

## English

### TEST INSTRUCTIONS

#### FILL IN YOUR DETAILS

Turn to your ANSWER SHEET and fill in your name, school, grade, section, today's date, your date of birth and gender.

#### ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Go to the ENGLISH ANSWER SHEET.

This test has **45 QUESTIONS**. Each question has four possible options.

Choose the BEST answer from the four options, **A, B, C** or **D**.

FILL in ONE circle on your answer sheet with a pencil.

If you make a mistake, erase the pencil mark and fill in a different circle.

You must colour the entire circle as shown below:

<p><b>Correct response</b></p>	<p><b>Incorrect responses</b></p>
	<p>Line    Very light pencil    Pen    Colored pencil</p>

Marks are NOT deducted for incorrect answers.

**ALL ANSWERS SHOULD BE MARKED ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET ONLY.**

#### EQUIPMENT ALLOWED IN THIS TEST

You may use a 2B or B pencil for this test. You may NOT use a dictionary for this test.

#### TIME ALLOWED FOR TEST

The time allowed to complete this test is **60 minutes**.

# Bravado

We all knew it was a bad idea, but none of us spoke up. That's the problem with boys – too much bravado, too much swagger, too afraid to look weak in front of other boys. I looked at my friends but no-one was cracking, no-one was suggesting that we should, perhaps, rethink this. And so the silence made the decision for us.

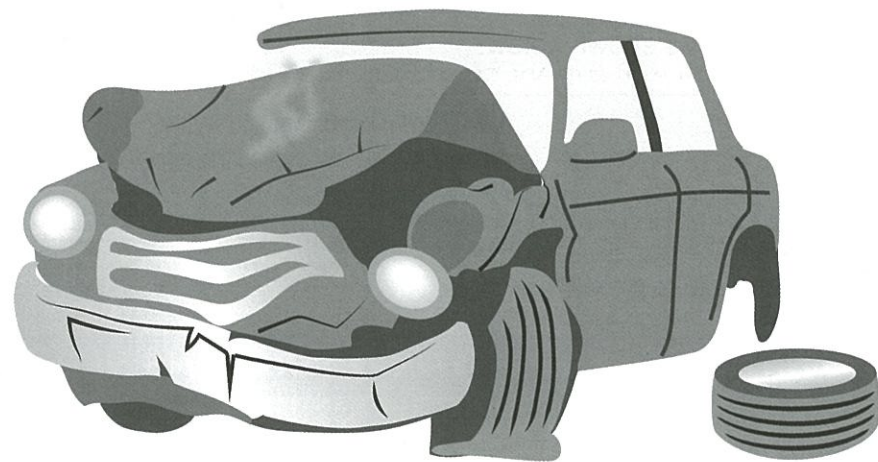
Of course it was exciting. Doing anything that you're not supposed to do is always going to be exciting. And when you're told by adults specifically not to do this, and there's a bored group of boys with little to lose, there's only going to be one outcome.

All five of us pushed the car, and when it started to roll, we hopped in. Shay was in the driver's seat because he was the only one who had had any experience of driving. His father's tractor, he said, was the perfect vehicle in which to learn.

It wasn't a big hill, and the car was old and ramshackle, so we weren't expecting it to pick up speed like it did. Shay tried to steer but the wheel came off in his hands. We should have jumped out then, but we didn't. Bravado again.

We saw the other vehicle approaching and waved frantically at it. And we screamed for the driver to move out of the way. But it was too late.

I got off lightly – just minor cuts and bruises, but Shay was not so lucky. Four weeks later, when he came out of hospital, his leg still full of metal pins, he said to me, 'I was hoping you would talk me out of taking the car that day, but you didn't.' And that made me feel rather guilty.



41 What is an earworm?

- A a noise that insects make
- B a worm that responds to music
- C a sound that gives you nightmares
- D a tune that will not leave your head

42 Which question does this text attempt to answer?

- A Why do earworms happen?
- B How do you destroy earworms?
- C Who is most likely to get earworms?
- D What happens to earworms after treatment?

