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Level 6 – 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.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Researchers have come up with a useful tactic to deter seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or making a grab for your French fries. The advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any food theft. This invaluable tip comes from a study from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers conducted tests at a beach on the effects of staring at the sea birds. They put a bag of fries on the ground and monitored how long it took gulls to approach and snatch the fries without a researcher looking at the birds. They then carried out the same test, but this time a researcher made eye contact as a bird approached. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them.

The researchers concluded that the seagulls were deterred by the human gaze. Only 26 per cent of the birds made an attempt to take the researchers' food with the eye contact. Three-quarters of the birds just stood still and looked at the food or flew away. Lead researcher Madeleine Goumas said: "I noticed that gulls seemed to have a bad reputation for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite rarely. When I did see it happen, gulls often swooped in from behind, and the people were completely oblivious. Gulls are often seen as aggressive and willing to take food from humans, so 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>

WARM-UPS

1. SEAGULLS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about seagulls. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

tactic / stealing / picnic / sandwiches / fries / theft / tests / ground / researcher / human gaze / eye contact / flew away / reputation / oblivious / aggressive / tests

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. FEED: Students A **strongly** believe people should never feed seagulls; Students B **strongly** believe they should. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. FOOD THEFT: How could you stop these creatures from stealing your French fries? How effective would this be? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Anti-theft Measures	How Effective?
Seagulls		
Elephants		
Ants		
Cats		
Locusts		
Your best friend		

5. PICNIC: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "picnic". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. THE BEST BIRDS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best birds at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- seagull
- eagle
- emu
- parrot
- humming bird
- penguin
- pigeon
- peacock

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. tactic | a. The action or crime of stealing. |
| 2. deter | b. Extremely useful. |
| 3. grab | c. An action or strategy carefully planned to achieve a specific end. |
| 4. theft | d. The act of looking directly into one another's eyes. |
| 5. invaluable | e. Discourage someone from doing something by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences. |
| 6. approach | f. Grasp or seize suddenly and roughly. |
| 7. eye contact | g. Come near or nearer to. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. gaze | h. Ready or likely to attack or confront. |
| 9. attempt | i. Look steadily and intently, especially in admiration, surprise, or thought. |
| 10. reputation | j. Make an effort to achieve or complete something, typically a difficult task or action. |
| 11. rarely | k. Especially of a bird - move rapidly downward through the air. |
| 12. swooped | l. Not often; seldom. |
| 13. oblivious | m. The beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone or something. |
| 14. aggressive | n. Not aware of or not concerned about what is happening around one. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Scientists devised a useful tactic to prevent seagulls taking your food. **T / F**
- b. Researchers carried out tests on a bench to attract seagulls with fries. **T / F**
- c. Researchers conducted tests with seagulls with and without eye contact. **T / F**
- d. Seagulls in tests took 21 seconds longer to approach food when stared at. **T / F**
- e. Over a quarter of seagulls tried to take food despite being stared at. **T / F**
- f. A researcher said seagulls have a good reputation. **T / F**
- g. The researcher said she regularly saw gulls swooping for people's food. **T / F**
- h. The researcher said gulls are not seen as being aggressive. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. tactic | a. watched |
| 2. stealing | b. motionless |
| 3. prevent | c. hostile |
| 4. monitored | d. stop |
| 5. approach | e. unsuspecting |
| 6. concluded | f. strategy |
| 7. still | g. decided |
| 8. reputation | h. thieving |
| 9. oblivious | i. good name |
| 10. aggressive | j. move toward |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Researchers have come up with a useful | a. as aggressive |
| 2. making a grab | b. approach the food |
| 3. stare at the birds to prevent | c. eye contact |
| 4. a researcher made | d. still |
| 5. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to | e. for your French fries |
| 6. the seagulls were deterred | f. reputation |
| 7. Three-quarters of the birds just stood | g. in from behind |
| 8. gulls seemed to have a bad | h. tactic to deter seagulls |
| 9. gulls often swooped | i. by the human gaze |
| 10. Gulls are often seen | j. any food theft |

GAP FILL

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

Researchers have come up with a useful (1) _____ to deter seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or making a (2) _____ for your French fries. The advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any food (3) _____. This invaluable tip comes from a study from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers (4) _____ tests at a beach on the effects of staring at the sea birds. They put a bag of fries on the ground and monitored how long it took gulls to (5) _____ and snatch the fries without a researcher looking at the birds. They then (6) _____ out the same test, but this time a researcher made eye (7) _____ as a bird approached. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher (8) _____ at them.

