“New York – the city that never sleeps”

New York City, the greatest metropolis of the nation, quickly into the largest and richest city in the world. It has become a world of finance and the cultural centre of the United States. New York has been called “the city that never sleeps”.

History:
New York is a of islands. The Dutch bought Manhattan Island from the Indians for the equivalent of $24 and named it New Amsterdam in 1625. After a war between the English and the Dutch the city was seized by the English in 1664 and New York.

Manhattan:
The business and cultural activities of NY are located on Manhattan, which is the most densely populated of the city’s five boroughs. Other boroughs in NY are the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond. They are with each other by immense bridges and tunnels. Manhattan has the greatest number of office skyscrapers in the world. are clustered around Wall Street, regarded as the financial centre of America. The most famous skyscrapers are Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building. recently the third famous complex of skyscrapers was the World Trade Center, by terrorist attack on 11 September, 2001.

Statue of Liberty
One of the most famous monuments in NYC is the Statue of Liberty which stands on a small island in New York Harbor. It was a gift to the people of the United States from the people of France in 1886 to honor the friendship and the commitment to liberty between France and the United States. This famous monument a crowned woman stepping broken shackles and holding a burning torch and a tablet representing the Declaration of Independence.

Attractions
There are a number of museums in NYC, the best know being the Metropolitan Museum of Art, located on the 5th Avenue. Music can go to the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera or the New York Philharmonic. The most famous park in NY is called Central Park. Apart from wild rambles, lakes, hills and winding paths, there are facilities for tennis, riding and boating.
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History:
New York is a city (group/cluster?) of islands. The Dutch bought Manhattan Island from the Indians for the equivalent of $24 and named it New Amsterdam in 1625. After a war between the English and the Dutch the city was seized by the English in 1664 and renamed (named?) New York.

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The business and cultural activities of NY are located on Manhattan, which is the most densely populated of the city five boroughs. Other boroughs in NY are the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond. They are joined/connected with each other by immense bridges and tunnels. Manhattan has the greatest number of office skyscrapers in the world. They/These are clustered around Wall Street, regarded as the financial centre of America. The most famous skyscrapers are Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building. Until recently the third famous complex of skyscrapers was the World Trade Center, demolished by terrorist attack on 11 September, 2001.

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Attractions
There are a number of museums in NYC, the best know being the Metropolitan Museum of Art, located on the 5th Avenue and is one of the greatest tourist attractions. Music lovers can go to the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera or the New York Philharmonic. The most famous park in NY is called Central Park. Apart from wild rambles, lakes, hills and winding paths, there are facilities for tennis, riding and boating.
The House That Soared

In 1)…… opening stretch the new Pixar movie “Up” flies high, borne aloft by a sense of creative flight and 2) ….. flawlessly realized love story. Its on-screen and unlikely escape artist is Carl Fredricksen, a widower and former balloon salesman 3) ….. a square head and a round nose that looks ready for honking. Voiced with appreciable impatience by Ed Asner, Carl isn’t your typical American animated 4) ….. He’s 78, for starters, and the years have taken their toll on his lugubrious body and spirit, both of 5) ….. seem solidly tethered to the ground. Even the two corners of his mouth point straight 6) ….. . It’s as if he were sagging 7) ….. the earth. Eventually a bouquet of balloons sends Carl and his house soaring into the sky, where they go up, up and 8) ….. and off to an adventure in South America with a portly child, some talking (and snarling and gourmet-cooking) dogs and 9) ….. unexpected villain. Though the initial images of flight are wonderfully rendered — the house shudders and creaks and splinters and groans 10) ….. it’s ripped from its foundation by the balloons — the movie remains bound by convention, 11) ….. even its modest 3-D depth. This has become the Pixar way. Passages 12) ….. glorious imagination are invariably matched by stock characters and banal story choices, as each new movie 13) ….. another manifestation of the movie-industry divide between art and the bottom line. In “Up” that 14) ….. is evident between the early scenes, which tell Carl’s story with extraordinary tenderness and brilliant narrative economy, and the 15) ….. scenes of him as a geriatric action hero. The movie opens with 16) ….. young Carl enthusing over black-and-white newsreel images of his hero, a world-famous aviator and explorer, Charles Muntz. 17) ….. thereafter, Carl meets Ellie, a plucky, would-be adventurer 18) ….. , a few edits later, becomes his beloved wife, an adult relationship that the director Pete Docter brilliantly compresses into some four wordless minutes during which the 19) ….. dream together, face crushing disappointment and grow happily old side by side. Like the opener of “Wall-E” and the critic’s Proustian reminiscence of childhood in “Ratatouille,” this is filmmaking 20) ….. its purest.

