

Unit 9 Test

name _____

Part 1

Listen to the conversation. Then circle the correct answers.

1. What did the show say about the origin of the stone balls?
 - a. They could have occurred naturally.
 - b. It's certain that they were man-made.
 - c. It's possible they were part of a building.

2. What does Lorenzo think about the origin of the stone balls?
 - a. He thinks it's possible they occurred naturally.
 - b. There's no question they were man-made.
 - c. He is certain they're not man-made.

3. What do Fran and Lorenzo disagree about?
 - a. how the stone balls might have been used
 - b. who might have used the stone balls
 - c. the size of the stone balls

4. Does Fran think the stone balls could have been a part of a machine?
 - a. Yes, she's certain.
 - b. It's possible, but she really doesn't know.
 - c. She's skeptical. She thinks they probably weren't part of a machine.

5. What does Lorenzo believe about the stone balls falling from space?
 - a. He thinks the idea is obvious.
 - b. He thinks it's the most likely idea.
 - c. He's not certain that it happened.

Part 2

Read the sentences. Decide if the person is *very certain*, *almost certain*, or *not certain*. Then circle the correct answers.

6. I think I left my purse on the train. I'll call the lost-and-found; someone may have turned it in.

- a. very certain
- b. almost certain
- c. not certain

7. Jim had to have been at the office this morning. His computer was turned on, and there was a hot coffee on his desk.

- a. very certain
- b. almost certain
- c. not certain

8. The bright light in the sky last night might have been from a plane. I think it's possible, even though I didn't hear any loud noises.

- a. very certain
- b. almost certain
- c. not certain

9. The stones used to build the Egyptian pyramids must have been difficult to move.

- a. very certain
- b. almost certain
- c. not certain

10. Chris couldn't have written that letter. He obviously doesn't speak or write Chinese!

- a. very certain
- b. almost certain
- c. not certain

11. Stonehenge must have been man-made. I'll bet it didn't occur naturally.

- a.** very certain
- b.** almost certain
- c.** not certain

12. My best friend's birthday party is next week. There's no question that I'll be there to help her celebrate.

- a.** very certain
- b.** almost certain
- c.** not certain

13. He should have been home an hour ago. I'll bet he had to stay late to finish the report that's due tomorrow.

- a.** very certain
- b.** almost certain
- c.** not certain

Part 3

Listen to the conversation. Then circle the correct answers.

14. Why does the woman think the story is true?
- a. The story was reported from reliable sources.
 - b. She saw a video about it.
 - c. She heard the man speak in several languages.
15. In the beginning, what is Mel's response to the story in the beginning?
- a. He thinks it's a lie.
 - b. He is skeptical.
 - c. He wants to believe it.
16. Why does Izzy say the man's ability to speak Icelandic is *debatable*?
- a. The man was probably just reading something he had memorized.
 - b. He didn't show this ability on the video.
 - c. Experts might disagree about his ability.
17. What is Izzy's view of the story?
- a. She is very certain of it.
 - b. She finds some of it questionable.
 - c. She is not sure if it makes sense.

Part 4

Match the sentences. Write the letter.

18. There is no evidence that anyone ever lived here.

19. I don't think a word of what she said is true and there are quite a few things that don't make sense.

20. I can think of plenty of other explanations for what happened.

21. What I read makes a lot of sense to me.

22. Their stories have been proven to be false in the past.

a. I think the story is debatable.

b. The story seems believable.

c. The magazine is simply unreliable.

d. The theory is unprovable.

e. I think the story is questionable.

Part 5

Circle the answer that correctly completes each sentence.

23. The Incas didn't have any sophisticated machines or work animals. The temples (**must** / **couldn't** / **may**) have been built exclusively by human hands.
24. Dinosaurs may not have died off gradually as the result of climate change. They (**had to** / **could** / **would**) have been killed off quickly by some sudden event.
25. I don't believe in any of those other crazy theories. Stonehenge (**might have been** / **were** / **had to have been**) built by ancient Britons many years ago.
26. The Nazca lines are incredible, but I'm certain they weren't created by people who lived 1,500 years ago. The ancient people (**couldn't have** / **would have** / **must have**) had the knowledge to create something so accurate.
27. Conspiracy fans continue to consider the story of Roswell aliens. They believe that UFOs (**might** / **couldn't** / **had to**) have crashed in the desert.
28. The *Mary Celeste* (**might have been** / **had to have been** / **had been**) attacked by pirates. No one knows for sure.
29. It's obvious that something terrible happened. The crew (**had to have** / **would have** / **might**) abandoned the ship during the incident. There's no other explanation.

