

Ejercicios resueltos > Complete the sentences

Amphibian Decline Serves As Global Warning

Prehistoric man was thought to have practised tattooing, that is, puncturing the skin with tools dipped in pigment that left a permanent mark. And mummies with decorative tattoos have been discovered in many parts of the world. Yet for nearly as long as there has been tattooing, there has been condemnation. The Romans considered decorative tattooing barbaric, which is still evident in the Latin word for tattoo, stigma, and used tattoos to mark slaves and criminals. Despite its deep roots in ancient cultures, tattooing had fallen out of practice in Europe by the time Britain's Captain Cook set sail for the Polynesian Islands in 1768.

Though Cook and his men were not the first Europeans to encounter Oceanic tattooing, they were the first to record the practice systematically. Cook also introduced to the English language the word tattoo, taken from the Tahitian. Cook's men did not fully understand the significance of tattooing among the Oceanic people, for whom the designs were symbolic protection against earthly enemies. Yet the sailors were fascinated and eager to be marked themselves. They adopted the practice with gusto, designing mariner motifs of their own. A turtle meant a sailor had crossed the equator, and an anchor that he had sailed the Atlantic. Crucifixion scenes were also popular motifs --a vain attempt to avoid being beaten, as it was hoped no one would dare hit the image of Christ.

Today, all types of people get tattooed. Though the art was adopted from distant cultures and adapted to suit Western tastes, the attraction of tattooing has changed very little.

Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the words in brackets when given.

a) If human interference continues (continue) to alter the composition of the atmosphere, average temperatures will rise (rise) more than 3°C in the next 100 years.

Ayuda: Estamos frente a una oración condicional, ya que viene introducida por la conjunción *if*. Lo más apropiado es utilizar la estructura de primer condicional, ya que estas oraciones expresan una situación posible que puede darse (*If human interference continues...*) y su resultado si se cumple esta posible situación. (...*average temperatures will rise.*). En las oraciones condicionales de primer tipo como esta, el verbo de la oración que expresa la condición debe ir en Presente Simple (*continues*), y el de la oración que expresa el resultado con futuro (*will* + infinitivo).

Nota: También sería posible, aunque menos apropiado, utilizar la estructura de segundo condicional (past simple + *would*), que expresa situaciones hipotéticas que podrían ocurrir. En tal caso:

If human interference continued to alter the composition of the atmosphere, average temperatures would rise more than 3°C in the next 100 years.

b) Greenpeace was created (create) to fight environmental disaster. This organization is especially interested in protecting (protect) our environment.

Ayuda: La primera oración requiere el uso de pasiva, ya que carece de agente (persona que realiza la acción). Debemos utilizar el pasado ya que Greenpeace se creó hace años. La estructura es pues: pasado simple (*was/were*) + participio pasado.

En la segunda oración debemos utilizar el verbo en gerundio ya que después de una preposición (*in*), el verbo se usa en gerundio.

c) Air pollution caused (cause) more than one hundred thousands deaths last year. Some experts believe that it is the most important (important) health problem in the industrial world.

Ayuda: En la primera oración, la expresión temporal *last year* nos indica que el verbo entre paréntesis debe estar en pasado simple (*caused*). En la segunda oración, la palabra entre paréntesis es un adjetivo. Podemos modificar un adjetivo usando el comparativo o el superlativo. Hay dos cosas que nos indican que debemos utilizar el superlativo (*the most important*): el artículo *the* y el hecho de que no se comparan dos cosas sino que hay una que destaca sobre todas las demás. En los adjetivos de más de dos sílabas, como *important*, el superlativo se forma: *the* + *most* + adjetivo.

d) We should avoid polluting (pollute) our planet in order to protect it for our children.

Ayuda: El verbo *avoid* está dentro del grupo de verbos que deben ir seguidos de gerundio. *In order to* + infinitivo es una frase preposicional frecuente que significa *para*.