

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

New Zealand Speed Readings for ESL Learners

1000 Word List

Sonia Millett

**English Language Institute
Occasional Publication No. 25**

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VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
TE WHARE WĀNANGA
O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI



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Introduction

New Zealand Speed Readings for ESL Learners 1000 was written at the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The programme contains twenty 400 word readings, each with ten comprehension questions. The passages are written within Paul Nation's 1000 Vocabulary Lists (1996). Exceptions are words that are explained in the text, titles of passages, content words like country names and animal names, and some common words like television, cell phone and internet.

Principles of a speed reading programme

A speed reading programme should isolate the skill that is being practised which is increasing the speed of a student's reading. It is important not to confuse the purpose of the exercise with increasing vocabulary, improving reading comprehension or anything else. A speed reading programme is only a small part of an overall reading programme and while success with the programme may lead to benefits such as increasing confidence and the effectiveness and enjoyment of reading, the focus is speed.

1. The focus is speed. While reading without understanding would be pointless, the goal of speed reading is not to achieve perfect accuracy in answering the questions. If students are getting all the answers right, they are reading too slowly. The goal is the fastest time with about 70 percent accuracy.
2. The readings should be easy. There should be very little unknown vocabulary and the grammar should be straightforward. There should be nothing to stop the readers in their tracks. Similarly the questions should test general understanding rather than detailed knowledge. Questions about specific details slow down reading.
3. The method of reading is important. Students should not use their fingers or pens to trace the words as this encourages slow word-by-word reading. By reading quickly, students are training their eyes to process meaning chunks.
4. Gaining confidence is an important aspect of the programme. A lot of learning is getting past the 'I can't do it' barrier. A speed reading programme can push the student through this barrier. Teachers can help by setting individual and class goals and time limits. Success in speed reading engenders confidence, and confidence leads to enjoyment, motivation and more success. The virtuous circle. (Nuttall, 1996).
5. A speed reading programme should be intensive. Complete the twenty readings by doing them every day for four weeks.
6. Speed reading should be an isolated activity. Don't plan a follow up activity with the readings. When students realise they will be doing a follow-up activity, they will concentrate on comprehension and slow down.

7. Recording the time and score is important as seeing daily progress is a very effective motivator for students. It is also a good way for the teacher to monitor progress, give feedback and encouragement, and set individual and class goals.

Instructions for teachers

Determine the level of vocabulary knowledge of the class by administering a vocabulary levels test, for example Schmitt et al (2001).

Photocopy class sets of the readings. These can be put into plastic sleeves to prolong life. The readings can be done in any order so it is not necessary for all students to be working on the same reading. You could make a few sets and then have students choose a reading they haven't done yet.

Introduce the programme to the class by explaining the procedure and the reasons for doing a speed reading programme.

Over the next month you will be doing a daily speed reading exercise which involves reading a short passage and answering 10 comprehension questions.

Speed reading is only one of the many ways that the class will be studying reading. The focus of the speed reading programme will be to increase reading speed. Accuracy in answering the questions is not the main consideration. Aim for the fastest time with about 70 percent accuracy.

Reading quickly is an important skill for native and non-native speakers and most people can double their reading speed with practice (Nation, 1991). This skill will be necessary at university to cope with heavy reading requirements and for tests. In addition, the faster you read, the more effective and enjoyable it will be. Research suggests that an improvement in reading leads to benefits across all other language skills. An example is the Book Flood (Elley & Mangubhai, 1979).

The passages are all 400 words long and the vocabulary is controlled. The topics relate to New Zealand and the passages and questions are not supposed to be difficult.

While reading, don't use a pointer or your finger to trace each word because this will make you read slowly word-by-word. Try to read in meaning chunks.

Answer the questions from memory. Don't turn back and look at the passage.

Instructions to students

1. Give out the answer sheet and the graph for recording times and comprehension scores.
2. Display an online stopwatch so that students can time themselves.

3. Give out the readings and say START.
4. Students read as quickly as they can.
5. When they reach the end of the passage, they look up and note down their time.
6. They then turn over the paper and answer the questions without turning back to the passage.
7. When they finish answering the questions they check their answers.
8. They record their time and comprehension score on the graph.

As students finish recording their times and scores on their graphs, the teacher can walk around to check progress and collect the readings. If a student is scoring 8, 9 or 10 on the comprehension questions, encourage them to read faster next time. You can set individual goals by drawing a line on a student's graph.

After about half the readings have been completed, it is time to start reducing the maximum time allowed from 3 minutes to 2.50 to 2.40. While many students will already be reading more quickly than this, there will be some who take as long as they are given and these students can be helped to push through the barrier. If a student does not finish reading the passage in the time allowed, they should still turn over and try to answer the questions. Their goal is to finish in the time allowed the next day.

Once students see their graphs going up, they are motivated to read faster each day. By looking across to the right-hand side they can see their words per minute. If a student makes no improvement in time and continues to score below 6 correct answers, this is a signal to the teacher that they need additional reading help.

Speed Reading Booklets

Asian and Pacific Speed Readings for ESL Learners (1000)

New Zealand Speed Readings for ESL Learners 1000 Word List

New Zealand Speed Readings for ESL Learners, Book One (2000)

New Zealand Speed Readings for ESL Learners, Book Two (2000 plus AWL)

Speed Readings for ESL Learners 500 BNC (World stories)

Speed Readings for ESL learners 3000 BNC (General topics)

Speed Readings for ESL learners 4000 BNC (General topics)

Available from: <http://www.vicbooks.co.nz> and
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/sonia-millett>

A model of a daily fluency programme incorporating speed readings

A daily fluency programme attends to the fluency component of Nation's four strands of a successful English programme (2007). Students use and practise the four skills of English: writing, speaking, reading and listening by accessing the language they have stored in their heads. The focus is fluency so accuracy feedback is not given.

Each student buys a small exercise book (ideally size 1B4). They tape the speed reading answer key and graph to the inside back cover for daily use. They bring the exercise book to class every day and the teacher collects it once a week.

1. Quickwrite

Five to ten minutes writing on a topic generated by the students with emphasis on fluency and flow of ideas. The goal is to write as much as possible without the use of an eraser or dictionary. Students write in the back of their journals. The topics might include myself, my family, my home town, my best friend, weather, cats, studying English, a graded reader, a media story, independent study and so on. The topics start very easy and become more sophisticated over the course of the programme. The students demonstrate an increasing willingness to tackle any topic.

2. Quickspeak

Three to five minutes of speaking without pauses to a listening partner on the quickwrite topic. Then students change roles. It is good to number off students to form pairs as this ensures a different partner every day. It is also a good idea to have the students stand up while they are speaking. They should be speaking as fluently as they can and they shouldn't be reading their quickwrites.

3. Quickread

Speed reading

4. Quicklisten

Each day students listen to a chapter (five to ten minutes) of the audio recording of a graded reader and simultaneously answer quick questions. Examples of quicklistens and worksheets are available on <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/sonia-millett>

These activities should take about 40 minutes and may be combined with a weekly fluency journal depending on the level and needs of the students.

5. Fluency Journals

Students write three pages of free writing every week. They are encouraged to treat their journals as a quickwrite exercise and take not more than 20 minutes per page. Topics can be set by the teacher or students can choose their own topics. Examples might be: one page about their independent learning, one about their extensive reading and the third page on their own topic. It can be helpful to start the programme with a brainstorm of possible topics. Journals are collected once a week, read and commented on for content, not accuracy, by the teacher and returned to students.

New Zealand Speed Readings for ESL Learners - 1000

1. Arriving in New Zealand
2. Kiwi
3. Immigration
4. New Zealand Food
5. Hangi
6. New Zealand Pets
7. How the kiwi lost its wings
8. Interesting facts about New Zealand
9. Sheep
10. Lake Taupo
11. Middle Earth
12. Inter-island Ferry
13. Seeing New Zealand by train
14. Pavlova
15. Te Papa
16. Pania
17. Sky Tower
18. Fish and Chips
19. Shortland Street
20. Cricket

1. Arriving in New Zealand

Culture shock is what happens when you arrive in a new country and everything is different and strange. People come to a new country for many reasons: for a holiday, to study or to live forever. If you are only coming to a new country for a holiday, it's not so bad because the main reason for travel is to experience new and different things. However, if you have come for five years of university study or to live here forever, then culture shock can make you feel terrible. Some people think, "Oh my God, what have I done?!"

