

Niveautest B1 and up Engels Lezen 2018-2019  
Niveau 4, jaar 2

## Life on Mars

American billionaire Dennis Tito has plans to send a couple on a mission to Mars. Tito and his team don't want just any couple on this 501-day return trip to the planet. They want two peas in a pod: the ideal candidates would be people who can cope with being together all the time, for about a year and a half, in a confined space.



And there will be no distractions. The facilities will be very basic in order to save money. For the same reason, there is no landing on the cards. So you will go all the way to the Red Planet and back, without ever leaving your spaceship. No leg-stretching stroll, no glorious holiday snaps by your Martian sandcastle to show the family, no 'meet the neighbours'!

Is there any excitement left in this trip? After the fun of the first week in space, all you'll have around is your partner. The risk of flying in the face of danger under such precarious conditions is that when radiation overexposure gets you, you'll be long dead... of boredom!

I'm passionate about space and sci-fi things. When I was a kid, I wanted to be an astronaut. But the journey to adventure has to be a bumpy ride. If I'm sent to Mars, I want to go with a total stranger. The more alien the better. Each mind, each personal history, is like a planet and I would have all that to discover on my way to Mars. It is the unknown that is exciting! I would want to go to space with my own alien on board.

*bbc.co.uk, 2013*

1. Wat maakt deze expeditie naar Mars een onaantrekkelijke onderneming, volgens de schrijver?

- A de gebrekkige financiering
- B de landing
- C de ruimtewezens
- D de spanning
- E de straling onderweg
- F de verveling

# How to Make the Most of Rubbish

By Geoffrey Lean



The green economy at work: 400 jobs have been created via the recycling scheme on Bali, which has been extended to Java

**(1)** It's known as the 'Island of the Gods', but it's sinking under a rising sea of rubbish. You see garbage almost everywhere in Bali: on the beaches, dumped by roadsides, clogging rivers and streams and blocking drainage channels. This has got so bad that it is threatening not only people's health, but also that of the economy: two thirds of tourists surveyed said that it would prevent them from coming back. But, still, little is collected, and rubbish tips are overflowing.

**(2)** And yet, on a disused pig farm not far from the main tourist beaches, a rubbish revolution is under way; it is spreading throughout Indonesia, and could have a bearing all over the Third World. I discovered it in between meetings of the world's environment ministers on the island last week. I visited Bali to find out more about how to tackle environmental problems and watch the green economy at work. So I decided to trace what happened to the contents of my hotel room wastepaper basket.

**(3)** Beneath the corrugated iron roof of an open-ended old pig shed – amid hundreds of hungry birds – workers were painstakingly hand-separating paper, plastics, glass, aluminium, food scraps, vegetable matter and other material that can be used again, leaving only the leftovers to go into the island's elementary waste disposal system. Every week, 140 lorryloads of waste arrive. Only 10 leave carrying real rubbish.

**(4)** I was shown the operation by Yuyun Ismawati, who started it 12 years ago, then in her early thirties. An environmental engineer, designing water supply systems for wealthier areas, she decided to switch to working with the poor and picked garbage 'because no one else wanted to touch it'. She found the pig farmer was paying hotels for their waste – five-star food scraps for his animals – and persuaded him that recycling it would be more profitable. Now 25 hotels – including mine – pay him to take their garbage away. Almost all is recycled: food scraps are bought by pig farmers and grass clippings and other vegetation is composted, and mostly returned to the hotels for flowerbeds.

**(5)** This is the green economy in action, providing new employment for those that need it. It is very basic but it succeeds. If you want a hi-tech solution in a developing country, you will wait and wait and wait until you get the money, or big donors to fund it. And even then it may not work.

**(6)** A big blue machine, provided by the local government to process the waste, stands idle in a corner, proving the point. The electricity needed to power it costs too much: human energy is cheaper, and employs more people.

**(7)** The scheme was the first of its kind in Indonesia. Ms Ismawati has since established six more. No wonder she won the world's biggest prize for grassroots green activists, the Goldman Award, last year.

*Daily Telegraph, 2010*

2. Which of the following is said in paragraph 1?

The present garbage situation in Bali

- A is causing major traffic problems on the island.
- B is putting people's well-being and income at risk.
- C is the result of floods and unforeseen high tides.
- D will improve only if local people take action.

