

# *Listening Comprehension*

A listening comprehension exercise which takes only five minutes at the beginning of each class period has proven itself with increased aural comprehension, immediate student attention, additional background information for students, and the elimination of roll calling in the classroom.

Short articles are selected from current magazines, newspapers, science digests, etc. About five to eight short multiple answer or true-false questions are written about information in the article. These should be written for understanding rather than for factual information, although numbers may be useful to determine whether the student has associated quantities with the information.

Small sheets of paper with numbers and choices are distributed, and when class time arrives the teacher immediately starts reading the article and follows with the questions. The article is read at normal speed--pauses between phrases and clauses may be necessary for beginning classes--and there are no repeats, either for the article or the questions.

Students write their names on the papers which are collected as soon as the last question has been read. (Later the roll is marked from the papers.) Usually the students are anxious to hear the answers so the teacher reads the correct response with the answer selection after. Vocabulary discussion may be helpful to the student.

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Developed by the director of the English Language Institute at The Church College of Hawaii.

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Following is a recent article used for this purpose.

## Animal Farm

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The director of the Detroit zoo hired four new security guards last week, not to contain the wildness within the cages, but to protect the animals from the inhumanity of man. In the past two years, the zoo population has been victimized by deliberate acts of brutality. A baby Australian wallaby left the protection of its mother's pouch and was stoned to death; a duck died with a steel-tipped arrow in its breast. A pregnant reindeer miscarried after firecracker-hurling youths bombed the frantic animal into convulsions. Visitors have been observed dropping lighted cigar butts on the backs of alligators, watching the ashes burn through the reptiles' skin, then breaking into laughter when the

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alligators reacted to the severe burn. Finally, the zoo's male hippopotamus choked to death last week after someone responded to the hippo's openmouthed begging for peanuts by rolling a tennis ball down its throat. The zookeepers were left to wonder whether it was their charges or their visitors that really should be caged.

1. The director of the Detroit zoo hired how many new security guards last week?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 4
- d) 10

2. The security guards were hired

- a) to protect the animals from the visitors.
- b) to protect the visitors from the animals
- c) to protect the baby animals.
- d) to guard against accidents.

3. The injury to the animals by human beings during the last two years has been

- a) unforeseen.
- b) accidental.
- c) unknown.
- d) deliberate.

4. The zoo mentioned was in

- a) Chicago.
- b) New York.
- c) Detroit.
- d) Los Angeles.

5. The hippopotamus died because

- a) it was shot by a steel-tipped arrow.
- b) some youths threw firecrackers at it.
- c) lighted cigar butts were dumped on its back.

d) a tennis ball was thrown down its throat.

6. That people should probably be caged was suggested by

- a) the animals.
- b) the zoo keepers.
- c) the visitors.
- d) the newsmen.

## TESL REPORTER

A quarterly publication of the English Language Institute and the BATESL program of The Church College of Hawaii.

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Articles relevant to teaching English as a second language in Hawaii, the South Pacific and Asia, may be submitted to the editor through Box 157, The Church College of Hawaii, Laie, Hawaii 96762. Manuscripts should be double-spaced and typed, not exceeding three pages.

## TESL REPORTER

Box 157

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