

READING

PART 1

You are going to read a newspaper article about babies learning to swim. Choose the most suitable heading from the list A-I for each part (1-7) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A An inborn ability.
- B Extra benefits.
- C Frightening idea.
- D Taking to the water - reactions vary.
- E Suspicion replaced by enthusiasm.
- F Human link to sea creatures.
- G Swimming with dolphins.
- H "Waterbabies" - nothing new.
- I Growing acceptance.

PART 2

You are going to read an extract from a short story. For questions 8-15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Bartleby had copied a lengthy document from the High Court of Chancery, and I wanted to examine it with him and my three other clerks. The others were all seated, ready, waiting for Bartleby. When I called for him a second time, he came slowly to my door.

"What is wanted?" he said mildly.

"The copies, the copies," I said hurriedly. "We are going to examine them."

"I would prefer not to," he said and gently disappeared behind the screen dividing our offices.

I was speechless. With any other man I would have flown into a dreadful rage, told him exactly what I thought of him and thrown him out of my office immediately. But there was something about Bartleby that not only strangely disarmed me, but in a wonderful manner touched and embarrassed me.

I went to the edge of the screen and explained to him as plainly as I could that this was his work and that it was labour-saving for him to be present when we examined it. "I prefer not to," he replied in a flute-like tone.

It seemed he heard and understood everything I said, yet some more important consideration influenced him. Seeing he was not going to change his mind, I thought for a moment that maybe he was right to refuse me. I turned to the others for reinforcement.

"Murkey," I said. "What do you think of it?"

"I think I should kick him out of the office."

"Ginger Nut," I said finally.

"I think, sir, he's a little loony."

"You hear what they say," I said, "now come and do your duty."

He didn't reply. The business was urgent, so I put off this incident until I had more time. We examined the papers without Bartleby, but the others weren't pleased. Murkey once or twice mentioned that the proceeding was quite out of the ordinary; Nippers twisted in his chair and hissed between his teeth a few curses toward the screen. Nippers also made it known it was the last time he would do another man's work without pay. Meanwhile Bartleby sat next door, apparently unaware of everything.

Some days passed and I began to observe Bartleby. He never went out to dinner; he never went anywhere. Poor fellow, I thought, he means no harm. He's just eccentric. He's useful to me; I get along with him. If I turn him away, the chances are he will fall in with some employer who will treat him rudely, and perhaps be driven to starvation. To befriend Bartleby, to humour him in his strange wilfulness, will cost me little or nothing.

Still, Bartleby's passiveness sometimes irritated me. I felt a strange desire to get some anger from him which I could answer with my own. But indeed I may as well have tried to make a fire by rubbing my hands against a bar of soap.

Babies who can swim before they can crawl

0 C

For many parents, timid about even washing their fragile new babies in a bath, the thought of plunging infants underwater in a large swimming pool is terrifying.

1

Although this fear is natural, it is not necessary. A small baby will supposedly not sink if thrown into deep water. "New-born babies are perfectly adapted to being put in water. They move under water instinctively," says Dr Michel Odent, whose book *We Are All Waterbabies* is published this autumn.

2

In many cultures baby-swimming has always been normal - Captain Cook reported tiny babies playing in lakes on his trip to the Pacific in the 18th century.

3

Last year saw the World Aquatic Baby Conference in California, attended by experts from Canada, the US, Australia and Europe. The idea that swimming before walking may be good for babies is becoming more acceptable. "Humans have a special relationship with water and the sea that other apes don't have," says Odent.

4

Baby-swimming is seen as a "natural" activity that encourages a baby's physical development. Although we are genetically almost identical to chimpanzees, there are physical differences. Those characteristics which are different - big brains and hairlessness - are also those we have in common with marine mammals. Like many sea creatures, we cry salt tears and eat fish. When early humans first crawled out to sea to look for more food, they had to stand upright to keep their heads out of the water, and their first steps on two legs were made easier by the relative aquatic weightlessness.

5

Finnish research shows that at least some areas of development, such as balance, are more advanced in "waterbabies", while German studies show that they have better social and intellectual skills.

6

The babies in Snorri Magnusson's classes, some just two months old, dive under water, pick up rubber rings like little dolphins, and turn somersaults on mats. Magnusson says, "Some babies enjoy the water immediately, and there are some who need up to 17 lessons to feel at home."

7

Magnusson has taught over 600 babies to love the water since he began his classes four years ago. At first he was regarded with scepticism but now there are waiting lists months long and parents are signing up for classes well before their children are born.

8 Why does Bartleby's behaviour in the opening of the passage seem so peculiar?

- A Because the narrator was already upset.
- B Because he acted as if he could do whatever he wanted.
- C Because he treated his boss like an inferior.
- D Because he was so rude.

9 The author didn't shout at Bartleby because

- A he didn't dare speak.
- B he was too angry.
- C he wasn't angry.
- D he was afraid of Bartleby.

10 Why does the author turn to the others "for reinforcement"?

- A Because he began to doubt himself.
- B Because he was afraid of Bartleby.
- C Because they were wise and just men.
- D Because he didn't know what else to do.

11 How would you describe Murkey, based on his reply to the author's question?

- A Aggressive.
- B Obedient.
- C Confused.
- D Insane.

12 Nippers was angry because

- A Bartleby had been rude to him.
- B Murkey was acting strangely.
- C he thought Bartleby was a loony.
- D he was doing Bartleby's work for him.

13 Why didn't the author force Bartleby to examine the papers?

- A He liked Bartleby.
- B The others didn't seem to care.
- C He didn't want to waste time.
- D He thought Bartleby might be ill.

14 Which reason does the author give for not firing Bartleby?

- A He feels sorry for him.
- B Bartleby is not a troublemaker.
- C He might starve without Bartleby.
- D Bartleby is trying to be the author's friend.

15 What does the author mean by the last line in the passage?

- A That Bartleby only got angry when you got angry at him.
- B That it was useless to try to get Bartleby angry.
- C That Bartleby's passiveness worked on his hands like soap.
- D That being passive was the best way to make Bartleby angry.