What are some of the things that surprise or shock people when they come to New Zealand? Many people experience culture shock when they realise they have left everyone and everything they know behind: family, friends, home and culture. It may be years before they can visit their home country and some may never go back. People who come from non-English speaking countries may be shocked by the language. They can't understand what people are saying and they can't read the road signs. Many new arrivals are shocked or surprised by the weather. It's colder, or maybe hotter. There's more rain and the weather is more changeable. Many people are surprised that the weather can change so suddenly and you that can experience summer, autumn, winter and spring in one day. It can be difficult to decide what to wear if it's sunny in the morning but windy and cold in the afternoon. Sometimes people get bad colds because of this, and feeling unwell doesn't help them to accept their new situation.

What about the food? Getting used to New Zealand food can be difficult, especially for students who live with homestay families. Missing your own food can make you homesick. Getting used to a new culture is difficult too. Everyone has a story about feeling stupid because they made a mistake or did something which is right in one culture but wrong in another.

The good thing is culture shock is a recognised feeling which usually goes through four different stages. At first, everything seems new and exciting. This is followed by a feeling of not understanding anything and being angry and worried. Next, there is a period of time when you are getting used to the new situation. In the end, you become a New Zealander - a Kiwi.

1. Arriving in New Zealand

1. Culture shock happens when you:
 - a. meet new people
 - b. go for a holiday
 - c. go to a new country
2. Culture shock can make you feel:
 - a. happy
 - b. terrible
 - c. excited
3. The main reason for travel is to:
 - a. experience culture shock
 - b. meet new people
 - c. try new things
4. Which statement is true?
 - a. Some people never go home again.
 - b. Everyone returns home.
 - c. Nobody returns to their home.
5. Many new arrivals can't:
 - a. talk on the telephone
 - b. talk with their neighbours
 - c. talk with their family back home
6. The weather in New Zealand is:
 - a. hotter
 - b. different
 - c. changeable
7. Sometimes people get ill because of the:
 - a. weather
 - b. food
 - c. language
8. Missing your own food can make you:
 - a. homesick
 - b. hungry
 - c. fat
9. How many stages does culture shock have?
 - a. 3
 - b. 4
 - c. 5
10. In the end, you become a:
 - a. tourist
 - b. new arrival
 - c. Kiwi

2. Kiwi

What is a kiwi? In the beginning, kiwi was the Maori word for a native bird. However, over time, the word kiwi has come to have two other quite different meanings.

First, let's look at kiwi the bird. The kiwi is about the size of a chicken. It is brown, has long legs, very small wings and it can't fly. Kiwi come out at night to look for food and they sleep in the day. When Maori first arrived in New Zealand about 800 years ago, kiwi were everywhere. In fact, there were many kinds of birds that couldn't fly throughout the country. Why were there so many birds that couldn't fly? The answer is that before people came to New Zealand there were no land animals at all. This meant that the birds had no enemies so they didn't need to fly and therefore they lost the use of their wings. It was bad news for kiwi and other flightless birds when people and their animals started to arrive in New Zealand because the birds were easy to catch and they were very good to eat.

The second meaning of kiwi is the people of New Zealand. New Zealanders are called Kiwis both at home and overseas. You can say, "She's a Kiwi. Do you like Kiwi food? That's the Kiwi Prime Minister." The word Kiwi was first used in the army by New Zealand soldiers fighting in wars overseas. The name seems to have started in the early 1900s. The Oxford English Dictionary first included the word in 1918.

The third meaning of kiwi is kiwifruit, often shortened to just 'kiwi' overseas. There are several varieties of kiwifruit but the most common one is about the size of a very large egg. It has a rough brown skin and a soft green sweet centre. Kiwifruit is a native of northern China and was brought to New Zealand in 1904 by a visiting school teacher. At first it was called Chinese Gooseberry. The fruit grew very well in New Zealand and when it began to be exported they were named kiwi because they looked something like the kiwi bird. In the late 1960s to the early 1970s kiwifruit exports increased quickly and they have become increasingly popular since that time.

The main thing to remember is that the word kiwi has three different meanings. Don't get them mixed up.

2. Kiwi

1. How many meanings does the word kiwi have?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
2. What was the first meaning?
 - a. bird
 - b. fruit
 - c. people
3. The kiwi is as big as a:
 - a. cat
 - b. chicken
 - c. bird
4. Kiwi sleep:
 - a. at night
 - b. in the day
 - c. most of the time
5. Before people came to New Zealand, kiwi had no natural:
 - a. enemies
 - b. food
 - c. friends
6. Kiwi were easy to catch because:
 - a. they had short legs
 - b. they were too fat
 - c. they couldn't fly
7. Kiwi meaning a person was first used in the:
 - a. early 2000s
 - b. early 1900s
 - c. early 1800s
8. A kiwifruit is the size of a:
 - a. very large egg
 - b. very small kiwi
 - c. very large orange
9. The first name for kiwifruit was:
 - a. Vietnamese Gooseberry
 - b. English Gooseberry
 - c. Chinese Gooseberry
10. Kiwifruit were brought to New Zealand by a:
 - a. farmer
 - b. school teacher
 - c. doctor

3. Immigration

New Zealand is a land of immigration which means that people from countries all over the world have moved here and made New Zealand their home. Even the first people of New Zealand, the Maori, came to this country about a thousand years ago from somewhere else, most likely from islands in the Pacific Ocean. They travelled across the Pacific Ocean in boats called canoes.

The next group of people to come to New Zealand were from countries on the other side of the world, such as Holland and Britain. They came in ships that sailed the seas trying to discover new countries that were unknown in Europe. They made maps and tried to claim the new countries for their own governments. They didn't stay long, but when they returned to their own countries with news of new places, other people followed.

The next group came for the whales and seals which lived in the seas around New Zealand. They came to catch these sea animals for their oil which they took back to Europe. Some of these men stayed, married Maori women and started families.

In the early 1880s, many people from Britain started immigrating to New Zealand to make a better life for themselves and their families. As more people arrived, they bought or just took Maori land to start farms. This is when trouble began between the local people and the new arrivals. In 1840, an agreement was signed between many Maori chiefs and representatives of the British Government. It was called the Treaty of Waitangi.

After that, people began to arrive in New Zealand in increasing numbers. Gold was discovered on the West Coast and people came to find the gold and get rich. The gold fields needed services and more people came to build towns. In the 1890s, the British Government started a programme to help people to come to New Zealand. People came to farm, to trade and to do business.

Since then, people from all over the world have made New Zealand their home. Today, according to the 2013 Census (a study of the population), the top five groups of people are as follows: European 74%, Maori 15%, Asian 12%, Pacific 7% and Middle Eastern 1%. This adds up to more than 100% because some people belong to more than one group. Because of immigration, New Zealand is a country of many cultures.

3. Immigration

1. Immigration means:
 - a. visiting a new country
 - b. studying in a new country
 - c. coming to live in a new country
2. Maori probably came to New Zealand from:
 - a. Pacific islands
 - b. Australia
 - c. South America
3. Canoes are:
 - a. people
 - b. places
 - c. boats
4. After the Maori:
 - a. Australians arrived
 - b. Europeans arrived
 - c. Americans arrived
5. The next group of people came to catch:
 - a. sea birds
 - b. sea animals
 - c. sea insects
6. The Treaty of Waitangi is:
 - a. an agreement
 - b. a place
 - c. an immigrant
7. Generally, immigrants come to a new country:
 - a. to study
 - b. to make a better life
 - c. to be farmers
8. In the 1890s, people came to look for:
 - a. oil
 - b. silver
 - c. gold
9. A Census is a study of:
 - a. immigration
 - b. population
 - c. education
10. Which statement is not true?
 - a. There are more Maori people than Pacific people.
 - b. There are more Asian people than Maori people.
 - c. There are more European people than Maori people.

4. New Zealand Food

Because New Zealand is a country of immigration, you can find food from all over the world here. The first people, the Maori, had their own ways of cooking and if you are lucky you may be asked to join a 'kai', the Maori word for a meal or food.

Meals in New Zealand usually follow a Western pattern. Breakfast is tea or coffee with toast and butter. Weet-Bix and Corn Flakes are also popular breakfast foods. They are served with milk and sometimes with sugar or fruit. In the middle of the morning people have morning tea or coffee and something small to eat. For lunch, Kiwis eat sandwiches, salads or fruit, and then in the middle of the afternoon it's time for another cup of tea or coffee. For most people the main meal of the day is dinner, which is eaten at about 6 or 7 o'clock after people get home from work. The evening meal is usually some kind of meat such as chicken, pork or fish with potatoes and vegetables, or maybe a rice dish. Some people follow the main course with dessert which is fruit or something sweet.

