

ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ
АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК. 2026–2027 уч. г.
ШКОЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП. 9–11 КЛАССЫ

Максимальный балл за работу – 50.

LISTENING
Time: 15 minutes
(15 points)

*Listen to an extract from a radio programme about the animals we are closely related to and do tasks 1–15. You will hear the text **twice**. Listen to the text for the first time and answer questions 1–6.*

Задание 1. According to the speaker, when did the ancestors of humans and the ancestors of cats and dogs last share a common ancestor?

- A) 55 million years ago.
- B) 90–95 million years ago.
- C) 100 million years ago.
- D) 5 million years ago.

Задание 2. Which of the following animals are cats and dogs more closely related to than to humans?

- A) Colugos and tree shrews.
- B) Rabbits, rats, and mice.
- C) Pangolins, horses, cows, whales, bats, shrews, and moles.
- D) Primates.

Задание 3. Why might cats be a better model than dogs for studying human gene regulation?

- A) Because cats are more cooperative in research.
- B) Because their genome organization is closer to humans'.
- C) Because they have more chromosomes.
- D) Because they live longer.

Задание 4. Which disease is mentioned in the article as occurring in both humans and cats?

- A) Alzheimer's disease.
- B) Polycystic kidney disease.
- C) Idiopathic epilepsy.
- D) Heart disease.

Задание 5. What does the article suggest about the gene FBXW7?

- A) It is only found in cats.
- B) Mutations in this gene are linked to worse outcomes in breast cancer in humans and were found in feline tumors.
- C) It causes Alzheimer's disease.
- D) It is responsible for eye disease in dogs.

Задание 6. According to the article, why has more research historically focused on dogs than on cats?

- A) Dogs have a larger brain.
- B) The canine genome was sequenced earlier, and dogs are seen as more cooperative.
- C) Cats are more expensive to keep in labs.
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<i>Listen to the text for the second time and answer questions 7–15.</i>
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Задание 7. Cats and dogs make up one-third of all pet ownership worldwide.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not stated

Задание 8. Mark Springer, teaches ecology and organismal biology at the University of California.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not stated

Задание 9. From an evolutionary perspective, humans are more closely related to cats than to dogs.

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Задание 10. The order Carnivora includes cats, dogs and some other mammals.

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Задание 11. The ancestors of modern-day dogs went through extensive chromosome rearrangements over evolutionary time.

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Задание 14. Dogs are never used to model human illnesses.

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- B) False
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Задание 15. The article mentions that cats are generally perceived as more cooperative than dogs in research settings.

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- B) False
- C) Not stated

READING
Time: 30 minutes
(10 points)

Read an article about the intricate songs of the small, leaping primates on an Indonesian island and do tasks 16–25.

'Yoda' primates sing duets like opera stars

Tiny, monkeylike creatures called tarsiers sing duets together in the style of opera singers — but those who fail to hit the high notes may also flop at attracting mates, scientists recently suggested.

With their large, pointed ears and expressive eyes, nocturnal tarsiers carry a striking resemblance to the diminutive Jedi master Yoda from "Star Wars" films. But while Yoda never demonstrated any operatic ability, tarsiers are energetic singers who may exert themselves vocally as a form of mating selection or to signal to each other that it's time for all members of a troop to gather together to sleep, according to a new study.

To learn more about these vocal performances, scientists eavesdropped on tarsiers in Tangkoko National Park in Sulawesi, Indonesia in July and August 2018, and captured 50 recordings of 14 pairs of Gursky's spectral tarsiers (*Tarsius spectrumgurskyae*) singing their morning duets. Researchers from Sam Ratulangi University in Sulawesi and Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, used machine learning to distinguish and classify notes and musical phrases in the tarsiers' songs. Their findings, published Aug. 2 in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, suggest that these performances are so taxing that not all tarsiers can hit the fast and high notes and duet proficiently.

Measuring just 3.5 to 6 inches (9 to 15 centimeters) tall and weighing no more than 7 ounces (200 grams), Gursky's spectral tarsiers live only on Sulawesi, an Indonesian island east of Borneo. They were described as a separate species from other tarsiers in 2017 and are classified as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. About 13 species of tarsiers inhabit islands in Southeast Asia.

The researchers captured the tarsiers' duets using a handheld digital recorder and autonomous recording devices that were installed in the tarsiers' jungle habitats. "Tarsiers are one of the easier duetting primates to record and study, at least in Tangkoko National Park, as they have small home ranges and seem to duet most mornings," said senior study author Dena Clink, a researcher at Cornell's K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics. "They are not afraid of humans, so we were able to get high-quality recordings relatively easily."

When the scientists analyzed the intricate duets, which were performed between male and female tarsiers, they found that the performances resembled coloratura — a singing style that produces many notes very rapidly and that's used by opera singers during arias to showcase their control and virtuosity.

