*From: Johny*

*To: IELTS Prep Group*

*Subj:*  *IELTS* ***Reading*** *lesson 9*

**Lesson Objective**

The student shall be able to use “power words” as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills

First Portion

**Idioms**

**Evaluation Criteria**

* Ability to understand the definition of the idiom and how to use in context within a given situation.

**Directive:** Match the idiom with its meaning.

1. [*A*](javascript:ta(%22A%22))[*blessing*](javascript:ta(%22blessing%22))[*in*](javascript:ta(%22in%22))[*disguise*](javascript:ta(%22disguise%22))
2. [*A*](javascript:ta(%22A%22))[*hot*](javascript:ta(%22hot%22))[*potato*](javascript:ta(%22potato%22))
3. [*A*](javascript:ta(%22A%22))[*penny*](javascript:ta(%22penny%22))[*for*](javascript:ta(%22for%22))[*your*](javascript:ta(%22your%22))[*thoughts*](javascript:ta(%22thoughts%22))
4. [*A*](javascript:ta(%22A%22))[*slap*](javascript:ta(%22slap%22))[*on*](javascript:ta(%22on%22))[*the*](javascript:ta(%22the%22))[*wrist*](javascript:ta(%22wrist%22))
5. [*A*](javascript:ta(%22A%22))[*Toss-Up*](javascript:ta(%22Toss-Up%22))
6. [*Add*](javascript:ta(%22Add%22))[*insult*](javascript:ta(%22insult%22))[*to*](javascript:ta(%22to%22))[*injury*](javascript:ta(%22injury%22))
7. [*Against*](javascript:ta(%22Against%22))[*the*](javascript:ta(%22the%22))[*clock*](javascript:ta(%22clock%22))
8. [*All*](javascript:ta(%22All%22))[*Greek*](javascript:ta(%22Greek%22))[*to*](javascript:ta(%22to%22))[*me*](javascript:ta(%22me%22))
9. [*All*](javascript:ta(%22All%22))[*in*](javascript:ta(%22in%22))[*the*](javascript:ta(%22the%22))[*same*](javascript:ta(%22same%22))[*boat*](javascript:ta(%22boat%22))
10. *Wouldn't be caught dead*
11. Asking someone what they are thinking about
12. Meaningless and incomprehensible either due to complexity or imprecision
13. Something good that isn't recognized at first
14. A very mild punishment
15. Make a bad situation even worse
16. Would never like to do something
17. Controversial or sensitive issue
18. When everyone is facing the same challenges
19. Rushed and short on time
20. A result that is still unclear and can go either way

Second Portion

**Reading comprehension**

**Evaluation Criteria**

* Ability to read, with clear pronunciation, and comprehend the meaning of the paragraph. The student will be asked several questions to validate their comprehension of the reading material.

**Exercise 1**

**The Alien Story**

**Directive:** Put the story into the correct order.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a Other people who prefer to believe in a scientific explanation have suggested that electrical forces in the atmosphere caused this and other incidents. | b Suddenly, a strange light seemed to be on top of the car, sucking it up off the road before dropping it down again. |
| c Meanwhile, a local lorry driver following the same route as Mrs. Knowles confirmed that he has also seen the strange light in the distance. | **d** In a state of shock, they drove to the nearest town and reported the incident to the police. |
| e Thinking that the woman must have been so tired that she was dreaming, the police gave her a cup of tea hoping to calm her down. | **f** Finally, the police agreed to inspect the car and when they did, they saw the dust, smelt the smell and also noticed some small dents in the roof of the car. |
| g Feeling terrified and out of control, the family noticed a black powder seeping inside their car and smelt a horrible stench. | **h** This story was quickly taken up by some people as proof of the presence of aliens on earth. |
| i When she saw a light flashing on the road ahead, she slowed down thinking that it was a traffic signal | **j** Mrs. Knowles and her three sons were driving from Perth to Adelaide in the early hours one morning in 1988. |

**Exercise 2**

* Read the articles and answer the questions

**ARTICLE 1**

**Safety At The Sea**

Forget razor fish. The lesser weever is the fish to look out for on British beaches.

The fish, which has venomous spines on its gills and dorsal fin, is common in many areas of the UK, including the Cardigan Bay area of Wales.

It lies virtually buried in the sand with just its mouth and fin exposed, a trap for hapless fishermen and beachgoers wading around in the shallows.

If you stand on a weever fish, you are likely to feel a sharp prick-like sensation which gets worse and spreads along your leg, often causing swelling.

**Question:**

* What is the Article about?

**ARTICLE 2**

**Allergy**

Many people have an allergic reaction to the fish and may start to sweat, develop a rapid pulse and feel nauseous as the poison gets further into the body.