At the weekend, Kiwis often go out to a café with friends for breakfast or lunch. Brunch is very popular. It is a mixture of breakfast and lunch and is eaten at about 10 or 11 o'clock. For brunch you might have eggs, French toast or pancakes, and you will probably have some kind of coffee with your meal: cappuccino, flat white, long black, short black or Americano. So many choices!

Eating out in restaurants is increasingly popular for people who have enough money. There is a wide variety of restaurants. You can eat Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, French, Ethiopian, Thai or Middle Eastern food, to name only some. There is also a wide variety in prices. You can get a wonderful plate of chicken, vegetables and rice for under \$15 and feel full after eating it. On the other hand, you can pay \$50 a plate at some expensive restaurants, and then you have to pay extra for vegetables or salad.

There are Asian and European supermarkets where you can buy almost anything you need to make your own country's food, and there are weekend farmers' markets where you can buy naturally grown fresh fruit and vegetables as well as special home-made produce.

4. New Zealand Food

1. In New Zealand you can find food from:
 - a. some countries
 - b. many countries
 - c. a few countries
2. In Maori, kai does not mean:
 - a. food
 - b. drink
 - c. meal
3. Weet-Bix and Corn Flakes are eaten for:
 - a. breakfast
 - b. lunch
 - c. dinner
4. In New Zealand the main meal of the day is usually:
 - a. breakfast
 - b. lunch
 - c. dinner
5. Dessert is served:
 - a. before the main course
 - b. at the same time as the main course
 - c. after the main course
6. Long black, short black and flat white are kinds of:
 - a. tea
 - b. coffee
 - c. brunch
7. Eating out in restaurants has:
 - a. become more popular over the years
 - b. become less popular over the years
 - c. stayed about the same
8. Eating out in restaurants can be:
 - a. expensive
 - b. cheap
 - c. a and b
9. You can buy most things you need to make your own country's food.
 - a. at farmers' markets
 - b. in special supermarkets
 - c. at New World Supermarket
10. Farmers' markets are usually held:
 - a. in the weekend
 - b. on Friday
 - c. Monday to Friday

5. Hangi

Hangi is an old Maori way of preparing food. The food is cooked on heated stones under the ground which gives it a special smoky taste.

Many kinds of food can be cooked in a hangi. The most common ones are meat such as pork, fish and chicken, and vegetables such as potatoes and kumara (a kind of sweet potato with a red skin). Each area has its own way of 'putting down' a hangi but the basic way of doing it is as follows.

First the food is prepared for cooking. The pork is cut into large pieces. The chickens are cooked whole. The vegetables are cut into pieces and washed ready for cooking. All the food is placed into baskets and put to one side until the hangi is ready. A large hole is dug in the ground and when this is done a fire is lit in the bottom of the hole. It has to be a big fire that will burn for a long time. Once the fire is going well, stones are placed in the fire so that they get hot. This can take up to three or four hours. After the fire has died down and all the wood has burned away, the baskets of food are placed on top of the hot stones. Some water is thrown on top of the food to make steam and then the baskets are covered with cloth. In earlier days, the food was completely covered with leaves. The last step is to cover the leaves or cloth with earth. After the hangi hole is covered, it is left for two or three hours to cook. After this time, the hangi is uncovered, the cloth or leaves are carefully lifted away and the food is ready to serve.

A hangi is 'put down' when a large group of family and friends come together for a party or a special occasion.

The hangi has changed over time. In the 1900s metal baskets became widely used to hold the food. Before this, the food was placed directly onto leaves on top of the hot stones. Recently some clever person invented a hangi machine which looks like a square box, and operates like a barbeque with red hot iron or steel instead of stones. Now it is much easier for anyone to enjoy a hangi in their own back garden.

5. Hangi

1. Hangi is a Maori way of:
 - a. cooking
 - b. making a fire
 - c. eating
2. A Hangi tastes:
 - a. sweet
 - b. smoky
 - c. salty
3. Food is cooked:
 - a. in boiling water
 - b. over a fire
 - c. under the ground
4. Kumara are a kind of:
 - a. meat
 - b. vegetable
 - c. fruit
5. Chickens are cooked:
 - a. whole
 - b. in large pieces
 - c. in small pieces
6. What is placed directly on the fire?
 - a. leaves
 - b. food
 - c. stones
7. Which statement is true?
 - a. In earlier days, food was covered with cloth.
 - b. In modern times, food is covered with leaves.
 - c. In old times, food was covered with leaves.
8. How long does it take to prepare and cook a hangi?
 - a. 1 to 3 hours
 - b. 5 to 7 hours
 - c. 2 days
9. A hangi is often put down for:
 - a. a big special occasion
 - b. a small family dinner
 - c. Christmas lunch
10. A hangi machine looks like:
 - a. a barbeque
 - b. a square box
 - c. a hole in the ground

6. New Zealand Pets

Pets are very popular in New Zealand where about 70% of homes have at least one pet. The most popular kinds of pets are cats and dogs, with about 50% of people owning one or more cats, while 29% of homes are dog-owning. There are also many other kinds of pets such as fish and birds.

There are many wonderful things about keeping a pet. They are lovely, loving and lovable. They make great friends and often become family members. The average life of a dog or cat is 14 years. However, some live to 17 or 18 and the oldest cat on record was 23. It is no wonder they are treated as part of the family. The death of a pet is a very sad experience.

Before you decide to get a pet you need to think very carefully, especially if you are planning on getting a baby animal like a kitten or a puppy. Often people visit a pet shop and fall in love with a puppy or a kitten. They are so lovely, it's hard not to. However, before you buy a pet you must consider three things. First, who is going to look after it? A puppy grows into a dog and a dog needs regular exercise. Can you take it for a walk twice a day? A kitten grows into a cat and cats love to attack furniture. Are you prepared to have your cat destroy your favourite furniture? Second, young animals need to be toilet-trained and this takes a long time, hard work and patience. Are you prepared to deal with accidents inside the house without getting angry? Also remember that having a pet is a long term duty, perhaps fifteen years or more. The oldest dog that ever lived was 29 years and five months old!

In New Zealand, one place to get a pet is the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). This organisation takes in homeless animals and finds people to give them a home.

Once you have your pet, there are services to help you if you have enough money: puppy schools, dog walkers, pet hotels, doggy day care, and special animal doctors called vets. Animal medical services are almost as good as human medical services, and many pet owners spend thousands of dollars to make sure their loved pet has the best life possible.

6. New Zealand Pets

1. About how many New Zealand homes have pets?
 - a. 50%
 - b. 60%
 - c. 70%
2. What is the most popular pet?
 - a. cats
 - b. dogs
 - c. birds
3. The average life of a cat or dog is:
 - a. 10 years
 - b. 14 years
 - c. 20 years
4. How old was the oldest cat on record?
 - a. 17
 - b. 23
 - c. 30
5. Pets are often treated as part of the family.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given
6. Looking after kittens and puppies:
 - a. is easy
 - b. takes a lot of time
 - c. is always enjoyable
7. What animals like to attack furniture?
 - a. birds
 - b. dogs
 - c. cats
8. Baby animals have to be toilet trained.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given
9. How old was the oldest dog on record?
 - a. almost 25
 - b. almost 30
 - c. almost 35
10. A vet is an animal:
 - a. owner
 - b. teacher
 - c. doctor

7. How the kiwi lost its wings

One day many years ago, Tanemahuta, the god of the forest was walking under the trees. He looked up and noticed that many of the trees, who he called his children, were getting ill and some of them were dying. He was very sad and he looked around to see what was causing his children to get ill. He saw that there were many different kinds of insects on the ground and they were eating the tree roots and this was the reason why the trees were dying. He was very worried and knew he had to do something to stop the insects from eating the trees. If the trees died, the birds would have nowhere to live, so he told his brother Tanehokahoka (the god of the birds) to call a meeting of all the birds of the forest.

Tanemahuta spoke to the birds and said, "Something is eating my children. I need one of you to come down from the trees and live on the forest floor to save my trees."