conducted
carried
grab
stared
tactic
contact
approach
theft

The researchers concluded that the seagulls were deterred by the human (9) _____. Only 26 per cent of the birds made an (10) _____ to take the researchers' food with the eye contact. Three-quarters of the birds just stood still and looked at the food or (11) _____ away. Lead researcher Madeleine Goumas said: "I noticed that gulls seemed to have a bad (12) _____ for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite (13) _____. When I did see it happen, gulls often (14) _____ in from behind, and the people were completely (15) _____. Gulls are often seen as (16) _____ and willing to take food from humans, so it was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come near during our tests."

reputation
gaze
aggressive
attempt
oblivious
rarely
flew
swooped

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) a useful tactic to deter seagulls from stealing your _____
 - a. pick nick sandwiches
 - b. picky nick sandwiches
 - c. picnic sandwiches
 - d. picked nick sandwiches
- 2) The advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any _____
 - a. food cleft
 - b. food theft
 - c. food weft
 - d. food deft
- 3) monitored how long it took gulls to approach and _____
 - a. dispatch the fries
 - b. swatch the fries
 - c. stash the fries
 - d. snatch the fries
- 4) carried out the same test, but this time a researcher made _____
 - a. eye contact
 - b. eyed contact
 - c. eyes contact
 - d. eying contact
- 5) The birds took an extra 21 seconds to _____ food
 - a. reproach the
 - b. ape roach the
 - c. up roach the
 - d. approach the
- 6) researchers concluded that the seagulls were deterred by the _____
 - a. human graze
 - b. human glaze
 - c. human gauze
 - d. human gaze
- 7) Three-quarters of the birds just stood still and looked at the food _____
 - a. or threw away
 - b. or fly away
 - c. or flew away
 - d. or few away
- 8) Goumas said: "I noticed that gulls seemed to have a _____"
 - a. bade reputation
 - b. badge reputation
 - c. badly reputation
 - d. bad reputation
- 9) gulls often swooped in from behind, and the people were _____
 - a. completely oblivion
 - b. completely obvious
 - c. completely oblgates
 - d. completely oblivious
- 10) interesting to find that most wouldn't even come near _____
 - a. during your tests
 - b. during our tests
 - c. during their tests
 - d. during them tests

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Researchers have come up with a useful (1) _____ seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or (2) _____ for your French fries. The advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any food theft. This (3) _____ from a study from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers conducted tests at a beach on the (4) _____ at the sea birds. They put a bag of fries on the ground and monitored how long it took gulls to approach and (5) _____ without a researcher looking at the birds. They then carried out the same test, but this time a researcher made eye contact as (6) _____. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them.

The researchers concluded that the seagulls (7) _____ the human gaze. Only 26 per cent of the birds made an attempt to take the researchers' food with the eye contact. (8) _____ birds just stood still and looked at the food (9) _____. Lead researcher Madeleine Goumas said: "I noticed that gulls seemed to have (10) _____ for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite rarely. When I did see it happen, gulls (11) _____ from behind, and the people were completely oblivious. Gulls are often (12) _____ and willing to take food from humans, so it was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come near during our tests."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What did the article say researchers have come up with?
2. What might seagulls make a grab for besides picnic sandwiches?
3. Where did researchers conduct their tests?
4. What did the researchers do with the birds in the second test?
5. How much longer did gulls take to approach food after being stared at?
6. What did the researchers say the human gaze did to seagulls?
7. What percentage of seagulls tried to take food after eye contact?
8. What did a researcher say was bad among seagulls?
9. How often did the researcher see seagulls snatching food?
10. What did the researcher say gulls were often seen as being?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What did the article say researchers have come up with?
 - a) theft-proof food
 - b) a gun
 - c) a tactic to deter seagulls
 - d) a seagull catcher
- 2) What might seagulls make a grab for besides picnic sandwiches?
 - a) French fries
 - b) chocolate brownies
 - c) pizza
 - d) donuts
- 3) Where did researchers conduct their tests?
 - a) on a pier
 - b) on a bench
 - c) in a park
 - d) on a beach
- 4) What did the researchers do with the birds in the second test?
 - a) catch them
 - b) make eye contact
 - c) reward them
 - d) feed them fish
- 5) How much longer did gulls take to approach food after being stared at?
 - a) a lot longer
 - b) microseconds
 - c) an extra 21 seconds
 - d) 7.5 seconds
- 6) What did the researchers say the human gaze did to seagulls?
 - a) scared them
 - b) deterred them
 - c) hypnotized them
 - d) made them squawk
- 7) What percentage of seagulls tried to take food after eye contact?
 - a) 27%
 - b) 24%
 - c) 25%
 - d) 26%
- 8) What did a researcher say was bad among seagulls?
 - a) their smell
 - b) their reputation
 - c) their noise
 - d) their waste
- 9) How often did the researcher see seagulls snatching food?
 - a) quite rarely
 - b) almost never
 - c) often
 - d) very frequently
- 10) What did the researcher say gulls were often seen as being?
 - a) cute
 - b) carnivores
 - c) pests
 - d) aggressive

