



## SÈRIE 1

### Reading Comprehension

1. Many people use the skull emoji when talking about their phone
  - to tell friends that they don't feel well.
  - to explain that it is not working well.**
  - to complain that nobody's sending them text messages.
  - because they like using metaphorical language.
  
2. Which of the following sentences is NOT true?
  - Instagram incorporated emoji in 2011.**
  - Emoji usage increased after Android included them.
  - Since we have emoji, we use netspeak less.
  - Emoji in Instagram posts are very frequent.
  
3. The author believes that we are watching the birth of a new type of language because
  - writing online presents big problems.
  - emoji replace voice messages.
  - emoji have stable meanings.
  - emoji help us transmit our feelings in writing.**
  
4. Why have emoji become so popular so quickly? Because
  - people no longer know how to spell.
  - we want to convey emotional tone.**
  - alphabet keyboards are difficult to use online.
  - we need new words to convey our feelings.
  
5. According to the author, smiley, hand and heart emoji
  - seldom occur in online messages.
  - are the only way to communicate our feelings online.
  - have become effective tools of communication.**
  - often result in miscommunication.
  
6. Many emoji are open-ended. This means that
  - different people may assign them different meanings.**
  - they are sometimes used to end a conversation.
  - you can use them when you don't know what to say.
  - some people use them to express absurd things.
  
7. We tend to put an emoji face before an object because
  - it's impossible to convey stance in a message.
  - we don't need to speak words in an online conversation.
  - when we speak, we see the person's facial expression first.**
  - that's what the new syntax rule for emoji use tells us to do.
  
8. According to the writer,
  - we write so much today because language always changes.
  - emoji do not represent a threat to writing.**
  - emoji are a form of slang.
  - emoji communicate more powerfully than text.



### Listening Comprehension

#### 'Moby-Duck': When 28,800 Bath Toys Are Lost At Sea

*In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.*

**to end up** resultar  
**deck** coberta / cubierta  
**to stack** apilar  
**to maneuver** maniobrar, operar

*Ready?*

*Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.*

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This is FRESH AIR, our weekly program devoted to the environment. What happens when 28,000 rubber ducks and other bath toys are accidentally dumped in the ocean? Where do the ocean currents take them, and what environmental impact do the ducks and other ocean junk have on the seas? That's what our guest, the journalist Donovan Hahn, investigated in his book "*Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them*".

REPORTER: Welcome, Mr. Hahn, to FRESH AIR.

Donovan Hahn: Thank you. Happy to be here.

REPORTER: Let's begin at the beginning. These 28,000 toys **end up** in the North Pacific in January, 1992, when a container falls off a cargo vessel. When and where do people begin finding them?

DH: The following year, in the autumn of 1993, people started finding hundreds of rubber ducks in Sitka, Alaska.

REPORTER: So the ducks were in a container that fell into the ocean. Does that happen often? I mean, millions of containers are shipped around the world every year, so I would imagine that this was a pretty rare event.

DH: In fact, the loss of containers at sea is not so uncommon. But the shipping companies don't particularly like to talk about this problem because of issues with insurance policies. In the accident that is the subject of my book, 12 containers were lost at sea, and that is considered a small spill. In 1998, there was a major disaster in which a ship traveling from China to Seattle, Washington lost 407 containers. That was one of the most expensive shipping disasters in history.

REPORTER: Could you tell us a little more about the kind of ship this container was on, so we can understand how these containers are lost?

DH: Sure. These cargo ships are huge, they're hundreds of meters long. Many are too big to go through the Panama Canal, which explains the importance of the shipping routes between China and the west coast of the U.S. They carry hundreds and hundreds of containers. Even though some containers are carried below **deck**, most are **stacked** on top of each other on the main deck. Typically, the containers are placed into stacks of six, so you can see how easy it would be for some to fall off.

REPORTER: With so many stacked containers, how do they NOT fall off the ships?



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**Anglès**

DH: The shipping companies study how to best stack the containers in order to balance their weight without affecting the ship's ability to **maneuver**.

REPORTER: It must be a complex calculation.