All was quiet. None of the birds spoke. Tanemahuta said, "How about you, Tui?" Tui looked down and saw that the forest floor was dark and said, "No, I won't come down because I'm frightened of the dark." Tanemahuta turned to Pukeko and said, "How about you, Pukeko?" But Pukeko said, "No I won't come down because the forest floor is very wet. I don't want to get my feet wet."

At last, Tanemahuta turned to Kiwi and said, "How about you, Kiwi? Will you come down and live on the forest floor to save the trees?" Kiwi looked around at the trees and the sunlight and said, "Yes I will." Tanemahuta turned to Kiwi and told the little bird, "If you come down, your legs will get very big and your wings will get small and you will never see the sunlight again."

"I will come." said Kiwi sadly.

Tanemahuta turned to Tui and said, "Because you were too frightened to come down, you will always wear two white feathers to show you are not brave." Then he turned to Pukeko. "Because you did not want to get your feet wet, you will forever live in wet places."

Then he turned to Kiwi and said, "Because of your good heart, you will become the most loved of all the birds." And that is exactly what happened.

7. How the kiwi lost its wings

1. The story happened:
 - a. a long time ago
 - b. a short time ago
 - c. several years ago
2. Tanemahuta was:
 - a. the god of the birds
 - b. the god of the forest
 - c. the god of everything
3. Why was Tanemahuta sad?
 - a. His wife was angry with him.
 - b. His brother was unhappy.
 - c. His children were ill.
4. What did he see on the ground?
 - a. a lot of insects
 - b. a lot of birds
 - c. a lot of animals
5. Who called a meeting of all the birds?
 - a. Tanemahuta's brother
 - b. Tanemahuta's daughter
 - c. Tanemahuta's father
6. Tanemahuta asked the birds to:
 - a. stay in the trees
 - b. fly away to another forest
 - c. come down to the forest floor
7. Which statement is true?
 - a. Tui was afraid of the dark.
 - b. Tui was afraid of the animals.
 - c. Tui was afraid of the insects
8. Which statement is true:
 - a. Pukeko didn't like to get cold.
 - b. Pukeko didn't like to get wet.
 - c. Pukeko didn't like to get dirty.
9. Did Kiwi come down happily?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. not given
10. Who has two white feathers?
 - a. Kiwi
 - b. Pukeko
 - c. Tui


8. Interesting facts about New Zealand

- There are seven sheep for every person in New Zealand. That's over 30 million! Sheep meat and sheep wool have been exported from New Zealand since the mid-19th century and today sheep products make up 30% of exports.

- The longest place name in New Zealand (and also in the world) is:

Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu

It means the place where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, who climbed and ate mountains, known as the land-eater, played music to his loved ones. It is the name of a hill on the East Coast of New Zealand and it has 85 letters.

- New Zealand is an island nation. There is sea all around us. Wherever you go in New Zealand, you will never be more than 120 kilometres from the sea.
- New Zealand has no dangerous wild animals, snakes or insects. There is one dangerous spider,  but it is not seen very often and not many people have seen it or been bitten by it. This makes New Zealand a very safe place to go walking in the forest.
- Because the International Date Line is directly to the east of New Zealand, we are the first country in the world to see the sun rise and begin each day. If we travel to the USA we lose a day, but don't worry. On the return journey we get it back again.
- Before people came to New Zealand there were no land animals at all. This meant that the birds had no enemies to fly away from. Because of this, many native birds lost the ability to fly. One of these flightless birds was called the Moa. It was a very large bird standing 3.6 metres tall and weighing up to 300 kilograms. When people first came to New Zealand about 1000 years ago, it was bad news for the Moa. By the end of the 1600s the Moa had completely disappeared from New Zealand.
- New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the vote. This happened in 1893.
- In 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander, and Sherpa Tensing, who came from Nepal, were the first two people to climb the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest. A picture of Sir Edmund Hillary appears on the New Zealand \$5 note.
- Except for the North and South Poles, New Zealand was the last large land area to have people living on it.

8. Interesting facts about New Zealand

1. Which statement is true?
 - a. There are seven people for every cow.
 - b. There are seven sheep for every person.
 - c. There are seven cows for every sheep.
2. Sheep products are important exports for New Zealand.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given
3. The longest Maori place name has:
 - a. 49 letters
 - b. 67 letters
 - c. 85 letters
4. 120 km is the longest distance between:
 - a. any two places in New Zealand
 - b. any place and the sea
 - c. any place and the mountains
5. The only dangerous living thing in New Zealand is:
 - a. an insect
 - b. a bird
 - c. a spider
6. The International Date Line is to:
 - a. the east of New Zealand
 - b. the west of New Zealand
 - c. the north of New Zealand
7. Before people came to New Zealand, there were:
 - a. no land animals
 - b. some land animals
 - c. a lot of land animals
8. The Moa was not:
 - a. a large bird
 - b. a small bird
 - c. a flightless bird
9. New Zealand was the:
 - a. first
 - b. second
 - c. thirdcountry to give women the vote.
10. Sir Edmund Hillary's picture is on the:
 - a. \$20 note
 - b. \$10 note
 - c. \$5 note

9. Sheep

The famous Irish writer, George Bernard Shaw, visited New Zealand in 1934. When people asked him what he thought of the country, he replied, “too many sheep”.

Sheep farming has played a very important part in New Zealand’s history since the first sheep were brought here in the late 18th century. Captain James Cook, the first European to set foot on New Zealand, brought sheep here in 1773. However, it wasn’t until the middle of the 1900s that sheep farming became the most important farming industry. Wool from sheep was the number one export for the next 30 years. When a system for keeping meat as cold as ice was invented in 1882, meat became the main New Zealand export to Britain for the next 100 years.

After the 1980s, as milk products such as butter and cheese became more profitable, cows took over from sheep as the main kind of farming. Sheep numbers were recorded at 70 million in 1982 but today that number has dropped to around 30 million. Even so, New Zealand still produces about half of the international trade in sheep meat.

Nowadays, for every person in New Zealand, there are seven sheep. However, unlike the human population which mainly lives in the North Island, most sheep are found in the South Island. The dry weather in the South Island is exactly right for sheep farming and very large sheep farms were set up. Some of these farms have several thousand sheep, although the average number of sheep per farm is around 1,300 animals.

There are many different kinds of sheep. Some sheep produce very good wool, but not very good meat. For example the Merino, which was first brought here from Spain. Other kinds of sheep produce very good meat, but not such good wool. Romney sheep are especially suitable for New Zealand conditions because they provide very good quality wool and meat. They also seem to like New Zealand’s changeable weather.

A very good way to take part in a New Zealand farming experience is to visit the Agrodome in Rotorua. You can go on a farm tour, watch sheep being shorn (given a haircut) and see farm dogs working with sheep. You can enjoy a sheep show where you will see the different kinds of sheep, and if you are lucky you can feed a baby sheep from a bottle of milk.

9. Sheep

1. In 1934, George Bernard Shaw said New Zealand had:
 - a. a lot of sheep
 - b. not enough sheep
 - c. too many sheep
2. Sheep have played an important part in New Zealand history.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given
3. Sheep were first brought here by:
 - a. Maori
 - b. Europeans
 - c. Canadians
4. At first, sheep were important for their:
 - a. wool
 - b. meat
 - c. milk
5. Why did sheep exports start to go down in the 1980s?
 - a. Cows became more profitable.
 - b. A system for keeping meat cold was invented.
 - c. People wanted a change.
6. Which statement is true?
 - a. Most New Zealanders live in the South Island.
 - b. Most New Zealanders live in the North Island.
 - c. The numbers are about the same.
7. Which statement is true?
 - a. Most sheep live in the South Island.
 - b. Most sheep live in the North Island.
 - c. The numbers are the same.
8. The largest sheep farms have:
 - a. hundreds of sheep
 - b. thousands of sheep
 - c. millions of sheep
9. At a sheep show you can watch:
 - a. cats working with sheep
 - b. horses working with sheep
 - c. dogs working with sheep
10. Romney sheep are good because they produce:
 - a. wool
 - b. meat
 - c. wool and meat

10. Lake Taupo

Lake Taupo is one of the most famous tourist places in New Zealand and Taupo is the town on the edge of the lake. Each year over two million people from around the world visit Lake Taupo to enjoy the natural beauty and the many activities such as fishing and water sports. The most popular time to visit is Christmas and New Year, and even though there are hundreds of places to stay, they are often all full over the holiday period.

