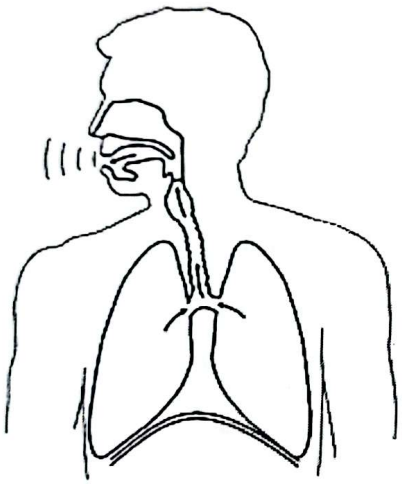
Reading comprehension practice 7

Read the text from a website below. Then use the information in the text to answer the questions.

Sound

Have you ever lost your voice? Then you'll know how important speaking is for us, because it's the main way that humans communicate with each other.



How do we speak? When we speak, we push air from our lungs inside our body past the vocal chords in our throat. Vocal chords are like the strings of a violin. The air from our lungs makes the vocal chords move. Then the air reaches our mouth.

When we speak and sing, three things help us to control the sound of our voice: first, the speed of the air from our lungs; second, the shape of our mouth; third, the position of our tongue. The air comes out of our mouths as sound waves. These waves are measured in hertz (Hz). Human voices are about 1,000 Hz.

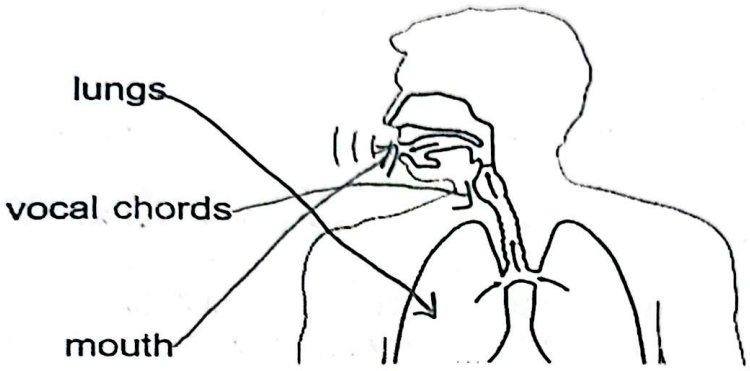
How do animals use sound? Animals use a range of sounds to communicate with each other. For example, howler monkeys make some of the loudest sounds in the animal world. You can hear their screams – of around 6,000 Hz – up to 16 kilometres away! They use their noses to blow out powerful blasts of air. Some of the lowest sounds are made by frogs. They can make surprisingly low croaks – as low as 50 Hz. They do this by blowing up their throats almost as big as they are!

Use the text *Sound* to answer the questions.

1 What is the main way in which humans communicate?

Speaking

2 Draw lines from the words to label the diagram.



[1]

3 Which animal uses its nose to make loud sounds?

howler monkeys [1]

4 Number these 1, 2 and 3 from the lowest sound (1) to the highest (3).

human 2

howler monkey 3

frog 1 [2]

5 Look at the whole text *Sound*.

Tick (✓) the sentence which tells us what the text *Sound* is about.

It's about how our lungs work. ☐

It's about how loud animals are. ☐

It's about different ways of making music. ☐

It's about how humans and animals make sound. ☑

[1]

6 The writer names different parts of the human body that make sound.

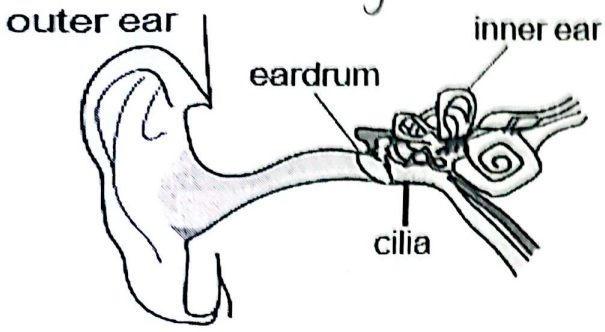
Add to this list **one** more part of the human body that is in the text and is used for speech.

lungs, vocal chords, throat, mouth, ...tongue..... [1]

This text is from an information book. Read it and then answer the questions.

Hearing sound

Diagram



Your ears collect sounds and send sound signals to your brain. Sound waves enter the outer ear (the thing on the side of your head) and travel inside, where they bump up against the eardrum. Inside the ear, tiny hairs called cilia move and send signals to the brain, which then changes these signals into the sounds we hear

Imagine closing your eyes and listening to someone clap their hands. You'll be able to point at that person because your two ears will tell you where the sound came from.

The loudness of sound is measured in decibels (dB). The louder the sound, the more decibels. Listening for a long time to a loud noise above 90 decibels can damage your hearing. Why does this happen? Well, loud sounds cause some cilia to die. And when cilia die, they cannot grow back. We are born with only about 3,500 of these, so be careful to protect your hearing from loud noises!

Decibels	Sound
120	ambulance siren
110	rock concert
105	personal stereo at maximum level
95	motorcycle
85	heavy traffic
60	normal conversation
30	whisper

- A child can hear sounds up to 20,000 Hz, but most 60-year-olds can't hear sounds over 12,000 Hz.
- Grasshoppers' ears are in their knees.
- The 'stapes' bone in the ear is the smallest bone in the human body. It's only 0.25 to 0.33 cm long and weighs between 1.9 and 4.3 milligrams.

7 Complete the sentence below with a number.

It's dangerous to listen to sounds that are more than 90 decibels for a long time. [1]

8 Why is it important not to damage the cilia?

1 because they cannot grow back

2 they help us hear sounds [1]

9 Match these facts and numbers.

12,000 Hz	the number of hairs in the inner ear
85 decibels	what a 60-year-old can hear
3,500	the length of the smallest bone in the body
0.25 centimetres	the noise of heavy traffic

[2]

10 What could a rock concert do to your hearing?

it can damage your hearing [1]

11 **(a)** Tick **one** box to show what this text is for.

To give you:

information about hearing	☑
a report on traffic problems	☐
a review of music to listen to	☐
instructions about how to hear	☐

[1]

(b) Draw lines to link each paragraph with its heading.