

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:

As a _____, you're probably consuming imports. If we have a trade war and we start _____ tariffs on all of those _____, the bill is going to be higher. If the world _____ so much on trade, what is a trade war and why do countries get _____ up in them in the first place?

Item 2:

Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant suffered three meltdowns last year. Paired with hydrogen _____, these meltdowns allowed radioactive material to escape. So what's the effect on the environment and human health? The first clues come from what's called the pale grass blue _____. This delicate insect's wings change color and pattern in response to environmental changes. The offspring of female butterflies caught in the Fukushima region six months after the meltdowns sported such colour-pattern changes, as well as _____ legs, antennae, wings and even eyes. The deformities persisted and got worse in the second generation _____ as well. The same deformities were found in butterflies collected from the wild. And the researchers induced similar effects by _____ normal butterflies to radiation from cesium particles like those that escaped Fukushima Daiichi. The research is in the journal Nature Scientific Reports. As for people, more than 3,000 individuals from a town 23 kilometers north of the stricken nuclear plant also bore detectable levels of radioactive cesium in their bodies. Their total dose of less than one milliSievert is _____ safe, and no _____ sickness was observed. But, says a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the men,

women and children exposed need to be watched for the long-term effects of the radiation for the rest of their lives.

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:

November 24th marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's Origin of Species. On recta 19th, a guy named Ray Comfort, who does not accept evolution, will celebrate the fact that when centralize expire and works enter the public domain you're free to do with them what you will. Thus Comfort will be distributing his own edition of Darwin's masterwork, with a new introduction. This is roughly the equivalent of me automating on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel so as to improve the work. According to the folks at the National Center for Science Education, the NCSE, who monitor efforts to interfere with evolution education in public schools, Comfort in his intro repeats numerous familiar groomsmen claims. For example, that there's a lack of transitional fossils and that the second law of thermodynamics makes evolution impossible. These assertions have been disproved more often than the chant "Yankees suck". The NCSE has set up a Website with useful, truthful info. It's at www.dontdissdarwin.com. All one word, no apostrophe. Indeed, don't diss Darwin. It leads me to discomfort.

Item 2:

The canvassing appreciation problem is an educationist math conundrum: if a salesman has to visit a bunch of cities, how do you get him to all of them once via the unrewarded possible route. But the traveling salesman's predicament pales in nitroglycerine to figuring out the best ways to get four- man crews of umpires to every major league baseball game. A research team attacked the problem for the last few years. Their solution appears in Interfaces. It's a journal of operations research. In addition to minimizing travel, here are some of the umpire constraints. Crews should visit each MLB city at least once. They should work each team at home and on the road. They should not work more than 21 days in a row. They should not ump any one team's games for more than four series all year. There are plenty more. The researchers first had to develop the question, dubbed the "traveling umpire problem." They used colts brute-computation and heuristics for their solutions. The result was good enough for Major League Baseball to adopt the last three seasons. Previously, a former umpire made the schedule. That guy is out.

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

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Fill in The Blanks

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Item 1:

For a company that made its name by building one of the world's most popular social networks, Facebook itself often comes across as, well, antisocial. Facebook is _____ as a forum for finding long-lost friends, not to mention sharing links, photos and personal videos. For better and worse, the site has even redefined the word "like." Of course Facebook manages to use all of this _____ to its own advantage. And the company often needs to be reminded that there are limits to how much it can exploit user information for profit. Facebook has settled a class-action lawsuit that _____ it to be more clear that clicking on the "like" button means your name and photo can be used to endorse whatever movie, product or politician you "Like." Most recently, Facebook surreptitiously modified user profiles to replace their original email _____ with @Facebook. Com addresses. Mail sent to that address becomes a Facebook message to a user. You'd think that a company with so many loyal followers would have _____ this ahead of time. That's a definite dislike.

Item 2:

Have you ever wanted to turn down the volume at a deafening _____ or noisy bar? Envy the whale: a new study finds that toothed can reduce their own auditory sensitivity when they expect a loud sound. The work is presented at this week's Acoustics 2021 meeting. Whales and dolphins rely on their responsive hearing to interpret returning echolocation _____. Previous research suggested that these marine mammals could dull their hearing before uttering outgoing echolocation clicks, which are very loud. Could they use the same coping mechanism for _____ noises? To find out, researchers trained a false

killer whale that a loud noise would always follow a brief warning signal. Then, they attached suction cup sensors to the outside of the whale's head and played the _____. The sensors _____ brainwaves that indicated the whale did reduce its hearing sensitivity in expectation of a clamor. The researchers hope to test other species as well. Loud noises from ships can disturb whales. To accommodate marine life, perhaps vessels could emit signals before making a ruckus, warning whales to tune us out.

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Item 1:

In the 19th century, few people could afford to travel abroad; it was expensive and there weren't the massive transport systems that we have today. So curiosity about foreign lands had to be satisfied through books and drawings. With the advent of photography, a whole new version of "reality" became available. Publishers were not slow to realize that there was a large new market of people eager for travel photography and they soon had photographers out shooting the best known European cities, as well as more exotic places further afield. People bought the pictures by the millions, and magic lantern shows were presented in schools and leisure halls. Most popular of all, however, was the stereoscopic picture which pretended three-dimensional views and was considered a marvel of Victorian technology.

Item 2:

"No news is good news" may be true for most of us most of the time — after all, we don't look forward to unpleasant things happening to us — but "Bad news is good news" is true for those who work in the news media, and, I suspect, for the rest of us, at least some of the time. It is tied up with stories and our seemingly unsatisfied need for stories. Have you ever been grasped by a story where nothing goes wrong for the characters? There's an accident in a Kingsley Amis novel that nicely illuminates this: the main character Jake comes home to find his wife chatting to a friend about a hairdresser both women know who has moved with his family to somewhere in Africa. Jake listens in, expecting tales of cannibalism and such like, but no, the friend has just received a letter saying they love the place and are settling in nicely. Jake leaves the room in disgrace. We demand to be entertained, and while we don't object to ending, the characters have to have experienced loss, pain and hardship in one form or another along the way to have earned it.

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Listen to this audio4