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PART 1 COMPREHENSION 1

You are going to read an article. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. (4 points each)

I'm the last speaker of my language

I come from Chile and I've always been interested in my country's history and culture. It all started when I was about eight and I started to learn about the country's indigenous inhabitants. When I first found out about the native people of Patagonia, in the far south, I had no idea that my mother's family was from there and that her grandfather had been a Selk'nam. The last speaker of Selk'nam died in 1974. I really wanted to learn Selk'nam, so relatives on my father's side who live in Punta Arenas, the southernmost town in mainland Chile, sent me dictionaries. (1) _____ But I had no idea what these sounded like.

Then, when I was about eleven, I saw a television programme about the Yagan people who lived on the island of Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost tip of South America. The programme interviewed two sisters, Cristina and Ursula Calderon, and said they were the only two speakers of their language left. (2) _____

Only later did I discover that the two languages are quite different; that the two peoples couldn't communicate with each other.

One day, my mother told me that although she was born in the capital, Santiago, her grandfather was a Selk'nam from the north of Tierra del Fuego. Nobody had ever told me anything about this before. When I asked why, she said that when she was young she had been teased for looking different, and so she had just kept quiet about it.

When I was thirteen, I went to the south for the first time on my own to meet Cristina Calderon. (3) _____ I discovered that there used to be four thousand Selk'nam in Tierra del Fuego.

They were hunters of wild cats and foxes. The Yagan lived further south and travelled by canoe all the way down to Cape Horn, but the Selk'nam moved on foot.

Settlers from the north arrived in the nineteenth century and introduced diseases like measles and typhoid, which affected the local people very badly. Now, there's no way back. I got hold of some recordings of a Selk'nam shaman from the 1960s and started to study them. (4) _____. Gradually, however, I began to understand how the words sounded and began to reproduce them.

The Selk'nam express themselves using lots of prefixes and suffixes, and the sounds are guttural, nasal and tonal. (5) _____. For example, it has lots of different words for the weather. The hardest thing in Selk'nam, however, is the verbs – they all sound a bit the same. There are some English loanwords, such as 'bread' and 'money'. Others are descriptive: 'read' translates as 'playing with words' and 'drum' as 'vibrating leather'. Then there are words for modern things – for 'telephone', you have to say 'speak from afar', and 'car' is 'go on four wheels'. I speak the language well now. Cristina's husband spoke Selk'nam and apparently I sound just like him.

Because music is something that reaches lots of people, I started composing traditional songs in Selk'nam and formed a band with two friends. This meant that they had to learn some words, too. (6) _____. I need to teach my language to more people because if something happened to me, it would die out all over again.

- A. I felt a sudden desire to learn that one too.
- B. It was slow because I had no one to talk to.
- C. Yagan is quite different, however, because it has more vocabulary.
- D. This meant that I was able to start learning words, verbs and expressions.
- E. This was good because I didn't want to be the only one.
- F. These turned out to be rather hard for me to pronounce, however.
- G. The trip seemed the best way to find out about my roots.

PART 2 COMPREHENSION 2

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

Rules for Conversation

- 1 Every day we participate in different forms of interaction. In some interactions, for example, classes, meetings, or political debates, it may seem obvious that there are rules that we all follow. Those rules tell us who speaks when or how you get a turn to speak. It may be more surprising to learn that ordinary conversations also have rules.

Taking Turns

- 2 Conversation is organized into turns. There are just two fundamental rules for turns in conversation, and experts in this field say that these are followed fairly consistently across cultures. First, in general, one person speaks at a time, without much overlap. Second, there is very little silence between turns.
- 3 That sounds simple, but how do people know how to participate in the “conversation game”? During conversation, people send each other subtle signals. The most important signals come from speakers to indicate that they are finishing a turn. There are three categories for these signals. First, speakers may make a visual signal, such as a gesture with their hands or head. Second, the quality of their voice may change. For example, they may begin to speak more softly, more slowly, or with a lower pitch before they stop speaking. All of these are signals that the end of a turn is coming. Finally, and most important, is where speakers look. While they are speaking, they usually glance occasionally at their listeners. However, when they are about to finish, they tend to look their listeners directly in the eye. All of these signals help listeners perceive the end of a turn so they can prepare to jump in for their own turn. All of this happens unconsciously, without either person realizing what is happening.
- 4 What do listeners do while they are waiting for their turn? They have several options. They can signal their attention by looking at the speaker. They can also give what are known as minimal responses, such as “mmm-hmm,” or “yeah,” which tell the speaker that the other person is paying attention. Listeners who want a turn before the speaker has finished often change the position of their bodies in an effort to get the speaker’s attention. Or they may simply start to speak while the other person is still talking. In other words, they may interrupt the speaker. When this happens, the speaker has to decide whether to give up the turn or to try to keep it. One way to maintain the turn is to keep speaking, perhaps at a louder volume, and see if the person who is interrupting will give up. Because the rules of conversation do not permit two people to speak at the same time for very long, eventually one of them will stop speaking. In friendly conversations, people generally try to minimize this competition for turns.

