# **ENGLISH COMPETITION** 2020.



# FOR YEAR 9 AND 10 STUDENTS IN GRAMMAR AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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		CATEGORY
SCORES:	TASK 1	Nemzeti   Tehetség Program
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	TASK 3	EMBERI ERŐFORRÁSOK
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In this article some words have been left out. Your task is to fill in the gaps from the list. There is an example (0) at the beginning. There is one extra word that you will not need.



# Teen Climate Change Activist Greta Thunberg Is Time's Youngest Ever "Person Of The Year" 1

Time Inc.'s "Person of the Year" tradition began in 1927, when the magazine <b>0</b> )
25-year-old aviator Charles Lindbergh for the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic
Ocean. Though the media franchise has since recognized several young people for their global
influence, it has never given the important distinction to a teenager. But then again, few teens
are as passionate about their mission as 2019's "Person of The Year"— 16-year-old Swedish
climate change 1) Greta Thunberg.
Thunberg's rise to global prominence is even more stunning given that just over a year ago, she
was a shy 15-year-old 2) about the looming threat of climate change. In August
2018, tired of the "refusal" of world leaders to take action, the young girl started camping out
in front of the Swedish Parliament every Friday with a sign that said: "School Strike for
Climate."
The teen's singular act of protest soon went 3), inspiring kids and adults worldwide
to take action. By September 2018, her weekly strike became a global climate change
movement called "Fridays for the Future," with tens of thousands of students 4)
school on this day to protest the inaction of the leaders of their 5) countries.
Her rally cry for progress also encouraged other young activists to begin their own climate
change movements. They include 17-year-old Xiye Bastida in New York City, USA; 19-year-
old Artemisa Xakriaba in Brasilia, Brazil; 17-year-old Vidit Baya in Udaipur, India; 16-year-
old Howey Ou in Guilin, China, and many more. Varshini Prakash, co-founder of the US youth-
led Sunrise Movement, says Thunberg "symbolizes the agony, the 6), the

 $<sup>^1 \</sup> KIM, Ariel \ (Dec \ 16, 2019) \ in \ \textit{DOGOnews} \ (\underline{https://www.dogonews.com/2019/12/16/teenage-climate-activist-greta-thunberg-is-times-youngest-person-of-the-year-ever})$ 

The picture is retrieved from <a href="https://www.dogonews.com/2019/12/16/teenage-climate-activist-greta-thunberg-is-times-youngest-person-of-the-year-ever">https://www.dogonews.com/2019/12/16/teenage-climate-activist-greta-thunberg-is-times-youngest-person-of-the-year-ever</a>

desperation, the anger—at some age to vote by the time their future	level, the hope—of many young p	eople who won't even be of
The teenager, who has single-har	ndedly helped bring climate chang	
	s her success to her Asperger's synon't like compromising If I were his crisis."	
believes change can be affected selective about the companies you her address at the recently-held baid, "In just three weeks, we will now, we are desperate for any significant to the selection of the selection	a magical 9) for related at a grassroots level — by eduction buy from, and electing official UN Climate Conference in Madrill enter a new 10) that an of hope. Well, I'm telling you the sments or corporations. It comes from	cating friends, being more s that support the cause. In d, Spain, the young activist will define our future. Right there is hope. I've seen it, but
$rac{A)}{c}$ commemorated	E) forefront	I) era
B) doomed	F) viral	J) frustration
C) respective	G) fretting	K) decade
D) antidote	H) activist	L) skipping

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A										

In this article about fingerprints some parts of the sentences have been left out. Your task is to reconstruct the article by filling the gaps from the list. There is an example (0) at the beginning.



