

Short Texts I

Read the two short texts below and then complete the statements or answer the questions that follow by choosing the **best** alternative. Write the letter A, B, C or D in the boxes at the bottom of page 3. The words printed in **bold** are tested in Task II.

Nutcrackers

When it comes to birdbrained ideas, the Japanese crow has set a cracking pace. In Japan, learner drivers are not allowed out on to the roads until they have passed their driving tests. Before that, they practise in a sort of grown-up Legoland and the crows have discovered that if they drop walnuts from above the cars and fly down after them, the cars crack open the nuts. The traffic is slow-moving enough for them to land and pick up the pieces.

- 1 Another suitable title for this item would be...
 - A Traffic Problems
 - B Clever Birds
 - C Japanese Legoland
 - D Driving Tests
- 2 In Japan the learner drivers have to...
 - A pick up pieces of walnuts
 - B crack crow nuts
 - C drive fast
 - D train in a special area



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Bruno the Swan

There once was an ugly duckling, but when this particular bird grew into a handsome swan he was not admired for his beauty, but feared for his viciousness. Bruno, a black swan from Australia, was obtained as a **substitute** for

another swan killed by a fox. He soon began to make his presence felt by attacking patients, nurses and doctors at Conquest Hospital. Soon, anyone passing the lake on the grounds of the hospital at Hastings, East Sussex, became his

victim and warning signs were put up.

After Bruno was given a final chance, he went for the former mayor of nearby Rye, Robert Beckwith, who said: "The bird attacked me from behind and hauled me to the ground. It was very powerful so I kicked it in the chest to get

it off. It then chased others around the lake and nurses had to help them escape."

Bruno and his mate have now been removed to a sanctuary at Egham, Surrey. The hospital is to replace them with two hand-reared swans.

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Task I

3 Another suitable title for the text is...

- A The Ugly Black Swan
- B The Fate of a Savage Swan
- C Swan Saved by Mayor
- D Swan Attacked by Doctor

4 What do we learn about Bruno?

- A He is a character in a fairy tale
- B He fought with his mates
- C He was nasty to people
- D He was nearly killed by a fox

5 What happened to Bruno in the end?

- A He was taken to an animal refuge
- B He was chased off the hospital grounds
- C He was put to sleep at Egham
- D He escaped to the other side of the lake

Task II

The words in **bold** are found in the text you have just read. Choose the best alternative from the words listed below that could be used in the text instead. Write the letter A, B, C or D in the boxes.

6 **substitute**

- A mate
- B protection
- C company
- D replacement

7 **victim**

- A partner
- B target
- C offer
- D enemy

Answers

1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Points

7