Key:

1) its/the 8) away 15) later
2) a 9) an 16) the
3) with 10) as 17) shortly/soon/immediately
4) hero/character 11) despite 18) who
5) which 12) of 19) couple/two
6) down 13) becomes 20) at
7) into/to 14) divide
**Contract killing**

Contract killing is the concept of a private contractor or a government (1)__________ someone to kill a specific person or persons for a sum of money.

In the United States a contract to kill a person is void as against public policy—a contract to perform a crime is not enforceable.

Both the actual killer and the person who paid the killer can be found guilty of (2)__________. In some jurisdictions with capital punishment, a contract killing may be a special circumstance that allows for a murder to be tried as a capital crime.

Contract killing appeals to some people partially because it can be used to establish an "airtight" (3)__________ for the person who takes out the contract—at the time of the killing, this person can plan to be far away and in a place where many people will see him or her. At the same time, the person who actually (4)__________ the murder may have little or no direct (5)__________ to the victim, making it much more difficult for investigators to (6)__________ what has happened. By contracting out a murder, a criminal can also avoid personally committing murder, which some may be unwilling or incapable of doing, especially if they had a close relationship with the victim.

Contract killings are often, though not always, associated with organized crime. Depending on the region and era, contract killers have been used to silence witnesses (7)__________ against criminals or to eliminate rival criminals or politicians who refuse to take a bribe (plata o plomo - a Spanish phrase meaning (8)__________ "silver or lead" which usually translates into "money or bullet" — "accept a bribe or face assassination". The use of anonymous contract killers also mitigates against the formation and continuation of vendettas, which would undermine a criminal organization. An example of this was the use of Murder, Inc. by the Mafia Commission and National Crime Syndicate in the mid-20th century.

Others contract a murder in an attempt to reap some kind of financial windfall—usually as a beneficiary of the victim's insurance policies, or as (9)__________ to his estate. However, the most common motive usually involves simply ending an intimate relationship, albeit for a variety of reasons.

Contract killers may make their crime an obvious murder, but may also try to make the death appear to be a suicide or even an (10)__________, or may hide or destroy the body so that it is not clear to authorities that the victim is dead, only that he has disappeared.

In some countries law enforcement agents will sometimes pose as contract killers to arrest the people trying to hire them.

ANSWERS:

1) hiring  
2) murder  
3) alibi  
4) commits  
5) connection  
6) establish  
7) testifying  
8) literally  
9) heir  
10) accident
Elwira P.

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word.

“Love At No Sight”

In a looks-obsessed world, are blind people immune 1) ___________ appearances when they fall in love? As a new film looks at how sight-impaired people find romance, Damon Rose who is blind, says you don't have to be sighted to be shallow.

There are many questions that blind people find themselves fielding regularly. There's the one about 2) ___________ you can see in your dreams, the one about how you know where your mouth 3) ___________ when eating ... but the 4) ___________ , and possibly most surprising of all, is the one that goes: "How do you fancy someone if you can't see them?"

To answer the question simply and directly, blind people will tell you that it's the voice, brain and personality which initially catch the 5) ___________ , or in this case, ear. It's a good understandable answer. Everyone hears attractive voices on the radio. Voices are powerful organs that 6) ___________ humour, quirkiness, intelligence, sweetness and attitude.

Your voice is the mouthpiece for the brain, it communicates your personality very effectively. Though love at first sight may happen for people blessed with eyes, love after first discussion is the closest you'll get to it if you can't see.