3. What becomes clear from paragraph 2?

- A Many tourists do not realise how much garbage they leave behind on the island.
- B Other countries in the region have better ways of disposing of their waste.
- C The local inhabitants are fed up with the present political situation.
- D The writer went to Bali with the purpose of learning more about green issues.

4. Which of the following characterises the work described in paragraph 3?

- A It is dirty but challenging.
- B It is inefficient but cheap.
- C It is simple but risky.
- D It is tough but effective.

# A Director's Deep Dive

**Filmmaker James Cameron sets a world record for the deepest solo ocean dive.**

1. Director James Cameron set the world record for the deepest ocean dive by a single person. He spent a total of three hours at the bottom of the Mariana Trench, Earth's deepest spot. It's a dark, desert-like place 35,576 feet—or nearly 11 kilometers—deep in the Pacific Ocean. The famous director is also the first person to reach that depth since 1960, the year the first person got there.
2. 'Just arrived at the ocean's deepest point,' said a message posted to Cameron's Twitter account. 'Hitting bottom never felt so good. Can't wait to share what I'm seeing with you.' It is clear that Mr Cameron did not make his thrill ride just for himself. The dive is part of a scientific expedition and a planned documentary by Cameron, National Geographic and Rolex. They all very much want that the results and images from the expedition will help us to understand deep-sea life better.
3. This type of extreme research is nothing new to the director. Cameron, 57, is the filmmaker behind the very successful films *Titanic* (1997) and *Avatar* (2009). During several years of research for *Titanic*, he travelled to the bottom of the ocean to have a look at the sunken ship. He and his crew also studied the deep sea as research for his 1989 film *The Abyss*. 'Most people know me as a filmmaker', Cameron said during a press conference Monday morning after the dive. 'But the idea of ocean and exploration has always been a strong drive in my life.'
4. Cameron and his team have been preparing for the trip for seven years. Cameron took more than two-and-a-half hours to make the dangerous 6.8-mile journey down to the Trench. It's an area with near-freezing temperatures, no sunlight and heavy water pressure. Cameron travelled in the *Deepsea Challenger*, a small, 24-foot-long mini-submarine he helped design. The sub had 3-D cameras and lights for filming the adventure. It also had a robot arm for collecting samples of the bottom of the sea and grabbing deep-sea creatures. Unfortunately, there was a technical problem, so they couldn't collect anything during the trip.
5. Nobody has been to the Mariana Trench since two divers first reached the deep-sea spot in 1960. The divers, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Don Walsh and Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard, spent 20 minutes there but could hardly see anything. Their landing kicked up too much sand from the seafloor. They took no pictures.
6. In his well-equipped sub, Cameron was able to spend three hours in the Trench, exploring and filming. He plans to use his recordings in a 3-D film production for movie theatres and for a National Geographic TV special. Cameron also plans to return to the Trench. 'I see this as the beginning,' Cameron says. 'It's not a one-time deal and then moving on. This is the beginning of opening up new worlds.'

Bron: [timeforkids.com](http://timeforkids.com) - edited

5. What is true about James Cameron? (paragraph 1)

- A. He set the record for the longest ocean dive ever
- B. He was the first person ever to go to the deepest spot on earth.
- C. He went to the deepest on Earth on his own.

6. What is James Cameron's most important reason for diving to the bottom of the ocean? (paragraph 2)

Cameron wanted to go there because ...

- A. He loves the risk of smashing into the deep-sea floor.
- B. He wanted to get material for a new adventure movie.
- C. He wants mankind to know more about deep-sea life.

7. What does paragraph 3 tell us about James Cameron?

- A. Deep sea diving is a completely new experience for James Cameron.
- B. James Cameron has already acted in many films about the deep sea.
- C. James Cameron is an experienced deep-sea diver.

8. Is the following true or false?

Cameron's main motivation is filmmaking.

- A. True
- B. False

9. Which sentence comes closest to what paragraph 4 says?

- A. The risky, but not completely successful trip, took a long time to organize.
- B. The long, well organized trip, was not a complete success.
- C. The successful trip was dangerous and cold.

