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Level 5 – 19th August, 2019

Stare at seagulls to stop them stealing your food

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-5.html>

Researchers have a useful tactic to deter seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or fries - to stare at the birds to prevent any food theft. This valuable tip comes from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers tested the effects of staring at the sea birds. They put some fries on the ground and checked how long it took gulls to snatch the fries without a researcher looking at them. They then did the same test, but with a researcher making eye contact. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them.

The researchers concluded that the human gaze 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 and looked at the food or flew away. A researcher said: "Gulls seemed to have a bad reputation for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite rarely. When I did see it...gulls often swooped in from behind and 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>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. a useful tactic to | a. eye contact |
| 2. stealing your picnic sandwiches | b. tip |
| 3. stare at the birds to prevent | c. at them |
| 4. valuable | d. at the sea birds |
| 5. tested the effects of staring | e. extra 21 seconds |
| 6. making | f. deter seagulls |
| 7. The birds took an | g. or fries |
| 8. when a researcher stared | h. any food theft |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. the human gaze deterred | a. or flew away |
| 2. the birds tried to | b. stood still |
| 3. eye | c. oblivious |
| 4. Three-quarters of the birds | d. reputation |
| 5. looked at the food | e. the gulls |
| 6. Gulls seemed to have a bad | f. rarely |
| 7. I saw it happen quite | g. take the food |
| 8. people were completely | h. contact |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-5.html>

Researchers have a useful (1) _____ seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or fries - to stare at the birds (2) _____ food theft. This valuable tip comes from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers (3) _____ of staring at the sea birds. They put some fries on the ground and checked how long it took gulls to (4) _____ without a researcher looking at them. They then did (5) _____, but with a researcher making eye contact. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher (6) _____.

The researchers concluded that the (7) _____ the gulls. Only 26 per cent of the birds tried to take the food with the eye contact. Three-quarters of the (8) _____ and looked at the food or flew away. A researcher said: "Gulls seemed to have (9) _____ for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite rarely. When I did see it...gulls often (10) _____ behind and people were completely oblivious. Gulls are often (11) _____ and willing to take food from humans, so it was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come (12) _____ tests."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190819-seagulls-5.html>

Researchers have a useful tactic to deter seagulls from stealing your picnic sandwiches or fries - to stare at the birds to prevent any food theft. This valuable tip comes from the University of Exeter in the UK. Researchers tested the effects of staring at these seabirds. They put some fries on the ground and checked how long it took gulls to snatch the fries without a researcher looking at them. They then did the same test, but with a researcher making eye contact. The birds took an extra 21 seconds to approach the food when a researcher stared at them. The researchers concluded that the human gaze deterred the gulls. Only 26 percent of the birds tried to take the food with the eye contact. Three-quarters of the birds stood still and looked at the food or flew away. A researcher said: "Gulls seemed to have a bad reputation for food-snatching, but I saw it happen quite rarely. When I did see it... gulls often swooped in from behind and 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."

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) _____

