Задание 1. Прочитайте и переведите текст, выпишите все незнакомые слова, заучите их наизусть.

**The largest organisms on Earth**

What is the largest organism living on Earth? How about those that are **extinct1** now? These questions are **trickier2** than they look. Are they about height, mass, volume or maybe length? Sometimes we can see only a small part of an otherwise huge living creature. Other times you can **argue3** that a colony of organisms that **behaves4** as one creature also needs to be **considered5**. Let’s at least try to find out what are the largest creatures in some **taxonomic kingdoms6** out there.

We’ll start with the animal kingdom. Of all the living animals the largest one (and also the heaviest one) is the **majestic7** blue whale. It’s so large that there are no **scales8** available to weigh them as a whole. The heaviest blue whale ever recorded was at 190 tonnes, while the longest was about 33 meters long. It still came shorter than a humble lion’s mane jellyfish that is nearly 37 meters long.

The largest animal to walk on Earth today (or a **terrestrial9** animal) is, **without a doubt10**, the African bush elephant. An adult **elephant bull11** weighs almost 11 tons, and stands about 4 meters tall. Both the blue whale and the African elephant are very **gentle12** giants. Despite this, sadly, both populations were hurt **severely13** by humans. Currently both **species14** are considered **endangered15**.

But what about the extinct species? Everyone knows that some dinosaurs were gigantic! And while the dinosaurs aren’t actually extinct (since modern birds belong to the dinosaur **clade16** Theropoda), the largest of them we know about only from **fossils17**. For example, the famous Tyrannosaurus rex, as scientists speculate, was standing roughly 370 cm tall and was over 12 meters in length! The largest **exhibited18** skull of T. rex was just about one and a half meters long. A study on Tyrannosaurus bones was made in 2012. It has revealed that T. rex had the strongest bite of any terrestrial animal, ever! A hungry Tyrannosaurus could bite with the force of more than 50.000 Newtons, which is **comparable19** to some modern hydraulic press machines. One of the largest dinosaurs known today though is Giraffatitan. It was a large, plant-eating creature. Its mass could **exceed20** 70 tons and it was over 20 meters long!

Other large extinct animals include the species called Palaeoloxodon and Paraceratherium. Those were the distant cousins of modern elephants and rhinos. They were the ones of the largest known mammals to walk the Earth, ever.

But wait, animals are not the only living creatures out there! What about plants and other, more basic organisms? For example, an **aspen21** grove called Pando located in south-central Utah, U.S., is believed to be a single organism connected by one root system. If this is correct, the size of Pando is 43.6 hectares, or 0.43 km2! It’s at least a few thousand years of age, making it one of the oldest living organisms, too.

And if you want to go wider, a **fungus22** named Armillaria ostoyae occupies nearly 9 km2 as a single colony in the woods of Oregon, U.S. If you think about this colony as a single organism, it can be the largest organism in the world by area occupied.

We’re still making many **discoveries23** today. And maybe tomorrow we’ll find something that makes all these things small by **comparison24**.

**Подсказки:**

1. **1** **extinct** – вымерший;
2. **2** **trickier** (контекст.) – сложнее;
3. **3** **argue** – спорить;
4. **4** **behaves** (контекст.) – ведёт себя;
5. **5** **considered** (контекст.) – учтённый в качестве чего-либо;
6. **6** **taxonomic kingdoms** – таксономические царства;
7. **7** **majestic** – величественный;
8. **8** **scales** (контекст.) – весы;
9. **9** **terrestrial** – наземный;
10. **10** **without a doubt** – наземный;
11. **11** **elephant bull** – самец слона;
12. **12** **gentle** – кроткий, безобидный, нежный;
13. **13** **severely** (контекст.) – значительно;
14. **14** **species** – виды живых существ;
15. **15** **endangered** – находящийся в опасности;
16. **16** **clade** – клада, группа организмов вида «общий предок + все его прямые потомки»;
17. **17** **fossils** – окаменелости;
18. **18** **exhibited** – выставленный экспонатом где-либо;
19. **19** **comparable** – сравнимо;
20. **20** **exceed** – превосходить;
21. **21** **aspen** – осина;
22. **22** **fungus** – грибок;
23. **23** **discoveries** – открытия;
24. **24** **comparison** – сравнение.

**Обратите внимание:**

В английском языке для обозначения пола, возраста и групп животных могут использоваться некоторые не очень интуитивные устойчивые выражения. Например: самцы слона, домашнего или дикого быка, аллигатора, верблюда, дельфина – bull; самки тех же видов, а также травоядных динозавров – cow; самец дикой или домашней свиньи, шиншиллы, ежа, медведя, енота – boar; самки тех же видов – sow. Пары таких выражений обычно устойчивые: boar–sow, bull–cow, doe–buck и т.д. Зная, как именно называется самец или самка того или иного вида, обычно можно сразу же сказать, как зовётся и второй пол.