10. 'They took no pictures.' (paragraph 5) Why didn't Don Walsh and Jaques Picard take any pictures during their trip to the Mariana Trench in 1960?

- A. It was night when they were there.
- B. There wasn't enough time.
- C. The water was not clear enough to take any pictures.

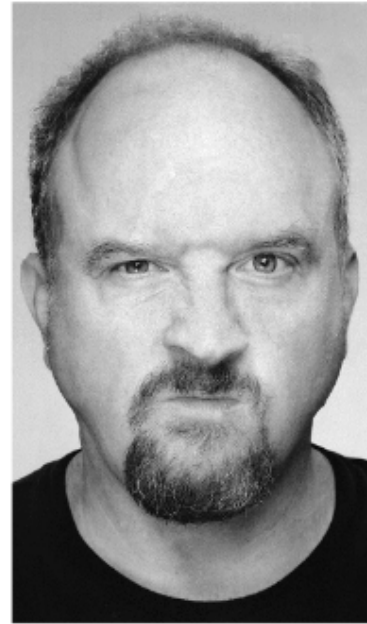


## Louis C.K. wasn't prepared for his Emmy nomination

B2.

By Joe Flint

- 1 Like the character in his comedy show *Louie*, Louis C.K. was ready for bad news when the Emmy Award nominations were announced Thursday morning.
- 2 "I was expecting to be disappointed," said C.K., who was nominated for lead actor in a comedy series. *Louie* has become a cult hit for cable TV network FX. A dark show starring C.K. as a somewhat depressed comedian struggling to make sense of the world around him, *Louie* is not the type of comedy that the sometimes conservative Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Emmy voters typically embrace. Besides being peppered with language that is raw even for cable, *Louie* is unafraid to address taboo topics in the raunchiest of ways. His character often finds himself in awkward situations with results that swing seamlessly between the comic and the tragic.
- 3 C.K. attributes his success among critics and viewers to the network's creative freedom – an atmosphere that encourages him to explore his inner demons and put it all on the screen. "It takes a huge amount of courage on their part, that's why I'm glad to pay them back with this," C.K. said of the network.
- 4 In typical C.K. mode, the comedian doesn't give himself much of a chance of winning on Emmy night, which is slated for Sept. 18. "I'm pretty outclassed there," he said of his fellow acting nominees, which include Steve Carell of *The Office* and Alec Baldwin of *30 Rock*. But even if he doesn't get a statue, C.K. figures he and network FX have already won. "We don't expect to get serious consideration. Still, that doesn't matter. We've proven that if you spend a hundredth of the money the big networks do, you can land at the same place."



*latimes.com, 2011*

11. "I was expecting to be disappointed" (paragraph 2)

Why did Louis C.K. say this?

- A He feared the character in his show had turned out to be an embarrassing person.
- B He knew his show had been given bad reviews in many of the mainstream papers.
- C He realised that the show he had created caused a lot of public indignation.
- D He thought his show would be considered too outspoken to be nominated for an award.

12. What is the main point made in paragraph 3?

- A Despite his problems, Louis C.K. has created a commercial success.
- B Network FX gave Louis C.K. the artistic independence needed to succeed.
- C The average viewer dislikes being told by critics which shows to like.
- D Unlike many of its rivals, network FX is a financially sound company.

## A Necessary Cull

- 1 About 5,000 badgers are likely to be shot in the next six weeks in Somerset and Gloucestershire. Their deaths will be legal and planned under pilot schemes that have sparked protests from animal welfare organisations and celebrities such as Brian May and Joanna Lumley. The protests are ill-judged. The cull is not an attack on badgers: it is an attack on tuberculosis (TB). The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is right to pursue this belated and necessary course to control the spread of the disease.
- 2 The problem is TB in cattle. Bovine TB is infectious and has spread rapidly over the past ten years. Nearly 40,000 cows were destroyed last year after they were tested positive for TB. The total over the past decade exceeds 300,000. That too is an issue of animal welfare, which imposes heavy costs on Britain's farmers.
- 3 There are various ways in which bovine TB can be transmitted but there is evidence that badgers are one of the causes, owing to the presence of their urine or faeces in farmyards. Prolonged tests, known as Randomised Badger Culling Trials, conducted by Defra, showed that removing badgers could reduce the incidence of bovine TB. Ireland and New Zealand, whose economies are far more reliant on cattle farming, have sharply reduced TB after badger or possum culls.
- 4 The cull has the weight of evidence on its side. The protesters have on theirs the mythology of the place of the badger in English country life.
- 5 That place is not static: the badger population has grown dramatically since it was made illegal to interfere with badgers' setts. Defra has a public obligation to control TB in cattle, lest it spread to other livestock and further still, perhaps to domestic animals too. Whatever the pantomime of protest, that duty remains. It is founded on sound science and environmental concern.

