**Directions:** Read the texts. Look at the statements below the texts, decide, which of them are true (T) and which are false (F) according to the text you have read.

**Text 1. Cornelia Funke**

Sometimes regarded as the German J. K. Rowling, Cornelia Funke finished the University of Hamburg and after graduation studied book illustration at a design college. She began a career as a book illustrator and game designer, but lost interest in the work after a few years. As a young girl, Funke had been a lover of fantasy — the works of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, and J. M. Barrie — and decided, at the age of 28, to write her own books. During the 1980s and early 1990s, she became a rather well­known author of children’s books in her native Germany, but her success came in 1997 when «Dragonrider» and later «The Thief Lord», both huge successes in Germany, were met with international attention. In fact, as soon as «The Thief Lord» reached the United States, it hit the «New York Times» bestseller list and remained there for 25 weeks.

Task. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1. Cornelia Funke and J. K. Rowling are friends.

2. Cornelia Funke got her education in her native country.

3. She began a career as a storyteller.

4. She was always interested in her work of a designer.

5. She read the famous fantasy books at the age of 28.

6. The author’s first success came in 1997 when her books became bestsellers in the USA.

**Text 2. Carrying An Umbrella**

The umbrella was brought to England from the East in the eighteenth century. It was used in the East as a protection against the sun. In England it was used more as a protection against the rain. The English people liked the umbrella very much. Later they put up a monument to the first man who appeared in the streets of London with an umbrella.

Of course, you can go out without an umbrella in rainy weather if you put on a raincoat, but our story today is about an umbrella. Here it is.

One day a man was walking in the street when he saw a little boy carrying an umbrella. “Little boy,” said the man, “why do you carry that umbrella over your head? It is not raining and the sun isn’t shining.” “When it rains,” answered the boy, “dad wants it. I can use it only when the weather is good.”

Task. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1. The umbrella was bought in England in the eighteenth century.

2. It was used in England as a protection from the sun.

3. The English people were fond of the umbrella.

4. You cannot go out without an umbrella in rainy weather in any case.

5. It wasn’t wet when a little boy was carrying an umbrella.

6. The boy’s brother takes the umbrella if it is rainy.

**Directions:** Read the texts. Look at the sentences below the texts, choose the best answer from possible answers.

**Text 3. The Story About The Christmas Tree**

Long, long ago, on one Christmas Eve, spiders were banished from homes while people cleaned the houses and broke their webs. They had to move to the farthest corner of the attic. Young spiders wanted to see the decorated Christmas trees and the little Christ child. The elders tried to tell the younger spiders that they were not allowed inside the rooms but the young spiders were quite curious. When the house was dark and silent and everybody was asleep, the spiders crept out of their hiding place and slowly reached the Christmas tree. They spent all night in the tree, examining its beautiful ornaments. They left pretty and delicate spider webs all over the tree. In the early hours of the morning, the little Christ child came to bless the house. He was surprised to find little spiders and their webs on the tree. The Christ child gently touched the spider webs and made them sparkling and shining in silver and golden colours. The Christmas tree looked even more beautiful than before.

Task. For sentences (1—6) choose and circle the correct answer (a, b, c or d).

*1. When were spiders driven out of people’s homes?*

a) at Christmas time b) on Christmas morning

c) at the weekend d) on the 24th of December

*2. Where did the spiders live?*

a) in the bathroom b) under the roof

c) in the kitchen d) under the floor

*3. Who wanted to see the decorated Christmas trees and the little Christ child?*

a) the huge spiders b) the young spiders

c) the oldest spiders d) the cleverest spiders

*4. When did the spiders go to look at the Christmas tree?*

a) When the family was having dinner. b) When everybody was dancing.

c) When the family was in bed. d) When the little Christ child arrived.

*5. The spiders left pretty and delicate spider webs ... .*

a) all over the house b) all over the attic

c) all over the tree d) all over the bedroom

*6. The Christ child ... .*

a) transformed the Christmas tree into gold

b) changed the colours of the spider webs

c) did nothing in the room d) removed the webs from the Christmas tree

**Text 4. An Amazing Discovery**

It was 1922. Archeologists Howard Carter and Lord Caernarvon were in Egypt, searching for the remains of kings who had lived thousands of years before. For six years they had worked in the desert, but they had found nothing.

However, on that day they heard a shout and saw stairs down into the earth. The stairs were cleared and at the bottom there was a door. The door was locked. Inside there was a room full of wonderful things. Everything that was needed for everyday life was there. And many of the things were made of gold.

Later the body of a king was found. He was only eighteen when he died and he was called Tutankhamun. His name was written on many of the objects. He was buried in a gold box called a sarcophagus, inside a series of other boxes. These were all placed inside another room with impressive gold doors. The remains of many ancient Egyptian kings have been excavated, but all of them had been robbed. Only Tutankhamun’s remains were not touched for 3,273 years.

Task. For sentences (1—5) choose and circle the correct answer (a, b or c).

*1. The two archeologists were hoping to excavate:*

a) gold and jewels b) buried kings c) an old site

*2. That day was different because*

a) someone shouted b) someone found something c) a hole opened in the earth

*3. Who locked the door?*

a) the dead man b) the man’s family c) we don’t know

*4. In the room there were …*

a) lots of things used by the dead man while he was alive

b) things the dead man owned c) a lot of objects made of gold

*5) Tutanchamun was buried in ….*

a) a number of boxes b) only one box c) a museum

**Directions:** Read the texts. Choose from (A—G) the one which best fits each space. There is one choice you do not need to use.

**Text 5. The History Of The Bicycle**

There are about a billion bicycles in the world, twice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . Every year some 50 million bicycles and 20 million cars are produced. Although Leonardo da Vinci drew some rough sketches of a thing that looked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , the Frenchman De Sivrac built the first bicycle-type vehicle in 1690. It was referred to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . However, it did not have pedals. Those were added in 1840 by a Scottish blacksmith, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . On a penny-farthing bicycle, one pedal gave the wheel one turn. A lot of pedalling was needed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ! With the invention of gears, bicycles could move faster. Air-filled tyres were used on bicycles before they were used on motorcars. The bicycle as we know it today, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ looks almost exactly the same as the one from 1900.

**A** as many as motorcars **B** as a hobbyhorse

**C** with two wheels of the same size

**D** who is credited with inventing the real bicycle

**E** like a bicycle **F** didn’t go fast **G** to get around

**Text 6. Papillon**

Henri Charriere lived in Paris in the 1920s. He was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and he robbed banks. People called him “Papillon” because he had a tattoo of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on his chest. In 1931, the police arrested Papillon for a murder. He wasn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_ but they sent him to a prison for dangerous criminals in South America.

Papillon tried to escape nine times and he had many adventures. Once, he escaped in a small boat and lived in an Indian village in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a few months before the police found him. Every time Papillon escaped, the police caught him and brought him back.

Finally the police sent him to the prison on Devil’s Island. This was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ place and prisoners never escaped from it. But this did not stop Papillon. He wanted to get away and he started to plan another escape. One day he jumped off a cliff into the sea. After thirteen years in prison he finally escaped!

Papillon got to Venezuela and there he got married. Soon he became a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ businessman. Later he wrote a book about his life. The book was a bestseller and Henri Charriere became rich and famous.

**A**  jungle **B** horrible **C** butterfly **D** adventure **E** guilty **F** thief **G** successful