

FACOLTA' DI STUDI UMANISTICI

PROVA SCRITTA LINGUA INGLESE 2

CDL Lingue e Comunicazione; Lingue e Culture per la Mediazione

Tutti i CdL vecchio ordinamento

NAME _____ MAT. NO. _____

2nd Year Exam –

ONE HOUR

Reading comprehension – Transformation questions – Verb Forms-Word formation exercise

THE MAD COW DISEASE

Mad Cow Disease is a deadly illness of the brain and it is the non-technical term for BSE or Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis. This is so difficult to say that journalists and even some doctors prefer the more vivid Mad Cow Disease. It is believed to be caused when cows eat food made from the bones and organs of diseased animals, particularly sheep. Cows are basically vegetarian and the policy of farmers in Britain of feeding them a cheap, meat-based diet seems to be responsible for Mad Cow Disease.

When the disease appeared in the 1990s, it caused a huge controversy, but it had first been discovered in cows in the late 1980s. Many people began to be afraid to eat beef because it was not known whether the disease could be caught by humans who ate meat from infected cows. The disease in its human form is known as Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease or CJD, and it became familiar to the general public, not only in Britain but also in Europe, when several people were thought to have died from the disease after eating beef infected with BSE. In 1996, several European governments banned the import of beef products from Britain. This action caused outrage in Britain in the popular press and amongst government ministers, who continued to claim the link between Mad Cow Disease and CJD had not been scientifically proven.

The British government now admits that people might get Creutzfeldt Jakob from eating beef, after scientists found symptoms of CJD, which is always fatal, in ten victims. Since then, the sales of beef have dropped dramatically, except amongst the poorer members of the community, who have taken the opportunity of a drop in prices to enjoy beef in a way they could not in the past. Fast food stores all over Europe have begun to market a new (and they claim even tastier) version of their popular burger, the 'vegiburger', which does not contain meat.

Scientists working in Britain have now published evidence in the science journal *Nature* that could show Mad Cow Disease and CJD are closely connected. They say brain proteins linked with both diseases show very close similarities. This could explain why people develop CJD after eating meat from cows infected with BSE. The research could also explain why people never got CJD from eating sheep, which also suffer from a kind of 'mad sheep disease'. We do not share the protein 'prion' with sheep, but it is something people and cows have in common.

What happens exactly when human beings get the disease? The key seems to be the protein prion. Normal prions are important if the brain is to function normally. When things go wrong with prion, however, the brain becomes sponge-like, which is also what happens in cows which suffer from Mad Cow Disease. Scientist Professor Krakauer and his colleagues have been exploring genetic

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similarities between humans and cows. ‘We needed to find a similarity we share with cattle that we don’t share with sheep’, he said, ‘ and that’s what we have found.’ They compared cow prion genes and human prion genes to those found in other animals, such as sheep and monkeys. They found two striking similarities in cows, humans, chimpanzees and gorillas. Scientists believe these findings ‘have to be taken seriously as they are the first that link humans with cattle.’

A) Questions

1. We use the expression Mad Cow Disease because
 - a) it is more accurate.
 - b) it is easier to say.
 - c) it links cows with people.
2. As a result of Mad Cow Disease
 - a) good meat has become expensive.
 - b) a new kind of beef burger has been invented.
 - c) poor people are eating more beef.
3. Prion is protein found in
 - a) cows and people.
 - b) A number of animals.
 - c) people and sheep.
4. What does the passage suggest about our understanding of Mad Cow Disease?
 - a) We know little about the real causes.
 - b) Little progress has been made by scientists.
 - c) We know things we did not know before.

B) Choose ONE to answer. Indicate your choice; Question number_____.

- 1) Since the Mad Cow Disease outbreak, there has been the meat scandal of the last few years and worries that the meat we buy in supermarkets is not good quality or even not as shown on the labels. Do you worry about this issue? Why or why not?
- 2) How can our eating habits affect our health?

Write 50-80 words in your own words.

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C) 5 key-word transformation questions

*Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. You must include the word in bold print . Do not change the word given. Use **NO MORE** than 5 words including the word given.*

Example

0 What type of music do you like best?

FAVOURITE

What **IS YOUR FAVOURITE** type of music?

1. Some people died from Mad Cow Disease.

CAUSED

Mad Cow Disease _____ some people.

2. Farmers get up early in the mornings. It's normal for them.

USED

Farmers _____ up early in the mornings..

3. Vegiburgers became popular as a result of Mad Cow Disease.

ON

Vegiburgers _____ of Mad Cow Disease.

4. Eating fish is better for you than eating meat.

AS

Eating meat isn't _____ eating fish.

5. This cow seems to have Mad Cow Disease. It's showing all the symptoms.

LOOKS

This cow _____ Mad Cow Disease. It has all the symptoms.

GO ON TO EXERCISE D)

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D) Verb forms Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense. When necessary, put the adverb indicated into the correct position.

- 1) I saw John last week. He _____ (to work) on a farm at the moment. He told me that he _____ (to have to) get up at 4 a.m. that morning!
- 2) Since the Mad Cow Disease first _____ (to appear), research _____ (to carry out) on its causes.
- 3) If farmers _____ (to give) their cattle animal bones and organ, cows _____ (to get) mad cow disease.
- 4) I _____ (to eat) meat since August last year. So, next month I _____ (to have) meat for a whole year!
- 5) When I _____ (to leave) work later today, I _____ (to go) to the supermarket to fill up the fridge!

GO ON TO EXERCISE E)

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E) Word formation exercise

Read the passage and use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits grammatically in the numbered gap. The words are already in order.

WHO IS MAD? COWS OR FARMERS?

Example: Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis is a (0) DEADLY brain disorder

(0) DEAD

which is found amongst cows. As this medical term is almost (1) _____ for the majority of ordinary people to say, the illness is (2) _____ known as Mad Cow Disease. Mad Cow Disease first made its (3) _____ in Britain in the late 1980s. In the 1990s, (4) _____ research suggested that the illness could affect humans, and so most European governments banned the importation of beef from Britain. This caused a great deal of (5) _____ amongst many in Britain, most importantly politicians and the press.

(1) POSSIBLE
(2) POPULAR
(3) APPEAR
(4) SCIENCE
(5) IRRITATE

So, what is Mad Cow Disease (6) _____? Many British farmers in the 80s used inappropriate, (7) _____ and dangerous feeding methods for their cattle. Cows are, basically, vegetarian but farmers were feeding their cows animal organs and bones, (8) _____ from sheep. It is thought that this meat-based diet caused the disease of the brain and (9) _____ system which affected farm cattle. Though Mad Cow Disease was eventually contained, it (10) _____ caused the deaths of many people.

(6) EXACT
(7) LEGAL
(8) SPECIAL
(9) NERVE
(10) TRAGIC

Write your answers here

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____