

SELECTION

55 ITEMS

Read the text.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING

Synchronized swimming is a discipline that has its origins in water acrobatics. The sport was developed by Katherine Curtis who had the idea of combining water acrobatics with music. It became an Olympic sport for the first time in Los Angeles in 1984. Then, it was included in the Olympic Games in Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992. This is the only exclusive female Olympic sport.

As part of the equipment, a small nose clip of hard plastic is used to stop water from entering the nose. In addition, speakers are used to project



music underwater. Goggles and additional clothing are not permitted. The clothing includes elaborated costumes which are non-transparent. Swimmers can be penalized if a head-dress falls off one of the athletes because experienced athletes should ensure everything is securely fastened.

Adapted from www.olympic.org

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text. (Items from 1 to 4)

- 1) Synchronized swimming was created by _____.
- A) Katherine Curtis
 - B) a group of female swimmers
 - C) the Olympic Games Committee
 - D) some swimmers from Los Angeles

DGEC

- 2) Synchronized swimming was first included in the Olympics _____.
- A) after Seoul 1988
 - B) in Barcelona 1992
 - C) in Los Angeles 1984
 - D) since the first Olympic games
- 3) The equipment and clothes to practice synchronized swimming include _____.
- A) goggles and speakers
 - B) additional clothing and goggles
 - C) a small nose clip and elaborated costumes
 - D) sophisticated costumes and any other additional clothing
- 4) Swimmers can be penalized if _____.
- A) they use a plastic nose clip
 - B) their costumes are not well-elaborated
 - C) they do not wear transparent swimsuits
 - D) a head-dress falls off from one of the swimmers

Read the text.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Mountain biking started during the 1970s in California. Joe Breeze, Gary Fisher, Charlie Cunningham, Keith Bontrager, and Tom Ritchey were the fathers of this sport. To practice this sport, the development of a new bike was necessary; these bikes have fatter tires, rapid-shift gears, drum brakes and ground-breaking suspension. The first national mountain bike championships took place in 1983 in the USA, and the first mountain bike World Championship, recognized by the International Cycling Union (UCI), was organized in 1990. Then, Olympic recognition followed and mountain biking made its debut as an Olympic discipline at the Atlanta Games in 1996, with a cross-country event for men and women. In Athens 2004 and in Beijing 2008, Julien Absalon won first place; it made him famous for being a two-time gold medal winner. Now, the sport is very popular in Australia and Europe.



Adapted from www.abc-of-mountainbiking.com

Choose the appropriate alternative to answer each question based on the previous text. (Items from 5 to 8)

- 5) Where was mountain biking born? It _____.
- A) began in California
 - B) has Australian roots
 - C) first appeared in Beijing
 - D) is originally from Athens

- 6) What kind of tires are necessary to practice mountain biking?
- A) Small and flat ones
 - B) Fatter than the regular ones
 - C) Flatter than the regular ones
 - D) The same tires used on a normal bike
- 7) When did mountain biking debut as an Olympic discipline? It _____.
- A) was in 2008
 - B) occurred in 2004
 - C) was during the Atlanta Games
 - D) appeared for the first time in 1983
- 8) Which cyclist has obtained two Olympic gold medals consecutively?
- A) Joe Breeze
 - B) Gary Fisher
 - C) Tom Ritchey
 - D) Julien Absalon

Read the text.

ANDREA BOCELLI

He is an Italian singer. He was interested in music from an early age. As a child, he learned to play the piano, flute, and saxophone. Visually impaired from birth, Bocelli became blind at the age of 12.

His lucky break came in 1992 when he recorded a demo tape with the song *Miserere*. It was heard by Pavarotti who told him to record the song with him. The duo scored a European smash hit and international success. Bocelli later studied law and spent a year working as a lawyer. His albums include *Romanza* (1997), *Suono* (1999), *Tosca* (2003), *Cieli di Toscana* (2001), *Amore* (2006), and *Incanto* (2008).