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Seagulls

You think seagulls are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): eagles, penguins or parrots.

Role B – Eagles

You think eagles are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): seagulls, penguins or parrots.

Role C – Penguins

You think penguins are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): parrots, seagulls or eagles.

Role D – Parrots

You think parrots are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): penguins, eagles or seagulls.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'seagull' and 'food'.

seagull	food

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• useful• advice• tip• bag• snatch• 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26• three• lead• bad• often• during
---	--

SEAGULLS SURVEY

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

SEAGULLS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'seagulls'?
3. What do you know about seagulls?
4. What do you think of picnics?
5. Which are better - sandwiches or French fries?
6. Do you think staring at seagulls is a good tactic?
7. What is your tip for stopping seagulls stealing your food?
8. What do you think of the test in the article?
9. How would you stop seagulls from stealing food?
10. What do you think of feeding bread to birds?

Stare at seagulls to stop them stealing your food – 19th August, 2019
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SEAGULLS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'food'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Are you surprised that the gulls were deterred by the human gaze?
15. What other birds might take your food?
16. What other birds are pests?
17. What are the most helpful birds?
18. What do you think of the sound of seagulls?
19. Should we feed birds?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Researchers have come up with a useful (1) _____ to deter seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or making a (2) _____ for your French fries. The advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any food theft. This (3) _____ tip comes from a study from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers conducted tests at a beach on the (4) _____ of staring at the sea birds. They put a bag of fries on the ground and monitored how long it took gulls to approach and snatch the fries without a researcher looking at the birds. They then carried (5) _____ the same test, but this time a researcher made eye contact as a bird approached. The birds (6) _____ an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them.

The researchers concluded that the seagulls were (7) _____ by the human gaze. Only 26 per cent of the birds made an attempt to take the researchers' food with the eye contact. Three-quarters of the birds just (8) _____ still and looked at the food or flew away. Lead researcher Madeleine Goumas said: "I noticed that gulls seemed to have a (9) _____ reputation for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite rarely. When I did see it happen, gulls often (10) _____ in from behind, and the people were completely (11) _____. Gulls are often seen as aggressive and (12) _____ to take food from humans, so it was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come near during our tests."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) tacit | (b) tactic | (c) taciturn | (d) tact |
| 2. | (a) garb | (b) grab | (c) grub | (d) gerbil |
| 3. | (a) values | (b) valuer | (c) valuation | (d) invaluable |
| 4. | (a) reflects | (b) effects | (c) infects | (d) affects |
| 5. | (a) our | (b) out | (c) in | (d) up |
| 6. | (a) used | (b) made | (c) took | (d) gave |
| 7. | (a) deferred | (b) referred | (c) deterred | (d) perturbed |
| 8. | (a) flew | (b) fluttered | (c) stood | (d) legged |
| 9. | (a) inferior | (b) shoddy | (c) inept | (d) bad |
| 10. | (a) swooped | (b) swiped | (c) swapped | (d) swamped |
| 11. | (a) oblivious | (b) obvious | (c) obviate | (d) obligate |
| 12. | (a) enabling | (b) doing | (c) willing | (d) making |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. come up with a useful catcti
2. renvept any food theft
3. This nlauibleva tip
4. mdtineoor how long it took
5. tnchsa the fries
6. an extra 21 seconds to oparahpc the food

Paragraph 2

7. seagulls were dreedret by the human gaze
8. gulls seemed to have a bad tietnauopr
9. I saw it happen quite reyalr
10. gulls often owspode in from behind
11. people were completely uoolviibs
12. often seen as ggesivsær

