

Exercise 1

Read the following information about a koala sanctuary, a place where koalas are protected, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

Gumtree Koala Sanctuary



Koala facts

Many people call these wonderful animals 'koala bears', but in fact their correct name is simply 'koalas'. They are not actually bears, they are a type of mammal called a marsupial. Other marsupials include wombats, which are the koala's closest relatives, kangaroos and wallabies.

We have about 40 koalas in our sanctuary at any one time: male and female, young and old. Did you know that female koalas generally live longer than males? You can tell them apart by their faces – males have larger ones. Another way to distinguish them is by the pouch that females have on their front. This is like a pocket, and it's where baby koalas live for the first six or seven months of their life.

Koalas spend much of their time in trees, so they need to be able to climb and hold on easily. They have long arms, strong back legs, and long, sharp claws on their paws. Each paw has five digits (fingers or toes), and while there is only one thumb on each back paw, there are actually two on each front one. On the back paw, one of the digits does not have a claw on it, and it is used for keeping their fur clean.

Koalas can't see very well, so they use their other senses more. They have good hearing, which helps them to tell if there's anything dangerous nearby. But they rely most of all on their highly developed ability to smell, which they use to detect other koalas, and also to find their favourite food!

Our koalas

The koalas in our sanctuary are here for several reasons. Some come here because they have been injured, for example if they have been hit by a car or attacked by a dog. Although this happens to many koalas, what is more serious is habitat loss – in other words, there is less space for them to live in the wild because towns and cities are getting larger. As a result, it is becoming more and more common for us to see koalas near our homes. Usually koalas spend most of their time sleeping in trees, but if you see one sitting under a tree, it is probably unwell. Another sign of sickness is if it doesn't move away when approached. Koalas can easily get a particular type of infection, and this is usually as a result of stress. We treat many sick koalas here at the sanctuary, and aim to return them to the wild within a short time. However, some will stay here for the rest of their lives.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the sanctuary. And remember, the money from your ticket is used to help care for these beautiful animals!

(a) Which species are koalas most closely related to?

.....[1]

(b) How do male and female koalas differ in appearance? Give **two** details.

.....

.....[2]

(c) What is unusual about koalas' front paws?

.....[1]

(d) Which is the koala's strongest sense?

.....[1]

(e) What is the biggest threat to koalas nowadays?

.....[1]

(f) How can you tell if a koala is ill? Give **two** details.

.....

.....[2]

(g) What commonly causes many koalas to get an infection?

.....[1]

[Total: 9]

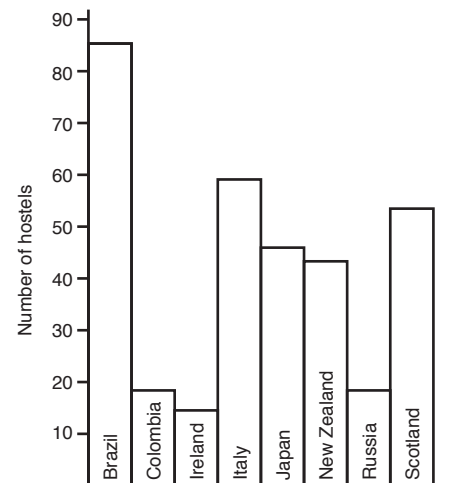
Exercise 2

Read the following article about an organisation called Hostelling International, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

Hostelling International

The idea of opening youth hostels first came from Germany in 1909, when a teacher called Richard Schirrmann saw the need for overnight accommodation for students on school trips to the countryside. This teacher's own school was the first building to be used as a youth hostel during the holidays, with classrooms being temporarily converted to accommodate beds. Soon after this, he opened a hostel that could be used throughout the year, in a castle in the same town.

The idea of youth hostels quickly spread across Germany, and in 1919, Schirrmann founded the German Youth Hostel Association. By 1932, the movement had spread worldwide, and the International Youth Hostel Federation came into existence in that year. It wasn't until 2006 that this became Hostelling International (HI), as the organisation is now known. Despite the change in name, the organisation has the same values, and its purpose remains to provide accommodation around the world that young people can afford. The head office of the organisation is currently based in a town just outside London, in Welwyn Garden City, and more than 70 national youth hostel associations are members, with more than 4000 hostels worldwide. This number continues to grow, supporting another aim of the organisation, which is to enable young people to experience different cultures.



Every year, awards are given to hostels, in five different categories. These include Most Comfortable Hostel, Friendliest Hostel and Best Hostel. In 2012, the Green Award was introduced. There is also an award for Best Country, which was won by the USA in 2013. In order to find out what the hostels are really like, guests are asked to give feedback. There are also regular inspections by the HI team. The intention of the organisation is that all hostels should provide the same high standards for their guests.

Hostels are always interesting places to stay in because of the variety of people you meet in them. It's a great way to develop a better understanding of other people – which is another of the organisation's objectives. But some hostels are interesting for other reasons too. For example, the accommodation is not always what you might expect. You can stay in a jumbo jet in Stockholm, or in a lighthouse in California, just 25 miles south of San Francisco. And if you like getting away from it all and staying in the middle of nowhere, that is possible too. After all, another intention of the organisation is to encourage young people to look after the countryside. The top five remote hostels include Loch Ossian Hostel in the Scottish highlands, and Hostel Ytra Lón, in Iceland, where the nearest town now has a population of zero. But being remote doesn't necessarily mean that a hostel will be basic or uncomfortable. At Rampart Creek Hostel, Canada, for example, after a hard day of trekking in the mountains, you can unwind in the hostel sauna, while you plan your next day's adventures.

One of the best ways to find out about the organisation and its hostels is to go online, at www.hihostels.com

In 2013, the organisation developed The Big Blog Exchange on its website, as a way to engage with people all around the world and of course to broadcast their aims to a wider audience.

- (a) What type of building was the first permanent youth hostel in?
[1]
- (b) When was the International Youth Hostel Federation set up?
[1]
- (c) In which town is the headquarters of Hostelling International?
[1]
- (d) According to the chart, which two countries have the same number of hostels, **and** which country has the largest number of hostels?

[1]
- (e) Which is the newest of the five awards that hostels around the world can win?
[1]
- (f) How does Hostelling International check the standards of its hostels? Give **two** details.

[2]
- (g) What is unusual about the hostel near San Francisco?
[1]
- (h) Which remote hostel is located near an uninhabited town?
[1]
- (i) What does the hostel at Rampart Creek have to help you to relax?
[1]
- (j) What is the name of the online project which was set up to help communicate the aims of Hostelling International?
[1]
- (k) What are the aims of Hostelling International? Give **four** details.

[4]

[Total: 15]