I've often thought that "sighties" might be just a little bit disabled by 7) ___________ vision. I've seen friends chasing people for their looks yet getting hurt very badly because their beauty is only skin deep, their personality somewhat rotten.

But good looks and attraction can be complex for blind people. And how I'd love to be able to sit here and tell you that blind people are without 8) ___________ ; not caring if you're a prince or whether you're plug ugly, and that we don't care about such superficial matters. Sadly, that's just not true.

It's impossible to live in the UK and not soak 9) ___________ discussions about beauty. It matters to everyone else, so of course it matters to us 10) ___________ proxy.

Taken from www.bbc.co.uk; 27 May 2009
“Love At No Sight”

In a looks-obsessed world, are blind people immune 1) to appearances when they fall in love? As a new film looks at how sight-impaired people find romance, Damon Rose who is blind, says you don't have to be sighted to be shallow.

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To answer the question simply and directly, blind people will tell you that it's the voice, brain and personality which initially catch the 5) eye, or in this case, ear. It's a good understandable answer. Everyone hears attractive voices on the radio. Voices are powerful organs that 6) convey/communicate humour, quirkiness, intelligence, sweetness and attitude.

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It's impossible to live in the UK and not soak 9) up discussions about beauty and presentability. It matters to everyone else, so of course it matters to us 10) by proxy.
Malwina S.

Man, 102, takes out 25-year mortgage

A pensioner aged 102 has been granted a 25-year mortgage 1) ______ the fact he would have to live until 127 to pay the loan back.

The property investor from East Sussex has taken out 2) ______ interest-only £200,000 mortgage and hopes to meet the £958 monthly repayments with income from rent as he joins a growing army of retired 3) ______ hoping to cash in on buy-to-let schemes.

Most lenders set a limit at 75 years for mortgage applicants but a handful, 4) ______ Woolwich, and Bristol & West, have no such restrictions. 5) ______ has led to a rush of applications from older investors.

Jonathan Moore, of Mortgages for Business, an independent adviser based in Sevenoaks, Kent, told how he brokered the mortgage for the unnamed 102-year-old, 6) ________ of hundreds he has arranged for pensioners. “This is a new phenomenon. Obviously there is an element of 7) _________ if property prices and rental income suddenly fall but there is no sign of that at the moment,” he said.

Richard Stone, 75, from north London, 8) _______ 10 houses and has taken out a £120,000 mortgage. The retired maths teacher admits such a commitment at his age can be “quite stressful”.

Charities supporting the elderly have warned that the stress of taking out a large loan could affect health and urge pensioners to seek advice 9) ___________ making such a financial commitment.

Gordon Lishman, the director-general of Age Concern, said: “It’s crucial that people 10) ________ about the long-term implications.”

ANSWERS:

1) despite
2) an
3) people
4) including
5) This
6) one
7) risk
8) owns
9) before
10) think/remember
Coraline is a fantasy/horror novella by British author Neil Gaiman, published in 2002 by Bloomsbury and Harper Collins. (1)__________ was awarded the 2003 Hugo Award for Best Novella, the 2003 Nebula Award for Best Novella, and the 2002 Bram Stoker Award for Best Work for Young Readers. It has been compared to Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland and has been (2)__________ into a 2009 stop-motion film directed by Henry Selick.

Before the tale begins, Coraline and her parents move into a new apartment. Coraline's parents are (3)__________ busy with their work and pay her (4)__________ attention. Isolated, Coraline goes off to explore. She meets the other inhabitants of the house, Miss Miriam Forcible and Miss April Spink, two elderly women retired from the stage and an even older man (5)__________ Mr Bobo, who trains mice to play music. She finds a locked door in the drawing room, though the entrance beyond is bricked up. The next day she takes the key to the door, opens it, and finds a dark corridor leading to an apartment (6)__________ to her own. This alternate world is inhabited by her Other Mother and Other Father, who are near-replicas of her real parents, except they have buttons for eyes. These Other parents at (7)__________ seem more interesting, fun and caring than her real parents. At the day's end, Coraline's Other Mother offers her a chance to stay in this world forever if Coraline will sew button (8)__________ over her eyes. Coraline decides she would (9)__________ go home, much to the disappointment of her Other Mother.

