

ÉRETTSÉGI VIZSGA • 2005. május 12.

ANGOL NYELV

**KÖZÉPSZINTŰ
ÍRÁSBELI VIZSGA**

III. Hallott szöveg értése

Szövegátirat

OKTATÁSI MINISZTERIUM

TASK 1

How tall are you? Well, I am 180 centimetres, and this is considered pretty tall. But, compared to some basket ball players we are just dwarfs! I can still remember that a few years ago there was a player in the Russian team who was 239 centimeres tall, and any professional team today will have a few players who are above 200 centimeters.

Modern opinion is that the tallest recorded man of whom there is irrefutable evidence was Robert Pershing Wadlow. This giant of a man was born in 1918 in Alton, Illinois, a normal, healthy baby boy weighing 3.8 kilos. But at the age of two, after an operation, young Wadlow began to grow at an abnormally rapid rate. At the age of five he was 163 centimeres tall and at the age of nine he was so strong and big that he was able to carry his father up the stairs of the family home. On his 10th birthday he was 195 centimeres tall, and at the age of fourteen, 226 centimeres. Four years later, at the age of 18, Robert Wadlow stood 234 centimeres tall, and still kept growing. By his 21st birthday he had reached a height of a little more than 272 centimeres and was the tallest man recorded in medical history. His weight was 222.7 kilos, he wore 47 centimetre-long shoes and his hands measured 32.4 centimeres from the wrist to the top of the middle finger.

Wadlow's rapid growth caused a problem with one foot on which he had to wear a heavy metal support or brace. Unfortunately, the brace caused an infection of his right ankle which eventually led to his death in 1940, at the age of 22. If he had lived longer, he would probably have reached or surpassed the height of 274 centimetres in a year's time!

TASK 2

Announcer: ... and I've got a letter here, and very nice, too, from Evelyn Ogleby, from Gateshead. "Hello, Happy New Year to you. As I don't have a fax or e-mail, Royal Mail is my way of correspondence. Please, if possible, can we know a li...small amount about Fenella?"

Fenella: Oh, no!

Announcer: Are you ready?

Fenella: Aren't they nosy?

Announcer: Yeah, they are nosy. Eye colour?

Fenella: Greeny-brown.

Announcer: Hair colour?

Fenella: Sort ... reddish, ...ish.

Announcer: Shoe size?

Fenella: Umm, I've got shoe size 10, I think.

Announcer: Ooh, big girl. Height?

Fenella: Five foot five and a half.

Announcer: Hobbies? Um, um ... Go on.

Fenella: Hobbies, um, roller blading.

Announcer: Ooh, dangerous woman on skates.

Announcer: ...there was something else...

Fenella: I just ...

Announcer: Pets?

Fenella: Um, not at the moment.

Announcer: Can you knit?

Fenella: A scarf, yes I can knit a sca....

Announcer: Education?

Fenella: Oh, very, very minimal.

Announcer: Terribly, terribly bright. You're let off the hook. I think we know enough now.

Fenella: Oh, thank God, is that enough?

Announcer: Oh, joy, what's your favourite drink?

Fenella: Oh, anything, I like, I'll drink anything, I'm afraid, absolutely anything.

Announcer: Fine. What a girl! Right, said Fred and *Deeply Dippy*. I think we should dedicate this to Fenella having survived the Spanish Inquisition...

TASK 3

We are born with two hands: a right hand and a left one. But only about fifteen percent of us are left-handed, or lefties. Everyone else is right-handed. They use their right hands much more than their left.

Scientists do not know why there are so many more right-handed people than lefties.

Some very famous people have been left-handed. Alexander the Great was a lefty, so was Napoleon. Other famous lefties in history include Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Queen Victoria of Britain. In the twentieth century, famous lefties include American President Gerald Ford, tennis player Martina Navratilova, singer Paul McCartney, and the great Brazilian soccer player, Pele.

These people demonstrate that lefties are just as intelligent and talented as the right-handed majority. However, lefties have had a difficult time throughout history. The Roman word for

left, for example, was the same word used to describe someone who was evil or untrustworthy. The German word for left, “linkisch”, also means someone who is unskilled. The French word, “gauche”, can also mean a person who does not know how to act socially. In Spanish, the word for left, “izquierda”, means the wrong way; in Italian, the word “mancino”, or left, can also mean someone who is dishonest, and we all know the Hungarian word for left, “bal” also has certain negative connotations.

An organization in the United States, Lefthanders International, is campaigning to give lefties their rights.

Dean R. Campbell in the state of Kansas started Lefthanders International in 1975. His goal was to increase public understanding of the special problems faced by lefties. And he wanted lefties to find and help each other.

Campbell and his organization published what they called, not a Bill of Rights, but a Bill of *lefts*. This document states that lefties should enjoy the same rights as right-handed people. Lefties should be free to use their left hand as they desire. They should not have to apologize to others for being a lefty. And they should even be able to shake hands with their left hands when they greet someone.

Are you a lefty? If so, you should be proud! You share a tradition with Mark Twain, John McEnroe, and Benjamin Franklin. Lefties of the world: stand up for your lefts ... I mean your rights!