Adapted from
www.andreabocelli.com

Choose the appropriate alternative to answer each question based on the text. (Items from 9 to 12)

- 9) When did Andrea show interest in music?
- A) After he studied law.
 - B) Since he was a child.
 - C) After he became blind.
 - D) During his university studies.
- 10) What happened to Andrea when he was 12? He _____.
- A) became blind
 - B) tried to be a singer
 - C) started studying music
 - D) recorded his first song
- 11) What happened to Bocelli in the early 90s? He _____.
- A) became blind
 - B) had an accident
 - C) released his first album
 - D) recorded a song with Pavarotti
- 12) What was Bocelli's first album?
- A) *Suono*
 - B) *Incanto*
 - C) *Miserere*
 - D) *Romanza*

Read the text.

ROMEO SANTOS

Romeo Santos is a bachata singer and songwriter. His musical talent was discovered when he was a singer in the choir of his church. Then, he co-founded *Aventura* a boy band, with his cousin and brothers. The group was originally known as *Los Tinellers*. His idea about mixing bachata with R&B and hip-hop rhythms made the group achieve worldwide success. After that, Romero Santos decided to try a solo career in 2011. Romeo has won different awards; they include seven Billboard Latin Music Awards, six *Soberano Awards*, two *Premios Juventud*, and two *Lo Nuestro Awards*, among others. He ended 2014 as Billboard's Latin Artist of the year thanks to sales and social presence.



Adapted from
www.billboard.com/artist

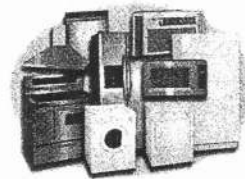
Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the text. (Items from 13 to 16)

- 13) Romeo's musical talent started when he _____.
- A) sang in his church
 - B) began his solo career
 - C) founded the band *Aventura*
 - D) recorded a CD with Sony Music
- 14) Romeo's music _____.
- A) just uses bachata
 - B) only emphasizes on hip-hop
 - C) only mixes two types of music
 - D) combines bachata with R&B and hip-hop
- 15) Romeo _____ in 2011.
- A) created *Aventura*
 - B) started his solo career
 - C) founded *Los Tinellers*
 - D) began singing in the choir of his church
- 16) Romeo won _____ in 2014.
- A) *Premio Juventud*
 - B) *Lo Nuestro Award*
 - C) Billboard Latin Music Award
 - D) Billboard's Latin Artist of the year

Read the information.

BASIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING AN APPLIANCE

1. Read all of the instructions carefully.
2. Do not touch hot surfaces. Use handles or knobs.
3. Do not immerse cords in water in order to avoid an electric shock.
4. Close supervision is necessary when the appliance is used near children.
5. Unplug it from an outlet when not in use and before cleaning. Allow it to cool down before putting or taking off parts.
6. Do not operate an appliance with a damaged cord, plug or after the appliance shows malfunction.
7. Do not place it on a burner or in a heated oven.
8. To unplug, turn the control button to "off". Then remove the plug from the outlet.



Adapted from Instructions Manual Rival Corporation

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous information. (Items from 17 to 23)

- 17) One basic safety precaution is to _____.
- A) cook without water
 - B) follow the instructions
 - C) immerse the cord in liquid
 - D) place the appliance in a heated oven
- 18) It is dangerous to touch hot surfaces without _____.
- A) plugs
 - B) cords
 - C) burners
 - D) handles or knobs

- 19) The third instruction is about the _____
- A) use of handles
 - B) malfunction of hot surfaces
 - C) use of appliances outdoors
 - D) protection against electric shock
- 20) Users have to be very careful when electrical appliances _____.
- A) are near kids
 - B) have good cords
 - C) are far from children
 - D) have all of the parts in good condition
- 21) The electrical appliance is plugged into _____.
- A) a cord
 - B) a knob
 - C) an oven
 - D) an outlet
- 22) It is advisable to _____ when not using it.
- A) turn on the appliance
 - B) have the appliance near kids
 - C) keep the appliance unplugged
 - D) take off the parts of the appliance
- 23) The last precaution suggests _____
- A) unplugging the appliance
 - B) using handlers and knobs
 - C) reading the basic safety precautions
 - D) operating appliances with damaged cords

Read the text.