# Why do we have fingerprints?<sup>2</sup>

Ask anyone who has ever watched Law & Order, and they'll tell you 0) is to look
for fingerprints. Everywhere you go, everything you touch gets the full impact on those funky
little spirals on each fingertip. But why? It's not like natural selection would've put whorls and
circles on your fingers just 1), right?
Well, the first thing to understand about fingerprints is 2): as explained by
Dr. Michael Roizen, MD, fingerprints are basically 3) created by the amniotic
fluid that swirls around a baby's fingertips as they touch things. Crazy, huh? Because there's a
zillion ways they could be touching stuff, and a zillion ways the fluid could be swirling, it means
that nobody — not even identical twins! — have the same fingerprints. That said, just because
4) doesn't mean they don't serve a purpose even though, as it happens,
scientists are still debating exactly what that purpose might be.
Okay, so there are two theories regarding the purpose of fingerprints. For a long time, the
dominant thinking has been 5), as explained by Live Science, since the little hills
and valleys on your fingers presumably work similarly to the tread on your tires, thereby
creating a more secure grip. And hey, you know how if your tires go bald, you'll be slipping
and sliding all over the road? Fingerprints may perform the same function, since water can slip
between the channels.
This theory seems logical enough, but studies have actually found that, at least
6), fingerprints seem to reduce friction, rather than aiding it. Weird, right? That
doesn't rule out the wet surfaces theory, but it had led to the rise of another, hotly debated
notion, first raised by Georges Debrégeas of Sorbonne University: 7) For
example, one particular type of mechanoreceptor found right beneath the surface of the human

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  CONLEY, Nicholas in GRUNGE (<u>https://www.grunge.com/181050/why-do-we-have-fingerprints/?utm\_campaign=clip</u>)

The picture is retrieved from <a href="https://www.istockphoto.com/ca/vector/a-fingerprint-a-set-of-fingerprints-gm915139858-251861983">https://www.istockphoto.com/ca/vector/a-fingerprint-a-set-of-fingerprints-gm915139858-251861983</a>

fingertip skin — known as Pacinian corpuscles — has been found **8**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, perhaps aiding in the finger's ability to detect fine textures. Weird? Sure, but consider how humans, much like other fingerprinted creatures like chimpanzees, evolved to be reliant on their ability **9**) \_\_\_\_\_\_ so having a little extra touchiness is a big plus. According to Phys.org, a 2009 study conducted using artificial grooved fingertips, versus un-grooved ones, found \_\_\_\_\_\_ up to 100 times stronger when pushed against a rough surface, theoretically meaning that they "felt" these textures 100 times more. Groovy. For now, though, this matter is still somewhat speculative.

- A) friction ridges, formed in the womb,
- B) that the best way to catch criminals who mysteriously vanish
- C) that fingerprints exist to creation friction
- D) that fingerprints might exist to aid your sense of touch
- E) to detect things with their hands
- F) so the police can track you down
- G) when handling dry materials
- H) fingerprints are formed in such a wild, wacky way
- I) to be ultra-sensitive to tiny vibration
- J) that their formation is largely chaotic and incidental
- K) that the grooved ones produced vibrations

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В										

Your task is to find the missing sentences of the text and put them in the right place. There is an example (0) at the beginning. There are extra two sentences that you do not have to use.



# We really don't know when Betelgeuse is going to explode<sup>3</sup>

But when it does, it's going to look spectacular (once it finally reaches our eyes).

Some scientists spent the holiday season speculating that "very large star" Betelgeuse might be on the verge of exploding (and no, we're not talking about the popularity of the beloved '80's movie or the hit Broadway show). Here's everything you need to know.
D) Even if you don't know the name (outside of the context of saying it three times to make Michael Keaton appear and make fart jokes), you already know Betelgeuse. (It's really pronounced bet-el-geeze, but follow your heart.)  1) That Orion guy doesn't skip deltoid day: Betelgeuse is a red giant so massive that if it sat in the center of our own solar system, it would easily consume Earth—along with Mercury, Venus, Mars, and possibly even Jupiter. 2) Possibly around 600 light-years, by the highest estimates, though it may be closer to 400.
The star has always been a ticking time bomb because Betelgeuse is so vibrant and easy to spot, observers have been taking notes on it since the earliest days of astronomy. So we know quite a lot about it, including that it's young (less than 10 million years old, compared to our own sun's 4.6 billion-plus years). 3) So even though this brilliant beast is a baby, cosmologically speaking, it's well on its way to going out in a blaze of glory.
Of course, in a universe where 10 million years is nothing but a blip, saying a star is bound to burn out any day now actually means it could linger much, much longer than a human lifetime. Tomorrow? A hundred thousand years from now? Ten or twenty times longer than that?  4) But scientists have long pointed out that Betelgeuse's big finale could start playing out at any moment.
What exactly is a supernova, anyway? 5) Once they run out of helium and hydrogen as fuel, they start to build up heavier elements in their cores, causing them to implode and grow increasingly hot and dense. 6) When Betelgeuse finally explodes, some estimate it will be so bright as to appear like a second moon in the night sky.
Why some have suggested that Betelgeuse is about to explode? Betelgeuse has spent the last few weeks "fainting," or getting dimmer. This isn't inherently unusual or worrying: The star is known to pulse with varying brightness.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> FELTMAN, Rachel (Dec 26, 2019) in *Popular Science* (<a href="https://www.popsci.com/story/space/betelgeuse-star-supernova/">https://www.popsci.com/story/space/betelgeuse-star-supernova/</a>)