Upon her return to her apartment, Coraline finds her real parents are missing. They do not return (9)__________ the next day, and Coraline, discovering they were (10)__________ by her Other Mother, resolves to rescue them. Coraline travels again to the Other Mother's world. After angering her Other Mother by refusing to accept gifts or love, she is trapped behind a mirror as punishment. There Coraline (11)__________ the souls of three children from different eras whom the Other Mother entrapped then tossed aside when she wearied of them. After the Other Mother decides to take Coraline out of the room, Coraline challenges the Other Mother in a game to find the children's souls and her parents (12)__________ the Other Parents' world, using her wits and a seeing stone received from her neighbours. Coraline finds the souls and escapes to the real world, forcing the door closed on the Other Mother and severing her hand. (13)__________ in her apartment, Coraline finds her parents safe and sound.

The next night, Coraline discovers her task is not done. The Other Mother's (14)__________ hand, which is still in Coraline's world as she accidentally snapped the Other Mother's hand off (15)__________ closing the door, attempts to steal the key so the Other Mother can exact her revenge. Coraline lures the hand to a well and tricks it into falling in with the key, ridding the world of the danger of the Other Mother forever.
Coraline is a fantasy/horror novella by British author Neil Gaiman, published in 2002 by Bloomsbury and Harper Collins. (1) It was awarded the 2003 Hugo Award for Best Novella, the 2003 Nebula Award for Best Novella, and the 2002 Bram Stoker Award for Best Work for Young Readers. It has been compared to Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland and has been (2) adapted into a 2009 stop-motion film directed by Henry Selick.

Before the tale begins, Coraline and her parents move into a new apartment. Coraline's parents are (3) always/constantly busy with their work and pay her (4) little attention. Isolated, Coraline goes off to explore. She meets the other inhabitants of the house, Miss Miriam Forcible and Miss April Spink, two elderly women retired from the stage and an even older man (5) named/called Mr Bobo, who trains mice to play music. She finds a locked door in the drawing room, though the entrance beyond is bricked up. The next day she takes the key to the door, opens it, and finds a dark corridor leading to an apartment (6) identical to her own. This alternate world is inhabited by her Other Mother and Other Father, who are near-replicas of her real parents, except they have buttons for eyes. These Other parents at (7) first seem more interesting, fun and caring than her real parents. At the day's end, Coraline's Other Mother offers her a chance to stay in this world forever if Coraline would (8) rather go home, much to the disappointment of her Other Mother.

Upon her return to her apartment, Coraline finds her real parents are missing. They do not return (9) by the next day, and Coraline, discovering they were (10) kidnapped by her Other Mother, resolves to rescue them. Coraline travels again to the Other Mother's world. After angering her Other Mother by refusing to accept gifts or love, she is trapped behind a mirror as punishment. There Coraline (11) meets/sees/encounters the souls of three children from different eras whom the Other Mother entrapped then tossed aside when she wearied of them. After the Other Mother decides to take Coraline out of the room, Coraline challenges the Other Mother in a game to find the children's souls and her parents (12) within/in the Other Parents' world, using her wits and a seeing stone received from her neighbours. Coraline finds the souls and escapes to the real world, forcing the door closed on the Other Mother and severing her hand. (13) Back/Again in her apartment, Coraline finds her parents safe and sound.

The next night, Coraline discovers her task is not done. The Other Mother's (14) severed hand, which is still in Coraline's world as she accidentally snapped the Other Mother's hand off (15) while closing the door, attempts to steal the key so the Other Mother can exact her revenge. Coraline lures the hand to a well and tricks it into falling in with the key, ridding the world of the danger of the Other Mother forever.
Chemistry Went To Her Head

It was a cold but sunny February afternoon. Lidia, a biology teacher from Sofia, was driving two friends from a memorial service. Suddenly the vehicle stopped. Bystanders saw all three occupants dash from the car to a nearby manhole and start pouring down liquids and powders from various bottles and jars.