Variations in Conversational Style

- 5 Although the rules of conversation are generally the same everywhere, there are important differences across cultures, ages, classes, and genders. These differences are generally of two types: (1) Silence: How much silence is permitted between turns? (2) Overlap between speakers: How much is tolerated? In other words, how long can two people speak at the same time? What happens when one person’s rules are somewhat different from another person’s? What happens when the person you are talking to does not conform to your rules?

- 6 Consider this example: Imagine you are telling two of your friends a story about something that happened to you. They are listening and giving minimal responses, such as “mmm-hmm” and “wow!” You can see that they are interested in your story. Then one of your friends looks very excited and finishes your sentence at the same time that you are talking. Then he jumps into the conversation and says “Yeah, that is so interesting. Something like that happened to me!” Then he starts telling his own story before you have finished yours. You are offended because you have been interrupted. But he thinks the two of you are having a great conversation.
- 9 Scholars who study language use say that your friend is not trying to compete with you. For him, this is a form of conversational cooperation. By finishing your sentence and jumping in with his own story, he is trying to establish a bond with you. He is trying to show how much you share. Yet it is easy to see how breakdowns in conversation can occur and how one person can get the wrong impression. Learning about conversational styles can help you become more tolerant when you are talking to someone whose style is different from yours.

A. Main Idea Check

1. What is the main idea of the whole reading? (4 points)

2. Match each paragraph main idea below to a paragraph from the reading. Write the number of the paragraph on the blank line. (8 points)

_____ There are several ways that speakers can indicate they are finishing a turn.

_____ There is some variation in conversations across cultures.

_____ Interrupting another person’s turn may cause offense.

_____ All conversation follows basic rules for taking turns to talk.

A. A Closer Look

Look back at the reading to answer the following questions. (2 points each)

1. What is one of the basic rules of conversation?
 - a. Don’t speak when someone else is speaking.
 - b. Give a signal when your turn is over.
 - c. Pay attention to what the other person is saying.

2. Choose two items below to complete the sentence:

Two signals that indicate a turn is ending are _____ and _____ .

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| a. minimal responses | b. slower speech |
| c. a direct look at the listener | d. louder volume |

3. Most people are aware of the turn-taking rules for conversation. **True or False?**

4. Choose two items below to complete the sentence.

Two ways to claim a turn for speaking are to _____ or to _____ .

- a. change positions b. raise a hand
- c. look at the speaker d. start speaking

5. If someone interrupts you, how can you keep your turn?

- a. Speak faster. b. Speak louder. c. Change the position of your body.

6. Minimal responses indicate the listener is paying attention. **True or False?**

7. What happens when speakers do not follow rules for turn taking?

- a. They may not get a turn to speak.
- b. Other people are likely to interrupt them.
- c. They may offend other people.

PART 3 VOCABULARY 1

Choose the best word to complete each sentence. You will not use all the words (3 points each)

accelerate	anticipation	approximate	breakdown	cue
empirical	gratitude	ideal	implications	impose
mastery	perceive	phenomenon	promote	stimulation

- He knew he had stayed longer than he had planned at his brother' house, he didn't want to _____ on the his family any longer.
- Babies need a lot of visual and auditory _____ to best develop their language skills.
- In _____ of getting a big promotion at work, he took his family on a 2-week vacation.
- Adults find it very difficult to _____ a difference between certain sounds in a foreign language if those sounds do not exist in their own language.
- Although it seemed clear that there was a relationship between second language learning and age, it wasn't until researchers analyzed the _____ data that the hypothesis could be proven.
- Even though both executives spoke some English, if the translator had not been present at the meeting, there would have been a serious _____ in communication.
- The _____ number of English speakers in the world is 1.8 billion.
- Before the company decides to sell off its foreign offices, the directors must first consider the negative _____ of such a sale for the employees and for the community.
- Language shift is a / an _____ that occurs when two languages are in contact but one slowly dies out.
- It is almost impossible for adult learners to achieve total _____ of a new language, especially its pronunciation.

PART 4 VOCABULARY 2

Circle the letter of the best word to complete each sentence (2 points each).

1. There's a growing _____ among scientists that climate change is real.
a. intention b. imposition c. consensus d. reminder
2. It took several decades to _____ the damage created by the oil spill.
a. reverse b. rebound c. trap d. render
3. There has been a movement to _____ nonrecyclable materials for recyclables in an effort to conserve natural resources.
a. filter b. convert c. designate d. substitute
4. The move to encourage bicycle riding is going to face a challenge in the city because residents are so _____ on their cars.
a. irreversible b. reliant c. undeniable d. conceivable
5. Some people say that the wind farms _____ an unacceptable threat to the bird population.
a. pose b. preserve c. tackle d. induce
6. The city had to discontinue its research due to _____ funding.
a. affluent b. adversely c. insufficient d. emerging
7. After the investigation, the committee _____ that the oil company was at fault.
a. reminded b. generated c. induced d. concluded
8. The large amount of money raised for the victims of the earthquake was _____.
a. saturated b. marked c. tenable d. unprecedented
9. The government _____ the cost of the research that was carried out by the World Health Organization.
a. intended b. subsidized c. abandoned d. submerged
10. The residents complained to the city about the _____ of trash along the riverbank.
a. mitigation b. emission c. resolution d. accumulation