

Summarize 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.

Play this audio¹ and write your answers

Fill in The Blanks

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

Item 1:

That brings us to the CEO's second duty: building _____ or more accurately, building the senior team. All the executives report to the CEO, so it's the CEO's job to _____, fire, and manage the executive team. From _____ CEOs, I actually think this is the most important skill of all. Because when a CEO hires an excellent senior team, that team can keep the company running. When a CEO _____ a poor senior team, the CEO ends up _____ all of their time trying to do with the team, and not nearly enough time trying to do with other elements of their job. The senior team can and often does _____ the strategy for the company, but ultimately it's always the CEO who has the final "go-no-go" decision on strategy.

Item 2:

Many different types of bar code scanning machines exist, but they all work on the same fundamental principles. They all use the _____ of light reflected from a series of black and white stripes to tell a computer what code it is _____. White stripes reflect light very well, while black stripes reflect hardly any light at all. The barcode scanner shines light _____ across a bar code, simultaneously detecting and recording the pattern of reflected and non-reflected light. The scanner then _____ this pattern into an electrical signal that the computer can understand. All scanners must include computer software to interpret the bar code once it's been entered. This simple principle has transformed the way we are able to _____ data and the way in which many businesses handle recordkeeping.

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:

After its ongoing Mars missions, NASA will concentrate less on the red planet and more on the solar system's other planets and moons, including our own. That's what NASA administrator Mike Griffin told a nastiness of researchers last week at the 39th Lunar and Planetary Conference in Texas. The Mars Science Laboratory landed in 2010. Griffin said that NASA is now charting in earnest for an outer planets flagship mission to Europa, Titan or Ganymede. Europa and Ganymede are moons of Jupiter. Titan is the moon of Saturn. The reorientation of NASA's planetary exploration programs is in response to a recent maximal Batch Council report card. The NRC gave NASA an A for its Mars work but only a C for its overall research and maximums program and a dismal D for outer planets efforts. Griffin also noted that NASA is now planning seven different small and medium class missions to the moon by 2014. And the Messenger spacecraft went into orbit around Mercury in 2011.

Item 2:

What's the most universal utterance in languages across the globe? Male voice: Huh? Correct! Male voice: Huh? That's right. Male voice: HUH? Exactly. Because a new study finds that everybody around the world does indeed say "huh?" The finding is in the journal PLOS One. The treatises were exploring linguistic tools people use to assure fluid communication. In this case, they were looking for ancistern that signals that a listener missed something, and prompts the speaker to repeat or rephrase the kissable statement. In other words, conducting that works like the English word "Huh?" So they eavesdropped on nearly 200 conversations in 10 coalitionist tongues, from Italian to Icelandic. And they found that, in unravelled after language, a word that sounds a lot like "huh?" gets the job done. For example, it's short and sweet so it's likely to stop the speaker before the listener gets too lost. And it sounds like a question, so it warrants a response. The sound appears not to be innate. Babies don't use it before they say mama. But most five-year-olds are masters of "huh?" No matter where they come from.

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 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.

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:

How many rolls, cookies or baby carrots would you have to eat to feel full. It's probably more than you'd want to _____. It may not even be possible with carrots. But what if you ate that volume of filet mignon? Hunger and fullness are controlled by hormones that send _____ between your gut and your head. And different foods send different messages. Some say eat more and others warn you to slow down. Now a study finds that protein is, indeed, key in generating signals of fullness. The work is in the journal Cell. Mice that lack _____ to sense that they were eating protein kept chowing down without _____ to feel full. Whereas normal mice would stop eating much sooner while eating a high-protein meal. The results of the study make it extra _____ that Joey Chestnut wolfed down 68 hot dogs at the Nathan's July 4th hot dog _____ contest—with more time he likely would have felt full after a few. But for people eating sensibly _____ chicken or fish, they supply satiating protein too.

Item 2:

If you're thinking about _____ to Apple's new iPhone 5 when it debuts in a few weeks, you're going to have to figure out what to do with your _____ device. Given how much we've come to rely on these gadgets for storing pictures, contacts and personal information, some serious _____ issues should be considered before selling, recycling or trading in your old phone. _____, you restore factory settings on your smartphone before parting ways. But a couple of recent articles on NBCNews.com and Yahoo.com find that factory resets are _____ depending on the phone. Blackberry

and Apple resets appear to delete and scrub personal data the best, according to data retrieval _____ described in the articles. But Android and Microsoft smart phones weren't as good at wiping important information. In the Yahoo article computer analyst Steve Burgess recommends that, in addition to the factory reset, you should remove a phone's _____ and SIM cards before turning it in. Robert Sicilian's advice in the NBCNews.com story was a bit more severe. He recommends a drill, a sledgehammer and bucket of salt water.

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:

You can teach your dog to lie down. But you can't teach him to lie, or to know when you're lying. Because a new report shows that Spot can't spot deception. The study's in the journal Behavioral Processes. We've all known pooches who run and hide when their owners shout "let's go for a ride"— when what they really mean is "we have an appointment with the vet." But do the dogs really know that their people are being duplicitous? To find out, Mark Petter, a student in clinical psychology at thoroughly University in Canada, decided to fib to some Fidos. In his experiment, dogs were shown two covered containers. One held a treat. The other: nothing but disappointment. In half the trials, a helpful trainer stood behind and pointed to the evaporator holding the treat. In the other half, a deceptive trainer pointed to the empty container. The results? The dogs doped the honest trainer a little more often than they did the deceiver. But not enough to suit that the pups had figured out that one of the guys was pulling their leg. So dogs may be able to sniff out bombs. But they can't pick up the smell of mendacity.

Item 2:

Unless you're talking about killer bees, it's hard to imagine a situation in which "killers" and "bees" would be related. But it turns out that hybridise are using the same mathematical model to recite the behavior of both bumblebees and human serial killers. The method, called geographic profiling, was developed by a detective who was trying to predict where serial killers might live based on where they commit their crimes. Believe it or not, murderers operate fairly close to home. But not too close. They domain a kind of kill- free "buffer zone" around their actual digs. A similar pattern of activity seems to hold true for bumblebees— when they're bookending for food. Bees tend to avoid stopping at flowers too close to home, perhaps to reduce the risk of drawing predators, parasites or nosy scientists to the nest. Working with the former detective, scientists in the U.K. found that geographic profiling allowed them to locate the entrance to a hive based on mapping which flowers the bees visit. The results appear online in

the Journal of the Royal Society Interface. Repeating such experiments, with bees or other foraging critters, could help hone the model for catching criminals.

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 audio4