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BEFORE READING



- 1  There are around 9,700 different kinds of birds in the world today. They are all very different from each other in size, shape, the food they eat, the places they live, and the things they can do. Look at the pictures of these four birds. What do you know about them? How are they different from each other? Discuss with a partner.



a Emperor Penguin



b House Sparrow



c Eagle Owl



d Ostrich

- 2 Answer these questions:

- a Which bird lives near people?
- b Which bird runs very fast?
- c Which bird lives in a cold climate?
- d Which bird flies at night?
- e Which bird eats fish?
- f Which bird eats meat?
- g Which bird can swim underwater?
- h Which birds cannot fly?

BEFORE READING

- 1 Most birds can fly. In order to do this, birds have different bodies from other living creatures. They have very light bones, and very big chest muscles to move their wings up and down. They also have things which other living creatures don't have: wings and feathers. Label these two pictures.



a



b

- 2 People have always wanted to fly. What do you know about the history of human flight? Match the people (a-c) with the actions (1-3).

- a Daedalus and Icarus
b Leonardo da Vinci
c Orville and Wilbur Wright

- 1 Studied flight and made drawings of different kinds of flying machines.
2 Made the first manned flight at Kittyhawk in the USA in 1903.
3 The father made wings for his son, but he flew too close to the sun. The wax that held the feathers onto his arms melted, and the son fell into the sea.

- 3 Which one of the three sets of people and events above did not really exist?



Today



One hundred metres above the earth, the man who could fly moved his large white wings gently backwards and forwards.

It was very quiet up there, and the air was clean and fresh. When he looked down, he could see the village where he lived and the school where he taught. If he turned his head, he could see the park and, beyond[•] that, fields with cows and sheep in them.

He moved his wings a little faster and rose[•] higher. He could see even more now – those hills in the distance were the Bellock Hills. And that large blue shape[•] was Willtery Lake.

Then he began to feel a bit dizzy[•] and sick. He could fly quite easily at this height, but looking down at the ground so far below him always made him feel strange. Sometimes he was afraid of falling, but of course he never did. Birds don't fall to the ground, and he was like a bird.

He took one last look at the countryside, then he opened his wings wide, made a few slow circles and gracefully[•] flew down towards the park below.

He landed easily on his feet. After folding[•] his wings flat[•] onto his back, he put on his special extra-large jacket to cover them. Now he looked the same as everyone else. As he walked home across the grass, he thought about his supper.

Flying always gave him a good appetite[•].

- **appetite:** desire to eat
- **beyond:** further away
- **dizzy:** confused; without balance
- **flat:** lying on a surface
- **folding:** making (something flat) smaller
- **gracefully:** in a smooth and beautiful way
- **rose:** moved upwards
- **shape:** form

How it all started



Nobody knew where Michael came from. Sarah and George Broad, who owned a small shop, found him on the doorstep of their house one morning. He was in a basket with a bag of new clothes and some baby food. Sarah guessed he was about nine months old. Later she found a piece of paper in the bag. The name *Michael* was written on it.

The Broads immediately told the police about the baby. Michael's picture and details were soon in all the papers and he was even on the national news. But nobody recognised him or came to take him back, so the Broads looked after him, and a year later, they adopted him.

Adoption

The following people all have one thing in common: they were adopted. Do you know why they are famous?



Discuss with a partner.

- Aristotle
- Charles Dickens
- Crazy Horse
- Edgar Allan Poe
- John Lennon
- Nelson Mandela

See if you can discover the names of other famous adopted people or adoptive parents.

- **adopted:** took Michael into their family and legally made him their son
- **doorstep:** small step outside the main door to a house
- **owned:** possessed; had
- **recognised:** knew who he was



Michael was happy with Sarah and George. And they were happy with him. They didn't have any children so he became the son they never had.

Michael grew up to be a nice boy. He was very popular with the customers[•] in the Broads' shop, and with his friends and teachers at his nursery school[•]. When he was old enough to understand, Sarah and George explained to him that they weren't his real parents, but he didn't mind[•].

Like all children, Michael grew taller and stronger every day. He was a normal child in every way, except for the size of his chest[•]. His chest was very large. And it grew larger and stronger as he got older. People began to notice it. The teachers began to talk about it. The Broads began to wonder[•] about it.

- **chest:** upper front part of the body
- **customers:** clients
- **he didn't mind:** it wasn't a problem for him
- **nursery school:** school for children aged between 3 and 5
- **wonder:** think; ask themselves questions

AFTER READING

VOCABULARY

1 Complete the following sentences with the correct tense of *let* or *make*.

- a 'We've got a job for you to do, and if you do it well, we'll you go.'
- b Everyone in the hospital was very nice to him. They gave him his favourite food, read him stories and him watch television.
- c 'I'll go up and have a shower and myself smart before my clients arrive.'
- d 'Why do I have to be here? I'm sick of living in a hospital. me go home!'
- e He knew that he had to follow the plan so as not to the men suspicious.
- f The doctors Michael do special exercises for his shoulders.
- g The criminals Michael get back into the box and put the box into the van.

2 Complete the following sentences with the correct tense of *do* or *make*.

- a Michael watched films about flying and experiments. Soon he became an expert.
- b Wilson a sign to Peters and Hunter.
- c Leonardo studied flight and drawings of flying machines.
- d Michael got a good degree, and went on to a Masters in Science.
- e 'What you was very wrong,' the doctor said.
- f When she wasn't painting or doing housework, she clothes for Michael.
- g The exercises he were to his chest and new wing muscles stronger.
- h There were many decisions to about Michael's future.

AFTER READING

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMS

P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

1 Complete the sentences by choosing the correct option (A, B, C or D).

- 1 His chest grew larger and stronger he got older.
A as B because C then D if
- 2 'We need to protect you from anyone who want to use you and hurt you.'
A can B don't C must D might
- 3 Sarah and George told him that they weren't his real parents, but he didn't
A know B believe C mind D change
- 4 'We're not at all in a hurry, we've got of time.'
A all B much C lot D plenty
- 5 A lot of the information in Michael's report taken directly from his walks around the island.
A was B were C had D have
- 6 None of the criminals able to notice the helicopter flying above them.
A be B were C was D are
- 7 £ 10,000 a lot of money for a short documentary.
A were B is C are D cost
- 8 The employees have been to continue working normally so that the criminals don't become suspicious.
A avoided B there C was D told
- 9 'We have given him a tracking so we can follow him everywhere he goes.'
A equipment B device C deal D degree
- 10 'You just want to study him. You aren't interested in him a person.'
A just B as C for D like