

I 次の1～20について、空所を埋めるのに最も適切な語句をそれぞれA～Dから選び、その記号を解答欄に記入しなさい。

1. ( ) the weather forecast, it is going to be cold this weekend, and it might even snow.  
A. Thanks to B. According to C. Because of D. Instead of
2. The sky was ( ) with clouds this morning, but it's fine now.  
A. joined B. proved C. received D. covered
3. David likes Betty a lot, but he doesn't have the ( ) to ask her on a date.  
A. result B. distance C. courage D. rumor
4. X : Can you ski, Michael?  
Y : I don't know. I've never ( ) it.  
A. try B. to try C. tried D. trying
5. X : When ( ) your school start, Ben?  
Y : Next month.  
A. do B. does C. is D. are
6. X : I haven't seen Bill for a few days. Is he all right?  
Y : He has been sick ( ) last week.  
A. around B. between C. since D. toward
7. Yuri went shopping this morning and bought a ( ) of shoes.  
A. piece B. pair C. slice D. space
8. Whenever Nigel has a problem, he asks his friends for advice. He is glad that he has good friends to rely ( ).  
A. on B. in C. at D. for
9. John's father bought a new car last month. It's ( ) bigger than the old one.  
A. many B. very C. much D. more
10. X : I have to write a report about the history of this town, Dad.  
Y : Read this book, Sam. It has a lot of ( ) about it.  
A. time B. health C. afternoon D. information
11. Paul ( ) his computer when he spilled some coffee on the keyboard. It will be very expensive to fix.  
A. produced B. damaged C. accepted D. supported
12. Richard was very tired last night, so he went to bed at 9 o'clock and ( ) asleep at once.  
A. broke B. made C. got D. fell
13. X : This pizza is really good! Who baked it?  
Y : I did. I'll give you the ( ) if you like.  
A. recipe B. capital C. limit D. journey
14. Peter likes ( ) more than zoos because he loves looking at fish.  
A. exhibitions B. jungles C. aquariums D. factories
15. When I was cleaning out the room, I came ( ) many old pictures of my grandfather.  
A. off B. across C. after D. into
16. Eating foods made from soybeans is ( ) to be excellent for your health.  
A. asked B. said C. told D. called
17. X : Dad, could you ( ) me up from school today?  
Y : I have to take your brother to his soccer game, Caroline. Why don't you ask Mom?  
A. hold B. cheer C. pick D. wake
18. A : The tea we bought last week doesn't taste very nice.  
B : I know. The ( ) isn't very good, but it was really cheap.  
A. quality B. attention C. privacy D. support
19. The story was so sad that it made Sarah ( ) when she read it.  
A. to cry B. cry C. crying D. cried
20. Chocolate sales are ( ) because it is almost Valentine's Day.  
A. picking B. following C. throwing D. increasing

II 次の英文を読んで、空所21～30を埋めるのに最も適切な語句をそれぞれA～Cから選び、その記号を解答欄に記入しなさい。

First Penguin

Do you know the expression "the first penguin"? Penguins are not solitary animals and ( 21 ) to move about in groups. I witnessed this firsthand when I visited Antarctica a number of years ago. In the Southern Ocean are predators<sup>1</sup> like sharks, whales and seals ( 22 ) feed on penguins. When a group of penguins reach the ( 23 ) of the sea, for a short while they "discuss" ( 24 ) themselves which penguin will jump into the potentially dangerous water first, then one ( 25 ) penguin approaches the water, and ( 26 ) a moment of hesitation, jumps in! The other penguins upon seeing that it's safe, one ( 27 ) one follow the first penguin into the water. Hence, we use this phrase when ( 28 ) about people who are not afraid of going out on a limb<sup>2</sup>, people who take ( 29 ) others stay away from. What ( 30 ) you, are you a first penguin, too?

(出典【NHKラジオ 実践ビジネス英語】2014年3月号 一部変更)

注 <sup>1</sup>predator 天敵 <sup>2</sup>go out on a limb 困難な立場に陥る

21. A. offer B. suffer C. prefer
22. A. that B. when C. why
23. A. bottom B. surface C. edge
24. A. about B. among C. with
25. A. brave B. cheerful C. lonely
26. A. on B. after C. for

27. A. to                    B. by                    C. and  
 28. A. talk                    B. talked                    C. talking  
 29. A. times                    B. advantages                    C. risks  
 30. A. about                    B. with                    C. for

Ⅲ 次の英文を読み、設問31～35に答えなさい。答えはそれぞれA～Dの中から最も適切なものを選び、その記号を解答欄に記入しなさい。

Dandelions : Flowers or Food?

Hundreds of years ago no dandelions grew in North America. Then people came from Europe. They had dandelion seeds on their clothes. The seeds fell from their clothes onto the ground. Since then dandelions spread all over.

(Paragraph 1)

Most people believe that dandelions are weeds. They do not want them in their yards. But some people think that dandelions are pretty. And others think that dandelions taste good. They cook dandelion leaves or put them into a fresh salad. The leaves must be picked before the flowers bloom or they will not taste good. Some people make dandelion flowers into wine.

