

БЛОК 1. ВАРИАНТ 8

Внимательно прочтите текст:

With films such as *Strictly Ballroom* and TV programmes such as *Celebrity Come Dancing*, ballroom dancing has never been so popular. Here we take a look at some styles of dance and the history behind them.

Perhaps no other dance is as expressive as the Tango. The Argentine Tango was born on the streets of Buenos Aires around 1880. Originally it was a dance of the working people but soon the wealthier Argentines were dancing it in their clubs and dance halls. By 1910 it had been exported to Paris from where it quickly spread throughout Europe. It was soon picked up by the Hollywood filmmakers and made famous worldwide. Today it is enjoyed by people of all ages all over the world.

The Tango is a mixture of many influences. Buenos Aires, at the end of the 19th century, was a city of many different cultures and this is reflected in the dance. It's a mixture of the African drumming dance Candombe, the native folk songs of the Payadores and the rhythms of the Polka and the Mazurka, dances brought over by the Europeans.

With rotating couples swirling around the room to the three-quarter beat of the music, the Waltz is one of the most familiar ballroom dances. Although the Waltz first became fashionable in Vienna in the 1780s its origins are to be found more than 200 years earlier in the Provence area of France. Peasants in the region developed a dance from a piece of folk music known as *The Volta*. The dance involved partners holding each other tightly around the waist and was considered immoral by many. Indeed, it was banned by Louis 13th (1601-1643) from his court. Since then the Waltz has grown to be perhaps the most popular ballroom dance. Many famous classical musicians, including Schubert and Brahms, have written music especially for the dance and in many countries a Waltz is still traditionally danced by the bride and groom at their wedding ceremony.

At the beginning of the 20th century a number of new musical instruments found their way into Cuba. These included the bongo drums, the double bass, cowbells and, of course, the claves. The local musicians were soon putting these instruments to good use and it wasn't long before a new dance, the Salsa, had emerged. It was a fast, energetic and lively dance and great exercise for the body.

Compared to many other Latin American dances such as the Samba, the Cha-Cha-Cha and the Tango, Salsa is quite a modern dance and continues to evolve. These days you will find many variations on the Cuban style such as Mambo, New York Salsa, Columbian Salsa. These were all invented by Cuban immigrants in the US who mixed the original dance with Rock and Roll.

Ответьте письменно на следующие вопросы:

1. Why was the Waltz banned in France in the 17th century?
2. What was the Hollywood filmmakers' attitude towards dancing?
3. What gave impetus to the emergence of the Salsa?

Выразите свое мнение на английском языке (150-200 слов) на тему:

How can dancing influence your personality?

БЛОК 2. ВАРИАНТ 16

Выберите один правильный вариант из предложенных в скобках:

Does your birthday seem to come **1** (back, up, around) faster each year? The common perception that time flies as you get older was first noted by the psychologist William James in the nineteenth century. More recently, scientists in London set out to investigate the extent to **2** (what, which, that) age has an effect on the way that time is perceived.

Researchers asked people, divided **3** (in, to, into) three age groups, to say how long ago they thought certain major public events **4** (happened, had happened, were happening). The result was that people in the 19-21 age group thought that the events had occurred more recently than they actually **5** (did, had, would), while the over 60s dated events too far back. The middle-aged group were the most **6** (accurate, attentive, careless).

These results show that our perception of time really does depend on age, although no one quite knows why this **7** (would, should, will) be. One possible explanation is that as we get older, we accumulate memories for events such as birthdays and holidays. These regular events, **8** (occurred, occurring, being occurred) at the same time each year, act as mental markers, increasing the impression of time passing more quickly. Another possible explanation is that we perceive time in relation **9** (with, to, for) our own age. When you are four, a year is a quarter of your life, but it's only a fortieth for a forty year old.

Whatever the real explanation may be, one thing is certain. We should take time out to enjoy ourselves while we're young, because it **10** (speeds up, slows down, takes off) as we get older.

Из представленных в беспорядке предложений восстановите исходный текст. Обратите внимание на логическую и смысловую связь предложений.

Tantalus

3. 0 Tantalus was a Greek king (and a son of Zeus) who thought he could fool the gods.
3. ____ 1. He got terribly hungry and thirsty, but whenever he bent down to drink the water, it would all magically drain away, and whenever he reached up to pick some fruit, the branches would lift up out of his reach.
3. ____ 2. Because of this, Tantalus' children, Pelops and Niobe were unlucky.
3. ____ 3. And then he did something worse than that.
3. ____ 4. When Zeus invited Tantalus to come up on Mount Olympos and eat dinner with the gods, Tantalos would steal the gods' special food (ambrosia and nectar) to give to his friends back on earth!
3. ____ 5. Tantalos had his own son, Pelops, cut up into pieces and boiled in the stew.
3. ____ 6. He invited the gods over for dinner at his house, and tried to trick them into eating human flesh.
3. ____ 7. His torture was that he had to stand forever waist-deep in a pool of water, with a fruit tree dangling branches full of ripe fruit over his head.
3. ____ 8. Most of the gods figured out what was happening and didn't eat any, but Demeter was so worried about Persephone, who had been kidnapped, that she ate a little piece of Pelops' shoulder.
3. ____ 9. But no matter how hungry or thirsty he got, he was already dead, so he could never die.
3. ____ 10. For this crime, Zeus himself killed Tantalus, and Tantalos had to spend his whole afterlife in the underworld, Hades.
3. 11 And his grandchildren, Atreus and Thyestes, and his great-grandchildren, Agamemnon and Menelaus and Aegisthus, and their children Orestes, Electra, and Iphigenia were all unlucky.