Lake Taupo is situated in a large area in the middle of the North Island which was formed by volcanoes (see picture). If you drive from Wellington to Auckland you will go along the Desert Road. The Desert Road crosses a very high flat desert area which was formed by volcanic activity. It is not a desert like in Saudi Arabia or Africa; it is a high cold dry desert and nothing much grows there. On your left you will see the three high volcanoes that formed the desert. After you have driven past these three mountains you reach Lake Taupo.

The lake was formed 26,500 years ago by an 'eruption'. That means that part of the earth blew up like a bomb. It was the biggest eruption experienced in the world in the last 70,000 years. The eruption made a very large hole in the earth which slowly filled with water over time. Lake Taupo covers an area of 616 square kilometres, almost the same size as Singapore. At its deepest point it reaches 186 metres.

One of the activities you can do at Lake Taupo is fishing. You will see people in boats, standing at the edge of the lake or even standing in the water trying to catch a fish for dinner. There are many kinds of adventure sports on and around Lake Taupo. You can go skydiving, bungy jumping or swimming. You can take a flight over the lake and the mountains for a bird's eye view. In November, you can take part in the Lake Taupo bicycle race. Last year about 8,000 people completed the 200 kilometre race around the lake.

On New Year's Eve a big party is held in Taupo, and at midnight thousands of people count down to the New Year. 10, 9, 8 . . .

Young or old, there is something for everyone to enjoy at Lake Taupo.

10. Lake Taupo

1. Lake Taupo is:
 - a. a volcano
 - b. a famous tourist place
 - c. a town
2. How many people visit every year?
 - a. over 1,000,000
 - b. over 2,000,000
 - c. over 3,000,000
3. The least popular time to visit is:
 - a. summer
 - b. winter
 - c. Christmas
4. Lake Taupo is in the:
 - a. north of the North Island
 - b. middle of the North Island
 - c. south of the North Island
5. If you travel between Auckland and Wellington, you will drive on a road called:
 - a. the Mountain Road
 - b. the Lake Road
 - c. the Desert Road
6. The Lake is the same size as Singapore.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given
7. At its deepest point it is:
 - a. almost 50 metres
 - b. almost 100 metres
 - c. almost 200 metres
8. How many kinds of adventure sports can you do?
 - a. a few
 - b. a lot
 - c. not many
9. A bicycle race is held in:
 - a. January
 - b. April
 - c. November
10. What is held on New Year's Eve?
 - a. a bicycle race
 - b. a sports day
 - c. a big party

11. Middle Earth

Have you seen the *Lord of the Rings* movies? How about *The Hobbit*? These movies were directed by world-famous Kiwi director, Peter Jackson, and set in beautiful New Zealand. Middle Earth is the land where the story takes place, and for a while New Zealand was known as Middle Earth and Wellington was called the Middle of Middle Earth.

The movies were based on books written by J. R. R. Tolkien in the 1930s and 1940s. However, while *The Lord of the Rings* movies were made first, *The Hobbit* was written first.

It tells the story of a group of people and other strange characters like dwarves, elves and a hobbit called Bilbo Baggins. This strange group sets out on an adventure to find the gold and treasure that Smaug, a terrible dragon, stole from the dwarves many years ago. Bilbo Baggins, like most hobbits, would rather stay at home and enjoy regular meals, and quiet afternoons sleeping. However, on their journey, they meet many dangers and fight many terrible enemies. At last they reach the mountain where the dragon, Smaug, is sleeping on top of the treasure. The treasure is unbelievable: gold and silver as far as the eye can see! And Smaug doesn't want to lose a single thing. In the end, the dragon is killed and the dwarves get their treasure back.

Along the way, Bilbo Baggins has a secret adventure all his own. He finds a gold ring near a river under a mountain. When he puts the ring on his finger, he disappears and nobody can see him. The ring is very useful but Bilbo doesn't tell anyone about it and when he returns to his home he keeps the ring secret for many years.

The Lord of the Rings takes up the story many years later. It is discovered that Bilbo's ring has terrible powers and evil forces want to get it so that they can control the world. Again, a group of adventurers set off through Middle Earth to return the evil ring to Fire Mountain. If they can destroy the ring, the world will be saved. But that is another story.

Tolkien's stories have been popular for over 70 years and the books can be read in almost fifty different languages. Now, the movies are renewing interest for young people and attracting lots of tourists to New Zealand to visit Middle Earth.

11. Middle Earth

1. Who directed the Hobbit movies?
 - a. J. R. R. Tolkien
 - b. Peter Jackson
 - c. Bilbo Baggins
2. The stories take place in:
 - a. New Zealand
 - b. England
 - c. Middle Earth
3. Sometimes Wellington is called:
 - a. Middle Earth
 - b. The Middle of Middle Earth
 - c. North Middle Earth
4. The books were written by:
 - a. J. R. R. Tolkien
 - b. Peter Jackson
 - c. Bilbo Baggins
5. Which statement is not true?
 - a. The group have a lot of adventures.
 - b. The group meet many enemies.
 - c. Most hobbits like adventures.
6. Smaug is:
 - a. an elf
 - b. a dwarf
 - c. a dragon
7. Smaug is killed in the end.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given
8. What does the hobbit find under the mountain?
 - a. a secret ring
 - b. a secret knife
 - c. a secret river
9. Does he tell anyone about his find?
 - a. yes
 - b. no
 - c. not given
10. The books have been popular for:
 - a. over 50 years
 - b. over 60 years
 - c. over 70 years

12. Inter-island Ferry

New Zealand is an island country. It is made up of hundreds of small islands and two main ones, the North Island and the South Island. The area of water between the North and South Islands is called Cook Strait and at its narrowest point it is only 22 kilometres wide. If you travel from one end of the country to the other you have to cross this water on a boat called a ferry. The ferry goes between Wellington at the bottom of the North Island and Picton, a small town at the top of the South Island. Of course, you can fly between the two islands, but going on a ferry is good because you can take your car with you.

The ferry journey is a great experience. When the ferry leaves Wellington, you can stand outside and enjoy views of the hills and the city. Tourists are often surprised when they see many houses built on the sides of the hills. When you enter Cook Strait, you will notice that the water starts to get a little rougher and the wind may get a little stronger. Now you are in the open sea and it will take about an hour before you reach the calmer water near Picton. From Cook Strait you can see the mountains of both islands and in winter they will be covered in snow. When you reach the South Island, you enter the Marlborough Sounds. Sounds are like fingers of water that reach far into the land. As you sail up the sound you may be lucky enough to see dolphins following, leading or racing the ferry. They love to play with each other and jump into the air around the boat.

The ferry takes three hours so you have plenty of time to stand outside and look at the water, take photos, or make yourself comfortable with a good book inside. You can have a coffee or a meal at the café or watch a movie. There is a play area for children and a TV area as well.

Travelling on the ferry is a great experience but try to choose a fine day. Cook Strait is known as one of the most dangerous areas of sea in the world. If the weather is bad, it will be a rough ride. Either way, it's a New Zealand experience not to be missed!

12. Inter-island Ferry

1. New Zealand is made up of:
 - a. two main islands
 - b. many small islands
 - c. a and b
2. Cook Strait is:
 - a. between the South Island and the North Island
 - b. between New Zealand and Australia
 - c. in the Marlborough Sounds
3. The narrowest distance is:
 - a. about 20 km
 - b. about 30 km
 - c. about 40 km
4. The Inter-island ferries carry:
 - a. people
 - b. cars
 - c. people and cars
5. Where does the water get rougher?
 - a. near Wellington
 - b. near Picton
 - c. in the open sea
6. What can you see from the ferry?
 - a. the South Island mountains
 - b. the North Island mountains
 - c. a and b
7. The Marlborough Sounds are like:
 - a. fingers of water
 - b. legs of water
 - c. hands of water
8. How long does the ferry take?
 - a. two hours
 - b. three hours
 - c. four hours
9. What sometimes follow the ferry?
 - a. fish
 - b. dolphins
 - c. other boats
10. Cook Strait is a dangerous area of water.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given

13. Seeing New Zealand by Train

One way to see the country is to take a train. However, don't expect the fast trains that you find in Japan, Italy, China, France and many other countries. You will not be flying along at 300 kilometres an hour! To travel from Auckland to Wellington covers a distance of about 650 kilometres and it takes all day. Seeing New Zealand by train is slow. If you want to get from A to B as quickly as possible, don't take the train. However, if you want to really experience the beauty of the New Zealand countryside, the train is the way to go. There are three long not-to-be-missed train journeys.