"The duets exhibit acoustic trade-offs in note rate and note bandwidth — the range of frequencies within a note," said Isabel Comella, lead study author and a researcher at the K. Lisa Yang Center. The tarsiers that sing more slowly do so with the widest range of frequencies within a note, while the tarsiers that repeat notes more quickly only appear capable of a narrower range of frequencies within a note, Comella told Live Science in an email. Only a minority manage both simultaneously. The authors hypothesize that rapidly singing notes containing a broad range of frequencies during a duet may be more physiologically and neurologically taxing for the singer, with only physically fit individuals able to do so.

Exactly why tarsiers duet in such a complex and physically taxing way is unknown, largely because the animals are rarely studied. Other primates are known to sing duets, including a type of lemur called the indri (*Indri indri*), titi monkeys in the *Callicebus* genus, and northern gray gibbons (*Hylobates funereus*), according to the authors. Prior studies into primate duets suggest that this behavior may be used for finding or guarding a mate, defending territory or strengthening social bonds, though further research is required to determine exactly why tarsiers are performing these duets, the study authors reported.

However, one possibility for the Sulawesi tarsiers is that their duetting could be linked to organization of their social groups. Tarsiers often forage alone at night for insects, and then reunite in the morning to sleep, and they may sing together at night "as a way to bring all group members to the same sleep tree," a function that is not seen in other duetting primates, Comella said.

It could be a unique behavior to the tarsiers in Sulawesi, according to the authors. Tarsiers in the Philippines and Borneo are more solitary and don't engage in duets as regularly.

Though Gursky's spectral tarsiers sing their duets in the range of human hearing, the primates also vocalize in the ultrasonic range, which researchers are currently investigating. "We hope that with the advent of low-cost autonomous recording units and even smartphones we can start to learn more about the vocal behavior of tarsiers across Sulawesi," Clink said.

Задание 16. What do tarsiers look like, according to the article?

- A) They look like small bears.
- B) They resemble the Jedi master Yoda.
- C) They look like ordinary monkeys.
- D) They are similar to squirrels.

Задание 17. Why do tarsiers sing duets, as suggested in the study?

- A) To scare away predators.
- B) To signal to each other that it's time to find some food.
- C) As a way to attract prospective partners.
- D) To communicate with humans.

Задание 18. What technology did the scientists use to analyze the tarsiers' songs?

- A) Simple tape recorders.
- B) Machine learning.
- C) Telescopes.
- D) X-ray machines.

Задание 19. What is special about the singing style of tarsiers?

- A) It is very slow and quiet.
- B) It resembles a complex operatic style.
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Задание 20. The study was conducted in a national park in the Philippines.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not stated

Задание 21. All tarsiers are capable of singing both very fast and with a wide range of notes.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not stated

Задание 22. Gursky's spectral tarsiers are found only on the island of Sulawesi.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not stated

Задание 23. There are 12 other species of tarsiers inhabiting Sulawesi.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not stated

Задание 24. The researchers believe that singing duets may be physically demanding for tarsiers.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not stated

Задание 25. The researchers are currently investigating ultrasonic sounds produced by tarsiers in Sulawesi.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not stated

USE OF ENGLISH

Time: 45 minutes

(25 points)

Задание 26.

Task 1 (8 points)

For items 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a new word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

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A chunky digital cat is here to help you stop doomscrolling <i>Cat Gatekeeper plops an adorable, orange tabby on your screen when it's time to go touch grass.</i> Every day, the average American spends nearly 2.5 hours scrolling through social media. Cats, on the other hand, waste (0) _____ no time on the internet. Which species generally appears less stressed and anxious? Sure, this may not be the most (1) _____ analysis about mental health and screen time, but it's never a bad idea to try limiting the amount of idle time wasted in front of a computer or smartphone. And while there are plenty of apps and devices promising to reduce your social media (2) _____, their results are often (3) _____ and many require (4) _____ fees. Knowing this, a developer in Japan released a completely free Chrome browser (5) _____ designed to throttle your doomscrolling. Their secret weapon is <i>Cat Gatekeeper</i>. "You know that cat who always shows up right when you're trying to work? We've (6) _____ that classic cat-owner experience in your browser," the creators explain on its description page. "Let's face it—humans are just (7) _____ to their cats. We are powerless against their charm... Let their (8) _____ heal you while you take a proper break."	APPROXIMATE SCIENCE CONSUME EVEN COST EXTEND CREATE SERVE ADORE
--	--

Задание 27.

Task 2 (6 points)

For items 1–6, read the text further and for each gap unscramble the word given in CAPITAL LETTERS. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0	POPULAR
---	---------

Cat Gatekeeper currently works with some of the most (0) _____ (POLARUP) timewasters like TikTok and VK. The timer is customizable, but its (1) _____ (FAULTED) setting allots a (generous) 60 minutes of social media frivolity. After overstepping your time limit, the screen is suddenly hijacked by a very hefty tabby who promptly plops down in front of your browser (2) _____ (OWNWID) for five minutes, preventing you from accessing your feed. After your respite, the (3) _____ (TAILIGD) feline presumably moves on to their next distraction, thus letting you return to posting. Pretty simple stuff.