DH: It is. And, of course, insurance companies require the shipping companies to take every measure to get the calculations right.

REPORTER: It must be hard, with the size of these ships. And they also have to take into account the weather, which can be very bad in the North Pacific.

DH: Absolutely. The shipping companies believe that the huge ships today will survive almost any storm, and for the most part, they do. The fact that these ships are so huge explains why they are more likely to try to sail through bad weather than ships in the past, which tried hard to avoid storms. In fact, part of the route taken by the large cargo ship that lost the toys off the coast of Oregon is known as the Graveyard of the Pacific because of all the shipwrecks recorded there, especially during the time of sailing ships in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Given the number of ships today, significant accidents are quite rare.

REPORTER: Let's go back to the lost rubber ducks. Can you tell us a little bit about what would have happened that day? I mean, what was in this container, and what would've happened as it tumbled into the sea?

DH: We know where the cargo ship was—it was very near the International Date Line, just south of the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. We don't know if it was day or night. We know that a ship in the same area sent a weather report to the National Weather Service describing waves over 10 meters high, which means the seas were rough. We don't know exactly how, but 12 containers went overboard. And the container with the toys would have burst open during the fall, and initially a bunch of cardboard boxes were sent into the sea.

REPORTER: And then I suppose the cardboard dissolved, so what we have left are the toys.

DH: Exactly.

REPORTER: How can you be so sure that the toys found in Alaska are the ones that were lost at sea in this container?

DH: That part of the investigation was actually easy. First, these toys are no longer being made, so the design is different and not difficult to recognize. They are hollow plastic and sort of strange-looking. Second, the ducks have the manufacturer's mark on the wing. Third, we know from other merchandise lost at sea what plastic looks like after crossing the ocean. The ducks became thin and lost their color, becoming almost white. And finally, the toys were found by the dozens exactly where the sea currents would have taken them.

REPORTER: One of the things you mention in your book is the harm that plastics are causing in the ocean. But you say that most of the harm isn't from container ships but rather from other sources, is that right?

DH: Yes, although container ships are responsible for some of the plastic waste in the oceans, in fact most of the plastics are from coastlines with urban waste and garbage dumps, and even fishing fleets. Merchandise from containers lost at sea is just a small portion of the problem.

REPORTER: That's all we have time for today on FRESH AIR. Thank you, Mr. Hohn, for your interesting story.

DH: My pleasure.

Adapted from an interview heard on National Public Radio's programme Fresh Air, March 29, 2011.



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Listening Comprehension

1. Where were the lost toy ducks first found?  
 **Alaska.**  
 Canada.  
 China.  
 Oregon.
2. How long did it take the first rubber ducks to surface on a beach after their container was lost at sea?  
 Only three months.  
 **About a year and a half.**  
 four years.  
 almost six years.
3. How many containers with rubber ducks and other toys were lost at sea?  
 **12.**  
 407.  
 Hundreds and hundreds.  
 Over 28,000.
4. Which of the following best describes the cargo ships discussed in the conversation?  
 They regularly go through the Panama Canal.  
 They mainly navigate between North America and South America.  
 **They carry hundreds of containers above and below deck.**  
 They almost always drop some containers in the sea.
5. Which of the following statements is TRUE?  
 **Large ships are better able to navigate in storms than smaller ships.**  
 The ship lost the toys in the Graveyard of the Pacific.  
 The weather in the North Pacific is so good that few wrecks occur.  
 Sailing ships in the 19<sup>th</sup> century did not cross the Pacific.
6. What do we know for certain about the accident that resulted in the loss of rubber ducks at sea?  
 It occurred at night.  
 It occurred during the day.  
 It occurred because of an error by the ship's captain.  
 **It occurred when there were high waves.**
7. We can deduce from the conversation that the toys were originally  
 packed in plastic bags.  
 **packed in cardboard boxes.**  
 not individually packed.  
 made out of cardboard.
8. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an important source of plastics in the oceans?  
 Waste from coastal cities.  
 Fishing boats.  
 Garbage dumps.  
 **Cruise ships.**