**PRACTICE 2**

**Questions 1-10: Read the passage and look at the following statements. Circle T if the statement is true, F if the statement is false.**

**Teen writers on TV hit *Catch***

Dan Finelli is a normal teenager from North London; he goes to school, enjoys hanging out with his mates and only occasionally misses his classes. But Dan also happens to be a writer for the popular teen drama, *Catch*. The second series starts this week and the one-hour episode that Dan wrote, his very first for the show, will be on screen later in the year. This will make him one of the youngest writers of a peak-time drama ever.

'What's great about *Catch* is that the characters are exactly like the people around you,' says Dan, who also plays the part of Computer Chris in the show. 'When I'm at school and one of my friends says something funny, I write it down in my notebook and use it later in the script. I never tell them I'm doing it. I just want it to sound as real as possible,' Dan adds.

*Catch* is about the lives of a group of 16-18-year-olds in a sixth-form college. The school doesn't really exist, but the whole show does feel very true to life. There's an episode every week and each one concentrates on an individual member of the group and tells his or her story.

The idea for the programme came from an unusual source, a father-and-son pair of writers, Ken Thomas and his son, Callum. They took their idea to a TV company and were very surprised when the company said they were keen to make it. Now, Ken and Callum are central members of the writing team but in order to build that team, Ken had to go to theatre companies and writing groups all over London to find both writers and teens to advise on the stories.

One writer he approached to join the team for the second series was Lizzied Wise. She had never heard of *Catch* when Ken first invited her to write. But Ken thought she would be right for the show because he’d read one of her plays and thought she was a very strong writer. Lizzie is only nineteen but has lots of valuable theater experience. She says, ‘I’ve watched much more TV than I’ve ever watched plays, so it wasn’t difficult for me to change to TV writing. What’s most challenging on *Catch* is the number of scenes in which there’s hardly any talking and where the story’s told through the looks the characters give each other and their body language only. These scenes take a long time to get right but they look great on the screen.’

**1**. Dan wrote for the first series of the TV programme “Catch”.

**2**. Dan is also one of the actors in “Catch”.

**3**. Dan asks his friends if he can use the actual things they say in his writing.

**4**. “Catch” is about a group of teenagers at a real college.

**5**. Each week, “Catch” follows the story of one particular character.

**6**. The original idea for “Catch” came from the television production company.

**7**. Ken Thomas looked for young people to write “Catch” at various places around London.

**8**. Lizzie Wise was a big fan of “Catch” before she started writing for it.

**9**. Lizzie’s background is in theater rather than television.

**10**. Lizzie says the most difficult scenes to write are those where the characters say very little.

**Questions 11-15: *Read the passage and CIRCLE the letter A, B, C or D next to the correct answer for the following questions.***

**LIAM KILLEEN**

Liam Killeen is a rising star in cross-country mountain biking. He has raced since he was 12 and has had both successes and disappointments in that time. His worst moment so far was during a recent World Championship. His front tyre started to lose air in the last part of the race and he finished fourth. This was not the first time he'd been unlucky. In a previous race, it was raining heavily and he crashed his bike just minutes after the start.

He often gets nervous before a race but thinks that this is a good thing. 'Nervous energy makes you go faster and on the day, it's all about winning. The important thing is to stay positive."

Liam likes a hard race with steep climbs. 'They make all the difference. You have to be really fit to get ahead'. He also enjoys entering competitions at top levels as there are fewer riders in the race and this makes the start easier. ‘You can get into the front group more quickly.'

Liam has been chosen to go to the Olympic Games and one day he would like to win a medal. 'I'm still quite young and expect to be riding until my mid-thirties so I've got enough time to achieve my dream. I know the Olympics are hard and I'll have to produce my best performance yet. But I feel confident.'

Liam trains for 30 hours a week - always outside and he reaches speeds of 65 kph. He thinks that cycling professionally is the best job in the world and would recommend it to anyone. His advice to people starting to race is, 'Be prepared for some hard work. If the training was easy, it wouldn't make you faster.’