(Paragraph 2)

Dandelions do not die easily. During a mild winter, their leaves may stay green. When the spring comes, they blossom. Each night their bright yellow flowers close up. When the sun shines the next day, they open up again.

(Paragraph 3)

Dandelion flowers are very unusual. They do not have to get pollen from another dandelion flower in order to form seeds. So after several days, the yellow

flower turns white and puffy. A tiny brown seed forms at the bottom of each white petal. When the wind blows, the petals float away. Each white petal acts like a parachute, carrying a seed away. This lets the dandelions spread their seeds all over. New dandelions grow where the seeds land.

(Paragraph 4)

(Nonfiction Reading Comprehension—Grade 4, Teacher Created Resources, Inc., 2003.)

31. パラグラフ1に関して、次の記述のうち正しいものはどれですか。  
 A. たんぽぽの種は移住者の衣服についてやってきた。  
 B. たんぽぽは移住者が移植した。  
 C. たんぽぽは北アメリカに自生していた。  
 D. たんぽぽはアメリカには生えていない。
32. パラグラフ2によれば、人はたんぽぽをどのようにみなしていますか。  
 A. 雑草  
 B. きれいな花  
 C. 食材  
 D. 上記のすべて
33. パラグラフ3によれば、たんぽぽは  
 A. 冬にはすぐに枯れてしまう。  
 B. 一度開花すると枯れてしまう。  
 C. 夜になると閉じて、翌朝また開花する。  
 D. 春になるとしばらく開花したままである。

34. パラグラフ4によれば、たんぽぽの種をつくるのには、  
 A. 他のたんぽぽの花粉をつけなければならない。  
 B. 他のたんぽぽの花粉を必要としない。  
 C. みつばちの手助けが必要である。  
 D. 人手が必要である。

35. パラグラフ4によれば、たんぽぽの種は  
 A. 白くてふわふわしている。  
 B. 茶色である。  
 C. みつばちが運んでいく。  
 D. 人が地面に植える。

Ⅳ 次の英文を読み、設問36～40に答えなさい。答えはそれぞれA～Dの中から最も適切なものを選び、その記号を解答欄に記入しなさい。

Read and weep : is it the end of chocolate?

"The world is running out of chocolate and by 2020 the sweet treat<sup>1</sup> may be endangered," says *The Huffington Post*<sup>2</sup>.

(Paragraph 1)

Around 3.5 million tonnes<sup>3</sup> of cocoa, chocolate's main ingredient, are produced each year. Most cocoa comes from small farms in tropical areas of South America and Africa, where an increasing number of droughts<sup>4</sup> and plant diseases are reducing cocoa production greatly.

(Paragraph 2)

Added to that is we're simply eating quickly more of the sweet stuff than cocoa farms and manufacturers can produce. No wonder two of the world's biggest

chocolate manufacturers, Barry Callebaut AG and Mars Inc., predict a shortfall of one million tonnes by 2020.

(Paragraph 3)

What does it mean for chocolate lovers? "As cocoa supply falls, our favorite bars will shrink in size and be padded with fillers like nuts and caramel," says *The Huffington Post*. Cheap ingredients like sugar will also be used to hide less cocoa powder. But not so sweet are the prices of chocolate products – which will rise high.

(Paragraph 4)

(Adapted from *Mary Glasgow CURRENT*, March 2015)

- 注 <sup>1</sup> sweet treat お菓子、甘いもの  
<sup>2</sup> *The Huffington Post* ハフィントン・ポスト (アメリカのインターネット新聞、2005年設立)  
<sup>3</sup> tonne 重さの単位 (1 tonne = 1,000kg)  
<sup>4</sup> droughts 干ばつ
36. ココアは何に使われますか。(パラグラフ2)  
 A. 砂糖の使用を隠すために使われる。  
 B. 南米やアフリカの干ばつや植物の病害を防ぐために使われる。  
 C. チョコレートを作るときの主な材料として使われる。  
 D. チョコレートの価格高騰を抑えるために使われる。
37. パラグラフ3によると、私たちがチョコレートを食べる量や速さは、  
 A. ココアの生産量を上回っている。  
 B. ココアの生産量と釣り合っている。  
 C. ココアの生産量を下回っている。  
 D. ココアの生産量と何の関係もない。

38. 大手チョコレート製造会社の予測によると、ココアの生産量は2020年までにどうなりますか。(パラグラフ3)
- A. 10億キログラムの不足に陥るだろう。
  - B. 35億キログラムの不足に陥るだろう。
  - C. 10億キログラム増加するだろう。
  - D. 175億キログラム増加するだろう。
39. ココアの供給量が減ると何が起きますか。(パラグラフ4)
- A. チョコレートをがつつ食べる人が減る。
  - B. チョコレートバーが小さくなり、中のナッツなどが増える。
  - C. 植物の病気が増加し、チョコレートの価格が下がる。
  - D. 砂糖の供給量も減少する。
40. A～Dの語の下線部の発音のうち、一つだけ他と異なる発音のがあります。それはどれかを選び、記号で答えなさい。
- A. produce
  - B. reduce
  - C. increase
  - D. disease