The picture is retrieved from <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeGhT">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeGhT</a> MXdFk

Betelgeuse doesn't strictly pulse in a '	regular" way; sometimes it goes through weird cycles of  Or it could also just be business
million years for the shock wave and a	"Astronomers calculate that it'll take about six any cold, diffuse debris to reach the solar system," Nadia e, "and even then, the sun's protective bubble will shield mer!
9)	Whenever we finally see this ruddy star go supernova,
we'll know it actually started dying se	veral hundred years before. Light travels fast, but they're
called "light-years" for a reason: 10)	So, if you were to
stand on Betelgeuse (not recommende	ed) and peer back at Earth with a telescope, you'd see our
	of the Plague. It's important to remember that when we
talk about Betelgeuse "going superno	va," what we really mean is the light from Betelgeuse's
climactic explosion finally reaching o	ur peepers.

- A) We're watching Betelgeuse with a massive time delay.
- B) It's all relative when you're working on cosmic time.
- *C)* Betelgeuse is kind of a big deal.
- D) That unit of distance refers to the span a photon can wander in 365 days.
- E) We also know that red giants as massive as Betelgeuse burn through their available fuel quickly, which keeps their lives short.
- F) Ultimately, the reaction forces the star to spits its outer layers out into space.
- G) However, it is known that Betelgeuse will destroy life on Earth once it explodes.
- H) Will Betelgeuse going supernova destroy life on Earth?
- I) Its size and brilliance in the night sky allows us to study it even though it's quite far away.
- J) Stars several times more massive than our own sun can die by collapsing under their own weight.
- K) We're observing Betelgeuse without time delay.
- L) It's one of the brightest stars visible in the night sky, forming a sturdy shoulder of the constellation Orion.
- M) It's been particularly faint during recent weeks, which could mean Betelgeuse is going through some life-phase we've never observed before.

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C										

The latest Star Wars movie is being dissected and debated around the world.<sup>4</sup> Here are what some San Francisco editors think about the last piece of the famous sci-fi saga. WARNING: spoilers. Your task is to answer the questions



related to the four texts (A-D). Please, write the appropriate letter of the text into the box next to the question.

## **TEXT A**

For decades I never thought I'd see the true end of the Star Wars saga. And after The Phantom Menace, I had a few years not wanting to see the end. So when sitting in the theater waiting for The Rise of Skywalker to start, I felt all those years of doubt that Disney could bring home the story's conclusion. And in a year when another big series -- Game of Thrones -- showed how hard it is to land an ending, I was ready to be disappointed.

But I wasn't: The Rise of Skywalker is a dark, entertaining and mainly satisfying end to the nine-movie saga.

The film moves with a frenetic, breathless J.J. Abrams' pace -- best of luck to anyone trying to find a good time for a bathroom break -- and the story is burdened in parts trying to touch on each piece of the 40-plus-year story. Yet by the end, I was content. The movie ticks all the boxes, giving me the conclusion to the grand sci-fi story that for years I didn't think I'd get.

-- Clifford Colby, San Francisco

# **TEXT B**

I've been a fan of Star Wars since the 1970s, so it's always confusing to me when I don't love a Star Wars movie. And I didn't love The Rise of Skywalker, although it doesn't betray the franchise in any way. I felt better by reminding myself that while it's not a great ending for a nine-movie saga, it is the ending of the Disney movies that began in 2015. Each of the other two trilogies had their ending, and this is the final chapter of the third one. Lowering those expectations made me feel better.