SHUTTLE SERVICES

Shuttle services include a variety of transportation services. Scheduled services run daily to all of the most popular destinations in Costa Rica in small comfortable, air-conditioned vans and minibuses. Four to ten passengers travel in each van with enough space for luggage inside the vehicle. They make at least one mandatory stop at a pre-defined spot, usually a souvenir shop or restaurant with clean bathrooms. On some routes, tourists may need to change buses at this stop. All prices are per person and if you have from one to 3 three passengers, the shuttle costs less than a private shuttle. If you have four or more passengers, the private shuttle costs even less.



Adapted from www.morphovans.com

Choose the appropriate alternative to answer each question based on the previous text. (Items from 24 to 27)

- 24) What do shuttle services offer? They offer _____.
- A) daily departures
 - B) food during the trip
 - C) a high cost for big groups of tourists
 - D) transportation for groups of no more than 3 people

- 25) What is one characteristic of the vans? They _____.
- A) are uncomfortable
 - B) have food for the tourists
 - C) have enough space for luggage
 - D) have space only for four passengers
- 26) How many stops does a minibus make?
- A) At least one
 - B) At least four
 - C) From three to four stops
 - D) Every time a passenger needs one
- 27) How can a client get a lower price? If _____.
- A) the person calls first
 - B) the van doesn't stop anywhere
 - C) a group of passengers travel together
 - D) the traveller doesn't have any luggage

Read the text.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN COSTA RICA

Private transportation services offer a safe and convenient way to travel around Costa Rica. It can be scheduled at anytime and from anywhere. The most popular transportation services include the following:

- **Shuttle services:** they are a shared transportation option in a minibus to popular destinations. However, shuttles are not public buses, so they are subject to availability and must be reserved in advance.
- **Domestic flights:** they may be the most convenient and best option to save time. Traveling between some destinations can take hours by land, while a domestic flight can take just 35 minutes.
- **Car Rental:** it may be a good option for travelers who prefer independence and flexibility, but it is not generally recommended for first time visitors.



Adapted from www.anywherecostarica.com/transportation

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text. (Items from 28 to 31)

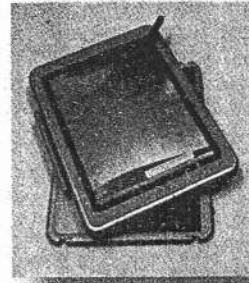
- 28) Private transportation is _____ of traveling around the country.
- A) a risky mean
 - B) a safe option
 - C) the cheapest option
 - D) considered an inconvenient mean

- 29) With private transportation, the user chooses the _____.
- A) route and the group
 - B) vehicle and the driver
 - C) schedule and destination
 - D) departure place and the driver
- 30) One advantage of domestic flights is that they are _____.
- A) cheap and flexible
 - B) reserved in advance
 - C) subject to availability
 - D) convenient for saving time
- 31) For people who want to travel at their own pace, a good option is to _____.
- A) rent a car
 - B) fly to their destination
 - C) use public transportation
 - D) use a shared means of transportation

Read the text.

PERSONAL COMPUTERS

Personal computers can be generally classified by size and chassis. The chassis or case is the metal frame that serves as the structural support for electronic components. Every computer system needs at least one chassis to house the circuit boards and wiring. The chassis also contains slots for expansion boards. If you want to insert more boards than there are slots, you will need an expansion chassis, which provides additional slots. There are two basic kinds of chassis designs: desktop models or home computers and tower models, but there are many variations on these two basic types. Then there are portable computers which are computers small enough to carry. Portable computers include notebook and subnotebook computers, hand-held computers, palmtops, and PDAs.



