

Summarize The Spoken Text

You will hear a short lecture. Write a short summary in 50-70 words. You have 10 minutes to finish this task.

You have 10 minutes to finish the task. Your response will be judged on the quality of writing and on how well your response presents the key points presented in the lecture.

Listen to this audio1 and write down your answers below

Fill in The Blanks

Listen to this recording1, and fill in each blank with the missing words

Item 1:

Macular degeneration causes visual distortion and even complete loss of sight. When the wife of _____ Nobel laureate Walter Kohn was _____ with macular degeneration, he wanted to do something. I spoke with him at the recent Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting in Germany. "We are developing a corrective device, including _____ with the patient, who is following a certain routine and who tells us his _____ that arise." A macular degeneration patient looks at a completely regular grid on a computer screen. But because of the condition, the grid will appear distorted. The patient uses a mouse to adjust the grid to appear normal. "We will receive from the patient an edited piece of graph paper. And from the way the patient edits it, we can tell what the distortions are that he perceives, and from these we can then develop _____ that correct his distortions."

Item 2:

Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney _____ to achieve North American energy _____ by 2020 this week. That's a presidential move because every president since Richard Nixon has some version of the same thing, including Romney's opponent President Barack Obama. Obama's version is called the all of the above _____ of more domestic oil production to reduce imports. More electricity derived from wind, sunshine and natural gas added to the U.S. grid. Even more coal, as long as it has CO2 capture and storage attached. Romney's plan differs only in the details. That increased domestic oil production should come from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other public

lands, for example, as well as off the Eastern seaboard. Both _____ love biofuels, even ethanol from corn. The _____ share another similarity as well: an inability to discuss climate change on the campaign trail. And global warming is one of the largest environmental problems _____ of U.S. energy policy or, for the past half century, the lack of a coherent one. Until issues like climate change are included in the discussion, any energy plan is just a lot of hot air.

Highlight Incorrect Words

Below is the transcript of this recording². Listen to this recording. Few words in this transcription are different from what is said by the speaker. Click on the different words.

Item 1:

When I got into a cage with a Komodo Dragon almost 10 years ago for a story, I had no idea that its skull was so special. Neither did scientists until now. But a report in the Journal of Anatomy reveals that the world's largest living lizard has a remarkable, spaceframe skull. Space frame refers to a light, rigid structure with amassing struts that can handle big loads. The shape of the skull bones and the arrangement of bones of disinterment bits is the key. The researchers employed a technique called Finite Element Analysis, which is usually used to analyze trains or planes. But in this case it lets them reverse engineer the Komodo to study the astrological forces that the skull is subject to. As opposed to, say, an alligator, the dragon has a pretty wimpy bite. So rather than clamp down on its victims, it yanks off chunks of meat, a move powered by incredibly strong neck muscles. And made carnival by that space-frame skull able to handle the huge forces involved.

Item 2:

You've heard of synchronized swimming. But what about synchronized blinking? No, it's not a new Olympic sport for slackers. It's diverting that seems to happen when we watch a video. Because none of us want to miss the good parts. If you stop to add it up, humans spend a lot of time not looking. We blink every couple seconds, which means we lose about six seconds out of every minute of viewing time. So 10 percent of the time we have no visual hesitation coming in. Yet we rarely notice this interruption of service. That's because we tend to time our blinks so that we don't get left in the dark. Or so says a report in the Royal Society journal Biological Sciences. Fourteen people watched a couple episodes of Mr. Bean. And it turns out they all tended to blink at the same moments: just after Bean insect doing something stupid or when the camera showed a long shot with nothing much going on. Such synchronized strapping did not happen when the subjects watched a video of fish tipping around a tank. So when we need to pay attention, we keep our eyes open. Until we see whether Mr. Bean gets through his holiday in one piece.

Write for Diction

Listen to these sentences, and type every sentence in the box correctly as you hear it. Write as many of the sentences as you can. You can hear every sentence only once.

Listen to this audio²

Summarize Spoken Text

You will hear a short lecture. Write a summary for a fellow student who was not present at the lecture. You should write 50 - 70 words.

You have 10 minutes to finish the task. Your response will be judged on the quality of writing and on how well your response presents the key points presented in the lecture.

Play this audio³ and write your answers

Fill in The Blanks

Listen to this recording³, and fill in the blanks with missing words

Item 1:

With its capacity for bringing down governments and scarring political careers, the onion plays an _____ role in Indian politics. This week, reports of rising onion prices have made front-page news and absorbed the attention of the governing elite. The most _____ ingredient in Indian cooking, the _____ element with which all dishes begin and, normally, the _____ vegetable available, the pink onion is an essential item in the shopping basket of families of all classes. But in recent weeks, the onion has started to seem an unaffordable _____ for India's poor. Over the past few days, another _____ in prices has begun to unsettle the influential urban middle classes. The sudden spike in prices has been caused by large exports to neighboring countries and a shortage of supply.

Item 2:

What is nanotechnology? Well, a report that was put together by a _____ of the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering that came out last summer, _____ two topics. Nanoscience is the study of phenomena and the manipulation of materials at atomic, molecular and _____ scales, where properties differ significantly from those on a larger scale. Nanotechnologies are the design characterization, production and application of _____, devices and systems by controlling shape and size at the nanometer scale. So I'll talk a little bit more in a moment about what a nanometer is, but _____ speaking people think of nanotechnologies as being a sort of a hundred nanometers or less.

Highlight Incorrect Words

Below is the transcript of this recording⁴. Listen to this recording. Few words in this transcription are different from what is said by the speaker. Click on the different words.

Item 1:

Guys, here's another reason to eat your vegetables: they might be good for your sperm. Some studies show that male fertility and what's called seminal quality have immunized over the last few decades. So steelworkers from two fertility clinics in Spain looked at the reproductive power of fruits and vegetables. The scientists have spent the past four years analyzing diet and possible exposure to workplace contaminants in men with fertility problems. One effort examined the effects that antioxidants might have on sperm. The researchers hypothesized that antioxidants could lower the oxidative stress that can harm sperm. More antioxidants could theoretically improve both sperm plantation and motility. The study enrolled 61 men from couples with fertility problems. Thirty of the men were shown to have sperm problems. The other 31 one acted as the control. Interviews revealed that the males with good semen quality ate significantly more fruits and vegetables— their diets were higher in vitamins and antioxidants in general. The study appears in the journal *Fertility and Sterility*. The researchers say this finding cares that healthy diets lead to healthy sperm. So remember, guys, an apple a day keeps your swimmers in play.

Item 2:

Wheat helped create transformation in the Middle East. It's a staple crop for 30 percent of the world's population. And now, with the publication of four articles in the journal *Science*, we're close to a unfeigned understanding of the bread wheat genome. Wheat is tough to sequence. It's gone through multiple hybridizations, making its genome five times larger than a human one. Plus there are many redundancies: more than 80 percent of the genome is made of repeated DNA sequences. So the typical whole-genome shotgun approach— breaking genomes into segments and then reassembling them— doesn't work for wheat. Instead, an international consortium devised another strategy, involving physically mapping individual foams and chromosome arms. One paper details a draft of the entire genome of bread wheat. Another identifies all the genes on the largest of the plant's 21 chromosomes. Some 75,000 genes have been mapped. The methods in the second paper will help scientists map the remaining chromosomes. They say it should take another three years. Knowing exactly which genes are responsible for talents such as tolerating drought or accoutring yields should allow researchers to mine the genome and to quickly produce new and better wheat varieties to bring us our daily bread.

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Listen to this audio4