43 What is most likely to cause an earworm?

- A loud noises
- B repeated words
- C unfamiliar sounds
- D high-pitched notes

44 The text portrays an earworm as

- A a loud neighbour.
- B a disobedient pet.
- C an unwelcome visitor.
- D a stubborn family member.

45 According to the text, what is the best way of dealing with an earworm?

- A attempting a mildly challenging puzzle
- B speaking to a friend about the earworm
- C introducing a more aggressive earworm
- D consulting a qualified psychologist

# Earworms

It sounds like a nightmare: a stranger enters your house uninvited and refuses to leave for days, and at odd moments during the day and night – sometimes for hours at a time – loudly sings the same few lines from a song you hate.

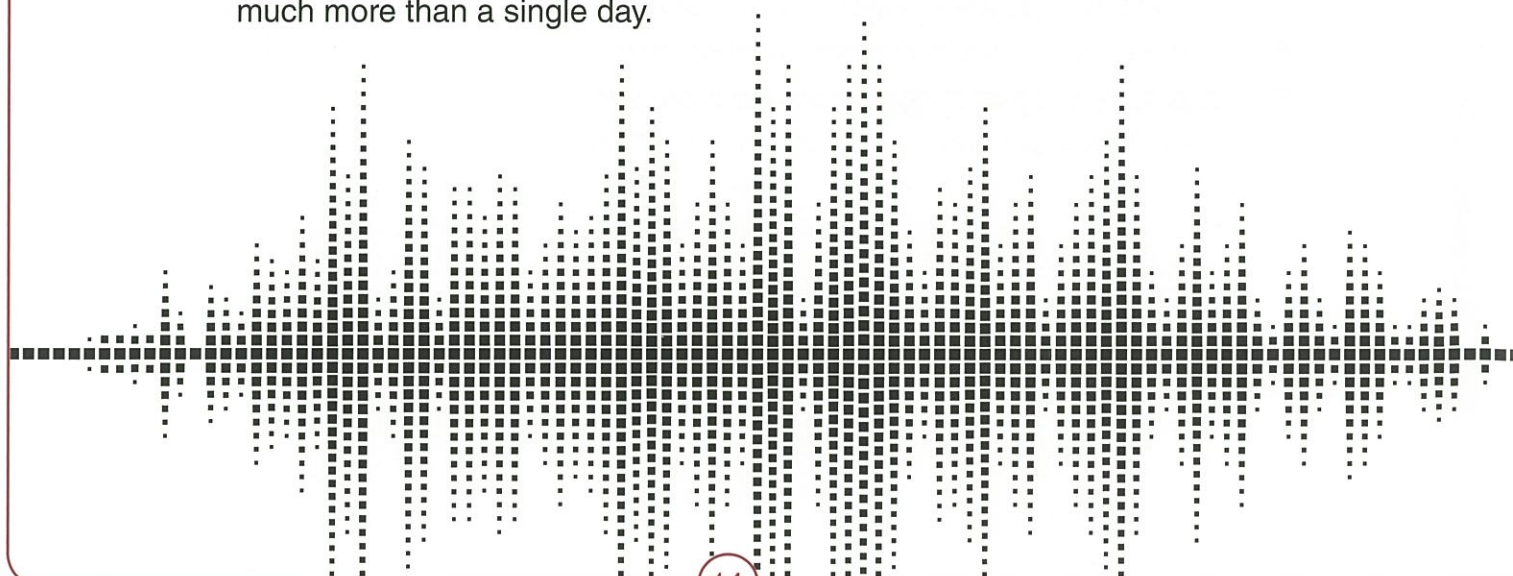
That probably will never happen in your house. But it has almost certainly already happened in your brain. Almost 99 per cent of people report that they have known a song to enter their heads and refuse to leave. The name that probably best expresses the annoying and relentless nature of the phenomenon is ‘earworm’.

Researchers still can’t tell us why earworms happen. They can tell us, however, what kinds of songs are most likely to worm their way inside our heads, and – more importantly – what we can do to extract them.

The worst offenders are songs with a strong, repetitive melody, and repetitive lyrics as well. In fact, nearly all earworms are songs with lyrics, not just instrumental music. It is the repetitive nature of the song that takes over in the brain – again and again and again, in a maddening cycle.