Some people collapse as a result. Others can develop chest pain, although the sting is not fatal.

People who have been stung should take painkillers and if they develop an allergic reaction to the sting, a course of antihistamines is recommended.

Other common poisonous fish on Britain's beaches include jelly fish and the stingray, which, if disturbed, can use its tail to venomous effect.

**Question:**

* What is the Article about?

**ARTICLE 3**

**Sea currents**

But fish are the least of your worries on the beach. The force of the sea is much more dangerous than anything swimming about inside it.

Over the weekend, two people nearly drowned in the Bournemouth area after getting out of their depth swimming.

One was just 16 years old. They are both now in stable condition in hospital.

"We were much more hit by that than sunburn cases where the message seems to be getting home," said a spokesman for the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

In other areas, the situation was less dramatic with a handful of sunburn and sprained ankles reported in other sunspots, including Cornwall, Blackpool and Brighton.

Coastguards are warning the public not to swim if there is a red flag flying on a beach and to find out about local tides and currents.

**Question:**

* What is the Article about?

**ARTICLE 4**

**Safe swimming**

The Coastguard Agency says people should not swim if they feel unwell, for at least an hour after a meal, if they have been drinking alcohol or if they are cold and tired.

They also warn against swimming alone, swimming too far out to sea and snorkeling if you have breathing problems.

And you should avoid cliff edges, even on gentle slopes, when they have been dampened by sea spray.

One organization that aims to help swimmers who get into trouble is the UK's answer to Baywatch, the Surf Lifesaving Association of Great Britain.

Founded in 1955 and based on an idea originated in Australia, it now has 81 branches and has made 17,500 rescues.

The association has three types of member: Nippers (aged eight to 12), Junior (aged 12 to 16) and Seniors and Masters.

Its motto is 'Vigilance and Service'. All members are surfers trained in lifesaving skills.

They paddle out across the waves to save struggling swimmers. Most of their money comes from fundraising events, but local councils also provide some funding.

Another danger on the beach is pollution. A recent survey of UK beaches showed more than 10% are failing to meet minimum standards for clean water.

The Marine Conservation Society said raw sewage was still being pumped into the sea in some areas and was findiing its way onto beaches.

But the water companies say the society's standards are too tough and that 90% of British beaches pass European standards.

**Question:**

* What is the Article about?

**ARTICLE 5**

**Reality Television**

Reality television is a genre of television programming which, it is claimed, presents unscripted dramatic or humorous situations, documents actual events, and features ordinary people rather than professional actors. It could be described as a form of artificial or "heightened" documentary. Although the genre has existed in some form or another since the early years of television, the current explosion of popularity dates from around 2000.

**Questions:**

* What does the author mean by “it’s claimed”?
* Since when reality shows have been popular?

Reality television covers a wide range of television programming formats, from game or quiz shows which resemble the frantic, often demeaning programmes produced in Japan in the 1980s and 1990s (a modern example is Gaki no tsukai), to surveillance- or voyeurism- focused productions such as Big Brother. Critics say that the term "reality television" is somewhat of a misnomer and that such shows frequently portray a modified and highly influenced form of reality, with participants put in exotic locations or abnormal situations, sometimes coached to act in certain ways by off-screen handlers, and with events on screen manipulated through editing and other post-production techniques.

**Questions:**

* In what way was Japan involved in the reality show industry?
* In what way were reality shows criticized?

Part of reality television's appeal is due to its ability to place ordinary people in extraordinary situations. For example, on the ABC show, The Bachelor, an eligible male dates a dozen women simultaneously, travelling on extraordinary dates to scenic locales. Reality television also has the potential to turn its participants into national celebrities, outwardly in talent and performance programs such as Pop Idol, though frequently Survivor and Big Brother participants also reach some degree of celebrity.

**Questions:**

* Why were reality shows appealing to people?
* What does *Pop Idol* do to participants?

Some commentators have said that the name “reality television” is an inaccurate description for several styles of program included in the genre. In competition-based programs such as Big Brother and Survivor, and other special-living-environment shows like The Real World, the producers design the format of the show and control the day-to-day activities and the environment, creating a completely fabricated world in which the competition plays out. Producers specifically select the participants, and use carefully designed scenarios, challenges, events, and settings to encourage particular behaviors and conflicts. Mark Burnett, creator of Survivor and other reality shows, has agreed with this assessment, and avoids the word “reality” to describe his shows; he has said, “I tell good stories. It really is not reality TV. It really is unscripted drama.”

**Questions:**

* In what case the term “reality television” is inaccurate?
* What is the producers’ intention behind these programs?
* Is the TV show *Survivor* an accurate portrait of reality?