Дерево, о котором говорится в тексте, принадлежит к роду Populus tremuloides, в российской терминологии называемого Тополь осинообразный. В английском его называют как тополем (poplar), так и осиной (aspen). В русском языке обыкновенная осина называется также дрожащим тополем; все эти деревья принадлежат к одному роду семейства Ивовые.

Задание 2. Прочитайте и переведите текст, выпишите и заучите незнакомые слова.

**The Olympic Games**

The Olympic Games is a major international sports **competition1** event. Inspired by the Olympic Games of Ancient Greece, the modern Olympics **participation2** unites more than 200 nations of the world in a **strife3** to be the best at various sports. The competition is held every two years and alternates between ‘summer’ and ‘winter’ sports. Only ‘summer’ types of sport were represented at first.

The first **modern4** Olympics were held in Athens in 1859. The event was held by a Greek businessman Evangelis Zappas as an **effort5** to support Greek culture. It was repeated again in 1870 and in 1875. **Foreigners6** who visited these events liked them very much. International sports competition was a thing that very much **resonated7** with the **code of conduct8** of Victorian gentlemen.

French historian Pierre de Frédy, Baron de Coubertin, made an effort to **preserve9** these competitions. With the help of his English and Greek friends, he **established10** the International Olympic Committee in 1894. This organisation still successfully **oversees11** modern Olympics nowadays.

The first Olympics under the IOC **supervision12** were held in 1896 in Athens. More than 200 sportsmen from 14 nations came to compete for a chance to win international **recognition13** and a medal. A silver medal was awarded to the winner in a competition, along with an olive branch and a diploma of a winner. Those who came second were awarded a copper medal and a **laurel14** branch. Third place was **honorary15** and offered no prize. The competitions were held in 9 disciplines: athletics (jumping and running various distances, as well as running a marathon), cycling, **fencing16**, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, wrestling, weightlifting, and, curiously enough, shooting a rifle. Additional competition in **sailing17** was planned, but cancelled shortly before the event.

Attempts to add some winter sports were made in 1908 and 1920. The first real Winter Olympics were held in 1924, in a French town of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc. The contest was held in 5 different sports: curling, bobsleigh, ice skating, ice hockey and nordic skiing.

At first the games didn’t allow any professional sportsmen to compete. The people behind the competitions thought that training actually gives a participant an unfair **advantage18** over any other person that wished to compete. After much debate and **controversy19**, this **restriction20** was finally lifted in 1988.

The Olympics today are one of the biggest possible events of the year. Any country might apply to host it, but preparing for the event is very hard. It usually pays out **in the long run21**, since the competitions gather much **revenue22** off the tourists and **advertisements23**.

As the IOC was joined by more members, the event also became increasingly political, with various countries boycotting the Olympic Games for various reasons **throughout24** the years. The competitions have also been in the middle of many major doping scandals that had **quite a few25** competitors disqualified.

**Подсказки:**

1. **1** **competition** – соревнование;
2. **2** **participation** – участие;
3. **3** **strife** – борьба;
4. **4** **modern** – современный;
5. **5** **effort** – попытка, усилие;
6. **6** **foreigners** – иностранцы;
7. **7** **resonated** – резонировал;
8. **8** **code of conduct** – кодекс поведения;
9. **9** **preserve** – сохранить;
10. **10** **established** (контекст.) – создал;
11. **11** **oversees** – надзирает;
12. **12** **supervision** – надзор;
13. **13** **recognition** – признание;
14. **14** **laurel** – лавр;
15. **15** **honorary** – почётный;
16. **16** **fencing** (контекст.) – фехтование;
17. **17** **sailing** (контекст.) – парусный спорт;
18. **18** **advantage** – преимущество;
19. **19** **controversy** – спорный, дискуссионный вопрос;
20. **20** **restriction** – ограничение;
21. **21** **in the long run** (идиом.) – в перспективе;
22. **22** **revenue** – доход;
23. **23** **advertisements** – различная реклама (множественное число);
24. **24** **throughout** – на протяжении;
25. **25** **quite a few** – достаточно много.

**Обратите внимание:**

Некоторые виды спорта в английском языке (обычно включающие в себя множество разнообразных дисциплин) имеют как в единственном, так и в множественном числе окончание -s: athletics, gymnastics и т.п. Другие, с более жёстким сводом правил и посвящённые какой-то одной деятельности, обычно имеют окончание -ing: swimming, fencing, skiing. Все эти слова не изменяются, окончание -s в многодисциплинарных видах спорта убирать тоже нельзя.