*The Times, 2013*



13. What becomes clear from paragraph 1?

- A. Badger culls undermine the TB prevention programme.
- B. Curbing the badger population is ineffective.
- C. Protests against the badger cull are unlawful.
- D. The badger cull is a long overdue necessity.

14. Which of the following is in line with paragraph 3?

- 1 Financial interests have undermined the success of previous culling programmes.
- 2 Further research is needed in order to link badgers conclusively to the spread of TB.

- A. only 1 is true
- B. only 2 is true
- C. both 1 and 2 are true
- D. neither 1 nor 2 is true

15. Met welk woord laat de schrijver in alinea 5 zien dat hij de tegenstanders van de dassenruiming niet serieus neemt?  
Citeer dit woord.

**Answers leveltest reading 2018-2019.**

Check your scores, do the evaluation and then find out your level!

1. F

2. B

3. D

4. D

5. C

6. C

7. C

8. B

9. A

10. C

11. D

12. B

13. D

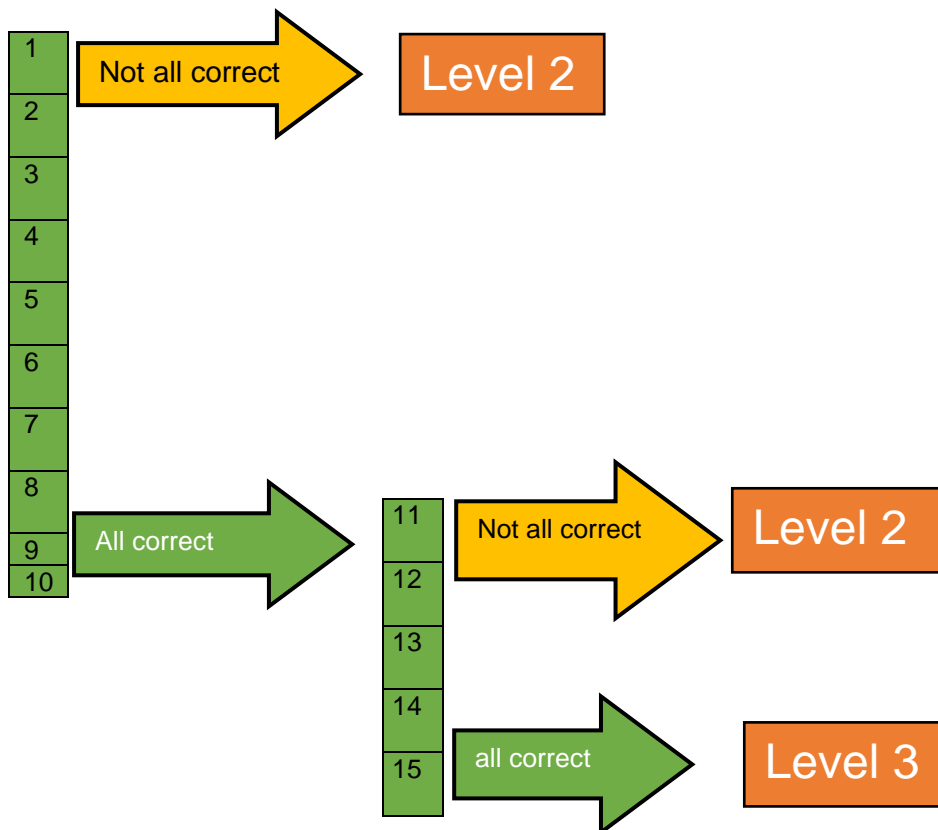
14. D

15. pantomime

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THEN GO TO THE NEXT PAGE AND FIND YOUR STARTING LEVEL

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