Let's start in the north and head south. Climb onto the *Northern Explorer* in Auckland at 7.45 in the morning and be prepared to spend the day experiencing a wide variety of new sights. You will see farms, animals, forests, high dry desert country, small country towns and wild sea.

The train stops for lunch at a small town half way between Wellington and Auckland, and from there you can see the high mountains in the centre of the island. In winter you will see plenty of snow. Travel on to the capital, Wellington, and arrive at the station in the early evening.

The *Coastal Pacific Railway* travels along the East Coast of the South Island from Picton to Christchurch. The train travels between the wild seas of the Pacific Ocean on one side and the high snow covered mountains on the other. The journey takes about six hours and the train times are planned to meet up with the inter-island ferry to Wellington.

The third journey is the *TranzAlpine* which travels from Christchurch on the East Coast to Greymouth on the West Coast of the South Island. This has been described as one of the world's most famous train journeys. You will follow fast moving rivers and cross high bridges with the water far below. You will cross the southern mountains and along the way you will see farms and forests.

Many tourists only come for a very short stay and don't have time to spend a day getting from A to B. However, if you can slow down, and accept a much slower speed of life and a much older way of travelling, seeing New Zealand by train may turn out to be the journey of a lifetime.

13. Seeing New Zealand by Train

1. Trains in New Zealand are:
 - a. very fast
 - b. very expensive
 - c. very slow
2. How far is it from Auckland to Wellington?
 - a. 450 km
 - b. 650 km
 - c. 850 km
3. Some trains overseas travel at:
 - a. 300 km/h
 - b. 400 km/h
 - c. 500 km/h
4. It takes all day:
 - a. to travel from Auckland to Christchurch
 - b. to travel from Auckland to Wellington
 - c. to travel from Auckland to Ohakune
5. Don't take the train if:
 - a. you just want to get from A to B
 - b. you want to see beautiful sights
 - c. you want to experience New Zealand
6. How many long tourist train journeys are there in the North Island?
 - a. one
 - b. two
 - c. three
7. The *Coastal Pacific Railway* travels:
 - a. from Auckland to Wellington
 - b. from Picton to Christchurch
 - c. across the mountains
8. Which is one of the most famous train journeys in the world?
 - a. The *Northern Explorer*
 - b. The *Coastal Pacific Railway*
 - c. The *TranzAlpine*
9. Which train journey crosses the mountains?
 - a. The *Northern Explorer*
 - b. The *Coastal Pacific Railway*
 - c. The *TranzAlpine*
10. Travelling by train in New Zealand is not:
 - a. like going back in time
 - b. slowing down and watching the world go by
 - c. getting where you want to go quickly

14. Pavlova

New Zealand people sometimes eat fruit or something sweet after the main meal, especially on birthdays, at a dinner party, or on Christmas day. This sweet food is called a dessert. In earlier times, people had dessert most days. However, now that people are more interested in healthy food, desserts are usually enjoyed on special days.

Pavlova is a popular special day dessert in New Zealand. It is shaped like a large round cake but it is made out of the white part of eggs and sugar. It is very important that none of the yellow part of the egg gets into the mixture. If it does, you will not be able to make a pavlova successfully. First, you separate the whites from the yellow. Don't throw away the yellow part. It can be saved to make other kinds of food.

Put the egg whites in a very clean dry bowl and use an electric beater to beat the mixture hard. This takes about five minutes. When the egg mixture stands up in little points, it is time to start adding sugar. Do this very slowly until all the sugar is used up. Some people like to add a little salt to the mixture. Every family has its own way of making a 'pav'.

When the mixture is ready, pour it onto a flat oven dish in a nice round shape. It should be about four or five centimetres high. It is very important that the temperature is not too hot. Pavlova has to cook at a low heat and for quite a long time. When it is done, the outside should be a little hard, while the inside should be very soft. The outside should be white. If the outside has turned brown, it is cooked too much and you will have to start again. Let the pavlova get cold, put it carefully onto a beautiful plate and then put cream and fruit on the top. Strawberries or kiwifruit are very good.

Pavlova is thought to have been first made in honour of the Russian dancer Anna Pavlova when she visited New Zealand and Australia in the 1920s. Since that time, both New Zealand and Australia have claimed ownership of the pavlova and continue to argue about it.

Whichever country is the true owner, pavlova tastes very good and you should try some while you are in New Zealand.

14. Pavlova

1. A dessert is not:
 - a. sweet food
 - b. fruit
 - c. salty food
2. Desserts are:
 - a. more common now
 - b. less common now
 - c. about the same
3. Pavlova is:
 - a. an everyday dessert
 - b. a special dessert
 - c. only eaten on Christmas day
4. Pavlova is made of:
 - a. the white part of egg and sugar
 - b. the yellow part of egg and sugar
 - c. the whole egg and sugar
5. To make a pavlova you have to beat the eggs:
 - a. softly
 - b. hard
 - c. slowly
6. Who likes to add salt to a 'pav'?
 - a. everyone
 - b. no one
 - c. some people
7. A pavlova must be cooked:
 - a. slowly at a low temperature
 - b. quickly at a high temperature
 - c. quickly at a low temperature
8. When cooked, a pavlova should be:
 - a. nice and brown on the outside
 - b. hard in the middle
 - c. white and soft in the middle
9. Pavlova is named after:
 - a. a dancer
 - b. a movie star
 - c. an actor
10. Which two countries claim ownership of the pavlova?
 - a. Australia and England
 - b. England and New Zealand
 - c. New Zealand and Australia

15. Te Papa

A museum is a building in which interesting and valuable things are kept and shown to the public. The things may be of historical, artistic or scientific interest. Te Papa is the national museum and art gallery of New Zealand and it is full of wonderful treasures relating to New Zealand's past, present and future. The full name of the museum is Te Papa Tongarewa which means 'the place of treasures of this land', but everybody calls it Te Papa which means 'our place'.

Building started in 1992 and Te Papa was opened to the public on 14 February 1998. In its first five months of operation the museum had one million visitors, and since then over a million people have visited every year. It is on the top of the list of things to do for visitors to Wellington.

Te Papa is situated near the sea in the capital city, Wellington. It is a very large building covering 36,000 square metres. There are six floors of beautiful and interesting old and new things, meeting spaces, offices, work rooms, cafes and a cinema. There is also a gift shop where you can buy quality souvenirs of your visit to the museum and to New Zealand. When it was completed in 1998, Te Papa cost \$300,000,000.

The museum is divided into five areas: Art, History, Pacific, Maori and Nature. A good way to start your visit is to take a tour. Tours last an hour and are given in several different languages. A tour will give you an introduction to the museum and then you can come back and look around in your own time. It will take a few days to see everything there is to see, but don't worry. Entry to the museum is free so you can come back as many times as you want.

As you walk around the museum, you will see a lot of people in blue T-shirts. These people are there to help you so you can ask them questions about anything in the museum, or for directions if you have lost your way.

As well as the serious side of the museum - history, art works, and Maori culture - there are also many other enjoyable things to do for children of all ages. Children can spend hours playing science or nature games and everyone can discover more about New Zealand's past present and future.

15. Te Papa

1. A museum collects and stores:
 - a. interesting things
 - b. valuable things
 - c. interesting and valuable things
2. Te Papa means:
 - a. our museum
 - b. our place
 - c. our house
3. Te Papa has:
 - a. artistic and historical things
 - b. treasures and scientific things
 - c. all of the above
4. Te Papa was opened to the public in:
 - a. 1988
 - b. 1998
 - c. 2008
5. Te Papa is in:
 - a. Auckland
 - b. Wellington
 - c. Christchurch
6. According to the passage, Te Papa is:
 - a. large
 - b. middle size
 - c. small
7. How many floors does it have?
 - a. 4
 - b. 6
 - c. 8
8. Te Papa is:
 - a. free
 - b. cheap
 - c. expensive
9. What is a good way to start your visit?
 - a. start from the bottom and walk up
 - b. start at the top and walk down
 - c. take a 60-minute tour
10. If you have a question, ask someone in a:
 - a. blue T-shirt
 - b. yellow T-shirt
 - c. red T-shirt

16. Pania

A long time ago, a beautiful young woman named Pania lived with her people under the sea near Napier on the East Coast of New Zealand. She was a daughter of the Sea People. Every day Pania came out of the water. She sat on the rocks, brushing her long black hair and singing the songs of her people. One day she saw Karitoki, the good-looking young son of a Maori chief. They fell in love and Pania didn't want to return to her people under the sea. She wanted to stay with her human lover and their children. However, the people of the sea kept calling her to come back to them. Every day Karitoki asked her if she could hear the voices calling her to return, and every day she said, "Karitoki, I love only you. I will stay with you and spend the rest of my life by your side. I will never leave you and return to my home under the sea."

