article about a famous painting, some parts of sentences have been left out. Your task is to reconstruct the text by filling in the gaps (1-8) from the list (A-K) below. Remember that there are two extra phrases that you will not need. There is an example (0) at the beginning.*

Norway's National Museum says a sentence written on Edvard Munch's 1893 painting "The Scream" was put there by (0)\_\_\_\_\_.

The famous painting shows a figure holding its head in its hands (1)\_\_\_\_\_. The art work has become an internationally recognized symbol for the expression of human fear and concern.

The sentence written on the painting says, "can only have been painted by a madman." It was written with a pencil (2)\_\_\_\_\_.

The painting is being prepared (3)\_\_\_\_\_ which will open in Oslo, the Norwegian capital, in 2022. The painting has been the subject of a lot of careful research.

In a recent statement, Mai Britt Guleng, (4)\_\_\_\_\_, "The writing is without a doubt Munch's own." Guleng added the writing was compared to the painter's writing in letters. "The handwriting itself, as well as events that happened in 1895, (5)\_\_\_\_\_, all point in the same direction," Guleng explained.

The writing was added after Munch had completed the painting. But for years it has been a mystery, the museum said in a statement.

At the time of its first showing, the painting caused many people to wonder about Munch's mental state. During a discussion night when the artist was present, a young medical student questioned Munch's mental health and claimed (6)\_\_\_\_\_.

"It is likely that Munch added the inscription in 1895, or shortly after, (7)\_\_\_\_\_" the statement read.

Munch was hurt by the accusations. He wrote about them many times in his letters. Both Munch's father and sister suffered from mental issues.

Munch was put into a hospital after a nervous breakdown in 1908. A nervous breakdown is an inability to live normally in daily life because of (8)\_\_\_\_\_.

The National Gallery was temporarily closed in 2019 to secure a safe moving process to the new National Museum. The museum will show 400,000 objects, from ancient times to the present day. It will have paintings, statues, drawings and many other art objects.

- A) to be shown at the new National Museum of Norway
- B) extremely strong feelings of worry or tension
- C) his work proved he was not sound
- D) with its mouth wide open
- ~~E) the Norwegian painter himself~~
- F) available for people to see
- G) in response to the judgment on his work
- H) head of the National Museum, said
- I) such as a painting or photograph
- K) when Munch showed the painting in Norway for the first time
- L) in the top left-hand area of the painting

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
€								

**This is the end of your tasks.**

**Thank you for entering our competition!**