Apparently the biology teacher had been performing chemistry experiments in her spare time, and had some leftover noxious chemicals. It is still not entirely clear what the chemicals were, but two of the bottles were labeled “diethyl ether” and “methanol”, both highly flammable liquids. The former is also used as a sedative, so one explanation for their actions is that they felt dizzy from the ether vapors and thought it was a good idea to pour them in the sewer.

As it turns out, a good idea it definitely was not. The cocktail of flammable substances in the enclosed space of the sewer caused an explosion so powerful that it launched the manhole cover into the air, decapitating the (briefly) surprised Lidia. Left without a/an shoulders, she decided it was time to kick the bucket.

The other two people were not unharmed, but were alive. They were taken to the hospital with burns on their faces. They may not regain their eyesight, but hopefully will be able to speak clearly enough to tell their children that tossing random chemicals/substances down the drain is not as wise as it might at first appear.

http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin2008-06.html

1) home
2) free/spare
3) labeled
4) from
5) flammable/ those
6) shoulders
7) bucket
8) alive
9) speak
10) chemicals/substances
“MISSING LINK” FOUND

Meet "Ida," the small "missing link" found in Germany that's created a big media splash and will likely continue to (1) _____________ waves among those who study human origins.

In a new book, documentary, and promotional Web site, paleontologist Jorn Hurum, who led the team that analyzed the 47-million-year-old fossil suggests Ida is a critical missing-link species in primate evolution. The fossil, he says, (2) _____________ the evolutionary split between higher primates such as monkeys, apes, and humans and their more distant relatives such as lemurs.

Ida, properly known as *Darwinius masillae*, has a unique anatomy. The lemur-like skeleton (3) _____________ primate-like characteristics, including grasping hands, opposable thumbs, clawless digits with nails, and relatively short limbs.

"This specimen looks like a really early fossil monkey that belongs to the group that includes us," said Brian Richmond, a biological anthropologist at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., (4) _____________ was not involved in the study, published this week in the journal *PLoS ONE*.

But there's a big gap in the fossil record from this time period, Richmond noted. Researchers are (5) _____________ when and where the primate group that includes monkeys, apes, and humans split from the other group of primates that includes lemurs. "[Ida] is one of the important branching points on the evolutionary tree," Richmond said, "but it's not the (6) _____________ branching point."

At least one aspect of Ida is unquestionably unique: her incredible preservation, unheard (7) _____________ in specimens from the Eocene era, when early primates underwent a period of rapid evolution. "From this time period there are very few fossils, and they tend to be an isolated tooth here or maybe a tailbone there," Richmond explained. "So you can't say a whole (8) _____________ of what that [type of fossil] represents in terms of evolutionary history or biology."

In Ida's case, scientists were able to examine fossil evidence of fur and soft tissue and even picked (9) _____________ the remains of her last meal: fruits, seeds, and leaves. What's more, the newly described "missing link" was found in Germany's Messel Pit. Ida's European origins are intriguing, Richmond said, because they could suggest— (10) _____________ to common assumptions—that the continent was an important area for primate evolution.

ANSWERS:
1. make
2. bridges
3. features
4. who
5. unsure
6. only
7. of
8. lot
9. up/ out/ through
10. contrary
Paulina J.

**Frozen 'Ready meal' controversy**

Gordon James Ramsay (born 8 November 1966) is a British chef, television personality and restaurateur. He has been (1) awarded a total of 16 Michelin Stars, and in 2007 became one of only three chefs in the United Kingdom to hold three Michelin stars (2) at one time. Ramsay currently ranks 3rd in the world in (3) terms of Michelin Stars behind Joël Robuchon and Alain Ducasse.

Ramsay is (4) known for presenting TV programmes about competitive cookery and food, such as *Hell's Kitchen* and *Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares*.

(5) On the 17 April 2009 it was revealed that Ramsay's restaurant, Foxtrot Oscar in Chelsea, west London, used pre-prepared food that was heated up and sold with mark-ups of up to 586 per cent. It was also revealed that three of his gastropubs in London did the same thing. This was in marked contrast to comments that Ramsay (6) made in 2007, when he said "using fresh ingredients is the only way to guarantee a great taste and I can't understand how people can ignore fresh food. That's where all the flavour is, all the goodness, and it's a crime (7) not to use it."