However, there is some leeway to *Cat Gatekeeper*. The (4) _____ (MERIT) resets if you swap over to another website tab, and it's exclusively designed for the preset social media (5) _____ (SALTPROMF). If that sounds like an easy way to (6) _____ (TEACH) the system—well, cats can't do everything for us, can they?

Задание 28.

Task 3 (5 points)

For items 1–5, read the article up to the end and find 5 misspelled words and spell them correctly. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0	TRUSTWORTHY
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Cat Gatekeeper looks trustworthy from a security standpoint, too. The free extension doesn't feature ads, and promises that "no data is collected or transmitted externally." An independent review on Reddit also provided *Cat Gatekeeper*'s source code, which only needs local storage permission to truck its own settings.

At any rate, it's worth giving it a shoot. *Cat Gatekeeper* may not solve your social media dependancy, but it might at least force you to break up with a brief "cat nap," so to speak.

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For items 29–34, think of one word that fits all the three sentences. There is an example at the beginning (0).

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Example 0.

- A) Anyone can tell that he's blind as a ____, but he won't wear glasses.
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Задание 29.

- A) Before the exam, we were running around like headless ____.
 - B) He ignored the warnings for years, and now the ____ have come home to roost.
 - C) He is going to ask her out, unless he ____ out at the last moment.
- _____

Задание 30.

- A) He's a big ____ in a small pond in his hometown.
 - B) He's a nice guy, but a bit of a cold ____.
 - C) I can drive a car, but a truck is a different kettle of ____.
- _____

Задание 31.

- A) The new law looks strict, but it's just a paper ____.
 - B) She walked into the exam with the eye of the ____.
 - C) Once he joined the project, he had to ride the ____ to the end.
- _____

Задание 32.

- A) After traveling across Asia, he felt he'd really seen the ____.
 - B) We need to talk about the ____ in the room — the company's financial problems.
 - C) The old mansion is a white ____ — it costs a fortune to maintain.
- _____

Задание 33.

- A) The scammer saw him as an easy ____.
 - B) In that debate, he was a real clay ____ for the press.
 - C) No one trusted him after he turned stool ____ and gave evidence against his friends.
-

Задание 34.

- A) Sean never acts the ____—he's always serious.
 - B) That guy just gets my ____ every time he opens his mouth.
 - C) His unhappy childhood was the ____ he used to rationalize every failure and shortcoming.
-

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Задание 25. The researchers are currently investigating ultrasonic sounds produced by tarsiers in Sulawesi.

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- B) False
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USE OF ENGLISH

Time: 45 minutes

(25 points)

Задание 26.

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Item	Answer
1	SCIENTIFIC / SCIENTIFICAL
2	CONSUMPTION
3	UNEVEN
4	COSTLY
5	EXTENSION
6	RECREATED
7	SERVANTS / SUBSERVIENT / SERVILE
8	ADORABLENESS / ADORABILITY / ADORATION

Задание 27.

Task 2 (6 points)

For items 1–6, read the text further and for each gap unscramble the word given in CAPITAL LETTERS. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 | POPULAR

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Item	Answer
1	DEFAULT
2	WINDOW
3	DIGITAL
4	TIMER
5	PLATFORMS
6	CHEAT

Задание 28.

Task 3 (5 points)

For items 1–5, read the article up to the end and find 5 misspelled words and spell them correctly. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0	TRUSTWORTHY
1	STANDPOINT
2	DATA
3	TRACK
4	SHOT
5	DEPENDENCY

Cat Gatekeeper looks trastworthy from a security standpaint, too. The free extension doesn't feature ads, and promises that "no date is collected or transmitted externally." An independent review on Reddit also provided Cat Gatekeeper's source code, which only needs local storage permission to truck its own settings.

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Task 4 (6 points)

For items 29–34, think of one word that fits all the three sentences. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0	bat
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- A) Anyone can tell that he's blind as a ____, but he won't wear glasses.
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- C) He is going to ask her out, unless he ____ out at the last moment.

Задание 30.

- A) He's a big ____ in a small pond in his hometown.
- B) He's a nice guy, but a bit of a cold ____.
- C) I can drive a car, but a truck is a different kettle of ____.

Задание 31.

- A) The new law looks strict, but it's just a paper ____.
- B) She walked into the exam with the eye of the ____.
- C) Once he joined the project, he had to ride the ____ to the end.

Задание 32.

- A) After traveling across Asia, he felt he'd really seen the ____.
- B) We need to talk about the ____ in the room — the company's financial problems.
- C) The old mansion is a white ____ — it costs a fortune to maintain.

Задание 33.

- A) The scammer saw him as an easy ____.
- B) In that debate, he was a real clay ____ for the press.
- C) No one trusted him after he turned stool ____ and gave evidence against his friends.

Задание 34.

- A) Sean never acts the ____—he's always serious.
- B) That guy just gets my ____ every time he opens his mouth.
- C) His unhappy childhood was the ____ he used to rationalize every failure and shortcoming.

Item	Answer
29	CHICKENS
30	FISH
31	TIGER
32	ELEPHANT
33	PIGEON
34	GOAT