

READING

PART 1

You are going to read a magazine article about fire. 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 A historic English disaster.
- B Fighting fires high up.
- C Fire is not always destructive.
- D Human mastery of fire.
- E Developments in firefighting methods.
- F Saving trees - if they can.
- G Natural disaster leads to total destruction.
- H Do-it-yourself destruction.
- I Drowning fires with water.

0 D

These days, we have learned to control fire so well that it has almost vanished from everyday life. It is only on the rare occasion that it slips out of our control that we realise what a destructive element it can be.

1

Fires were very common in the past. In 1666 the Great Fire of London destroyed three quarters of the city. The fire began in a baker's shop in Pudding Lane and burned for three days. It destroyed 400 streets and 13,200 houses. St Paul's church was burnt to the ground, along with 86 churches and many other official buildings like the Royal Exchange and the Custom House.

2

In 1923, a firestorm devastated all of Tokyo. A firestorm is a large uncontrollable fire which is kept burning by strong winds. This was the greatest peacetime fire of modern times. It was started by an earthquake and this set off local fires from power cables and cooking pots, which rapidly burnt the houses made of wood and paper.

3

The first official fire brigade was set up in London in 1684 by Nicholas Barbon. The first fire engines were operated by hand by up to 30 men. In 1829 the steam fire engine was invented. Modern fire brigades have many specialist vehicles to fight fires in all sorts of circumstances.

4

The basic vehicle is the fire engine, which has a tank that can carry several thousand litres of water and

300 metres of hose-pipe. These can deliver up to 7,500 litres of water per minute and the pressure is so strong that many fires are "knocked out". Fireboats, however, can pump up to 100,000 litres per minute.

5

In order to put out fires which have broken out in high places in multi-storey buildings, most modern fire brigades have trucks with long ladders and platforms that rotate at the top of the ladders. Water, with its ability to cool, can put out most fires, but fires involving some easily burnt metals need to be put out with a powder like graphite or salt.

6

Forest fires can be the most damaging and dangerous. To try and stop them, fire fighters remove trees and bushes to try and create a firebreak. They also use helicopters and aeroplanes to drop bombs of chemicals on the fire in attempts to stop it spreading. Sometimes, though, once a forest fire is out of control, there is little anyone can do. For example, a forest fire began in Borneo in September 1982, and burned until July 1983, destroying 36,000 square kilometres of forest.

7

Fire fighters say the three main causes of fires are accidents, people throwing away burning matches and cigarettes, and electrical faults. Other leading causes of fires in buildings are cooking equipment, machines that overheat and open fires. Another cause of fires are people who start them deliberately: arsonists. Figures from the United States suggest that ten per cent of fires are deliberately started by people who want to make large insurance claims.

PART 2

You are going to read an article about keeping pets. For questions 8-15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

The yearly report of the Blue Cross - the charity that runs animal hospitals - reported a 9% increase in the number of animals it treated at its four centres. Many pet owners cannot afford their vets' bills and are now going to the charity. One of the main reasons for the increase in bills is a new European Community law which has doubled the cost of veterinary medicines.

Vets' costs are going up, and like all small businesses they have to keep up with the times - if an animal has to have an expensive treatment then people have to pay for it. The problem is that the government pays for people's treatment in Britain, and so nobody realises what the true cost of medicine is. A spokesperson for the British Veterinary Association thinks that prices are not too high but the increasing number of people taking their animal to charities is more a reflection of unemployment and poverty than the prices charged by vets.

Although the Blue Cross is geared to help unemployed people and their pets, it is unlikely to turn away any sick or injured animal. Last year an animal was treated every two minutes and each centre carried out about 500 operations every month.

But there are ways to cut back on vets' bills. When buying a pet, people should think about the size of the animal. Medicine is given to animals according to their weight, so the bigger the dog, the more medicine it needs and the more expensive the treatment. The Blue Cross discourages buying exotic pets such as snakes and strange birds, as they require expert knowledge and the cost of keeping them goes up immediately. They suggest that small dogs or cats or animals such as guinea pigs and mice are much cheaper to care for.

Insuring pets against sickness or accidents is becoming a fast growing business in an effort to cope with soaring vet bills. It can cost as little as £65 a year for a dog and £49 for a cat. People insure their cars and the contents of their houses, so why not insure something as valuable as a pet? But certain animals - such as pit bull terriers - are classed as dangerous dogs by the government, and are not covered by insurance.

The Blue Cross estimates that 10% of pets in Britain are insured, and there has been a steady increase in the last three years, but they say that people need to be made more aware of the advantages. They can even cover the cost of an animal causing a traffic accident, for example. But sometimes it is not until some pet owners are confronted with the possibility of a bill for thousands of pounds that they realise the value of insurance.

8 Why has the cost of animal medicine risen so much?
A The European Community has passed a new law.
B Vets are running small businesses.
C The price of chemicals has risen.
D Vets want to make bigger profits.

9 Why don't people know what medical treatment costs?
A They never need it.
B Vets never tell them.
C Animal treatment is very specialised.
D The government pays for their treatment.

10 What do vets think the real reason for going to the Blue Cross is?
A There are more Blue Cross clinics.
B People are poor and out of work.
C The treatment is quicker.
D They do a lot of operations.

11 What can increase the price of medical treatment?
A animals with unusual diseases
B the cost of new technology
C the lack of insurance
D larger and heavier animals

12 What does the Blue Cross suggest you should not do?
A buy big dogs
B buy expensive medicines
C buy unusual animals
D keep guinea pigs and mice

13 What does "they" (line 17) refer to?
A large pets
B exotic pets
C vets
D Blue Cross clinics

14 What should pet owners be doing?
A insuring their animals
B taking better care of their pets
C trying to prevent accidents
D giving animals cheaper medicine

15 When do some people become aware of the benefits of insurance?
A when the animal is injured
B when they are faced with a huge bill
C when the animal is sick
D when they ask the insurance company