Every day Pania walked along the water's edge and her family called her but she was so much in love with her husband that she couldn't hear them calling. One day, she heard her mother's voice praying for her to leave her life on land and return to her home under the sea. She started to remember her family and her life under the sea. She remembered her beautiful mother and sisters. She remembered the wise voices of the old people who had taught her. She remembered the fish and the other animals of the sea who were her friends. She remembered her family and all the people who loved her. She tried not to listen to the voices, but one day she decided to visit them just one time.

The sea people caught her, held her and took her back down to the bottom of the deep sea. She never returned to her lover and her life on the land.

They say that if you pass over the place where Pania used to sit on the rocks, and look down into the water, you will see Pania trying to return to the land and her lover. Her tears form the waves and her long black hair moves in the water.

When you visit Napier and walk along the water's edge you can see Pania sitting on her rock waiting for her lover.

16. Pania

1. Pania lived:
 - a. in Napier
 - b. under the sea
 - c. on the East Coast
2. Which statement is true?
 - a. Her family were local Maori.
 - b. She was the daughter of the Sea People.
 - c. She had no family.
3. Every day she sat on a rock:
 - a. brushing her hair
 - b. looking in a mirror
 - c. looking out to sea
4. Every day she sang songs of:
 - a. love
 - b. the sea
 - c. her people
5. One day, she:
 - a. fell into the sea
 - b. fell in love
 - c. disappeared
6. She wanted to:
 - a. stay with her lover
 - b. return to her home
 - c. be with her family for ever after
7. Her family called to her:
 - a. sometimes
 - b. never
 - c. every day
8. One day she heard:
 - a. her father's voice
 - b. her beautiful sister's voice
 - c. her mother's voice
9. Which statement is true?
 - a. She decided to visit just once.
 - b. She decided never to return to her home under the sea.
 - c. She decided to ask her family to visit her on land.
10. After the sea people caught her:
 - a. she escaped and returned to live with her lover
 - b. she visited her lover every year
 - c. she never returned to the land

17. Sky Tower

When you visit Auckland, the highest thing you will see is the Sky Tower. Situated in the central business area, the tower stands 328 metres tall and it can be seen from most parts of the city. Building started in 1994 and was completed in 1997. Sky Tower opened in March 1997, six months earlier than planned. Safety was very important in the building of the tower. It was built to be safe in winds up to 200 kilometres per hour. In high winds the top of the tower can move one metre from side to side. It was also built to be safe in a very big earthquake.

The tower forms part of the SKYCITY Auckland Casino and over 1,000 people visit it every day. That's half a million people a year! There are several levels which are open to the public. The main observation area is on the 51st floor. From there you can see all of Auckland from the city to the hills far in the distance. On the 52nd floor there is a revolving restaurant. Every hour the restaurant turns 360 degrees, so while you are enjoying your meal you can see all of Auckland. There are several other restaurants and cafés where you can sit and enjoy the view.

The 53rd floor is the place to go for excitement. Here you will find the SkyWalk. If you are brave enough, you can stand on a glass floor and look down at Auckland far below. If you are really brave, you can go on the SkyJump. You will jump almost 200 metres into the sky and reach a speed of up to 85 kilometres per hour on the way down! That really would be a great video to send home to your friends and family.

As well as being a famous Auckland sight, and being part of the SKYCITY Casino, the Sky Tower has other uses. It is used for sending radio, television and cell phone messages and for collecting weather information. It has appeared in popular television programmes such as *The Amazing Race*.

There are 1,267 steps in the Sky Tower and each year there are stair climbing races to the top of the tower. An example is the Fire Fighters Sky Tower Stair Challenge. Running up all the stairs in fire-fighting clothes and carrying everything you need to fight a fire is hard work.

17. Sky Tower

1. How high is the Sky Tower?
 - a. over 300 metres
 - b. over 300 feet
 - c. under 300 metres
2. In high winds, the top of the tower:
 - a. stays still
 - b. moves a little
 - c. moves one metre
3. The lift to the top takes:
 - a. 1 minute
 - b. 2 minutes
 - c. not given
4. How many people visit the sky tower every year?
 - a. about 1500
 - b. about 500,000
 - c. about 1,000,000
5. On the 52nd floor there is a revolving:
 - a. restaurant
 - b. bar
 - c. café
6. What can you see from the 51st floor?
 - a. Auckland central business area
 - b. Auckland city and the water
 - c. Auckland city and all around it
7. To do the SkyJump, you need to be:
 - a. brave
 - b. stupid
 - c. angry
8. The Sky Tower has been on radio programmes.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given
9. The Sky Tower is not used for:
 - a. sending information to planes
 - b. sending cell phone messages
 - c. collecting weather information
10. What do firefighters do in the Stair Challenge?
 - a. run up the stairs
 - b. run down the stairs
 - c. run up and down the stairs

18. Fish and Chips

Fish and chips are a very popular fast food Kiwi meal. There is nothing better than eating hot fish and chips with your fingers straight out of the paper, especially on a cold winter day. The secret is to find a shop that knows how to cook them exactly right and to eat them as soon as you get them. If you wait until you get home, they can still be good but the longer you leave them in the paper, the softer the chips get and that's not good.

The best thing to do is to buy the fish and chips and drive straight to the nearest sea-front, tear open the paper and eat them while watching the waves roll in. If there are any left over, you can throw them out of the car window for the sea birds that will be flying around, making a lot of noise and waiting for you to finish. They taste even better because you know you are taking part in a real Kiwi custom.

In the early days, fish and chips were sold in old newspapers. People would drop off their newspapers to the fish and chip shop after they had read them. Of course, nowadays that isn't allowed, and fish and chips must be sold in new clean paper.

Some say the first fish and chip shop was opened in London by a man called Joseph Malin in 1860. In the mid-1880s the fishing industry in England started developing quickly. Larger boats and better ways of fishing meant there was a lot of fresh fish - and it was cheap. In addition, the development of railways meant fresh fish could easily be taken to other cities. Fish and chips quickly became a popular food for working class people.

Nobody quite knows exactly when they arrived in New Zealand, but nowadays, Kiwis eat about seven million servings of chips per week, or 120,000 tonnes per year. Now, the quality of fish and chips is much better. There are industry standards, and shops proudly promise that they only use the best oil, potatoes and fish. Even so, fish and chips should only be eaten occasionally, and to be honest some fish and chips are terrible.

The more worried about health people become, the less they want to eat fast food like fish and chips. However, healthy or unhealthy, many people love them.

18. Fish and chips

1. Fish and chips are best eaten:
 - a. with a fork
 - b. with a spoon
 - c. with your fingers
2. Fish and chips are better on a:
 - a. hot day
 - b. cold day
 - c. windy day
3. If you leave them in the paper, they will get:
 - a. dry
 - b. hard
 - c. soft
4. The writer thinks fish and chips are good with salt.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given
5. It's best to eat fish and chips while watching:
 - a. the sea
 - b. TV
 - c. a sports game
6. Fish and chips are not sold in old newspaper now because:
 - a. it's not clean
 - b. people don't read newspapers nowadays
 - c. it's too expensive
7. Some say the first fish and chip shop was opened in:
 - a. Auckland
 - b. London
 - c. Sydney
8. The quality of fish and chips has:
 - a. become better
 - b. become worse
 - c. stayed the same
9. Fish and chips should be eaten:
 - a. once in a while
 - b. every day
 - c. twice a week
10. All fish and chips taste great!
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given

19. Shortland Street

Shortland Street is New Zealand's most popular home-grown television programme. It is also the longest running show ever produced in New Zealand. *Shortland Street* was first shown on 25 May 1992 and since then it has run continuously. There have been thousands of programmes. You can watch it five nights a week at 7 pm on TV2. The show is repeated in the weekend and you can see it on TVNZ OnDemand as well.

Shortland Street is set in a hospital in Auckland and when the programme started in 1992, it was not very popular. In fact, it would probably have been dropped if TVNZ had not decided to try it for one year and had already paid out money for production. After one year, the show's popularity had increased greatly and TVNZ decided to continue making the programme. Today, *Shortland Street* is often included in the top five TV programmes of the week.