How can you get rid of them? One way is to force yourself to sing along with another, equally catchy tune. But be careful: the second song might become an earworm too. A safer method is to occupy the brain with intellectual activity of just the right difficulty: not too easy, not too demanding. If it is too easy, your brain will be left unoccupied enough to let the earworm back in. If it is too difficult, your brain might give up for an instant, and ... too late! One form of intellectual activity that has been found to work is solving anagrams: rearranging the letters of a word to make a new word.

For the most serious cases, a psychologist might help you work out the cause of a particular earworm. For most of us, however, it is enough just to wait. The life expectancy of most earworms is not much more than a single day.



1 *We all knew it was a bad idea, ...*

What was the bad idea?

- A not speaking up
- B removing the wheel
- C trying to drive the car
- D pushing the car so fast

2 *And so the silence made the decision for us.*

Why were the boys silent?

- A They were trying to act tough.
- B They were too excited to speak.
- C They were thinking through their plans.
- D They didn't want the adults to hear them.

3 What caused the car to crash?

- A The car veered into oncoming traffic.
- B Shay deliberately rammed another vehicle.
- C The car's rear wheels came off while driving.
- D Shay jumped out of the car when it picked up speed.

4 What is the main reason for the author feeling guilty?

- A He disappointed his parents.
- B He did not visit Shay in the hospital.
- C He feels he could have prevented the accident.
- D He took something that did not belong to him.

5 What does the text suggest about groups of bored boys?

- A They want to be treated like adults.
- B They value friendship above all else.
- C They become excited by little things.
- D They get a thrill from defying authority.

# Forklift Truck

A forklift truck is a vehicle with two forks sticking out at the front. It is used to move heavy loads from one place to another, especially within factories and warehouses. While most forklifts are powered by LPG, a bottled gas, some run on electricity. There are no emissions from electric engines, and this feature can be useful in confined spaces.

Forklifts are complicated pieces of machinery and a license is needed to operate one. The main challenge is spatial awareness – getting heavy loads safely from one place to another requires a detailed mental plan. Stacking loads even slightly unevenly can create instability and this can be disastrous, especially when the load is valuable.

A driver's forward vision is often obscured by the load, making manoeuvring challenging. Indeed, some sites insist that all major journeys are done backwards to reduce the risk of accidents. When carrying a heavy load down an incline, it is usual for drivers to travel backwards so the forklift doesn't tip over.

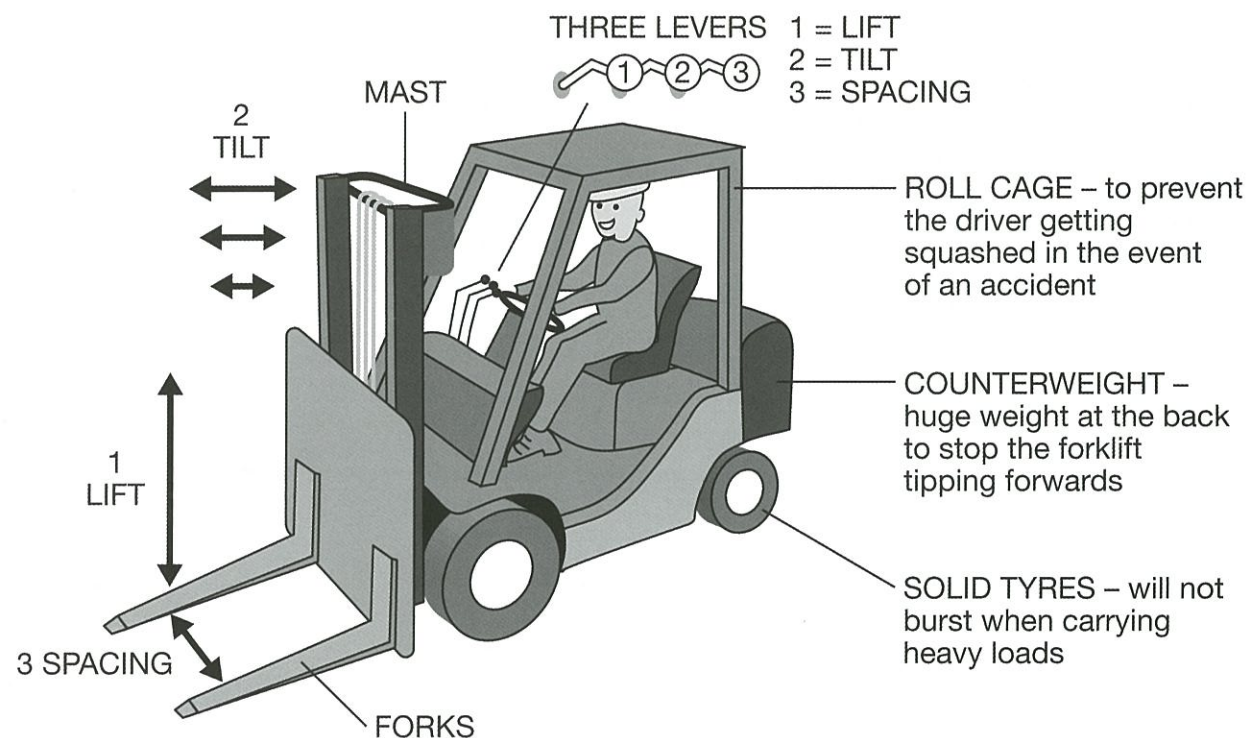
The main types of accidents involving forklifts are collisions with people, while the main risk to the driver is from the forklift tipping over. Other common accidents are 'foot crush' incidents, which is why steel-capped boots are standard in places where forklifts are used.