Part 6

Read the article. Then answer the questions. Circle the correct answers.

The Real Story of Jimmy's World

"Jimmy's World" was an article that appeared in the *Washington Post* in 1980. It told the story of an eight-year-old drug addict named Jimmy (not his real name) who lived in Washington, D.C. The article also described his family—his parents and grandparents who were drug addicts as well. It told the story of a community that was consumed by an epidemic of drugs, guns, and violence. It was a very emotional story filled with details about the people in the community and the negative effects that drugs were having on all of their lives.

The story had considerable impact on the public. Readers of the newspaper were shocked. They didn't understand how such a small boy could have become an addict. Even the city's mayor took note of the story. Under pressure from the public, he asked the police to search for Jimmy. He then said that Jimmy had been found and was being treated for his drug problems. Later, the mayor announced that Jimmy had died.

Many people who read the story did not believe it. They claimed that it couldn't have happened. They demanded that the journalist who wrote the story, Janet Cooke, reveal the identity of the boy in the story. Cooke refused to reveal any real names. A few months later, Cooke received a major journalism prize for her work on the story. However, as time went on, it became clear that there were some problems with the article. People suspected that some of the details might have been made up. Eventually, other reporters found so many holes in her story that Cooke was forced to admit that she had invented all of it. There was no Jimmy. Cooke had to return the prize and she was fired from her job.

Why did she do it? It's difficult to know. She might have been so eager for attention that she forgot about the truth. Or, she could have been more interested in revealing the very real problems of drugs and violence than in telling the truth about a specific story. Her editor insisted that the story was a good one, even if it was all a lie. Famous author Gabriel García Márquez said that perhaps she did not deserve the journalism prize, but she could have won a prize in literature instead.

30. Why did some readers doubt the story of "Jimmy's World"?

- a. The writer provided fake names and addresses of the people.
- b. Jimmy was too young to be a drug addict.
- c. Many of the facts in the story could not be confirmed.

31. Based on the passage, what can you infer about the mayor of Washington, D.C., at the time?

- a. He lied.
- b. He found Jimmy.
- c. He visited Jimmy in the hospital.

32. Based on the passage, why did Cooke invent the story about Jimmy?

- a.** She might have written it in order to win the prize.
- b.** She might have been concerned about the city's problems.
- c.** She must have done it to become famous.

33. Why did Gabriel García Márquez think Cooke could have won a literature prize with the story?

- a.** He didn't know that she had made the whole story up.
- b.** As fiction, the story was very well written.
- c.** He respected her as a journalist.

Writing Test

Part 1

Explain why it is important to be skeptical about stories you read about or hear in the news. Give an example of a story you read or heard that turned out not to be true. Write two paragraphs.

[illegible]

Part 2

Correct the sentence fragments and rewrite the paragraph with complete sentences.

Suddenly, the airplane disappeared from the radar screen. None of the airline officials could understand what could have happened. They thought the plane might have crashed. They wondered what they should say to the public. Especially to the families of the passengers on the plane. They decided to begin a complete investigation. Into the plane's disappearance and its possible causes. They decided to wait for a while. Before informing the families. At least until they had completed the entire investigation into what could have happened to the plane. Fortunately, this story has a happy ending. After the experts checked out all the equipment. The problem was in the computer. Because an insect had gotten inside of it! The computer had lost contact with the plane. The plane and all the passengers were just fine. It had just been a computer "bug!" They were happy that they had not told anyone. Especially the families of the passengers.

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Speaking Test

Part 1

You are discussing a strange news story with a friend. Make up a conversation about what happened and whether you and your friend believe it or not. Use the story below or another story you have heard or read. Speak for two to three minutes.

One evening in 1966, a group of teenagers said they had seen a huge bird-like creature with bright red eyes rise into the sky and chase their car.

- What is your theory of what really happened?
- Do you believe their story?
- Does your friend believe it?
- What else could explain what was seen?

Part 2

Describe a time when you were expecting something to happen and it didn't. Maybe someone who is always on time was very late or did not arrive. Or perhaps you saw something unusual, but you weren't sure what it was. Consider the following questions and speak for two to three minutes.

- What happened?
- How did you feel at the time?
- What did you think might have happened?
- Did you find out what really happened?