

ЗАДАНИЕ 1

**Прочитать вслух небольшой текст научно-популярного характера.
Время на подготовку — 1,5 минуты.**

Task 1.1

Imagine that you are preparing a project with your friend. You have found some interesting material for the presentation and you want to read this text to your friend. You have 1.5 minutes to read the text silently, then be ready to read it out aloud. You will not have more than 1.5 minutes to read it.

Six of Earth's seven continents are inhabited on a large scale. Asia is the most populated continent, with its 4.3 billion inhabitants. This accounts for 60% of the world's population. The two most populated countries of the world are China and India. These countries together constitute about 37% of the whole population of our planet. Africa is the second most populated continent. It is home for about one billion people. This makes 15% of the world's population. Europe has 733 million people and this makes up 12%. Latin American and Caribbean regions are home to around 600 million people (9%). Northern America, primarily consisting of the United States and Canada, has a population of around 352 million (5%), and Oceania, the least-populated region, has about 35 million inhabitants (0.5%). What about Antarctica? Though it is not permanently inhabited by anybody, Antarctica has a small, changing international population, living in polar science stations.

Task 1.2

Imagine that you are preparing a project with your friend. You have found some interesting material for the presentation and you want to read this text to your friend. You have 1.5 minutes to read the text silently, then be ready to read it out aloud. You will not have more than 1.5 minutes to read it.

Medicine has existed for thousands of years. At first, medicine was rather an art than science. It was little based on skills and knowledge but, instead, it had connections to the religious beliefs. At the early stages of medicine, doctors relied on religious rituals in the same way as on medication. For example, a medicine man would apply herbs and say prayers for healing. The first physicians thought that bloodletting was the best treatment of all. In recent centuries, since the advent of science, most medicine has become a combination of art and science. Much depends on the talent of the doctor and on the efficiency of drugs and surgery. Nowadays, we come to understand more and more about our body and to know what is going on inside the cells. Also, genetic engineering opens up new perspectives for treating inherited diseases. And, of course, new medical technologies have already saves millions of lives.

Task 1.3 Imagine that you are preparing a project with your friend. You have found some interesting material for the presentation and you want to read this text to your friend. You have 1.5 minutes to read the text silently, then be ready to read it out aloud. You will not have more than 1.5 minutes to read it.

Early in the morning, Evenki natives in the hills northwest of Lake Baikal observed a column of blue light. It was nearly as bright as the Sun, and it was moving across the sky. About ten minutes later, there was a flash and a sound similar to artillery fire. Eyewitnesses reported that the source of the sound was moving from the east to the north following the movement of the blue light. The sound was accompanied by a shock wave that knocked people off their feet and broke windows in the houses hundreds of kilometres away. As it often happens, eyewitnesses' accounts varied regarding the sequence and duration of the events. On that day the legendary Tungus meteorite or a small comet fell on the Earth near the river called Podkamennaya Tunguska in Siberia. It happened at about seven o'clock in the morning, on the 30th of June 1908. The first expedition came to the site only ten years later.

Task 1.4 Imagine that you are preparing a project with your friend. You have found some interesting material for the presentation and you want to read this text to your friend. You have 1.5 minutes to read the text silently, then be ready to read it out aloud. You will not have more than 1.5 minutes to read it.

Throughout the history of education the most common means of maintaining discipline in schools was corporal punishment. While a child was at school, a teacher was expected to act as a parent, with the same means of making children obey as the parents had. This often meant that school students were often punished with a cane if they did something wrong. Corporal punishment at schools has now disappeared from all European countries. Thirty-one US states have banned it, but the other nineteen states (mostly in the South) continue to allow corporal punishment in schools. Teachers have the right to apply corporal punishment, although many choose not to do so. Official corporal punishment, often by caning, remains commonplace in schools in some Asian, African and Caribbean countries. Generally speaking, most countries retain punishment for misbehavior, but it usually takes non-corporal forms such as detention after the lessons. In Russia corporal punishment in schools was banned in 1863.