## HOW THE FORKS MOVE

**LIFT:** The forks move up and down to raise and lower the load.

**TILT:** Drivers tilt the mast backwards over longer trips or uneven ground to make the load more secure.

**SPACING:** The forks move closer together for narrower loads and further apart for wider loads.



**36** How did sabre-toothed cats hunt megafauna?

- A by ambushing them
- B by trapping them in trees
- C by chasing them into open spaces
- D by tiring them out with repeated attacks

**37** What is true about the long teeth of sabre-toothed cats?

- A They evolved to chew flesh.
- B They were used to crush bones.
- C They made it difficult for the cat to eat.
- D They were unsuitable for killing small animals.

**38** According to the text, what could have led to the sabre-toothed cats' extinction?

- A Larger predators evolved to hunt them.
- B They failed to adapt to new types of prey.
- C They could not adjust to a change in climate.
- D There was too much competition for the same food.

**39** The text suggests that the presence of megafauna can lead to

- A the evolution of faster prey.
- B the extinction of smaller prey.
- C the emergence of sabre-toothed cats.
- D the existence of sabre-toothed cats larger than megafauna.

**40** What is the author doing in the last paragraph?

- A predicting what will happen in the future
- B arguing for the return of sabre-toothed cats
- C expressing regret at how things have changed
- D speculating about changes to the environment

# Sabre-toothed cats

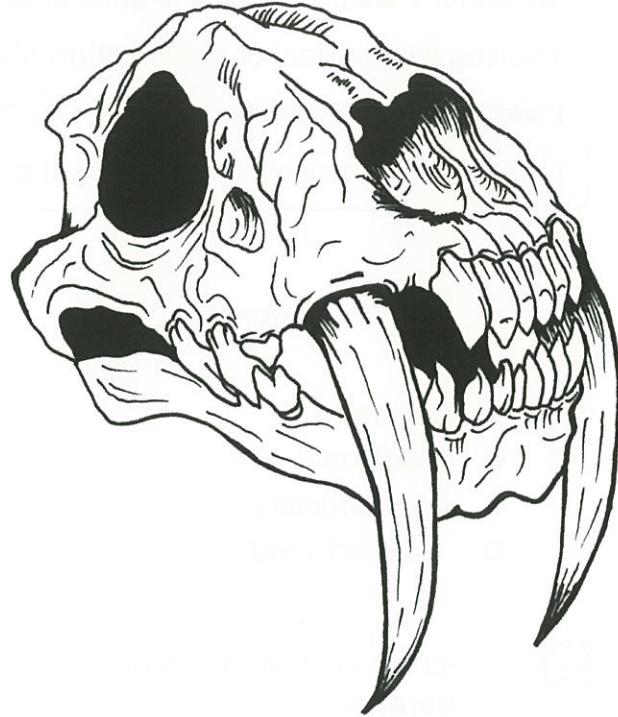
At various points throughout the earth's history, sabre-toothed cats were a dominant predator. About the size of a modern lion but up to twice as heavy, they hunted by hiding in grass or trees and leaping out onto large animals that passed by.