A spokeswoman for Gordon Ramsay explained, "Gordon Ramsay chefs prepare components of dishes devised and produced to the highest Gordon Ramsay standards. These are supplied to those kitchens with limited cooking space such as Foxtrot Oscar and Gordon Ramsay's highly-acclaimed pubs, (8) including the Narrow. These are sealed and transported daily in refrigerated vans and all menu dishes are (9) then cooked in the individual kitchens. This is only for the supply of Foxtrot Oscar and (10) the three pubs and allows each establishment to control the consistency and the quality of the food served."

**KEY:**

1. awarded
2. at
3. terms
4. known
5. on
6. made
7. not
8. including
9. then
10. the
“Learning a language”

Learning a language is not for 1_________. Some people find it very difficult and stressful; 2__________ actually enjoy the mental challenge and still others (although these are rare people) find it 3__________ to learn a foreign language. Recently, there has been a lot of interest in trying to define the characteristics of a ‘good’ language learner.

Here are four examples - can you select the person 4______ is likely to make the best language learner from these descriptions of their needs and personalities?

Perhaps it is best to take a typical example at the outset. Fred Brown had to retire last year because of a bad heart. He went to Spain for a holiday and decided he liked the country and the people so much he would 5______ to learn the language. He already 6_______ good French and a little Italian and he thinks 7_______ will give him a head start in learning another Latin language.

He sees language learning as 8______ detective game: he hunts for clues and likes to find the answers himself. He knows that language learning 9________ hard work, but he gives 10________ a little to learn each day. He listens to himself and usually knows when he has made a mistake. He knows exactly what sort of Spanish he wants to learn and is only interested in 11________.

Answers:
1. everyone
2. others
3. easy
4. who
5. like
6. speaks
7. these
8. a
9. is
10. himself
Gap filling – The Russian blue

Many believe the Russian Blue (1) _______ a natural breed originating from the Archangel Isles in northern Russia. Legend has (2) _______ beautiful animals trapped for their plush double coats which are sometimes (3) _______ to the coat of a beaver or seal. Originally known as the Archangel Cat or Foreign Blue, most people believe that they were brought by sailors from the Archangel Isles to England and Northern Europe in the 1860s. Rumor also has the Russian Blue as a descendant of the Royal Cat of the Russian Czars and as a favored (4) ______ of Queen Victoria.

First shown in 1875 at the Crystal Palace in England as the Archangel Cat, the original Russian Blue competed in a class for (5) _______ blue cats. It was not until 1912 that the Russian Blue was given a class of its (6) _______. From its early origins until after World War II, English and Scandinavian breeders (7) _______ to develop the foundation bloodlines for the contemporary Russian Blue. Although Russians were imported to the United States as early as 1900, there is (8) _______ recorded work with the breed in America (9) _______ after World War II. American breeders combined the English bloodlines with their plush, silvery coats and Scandinavian bloodlines with their emerald green eyes and flat profiles to (10) _______ the Russian Blue we know today. In the 1960s the Russian Blue began to gain popularity and has become a favorite (11) _______ at cat shows and at home.

The Russian Blue is a gentle, affectionate cat easily distinguished from other breeds. One of the most outstanding features of the Russian Blue is a short, dense coat of an even, bright blue color with (12) _______ hair dipped in silver. This silver tipping gives the Russian a silvery sheen and lustrous appearance that can best be appreciated in natural light. Russian Blues come in only one color, blue, and one coat (13) _______ short. The density of the coat causes it to stand out from the body and allows patterns to be traced in the coat (14) _______ remain until you smooth them away. In lovely contrast to the blue coat, the Russian Blue has large, rounded, wide-set eyes that are a vivid green. The head is sometimes described as cobra-like which aptly describes the broad, medium wedge and flat profiles. The large, pointed ears are wide at the base and set rakishly (15) _______ the side of the head. The body of the Russian
Blue is fine-boned, long, and firmly muscled. The clean lines and graceful carriage of the Russian Blue give it a regal appearance all its own.