I went into the movie wanting to digest and enjoy every second. I wanted it to be the dessert of a three-course meal. Instead, J.J. Abrams took me to a Las Vegas buffet: There were new and old characters, new and old creatures, new and old planets, new and old weapons; even new and old storylines. I had no time to consume any of them. The rhythm in this movie is relentless. There are no pauses that allow you to reflect on what you're seeing. At the end of this meal I felt stuffed, but I didn't feel satisfied.

-- Gabriel Sama, San Francisco

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> TRENHOLM, Richard (Dec 24, 2019) in CNET (<a href="https://www.cnet.com/news/star-wars-the-rise-of-skywalker-global-review-best-and-worst/">https://www.cnet.com/news/star-wars-the-rise-of-skywalker-global-review-best-and-worst/</a>)

The picture is retrieved from  $\underline{\text{https://www.inverse.com/article/59886-star-wars-rise-of-skywalker-spoilers-kylo-comic-book}$ 

## **TEXT C**

I approached The Rise of Skywalker with skepticism. I wasn't a fan of The Force Awakens or The Last Jedi. But this last Star Wars is more of a match for the original trilogy and a fitting homage to the galaxy far, far away. There's lots of humor from the increasing entourage of droids and Finn and Poe's bromance. There's a very tender Reylo moment. Han Solo has another "I know" moment. There are so many action and fight sequences, and horses ride on top of a spaceship! And Rey finally finds out her last name before choosing a much better one.

Now, when can I expect to see Jannah's quest to find out where she's from?

-- Patricia Puentes, San Francisco

#### **TEXT D**

This was a weird experience for me. It was the first time since the prequels I walked out of a Star Wars film having not liked it. Thing is, I don't know if there was any way for me to have an overly positive feeling about this movie, since the two previous installments had done very little to get me to care about most of the characters or their plight at all.

There were some things I enjoyed: Multiple light speed jumps is a really cool concept, the Emperor looked disgusting and weird in all the best possible ways, and the "Rey Jedi support" scene was some really cool fan service. But at the end of the day, you have four really talented young actors giving committed performances that were failed by a nonsensical, convoluted script.

-- Eric Franklin, San Francisco

0. Which editor thinks it has a ridiculous script?	_ <u>D_</u>
1. Which editor thinks it is hard to write a proper ending to a big series.	
2. Which editor liked the friendship of two important characters?	
3. Which editor thinks the film gives a proper ending to the entire saga.	
4. Which editor does not care about the new trio's story?	
5. Which editor had high expectations before watching the movie?	
6. Which editor thinks it really fits well in the original triology?	
7. Which editor attributes the not-so-great ending to a film studio.?	
8. Which editor did not like the prequels?	
9. Which editor thinks there were too much of everything in the movie?	
10. Which editor prepared himself to be disappointed once the film is over.	

Recently, being vegan has become a popular trend. The latest Golden Globe Award ceremony tried to keep up with this new wave. It was the very first time in history when the Golden Globes went meatless. <sup>5</sup>



"The climate crisis is impossible to ignore and after speaking with our peers, and friends in the community, we felt challenged to do better," said Lorenzo Soria, president of the organization, in a statement to CNN. "The decision to serve an entirely plant-based meal was embraced by our partners at the Beverly Hilton, and represents a small step in response to a big problem."

However, there are some concerns related to this decision. Brie Larson, who won the best actress award in 2016, recalled: "My favourite moment was after I went back to my table after winning a Golden Globe, Katy Perry had a round of In-N-Out burgers for everybody - hot and fresh."<sup>7</sup>

Your task is, using the above-mentioned sources and quotes, to write an opinion essay of

50-200 words about the connection between veganism and environmental issues.							

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Picture retrieved from <a href="https://metro.co.uk/2020/01/03/golden-globes-guests-will-served-vegan-menu-send-good-message-11995830/">https://metro.co.uk/2020/01/03/golden-globes-guests-will-served-vegan-menu-send-good-message-11995830/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Paragraph retrieved from <a href="https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/03/entertainment/golden-globes-plant-based-dinner-trnd/index.html">https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/03/entertainment/golden-globes-plant-based-dinner-trnd/index.html</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Paragraph retrieved from <a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/01/03/golden-globes-go-vegan-will-stars-ditch-in-n-out-burgers/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/01/03/golden-globes-go-vegan-will-stars-ditch-in-n-out-burgers/</a>