Sabre-toothed cats had teeth up to half a metre long. At that length, there was a real chance of the teeth breaking, which would have been disastrous for the animal. To protect its teeth, a sabre-toothed cat needed to avoid biting the bones of its prey. It would attack the soft areas instead, like the prey's neck or stomach, and then wait for the prey to bleed to death from the wounds it had inflicted.

The cats hunted megafauna (large animals), such as six-metre-tall sloths and large mammoths, but when these prey became extinct, so did the cats. While the exact cause of extinction is unknown, it is thought that the cats could not adapt to eating smaller animals: their hunting tactics did not work on smaller, faster prey and they would have needed to hunt much more often. The last species of sabre-toothed cat, *Smilodon*, lived for over two million years and died out around ten thousand years ago.

Over the last 25 million years, at least six different species of sabre-toothed cat have evolved and then become extinct. None of these species are closely related so they must have evolved independently, responding to their respective environments. It seems that when there are lots of large animals around, some of their predators evolve to have large teeth, but such fangs are a serious disadvantage when the prey is smaller.

In the future, if megafauna were to return, the earth may see the evolution of another large cat with imposing teeth. One wonders if humans will be around to see this happen.



- 6 What do the three levers control?
- A the direction the forklift truck travels
  - B the speed the forklift truck travels
  - C the position of the driver's seat
  - D the position of the forks
- 7 The forklift is fully loaded.  
What could the driver do to increase safety?
- A travel backwards
  - B tilt the mast forwards
  - C reduce the tyre pressure
  - D adjust the spacing of the forks
- 8 According to the text, what quality does a forklift driver need most?
- A the ability to judge the space between objects
  - B the reflexes to react quickly if things go wrong
  - C the strength to lift heavy weights
  - D the patience to drive slowly
- 9 What is the purpose of the counterweight?
- A to protect the engine
  - B to prevent an accident
  - C to make reversing easier
  - D to reduce the vehicle's speed
- 10 What does the text suggest about the load on a forklift?
- A A heavier load makes driving easier.
  - B The driver must be able to see above the load.
  - C The load can not be moved between confined spaces.
  - D The load is kept stable because of the forklift's features.

Choose the best word(s) for each blank space.

### Oh, Brother!

It would **11** been easier if she had done it herself. But **12** she let her brother have a go, **13** the urge to tell him that he was messing things up. **14** polite to say anything, she sat there **15** silence and bit her tongue. 'Oh, Brother!' she thought.

**11** Choose the best option for space 11.

- A of
- B had
- C have
- D having

**12** Choose the best option for space 12.

- A instead
- B therefore
- C though
- D just

**13** Choose the best option for space 13.

- A resist
- B resisted
- C resisting
- D resistance

**14** Choose the best option for space 14.

- A So
- B Such
- C That
- D Too

**15** Choose the best option for space 15.

- A in
- B on
- C with
- D during



Replace the **bolded** words. The meaning of the text should remain the same.

### Movie Trip

My father's taste in movies is quite **eclectic**. A trip to the cinema with him always involves a great deal of **deliberation** about the movie we will watch. On our last trip I was **flabbergasted** at his choice – a 1940s French movie that left me **traumatised**. I guess that the movie is fairly typical for that **era**.

**31** Select the best word to replace **eclectic**.

- A diverse
- B traditional
- C extraordinary
- D sophisticated

**32** Select the best word to replace **deliberation**.

- A tension
- B suspicion
- C anticipation
- D consideration

**33** Select the best word to replace **flabbergasted**.

- A amused
- B shocked
- C frustrated
- D saddened

**34** Select the best word to replace **traumatised**.

- A inspired
- B satisfied
- C unmoved
- D distressed

**35** Select the best word to replace **era**.

- A time
- B style
- C region
- D category



Choose the correctly spelt word for each blank space.