Adapted from the Internet

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text. (Items from 32 to 35)

- 32) Every computer system needs _____.
- A) one chassis
 - B) additional slots
 - C) expansion boards
 - D) a notebook computer

33) The metal frame of a personal computer is called _____.

- A) a tower
- B) a chassis
- C) a desktop
- D) an electronic component

34) A kind of portable computer is a _____.

- A) desktop model
- B) home computer
- C) tower computer
- D) notebook computer

35) PDAs and palmtops are two different kinds of _____.

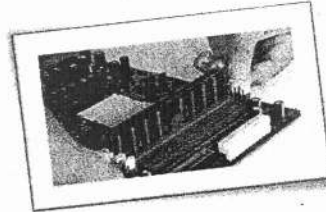
- A) chassis
- B) expansion boards
- C) portable computers
- D) electronic components

Read the text.

RAM

RAM is the abbreviation for Random Access Memory. This is also referred to simply as computer memory. This is where the computer does the short-term tasks. When a program runs, a copy of it moves off the hard drive and into the processor. Then, when the processor wants to accomplish special calculations or do specific tasks, it sends the task to memory where calculations happen. When that is ready, the task is cleaned out of the RAM.

If you run out of memory, it means that there are too many tasks in the RAM to fit any more. Sometimes these tasks use the same part of the memory and this causes a computer to crash. A crash means the computer stops working. When you switch off the computer and restart it, the RAM is cleaned and the computer should operate normally again. A hard drive is not cleaned up during a restart. It retains all information even when the computer is switched off.



Adapted from the Internet

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text. (Items from 36 to 39)

36) RAM means _____.

- A) computer crash
- B) Random Monitor
- C) to run out of memory
- D) Random Access Memory

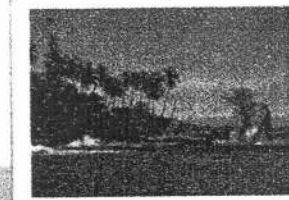
- 37) Calculations are made in the _____.
- A) memory
 - B) processor
 - C) hard drive
 - D) calculation unit
- 38) After making a calculation in RAM, the _____.
- A) task is eliminated
 - B) program starts running
 - C) task is sent to the memory
 - D) task moves on the hard drive
- 39) When there is a crash in your computer, it _____.
- A) stops working
 - B) starts running
 - C) operates normally
 - D) saves all the memory

Read the text.

GANDOCA-MANZANILLO WILDLIFE REFUGE

Gandoca-Manzanillo protects a spectacularly beautiful beach where four species of turtles, especially the more abundant leather back turtles, come to the coast to lay their eggs. Playa Gandoca is a black sand beach, but it is one of the most beautiful beaches in Costa Rica, yet it is a little bit dangerous for swimming.

The refuge –which is 65% tropical rainforest–, also protects a unique swamp habitat including the only mangrove forest along the Costa Rican Caribbean coast. It is possible to hike through the reserve to Gandoca lagoon. This freshwater lagoon has two openings to the sea. If the day is sunny, visitors will be able to see crocodiles and caimans in this lagoon. In addition, in other areas of the refuge, there are many species of birds, including toucans and eagles, as well as other wild animals.



Adapted from Costa Rica Handbook by Cristopher P. Baker

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text. (Items from 40 to 43)

- 40) The leather black turtles come to Gandoca beach to _____.
- A) eat plants.
 - B) leave their eggs
 - C) join other species
 - D) live along the beach

- 41) There is an important _____ at Gandoca–Manzanillo.
- A) swamp
 - B) large lake
 - C) salt water lagoon
 - D) tropical dry forest
- 42) At the park, visitors can find the _____ of the Caribbean coast.
- A) calmest water
 - B) only mangrove forest
 - C) only black sand beach
 - D) smallest freshwater lagoon
- 43) Visitors can see _____ in Gandoca lagoon.
- A) turtles
 - B) eagles
 - C) toucans
 - D) crocodiles

Read the text.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbirds are the smallest birds in the world. For their size, they have the largest heart and brain of all animals. They have no sense of smell, so they find their food by sight and sense of orientation. Young hummingbirds must learn to get nectar from colored flowers. Their tongues are twice as long as their beaks. The flowers they use for nectar sources must be red, rich in nectar, bloom during the daytime. Other flowers such as trumpet or tubular shaped flowers provide selective feeding for the hummingbirds since they only are able to access the succulent nectar. To survive, a hummingbird must consume food in form of liquefied sugar and insect protein when it is available.