***11. What is the writer trying to do in the text?***

A. encourage people to cycle as a hobby

B. give details of Liam’s cycling career

C. compare cycling with other sports

D. explain why Liam became a cyclist

***12. What happened towards the end of one of Liam’s races?***

A. He fell off his bike.

B. The weather got really bad.

C. He was involved in an accident.

D. There was a problem with his bike.

***13. Liam prefers a race that***

A. includes some hilly ground.

B. has a lot of riders taking part.

C. attracts less experienced riders.

D. allows him to get ahead at the end.

***14. What does Liam say about the Olympics?***

A. He thinks he will perform badly

B. Most riders will be younger than him

C. The race is longer than he is used to

D. He is looking forward to the challenge.

***15. Which of the following would Liam say about cycling?***

A. ‘I think everyone should start cycling. You don’t need to rain very hard to get good at the sport and it’s great fun.’

B. ‘I often get nervous before a race and I think that makes me perfume badly but I don’t intend to give up.’

C. ‘I know it’s not possible to win every race but I love cycling. I plan to continue the sport for quite a few more years.’

D. ‘I have to cycle at least 4 hours a day. To get faster I’ll have to do even more and I don’t know if I have enough time for that.’

**Questions 16-20: *Read the passage and CIRCLE the letter A, B, C or D next to the correct answer for these following questions.***

***Passage 3***

**Can we save the world’s dying languages?**

I travelled four hours west from the city of Arusha to meet the Hadza, an ancient tribe of hunter-gatherers. They are poor in material possessions, but rich in the skills and creativity they need to live in their environment. But, that’s not all that sets them apart from most societies. The Hadza are believed to be the most ancient ethnic group in the modern world. Their language is equally unique: they speak a clicking tongue called Hadza, which is unrelated to other clicking languages indigenous to Africa. According to some linguists, Hadza may be close to humankind's first ancestral language.

However, their language may not be around for long. The Hadza have lived in small groups of around 15 people in a remote area in north-central Tanzania for at least 10,000 years. But now there are less than 1,000 Hadza left, and their stone-age, hunter-gatherer lifestyle is under threat. Their land is being **swallowed up** by the interests of farmers, government-designated conservation areas and private hunting reserves. The invasion of the modern world means that, as the younger Hadza are starting to learn the widely spoken Swahili tongue, they are also losing some of the peculiar features of their own language.

The Hadza are not alone in facing the loss of their native tongue. Every 14 days a language dies and over half of the 7,000 languages spoken on the planet may disappear by the end of the century. We are living in the Anthropocene age, or the age in which humanity is having a significant impact on the environment –a time when language extinction is happening faster than species extinction. Once the last speaker dies, so does the language. It is said that with every language you speak you gain a new soul. But 80% of the world's population now speak just 1.1% of its languages, and universal languages, like English, dominate the internet and the majority of published texts. So, will the Anthropocene age be the time when language diversity is reduced to Mandarin, English or Spanish? Are we in danger of losing our soul?

Not if some people can have their way. They are fighting back to preserve these rarer tongues - in some cases, with great success. Perhaps the most successful example is Hebrew, which was dead two centuries ago but living again by the 20th century. Other languages have also been brought back from the brink of extinction through the determination of their communities: Welsh, Cornish, Gaelic and New Zealand Maori.

**16.** What is the main purpose of this passage?

A. To express the writer’s hopelessness about the disappearance of languages

B. To report the writer’s visit to the city of Arusha to meet the Hadza

C. To describe the current state of clicking languages in Africa

D. To discuss why languages are dying out and ways to save them

**17.** The word “**swallowed up**” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. absorbed C. taken over

B. consumed D. eaten up

**18.** What can be inferred about the Hadza from the passage?

A. They are living in poverty. C. They live in a big community.

B. They are hunters and gatherers. D. They replace Hadza with Swahili tongue.

**19.** Which of the following statements is **NOT** true?

A. The Hadza’s stone-age lifestyle is being endangered.

B. The Hadza are the most ancient ethnic group in the modern world.

C. The Hadza’snative tongueiscloselyconnectedto African-indigenouslanguages.

D. The Hadza are losing some of the unique features of their native tongue.

**20.** It can be inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**A.** it is still plausible for humanity to preserve language diversity

B. it is true that the world’s population speak just universal languages

C. the Hadza are the one and only tribe in danger of losing their soul

D. the Hadza are isolating themselves from the modern world