### Storm

When the storm came in, the wind **26** and created utter **27**. Trees were **28** across the streets. It was truly **29** to get weather like this in September. The wind gave us an **30** display of its power.

**26** Choose the correctly spelt word for space **26**.

- A shrieked
- B shrieked
- C shreiked
- D shreeked

**27** Choose the correctly spelt word for space **27**.

- A caos
- B chaos
- C cayos
- D chayos

**28** Choose the correctly spelt word for space **28**.

- A strewn
- B strune
- C struwne
- D streune

**29** Choose the correctly spelt word for space **29**.

- A bassare
- B bazarre
- C bissare
- D bizarre

**30** Choose the correctly spelt word for space **30**.

- A uncharacteristic
- B uncarachteristic
- C uncharacteristic
- D uncharacterishtic



**16** Which word should have a comma ( , ) after it?

**Having been ranked number one in the world badminton star Saina Nehwal is inspiring girls to take up the game.**

- A ranked
- B one
- C world
- D star

**17** Which word should have a semicolon ( ; ) after it?

**Tamara did not do any warm up exercises before the race she finished second.**

- A up
- B exercises
- C before
- D race

**18** Which part of the sentence should have brackets ( ) around it?

**The only way for a country to revive its economy as odd as it sounds is if its people spend money instead of save money.**

- A for a country
- B to revive its economy
- C as odd as it sounds
- D spend money instead of

**19** Which two words should have a comma ( , ) after them?

**Noorie kept her cool while Hussain her brother argued yet again with the cook about the food.**

- A Hussain brother
- B Hussain argued
- C brother cook
- D argued cook

**20** Which word should have a colon ( : ) after it?

**Junaid wanted to become an analyst but had little interest in the most crucial course cost accounting.**

- A wanted
- B analyst
- C interest
- D course

# Daddy Cool

Parents can be so embarrassing, can't they? It's the way they look, the things they say, and the way they speak. Well, this is according to my children who cringe every time I pick them up from school.

It seems that my clothes are either too loud or too dull, or too tight or too baggy. And when I attempt to please them by buying something more fashionable I get it all wrong! They say that I am trying too hard and this, apparently, is even more embarrassing than not trying at all. It's impossible to win.

I'm told that the phrases I use are old-fashioned and cheesy, but when I throw in a word I learned from the Internet, they tell me it doesn't suit me. And don't get them started on my jokes; at school events I can have the other parents rolling around laughing but all my children roll are their eyes.

And they hate it when I dance, especially when I break into my 'robot' routine. Little do they know that I do this on purpose, just to watch them squirm. It's particularly enjoyable when their friends are around – maximum cringe factor!

I may not be the coolest of dads but I run an excellent taxi service, an efficient laundry service, and I offer a no-cost all-you-can-eat restaurant around the clock. So for all the things I provide for my children, I think I am entitled to embarrass them in public every once in a while. I have earned the right to be uncool.

And it's not as if I have never been cool. When I was their age I was, of course, amazingly cool and my parents were, of course, completely embarrassing. So kids, it doesn't matter how cool you think you are now, your own children will at some point think you are absolutely ridiculous. Enjoy it while it lasts!



**21** *Parents can be so embarrassing, can't they?*

What is the writer doing in this question?

- A trying to embarrass his own family
- B wondering to himself about the issue
- C seeking agreement from other parents
- D acknowledging the opinions of his children

**22** What does the writer think about his own jokes?

- A He thinks they are not particularly funny.
- B He thinks his children secretly enjoy re-telling them.
- C He thinks people of his own age are amused by them.
- D He thinks they are too clever for his children to understand.

**23** How does the writer react to his children's embarrassment at his dancing?

- A He points out that they are being unfair.
- B He promises to be a better parent at home.
- C He attempts to dance more like his children.
- D He tries to make them even more embarrassed.

**24** How has the writer *earned the right to be uncool*?

- A by making a lot of money
- B by being very cool when he was young
- C by being popular with his children's friends
- D by looking after his children in more important ways

**25** What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

- A Some older people can be cool.
- B Coolness is a quality you never lose.
- C Young people look down on older people.
- D Old people are embarrassed by young people.