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () tests at a beach on the effects of staring at the sea birds. They put a bag of fries on the
- () humans, so it was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come near during our tests."
- () that gulls seemed to have a bad reputation for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite
- () ground and monitored how long it took gulls to approach and snatch the fries without a researcher
- () were completely oblivious. Gulls are often seen as aggressive and willing to take food from
- () rarely. When I did see it happen, gulls often swooped in from behind, and the people
- () of the birds made an attempt to take the researchers' food with the eye contact. Three-quarters of the birds just stood
- () The researchers concluded that the seagulls were deterred by the human gaze. Only 26 per cent
- () contact as a bird approached. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them.
- () making a grab for your French fries. The advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any food
- () looking at the birds. They then carried out the same test, but this time a researcher made eye
- () still and looked at the food or flew away. Lead researcher Madeleine Goumas said: "I noticed
- (**1**) Researchers have come up with a useful tactic to deter seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or
- () theft. This invaluable tip comes from a study from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers conducted

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. useful from tactic A to seagulls stealing . deter
2. a for fries . Making grab French your
3. advice birds . stare The is to at the
4. staring at effects sea birds . of the The
5. seconds 21 Birds extra an took to approach .
6. by deterred the seagulls gaze . human were The
7. the birds of just still . stood Three-quarters
8. seemed Gulls to reputation . bad a have
9. to take and willing Aggressive from food humans .
10. tests . our even Most come during near wouldn't

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Researchers have come *down / up* with a useful tactic to *deter / defer* seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or making a *garb / grab* for your French fries. The advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any food theft. This invaluable *tip / pit* comes from a study from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers conducted tests at a beach on the *affects / effects* of staring at the sea birds. They put a bag of *fries / flies* on the ground and monitored how long it took gulls to approach and *snitch / snatch* the fries without a researcher looking at the birds. They then carried *up / out* the same test, but this time a researcher *did / made* eye contact as a bird approached. The birds took an extra 21 seconds *to / and* approach the food when a researcher stared at them.

The researchers concluded *what / that* the seagulls were *deterred / deferred* by the human gaze. Only 26 per cent of the birds made an attempt to take the researchers' food with the *eying / eye* contact. Three-quarters of the birds just *stood / stand* still and looked at the food or *threw / flew away*. Lead researcher Madeleine Goumas said: "I *noticed / noticing* that gulls seemed to have a bad reputation for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite *rare / rarely*. When I did see it happen, gulls often *swooped / swapped* in from behind, and the people were completely *oblivious / oblivion*. Gulls are often seen as aggressive and willing to take food from humans, so it was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come *near / nearly* during our tests."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

R_s__ r c h_r s h_v_ c_m_ _p w_t h _ _s_f_l t_c t_c
t_ d_t_r s__ g_l_l s f_r_m s t__ l_n g y__ r p_c n_c
s_n d w_c h_s _r m_k_n g _ g_r_b f_r y__ r F_r_n c h
f_r__ s. Th_ _d v_c_ _s t_ s t_r_ _t th_ b_r d s t_
p_r_v_n t _n y f__ d t h_f t. Th_s _n v_l__ b_l_ t_p
c_m_s f_r_m _ s t_d y f_r_m th_ U n_v_r s_t y _f E
x_t_r _n th_ U K. R_s__ r c h_r s c_n d_c t_d t_s t
s _t _ b__ c h _n th_ _f f_c t_s _f s t_r_n g _t th_
s__ b_r d s. Th_y p_t _ b_g _f f_r__ s _n th_ g
r__ n d _n d m_n_t_r_d h_w l_n g _t t__ k g_l_l s
t_ _p p_r__ c h _n d s_n_t_c h th_ f_r__ s w_t h__ t _
r_s__ r c h_r l__ k_n g _t th_ b_r d s. Th_y th_n
c_r r__ d __ t th_ s_m_ t_s t, b_t th_s t_m_ _
r_s__ r c h_r m_d_ _y_ c_n t_c t _s _ b_r d _p p_r__ c
h_d. Th_ b_r d s t__ k _n _x t_r_ 21 s_c_n d s t_
_p p_r__ c h th_ f__ d w_h_n _ r_s__ r c h_r s t_r_d
_t t h_m .

