



DNM ENGLISH PRACTICE 16-04-2020

Section One Listening

A lecture about an experiment

Listen to the lecture about a science experiment to practice and improve your listening skills.

Task 1: Complete the text with the correct form of the word in brackets.

Pitch is the name (1) _____ (give) to a black substance that can be manufactured from petroleum, coal tar or plants. It was (2) _____ (original) used in road (3) _____ (Construct), boat- (4) _____ (build) and waterproofing roofs. It is known for its viscosity (being semi-fluid), its (5) _____ (sticky) and its (6) _____ (elastic). In fact, pitch is the world's (7) _____ (thick) known fluid. An experiment to let drops of pitch form and then fall has been going for 92 years without (8) _____ (interrupt).

Task 2: Circle the best answer.

1. The pitch drop experiment is ...

- a. the oldest experiment in history.
- b. the oldest experiment that is still running today.
- c. the longest experiment in 1927.

2. The creator of the experiment wanted to ...

- a. have an experiment that lasted a long time.
- b. show the dangers of everyday materials.
- c. show that common substances have extraordinary properties.

3. Pitch is a substance ...

- a. that looks solid but is actually liquid.
- b. that looks liquid but is actually solid.
- c. that doesn't appear to be liquid or solid.

4. The first time a drop of pitch fell was ...

- a. eight years after the experiment began.
- b. three years after the experiment began.
- c. forty years after the experiment began

5. Which of the following sentences is not true about Professor John Mainstone?

- a. He never saw the pitch drop.
- b. He was responsible for the experiment for over fifty years.
- c. He took over the experiment in 1927.

6. In the year 2000, ...

- a. an electricity failure meant the pitch drop was not filmed.
- b. scientists set up a live stream of the experiment.
- c. the ninth drop of pitch fell.

Task3: Complete the sentences with one to three words

1. When pitch is at room temperature, you can break it _____.
2. Professor Parnell put pitch into a glass funnel, let it cool, then turned it _____ and cut off the top.
3. In total, only _____ have fallen from the funnel.
4. The next pitch drop is expected to fall in _____.
5. In 1988, the scientist responsible for the experiment missed seeing the pitch drop by _____.
6. The speaker notes it's interesting how news about a slow experiment can spread _____.

DISCUSSION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8S0FDjFBj8o>

Source