In the early 1990s there were not many New Zealand programmes on TV. Most of the programmes that New Zealanders watched came from the UK, the USA or Australia. These countries all had their own 'soap operas' (programmes about ordinary people's lives). For example, England had *Coronation Street* which had been running since 1960 and Australia started producing *Neighbours* in 1985, and of course the USA, the home of television, had many programmes that were about the daily lives of a group of people. *Friends* is a good example. It was felt that New Zealand should have its own programme, and this led to the making of *Shortland Street*, now popularly known as *Shorty*.

As with any programme about people's lives, the *Shortland Street* story has included a variety of subjects from work, play, illness, love, relationships, friendships and marriage. People have died or been killed, babies have been born, people have got ill or done bad things. Some people have left to travel overseas, others have tried to steal medicine from the hospital. There have been poor people, rich people and ordinary people, mothers raising children on their own, gay and straight relationships, young and old, families and people living alone, and many nationalities from Australian to Zimbabwean.

To get an idea about New Zealand life, maybe you should watch *Shorty*. It's a good way to study because you are regularly listening to New Zealanders speaking. It's also a very nice break from real homework.

19. Shortland Street

1. *Shortland Street* is a:
 - a. radio programme
 - b. TV programme
 - c. video programme
2. How many programmes have there been?
 - a. hundreds
 - b. thousands
 - c. millions
3. You can watch it Monday to Friday:
 - a. at 6 pm
 - b. at 7 pm
 - c. at 8 pm
4. It was first produced in:
 - a. the early 1990s
 - b. the early 2000s
 - c. the early 2010s
5. At first, *Shortland Street* was:
 - a. very popular
 - b. popular
 - c. not very popular
6. Today, *Shortland Street* is:
 - a. the most popular NZ programme
 - b. unpopular
 - c. not very popular
7. A 'soap opera' is a programme about:
 - a. music
 - b. keeping clean
 - c. the ordinary lives of a group of people
8. *Shortland Street* is known as:
 - a. Shorty
 - b. Landy
 - c. Streety
9. The programme covers:
 - a. a wide variety of subjects
 - b. a narrow variety of subjects
 - c. the story is the same every week
10. Watching *Shortland Street* regularly is a good way to learn about New Zealand life.
 - a. true
 - b. false
 - c. not given

20. Cricket

Cricket is a very popular sport in New Zealand. It was invented in Britain and is played in most of the countries that used to be ruled by Britain. These include South Africa, Australia, the West Indies, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. People from most other countries don't know what cricket is and don't understand the rules. They can't understand why people want to play a game that takes five days, and where the players stop for lunch and morning and afternoon tea.

Cricket is a bat and ball game. There are two teams of eleven players. It is played on a very large cricket ground with an area in the middle for the players to hit the ball and then run up and down. Look at the picture to see the bat, ball and wickets. The batter stands in front of the wickets and hits the ball. If the batter misses the ball and the ball hits the wickets the batter is 'out' and has to leave the field. If they hit the ball, they have to run to the other end and back again as many times as they can before the other team gets the ball back to the wickets. There are many other rules about how you be 'out' or get runs. For example, if a player catches a ball you are 'out'. However, if you hit the ball out of the ground you get six runs.

The first game of cricket was played in the south of England in the 16th century. By the 18th century it had become the national sport of England. The first international game was played in the mid-19th century. At first, all the players wore white, but nowadays teams play in different colours. At first, the games lasted five days, but in the 1960s, one-day games were introduced. At first, cricket was a game for men, but now there are women's teams and mixed teams as well.

Every five years, the Cricket World Cup is held. It is a very exciting time and the country almost comes to a stop to watch the games on TV or at live games. In 2015, it was held in New Zealand and Australia jointly. This was especially exciting for Kiwis. Why? Because, for the first time ever, the New Zealand team reached the last round. Sadly, they were beaten by their (friendly) enemies, Australia.

20. Cricket

1. Cricket was invented in:
 - a. New Zealand
 - b. India
 - c. England
2. A full game of cricket lasts:
 - a. five days
 - b. four days
 - c. three days
3. The game doesn't stop for:
 - a. breakfast
 - b. lunch
 - c. afternoon tea
4. How many players are there in a team?
 - a. 10
 - b. 11
 - c. 12
5. If the ball is hit right out of the ground, the batter gets:
 - a. three runs
 - b. six runs
 - c. nine runs
6. At first, all the players wore:
 - a. white
 - b. brown
 - c. blue
7. At first, cricket was a game for:
 - a. men
 - b. women
 - c. mixed teams
8. The Cricket World Cup is held:
 - a. every three years
 - b. every four years
 - c. every five years
9. Where was it held in 2015?
 - a. Australia
 - b. New Zealand
 - c. Australia and New Zealand
10. Which team won in that year?
 - a. New Zealand
 - b. Australia
 - c. West Indies

New Zealand Speed Readings for ESL Learners

1000

Answers

1.	1.c	2.b	3.c	4.a	5.b	6.c	7.a	8.a	9.b	10.c
2.	1.c	2.a	3.b	4.b	5.a	6.c	7.b	8.a	9.c	10.b
3.	1.c	2.a	3.c	4.b	5.b	6.a	7.b	8.c	9.b	10.b
4.	1.b	2.b	3.a	4.c	5.c	6.b	7.a	8.c	9.b	10.a
5.	1.a	2.b	3.c	4.b	5.a	6.c	7.c	8.b	9.a	10.b
6.	1.c	2.a	3.b	4.b	5.a	6.b	7.c	8.a	9.b	10.c
7.	1.a	2.b	3.c	4.a	5.a	6.c	7.a	8.b	9.b	10.c
8.	1.b	2.a	3.c	4.b	5.c	6.a	7.a	8.b	9.a	10.c
9.	1.c	2.a	3.b	4.a	5.a	6.b	7.a	8.b	9.c	10.c
10.	1.b	2.b	3.b	4.b	5.c	6.a	7.c	8.b	9.c	10.c
11.	1.b	2.c	3.b	4.a	5.c	6.c	7.a	8.a	9.b	10.c
12.	1.c	2.a	3.a	4.c	5.c	6.c	7.a	8.b	9.b	10.a
13.	1.c	2.b	3.a	4.b	5.a	6.a	7.b	8.c	9.c	10.c
14.	1.c	2.b	3.b	4.a	5.b	6.c	7.a	8.c	9.a	10.c
15.	1.c	2.b	3.c	4.b	5.b	6.a	7.b	8.a	9.c	10.a
16.	1.b	2.b	3.a	4.c	5.b	6.a	7.c	8.c	9.a	10.c
17.	1.a	2.c	3.c	4.b	5.a	6.c	7.a	8.c	9.a	10.a
18.	1.c	2.b	3.c	4.c	5.a	6.a	7.b	8.a	9.a	10.b
19.	1.b	2.b	3.b	4.a	5.c	6.a	7.c	8.a	9.a	10.a
20.	1.c	2.a	3.a	4.b	5.b	6.a	7.a	8.c	9.c	10.b

Progress Graph

Put an X in one of the boxes to show your reading time and words-per-minute reading rate.

Then write your score in the box under the number.

time																					wpm
1.00																					400
1.10																					345
1.20																					300
1.30																					265
1.40																					240
1.50																					220
2.00																					200
2.10																					185
2.20																					170
2.30																					160
2.40																					150
2.50																					140
3.00																					135
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
score																					

Progress Graph

Put an **X** in one of the boxes to show your reading time and words-per-minute reading rate.

Then write your score in the box under the number.

time																					wpm	
1.00																					400	
1.10																					345	
1.20																					300	
1.30																					265	
1.40																					240	
1.50																					220	
2.00																					200	
2.10																					185	
2.20																					170	
2.30																					160	
2.40																					150	
2.50																					140	
3.00																					135	
3.10																					125	
3.20																					120	
3.30																					115	
3.40																					110	
3.50																					105	
4.00																					100	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
score																						

Progress Graph

Write the number of the passage under the #.

Put an **X** in one of the boxes to show your reading time and words-per-minute reading rate.

Then write your score in the box under the number.

time																				wpm
0.40																				540
0.50																				465
1.00																				400
1.10																				345
1.20																				300
1.30																				265
1.40																				240
1.50																				220
2.00																				200
2.10																				185
2.20																				170
2.30																				160
2.40																				150
2.50																				140
3.00																				135
	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	
score																				

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