Th_ r_s__ r c h_r s c_n c_l_d_d th_t th_ s__ g_l_l s
w_r_ d_t_r_r_d b_y th_ h_m_n g_z_. O_n_l_y 26
p_r c_n t _f th_ b_r d s m_d_ _n _t t_m p_t t_ t_k_
th_ r_s__ r c h_r s' f__ d w_t h th_ _y_ c_n t_c t.
Th_r__ - q__ r t_r s _f th_ b_r d s j_s t s t__ d s
t_l_l _n d l__ k_d _t th_ f__ d _r f_l_w _w_y. L__
d r_s__ r c h_r M_d_l__ n_ G__ m_s s__ d: " I
n_t_c_d th_t g_l_l s s__ m_d t_ h_v_ _ b_d
r_p_t_t__ n f_r f__ d - s_n_t_c h_n g, b_t I s_w _t
h_p p_n q__ t_r_r_l_y. W_h_n I d_d s__ _t h_p
p_n, g_l_l s _f t_n s_w__ p_d _n f_r_m b_h_n d, _n
d th_ p__ p_l_ w_r_ c_m_p_l_t_l_y _b_l_v__s. G_l_l s
r _f t_n s__ n _s _g g_r_s_s_v_ _n d w_l_l_n g t_
t_k_ f__ d f_r_m h_m_n s, s__ t w_s _n t_r_s_t_n g
t_ f_n d th_t m_s t w__ l_d n' t _v_n c_m_ n__ r
d_r_n g __ r t_s t_s. "

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

researchers have come up with a useful tactic to deter seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or making a grab for your french fries the advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any food theft this invaluable tip comes from a study from the university of exeter in the uk researchers conducted tests at a beach on the effects of staring at the sea birds they put a bag of fries on the ground and monitored how long it took gulls to approach and snatch the fries without a researcher looking at the birds they then carried out the same test but this time a researcher made eye contact as a bird approached the birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them

the researchers concluded that the seagulls were deterred by the human gaze only 26 per cent of the birds made an attempt to take the researchers food with the eye contact threequarters of the birds just stood still and looked at the food or flew away lead researcher madeleine goumas said i noticed that gulls seemed to have a bad reputation for foodsnatching but i saw it happen quite rarely when i did see it happen gulls often swooped in from behind and the people were completely oblivious gulls are often seen as aggressive and willing to take food from humans so it was interesting to find that most wouldnt even come near during our tests"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Researchers have come up with a useful tactic to deter seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or making a grab for your French fries. The advice is to stare at the birds to prevent any food theft. This invaluable tip comes from a study from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers conducted tests at a beach on the effects of staring at these seabirds. They put a bag of fries on the ground and monitored how long it took gulls to approach and snatch the fries without a researcher looking at the birds. They then carried out the same test, but this time a researcher made eye contact as a bird approached. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them. The researchers concluded that these seagulls were deterred by the human gaze. Only 26 percent of the birds made an attempt to take the researchers' food with the eye contact. Three-quarters of the birds just stood still and looked at the food or flew away. Lead researcher Madeleine Goumassaid: "I noticed that gulls seemed to have a bad reputation for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite rarely. When I did see it happen, gulls often swooped in from behind, and the people were completely oblivious. Gulls are often seen as aggressive and willing to take food from humans, so it was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come near during our tests."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SEAGULLS: Make a poster about seagulls. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ANTI-THEFT FOOD: Write a magazine article about scientists making food that seagulls cannot steal. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on seagulls. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to protect your lunch from seagulls. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. e 3. f 4. a 5. b 6. g 7. d
8. i 9. j 10. m 11. l 12. k 13. n 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a T b F c T d T e T f F g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. tactic | a. strategy |
| 2. stealing | b. thieving |
| 3. prevent | c. stop |
| 4. monitored | d. watched |
| 5. approach | e. move toward |
| 6. concluded | f. decided |
| 7. still | g. motionless |
| 8. reputation | h. good name |
| 9. oblivious | i. unsuspecting |
| 10. aggressive | j. hostile |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A tactic to deter seagulls
2. French fries
3. On a beach
4. Make eye contact
5. An extra 21 seconds
6. Deterred them
7. 26%
8. Their reputation
9. Quite rarely
10. Aggressive

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. A useful tactic to deter seagulls from stealing.
2. Making a grab for your French fries.
3. The advice is to stare at the birds.
4. The effects of staring at the sea birds.
5. Birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach.
6. The seagulls were deterred by the human gaze.
7. Three-quarters of the birds just stood still.
8. Gulls seemed to have a bad reputation.
9. Aggressive and willing to take food from humans.
10. Most wouldn't even come near during our tests.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)