Answers:

1. is
2. these
3. compared
4. pet
5. all
6. own
7. worked/began/begun
8. little/no
9. until
10. produce/make
11. both/pet
12. each/some
13. length
14. which/that
15. toward/towards

Michał Pajewski

For God's Sake, Why?

*Fill in the gaps using a suitable single word.*

Why another book attacking religion? Can't believers and (1)……………… just get along? After all, the majority of religious people(2) …………. violent or tyrannical. So, do we really need (3)………….book documenting the horrors of which religion is capable, or marshalling arguments for God's nonexistence? In a word—yes.
For one thing, *The God Delusion* is singular in maintaining that there is an inescapable connection between religious moderates and extremists—that the former, in fact, pave the way for the latter. Following Bertrand Russell, Dawkins argues that faith—believing without evidence, as a virtue not to be questioned—provides the justification of all manner of atrocities. And he makes a good case.

The explanation least given for 9/11 is that Osama bin Laden and his ilk really believe what they are saying. During last year’s Muhammad cartoon riots, when Muslims chanted slogans like “Behead those who insult Islam,” media outlets spoke about free speech; but, at the same time, they expressed sympathy for the “hurt and suffering” that the cartoons had caused Muslims. In what other context would calls violence have been given such a pass? “The rest of us are expected to defend our prejudices,” writes Dawkins, “but ask a religious person to justify their belief and you infringe ‘religious liberty’.” It is precisely the automatic respect and immunity to criticism that is granted to religion that *The God Delusion* hopes to dispel.

Part of Dawkins’s reason for writing *The God Delusion* is to promote atheism as an intellectually and morally justified position. This is necessary because religious, while demanding respect, apparently do not reciprocate that attitude toward atheists. Dawkins cites some truly shocking facts, e.g., George H. W. Bush declaring that he did not consider atheists to be citizens, and polling data that fewer than half of Americans would vote for an atheist. He asks what our reactions would be if, in these cases, one replaced “atheist” with the words Jew, Catholic, or Muslim?

He also makes a compelling case that the religious labelling of children is a form of child abuse. A child is too young to understand what religion is, and so cannot rightly be called a Catholic or Muslim. Moreover, few consider the mental damage that occurs when children are terrified with fears of hell and damnation. Dawkins describes “Hell Houses” operated by evangelical Christians in the United States, created solely to scare people, especially children, out of their minds with tales of eternal torment.

Religious labelling can have harmful consequences, as well, not least of which is that it lays a foundation for collectivism. The “Troubles” in Ireland had to do with religious beliefs as such, but collective religious labels allowed group-against-group political grievances to be passed on mindlessly from generation to generation, as Catholics murdered Protestants in “retaliation” for injustices done to other Catholics by other Protestants, all long since dead and gone.

1) Non-belivers/atheists 2) aren’t 3) another 4) extremists 5) for 6) many 7) to 8) the 9) indicating/showing 10) form 11) occurs/happens 12) other 13) little 14) on 15) since
**Tours of a Lifetime**

Our picks of the best guided expeditions offer authenticity, sustainability, immersion, and values (1)__________never before.

For the past four years, we’ve (2)__________ deep to bring readers the most singular, authentic, and sustainable trips offered (3)__________ organized travel. This year is no (4)__________, but alas, the world is. The global economic crisis has people taking a hard look at their wallets. To many travelers, (5)__________ big trip may seem unaffordable. But consider this: Travel companies are coping with the downturn by offering incentives, freebies, and discounts. Add that to the traditional savings an outfitter gets (6)__________ being able to negotiate better rates on trip components and there may be (7)__________ better time to take that tour of a lifetime.

We asked veteran contributing editor Margaret Loftus to scour the world (8)__________ the best tours at the best values. Her report includes Wild China’s foray into the untrampled (9)__________ of Guangxi and Guizhou in southwestern China, in which guests sleep in (10)__________ homes of villagers along the way. Cozy to be sure, but what (11)__________ intimate way to learn about a culture. (12)__________ tourist, intrepid, keeps costs—and (13)__________ emissions—down by using public transportation when possible, such as a bus ride through Turkey on its Silk Road journey.