Adapted from waterfallgardens.com/hummingbirds

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text. (Items from 44 to 47)

44) Hummingbirds are characterized by having _____.

- A) a big brain
- B) poor vision
- C) a small heart
- D) a good sense of smell

45) Hummingbirds **do not** use their _____ to find food.

- A) sight
- B) tongue
- C) sense of smell
- D) sense of orientation

46) The tongue of a hummingbird _____.

- A) is useless
- B) doubles its beak
- C) is smaller than its beak
- D) helps the bird catch insects

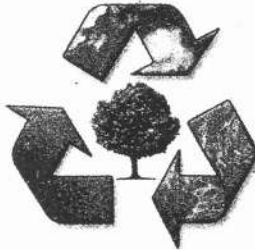
47) Hummingbirds mainly feed _____.

- A) at night
- B) on nectar
- C) on insects
- D) on any type of sugar

Read the text.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Recycling is a way for people to protect the environment, but sometimes it is difficult to find centers for recycling materials. Experts believe this problem will disappear soon. Finding solutions to environmental problems



is not easy, but conservation leaders are optimistic. Some people are facing enormous problems, but if people make a global effort, they can create a sustainable environment. The way people live is creating environmental problems, so solutions require that people change the way they live. People themselves want to make changes.

Adapted from Issues about Environmental Global Challenges/ USA Agency

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text. (Items from 48 to 51)

- 48) One way people help the environment is by _____.
- A) recycling
 - B) going to centers
 - C) finding new centers
 - D) producing more garbage

- 49) According to the text, people _____.
- A) do not like recycling at all
 - B) are not responsible for any environmental problem
 - C) can have problems with finding centers for recycling
 - D) are making a global effort to create enormous problems
- 50) People's lifestyle causes _____ on the environment.
- A) a minor impact
 - B) irrelevant effects.
 - C) a negative impact
 - D) an insignificant effect
- 51) A solution to environmental problems is to _____.
- A) be optimistic
 - B) stop recycling
 - C) change the way people live
 - D) change the way people recycle

Read the text.

Costa Rica was once covered by a lot of forests, but deforestation for agricultural purposes and cattle ranching have reduced virgin forests to only 25% of the total area. The direct result is soil erosion and the loss of soil fertility. Another serious problem, according to the United Nations, is the contamination of the soil by fertilizers and pesticides used in important crops, such as bananas, sugarcane, and coffee.



Costa Rica's use of pesticides is greater than that of all the other countries in Central America added together, and the problem is getting worse every day. Because of this, the Ministry of Health has broad powers to enforce pollution controls, and the Division of Environmental Health has tried to set standards for air and water quality, and the use of organic products.

Adapted from the Internet

Choose the appropriate alternative to complete each sentence based on the previous text. (Items from 52 to 55)

- 52) A direct problem that comes from deforestation is _____.
- A) soil erosion
 - B) air pollution
 - C) soil pollution
 - D) water contamination

- 53) In Costa Rica, forests have been reduced due to _____.
- A) reforestation
 - B) the lack of soil fertility
 - C) enforced pollution controls
 - D) agriculture and cattle ranching
- 54) Contamination of the soil results from _____.
- A) soil erosion
 - B) the use of pesticides
 - C) water and air pollution
 - D) the use of organic products
- 55) Land pollution by fertilizers and pesticides is _____ in Costa Rica.
- A) a minor issue
 - B) a big problem
 - C) already controlled
 - D) the main source of air pollution