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Level 4 – 19th August, 2019

Stare at seagulls to stop them stealing your food

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-4.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-4.html>

Researchers know how to stop seagulls from stealing your French fries - stare at the birds. This tip comes from a UK university. Researchers tested this. They put some fries on the ground and checked how long it took gulls to snatch them without anyone looking at them. They did the same test, but with someone making eye contact. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them.

The researchers said the staring deterred the gulls. Only 26 per cent of the birds tried to take the food with the eye contact. Three-quarters of the birds stood still or flew away. Gulls have a bad reputation for food-snatching. A researcher said: "Gulls often swoop in from behind and people are completely oblivious. Gulls are often seen as aggressive and...take food from humans. It was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come near during our tests."

Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/want-seagulls-to-stop-stealing-your-food-try-staring-at-them-scientists-say/>
<https://www.eater.com/2019/8/9/20799131/seagull-beach-food-stealing-stare-it-in-the-eye>
<https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/staring-seagulls-can-stop-them-stealing-your-food-scientists-say-ncna1040456>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. how to stop seagulls | a. an extra 21 seconds |
| 2. This tip comes | b. took gulls |
| 3. They put some fries | c. test |
| 4. checked how long it | d. from stealing |
| 5. without anyone | e. at them |
| 6. They did the same | f. on the ground |
| 7. The birds took | g. looking at them |
| 8. when a researcher stared | h. from a UK university |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The researchers said the staring | a. find that |
| 2. eye | b. reputation |
| 3. Three-quarters of the birds stood | c. our tests |
| 4. Gulls have a bad | d. still |
| 5. Gulls often swoop | e. near |
| 6. It was interesting to | f. in from behind |
| 7. most wouldn't even come | g. deterred the gulls |
| 8. during | h. contact |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-4.html>

Researchers know how to stop seagulls (1) _____ French fries - stare at the birds. This (2) _____ a UK university. Researchers tested this. They put (3) _____ the ground and checked how long it took gulls (4) _____ without anyone looking at them. They did (5) _____, but with someone making eye contact. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher (6) _____.

The researchers said the (7) _____ the gulls. Only 26 per cent of the birds tried to (8) _____ with the eye contact.

Three-quarters of the birds stood (9) _____ away. Gulls have a bad reputation for food-snatching. A researcher said: "Gulls (10) _____ from behind and people are completely oblivious. Gulls are (11) _____ aggressive and...take food from humans. It was interesting to find that most wouldn't (12) _____ during our tests."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-4.html>

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SEAGULLS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about seagulls in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