Our coverage, organized (14)__________ three categories—active, classic, and cultural—includes 50 tour listings. You won’t find (15)__________ $50,000 round-the-world-by-private-jet tours (16)__________ this year’s list. On the other hand, many of the tours don’t necessarily qualify as "cheap." Sustainable, nonexploitive travel attempts to give (17)__________ to the community, and comfort costs money. But every tour, (18)__________ its price tag, offers small-group, thoughtfully crafted experiences (19)__________ are eco- and culturally sensitive, provide uncommon access, and foster interaction with locals. It’s the perfect antidote (20)__________ these tumultuous times, as we reexamine what is important and look for trips that are meaningful and restorative.
Tours of a Lifetime

Our picks of the best guided expeditions offer authenticity, sustainability, immersion, and values as never before.

For the past four years, we've dug deep to bring readers the most singular, authentic, and sustainable trips offered in organized travel. This year is no different, but alas, the world is. The global economic crisis has people taking a hard look at their wallets. To many travelers, a big trip may seem unaffordable. But consider this: Travel companies are coping with the downturn by offering incentives, freebies, and discounts. Add that to the traditional savings an outfitter gets by being able to negotiate better rates on trip components and there may be no better time to take that tour of a lifetime.

We asked veteran contributing editor Margaret Loftus to scour the world for the best tours at the best values. Her report includes Wild China's foray into the untrampled provinces of Guangxi and Guizhou in southwestern China, in which guests sleep in the homes of villagers along the way. Cozy to be sure, but what an intimate way to learn about a culture. Another tourist, Intrepid, keeps costs—and carbon emissions—down by using public transportation when possible, such as a bus ride through Turkey on its Silk Road journey.

Our coverage, organized into three categories—active, classic, and cultural—includes 50 tour listings. You won't find any $50,000 round-the-world-by-private-jet tours on this year's list. On the other hand, many of the tours don't necessarily qualify as "cheap." Sustainable, nonexploitive travel attempts to give back to the community, and comfort costs money. But every tour, whatever its price tag, offers small-group, thoughtfully crafted experiences that are eco- and culturally sensitive, provide uncommon access, and foster interaction with locals. It's the perfect antidote for these tumultuous times, as we reexamine what is important and look for trips that are meaningful and restorative.
Magdalena Z.

A common question among frequent flyers and those apprehensive taking to the air the dangers of lightning to airplanes. Lightning, a frightening concept, is rarely dangerous to an airliner or its passengers. in the event of a direct lightning strike, the lightning does not penetrate through to the cabin, does it affect the engines or fuel tanks. Airliners are struck by lightning more frequently than we realise, with research from the University of Florida indicating that commercial planes are hit by lightning about once a year. In the event that an airliner is struck by lightning, the electrical charges of the lightning simply pass through the length of the aircraft and leave through designated static wicks located on the flaps or tail of the plane.

Many lightning strikes to airliners are initiated by the aircraft, with most occurring during the climb or and when the airliner is in a cloud. Only a small number of airliners have been blown up by lightning, a Pan American flight which killed 83 people in 1963. More recently, the of an Air France jet that hit a patch of lightning and storms the Atlantic Ocean on 31 May 2009 is suspected to have been caused by a lightning strike which disabled the airliner. However improvements to radar technology and weather forecasting now make lightning, and the thunderstorms which create them, easier to avoid. Lightning is not the only natural cause that can airliners. Turbulence is a much more frequent problem faced by airliners than lightning, with almost all airline passages having experienced turbulence on a flight at one point or . Turbulence is used to describe an air movement that usually cannot be seen and often occurs without . Turbulence cannot be by radar technology.

ANSWERS:

1. of
2. concerns
3. although
4. even
5. nor
6. itself
7. descent
8. including
9. disappearance/catastrophe/crash
10. over
11. interfere
12. another
13. warning
14. detected