



The Tower Ravens

Level:	B1
Topic:	Special occasion and celebrations, intercultural aspects
Competence area:	Reading for main idea and supporting details
CEFR Descriptor:	Can understand the description of places, events, explicitly expressed feelings and perspectives in narratives, guides and magazine articles that are written in high frequency, everyday language.
Source:	Englisch Aufgabenbeispiele 5.-8. Schulstufe > BIST Code 300



Read the text about the Tower Ravens. There are seven gaps.
Then find out where the sentences below (1 – 9) should go.

Write the number of each sentence in the spaces in the text.
Be careful – two of the sentences do NOT belong to the text!

You will find the underlined words at the bottom of the page.

- (1) although ravens sometimes attack tourists
- (2) but not so in the Tower of London!
- (3) but was told that if this really happened a great disaster would hit London and the King would even lose his throne.
- (4) one of their wings is regularly clipped by the Raven Master.
- (5) Perhaps we have to go back to the 17th century to find the answer!
- (6) So although ravens have a long life
- (7) They also enjoy an egg once a week,
- (8) tourists often wonder what these big birds are doing in the Tower
- (9) who ruled England from 1660 to 1685

The Tower Ravens

No one knows when ravens first came to the Tower of London, but there are a lot of stories and legends about them. Usually ravens are birds that are said to bring bad luck, [] One of the legends says that at least six ravens must stay in the Tower, or both Tower and Monarchy will fall. But who started the tradition of keeping ravens in the Tower? []

In the times of King Charles II, [], a famous astronomer called John Flamsteed watched the stars from the top of the White Tower right in the centre of the Tower of London at night. He complained ⁽¹⁾ to the King that he couldn't do his work properly because ravens were always flying round the tower. So the King wanted all ravens

round the Tower to be killed, [] When the King heard this he changed his mind and passed an order that at least six ravens should be kept in the Tower at all times. One of the guards of the Tower, known as a Yeoman Warder, was to look after the birds and make sure that they didn't fly away.

So even today, after more than 300 years, a Yeoman called Raven Master cares for this very special attraction. At the moment there are seven ravens, the six that are necessary and one spare raven just in case! To make it impossible for the birds to fly away []. This does not hurt the ravens, but as the birds cannot balance their flight they don't fly a lot but rather hop around in the grass. If you are

lucky you can watch the Raven Master feed the birds. Ravens are certainly not vegetarians. They consume about one and a half kilos of meat every week, plus special bird biscuits. [] and sometimes they get a dead rabbit which they eat with its fur.

The oldest raven that lived at the Tower died at the age of 44. [] the Tower has started a successful breeding programme ⁽²⁾ for the ravens. 17 chicks are waiting for a place at the Tower should one of the ravens there die or manage to escape ⁽³⁾.

For more fascinating information about the history of the Tower of London visit their website at www.hrp.org.uk!

Vocabulary:

- 1 to complain: sich beklagen
- 2 breeding program: Zuchtprogramm
- 3 to escape: entkommen

Solution

The correct order is: 2 – 5 – 9 – 3 – 4 – 7 – 6

The Tower Ravens

No one knows when ravens first came to the Tower of London, but there are a lot of stories and legends about them. Usually ravens are birds that are said to bring bad luck, **but not so in the Tower of London!** One of the legends says that at least six ravens must stay in the Tower, or both Tower and Monarchy will fall. But who started the tradition of keeping ravens in the Tower? **Perhaps we have to go back to the 17th century to find the answer!**

In the times of King Charles II, **who ruled England from 1660 to 1685**, a famous astronomer called John Flamsteed watched the stars from the top of the White Tower right in the centre of the Tower of London at night. He complained to the King that he couldn't do his work properly because ravens were always flying round the tower. So the King wanted all ravens round

the Tower to be killed, **but was told that if this really happened a great disaster would hit London and the King would even lose his throne.** When the King heard this he changed his mind and passed an order that at least six ravens should be kept in the Tower at all times. One of the guards of the Tower, known as a Yeoman Warder, was to look after the birds and make sure that they didn't fly away.

So even today, after more than 300 years, a Yeoman called Raven Master cares for this very special attraction. At the moment there are seven ravens, the six that are necessary and one spare raven just in case! To make it impossible for the birds to fly away **one of their wings is regularly clipped by the Raven Master.** This does not hurt the ravens, but as the birds cannot balance their flight they

don't fly a lot but rather hop around in the grass. If you are lucky you can watch the Raven Master feed the birds. Ravens are certainly not vegetarians. They consume about one and a half kilos of meat every week, plus special bird biscuits. **They also enjoy an egg once a week** and sometimes they get a dead rabbit which they eat with its fur.

The oldest raven that lived at the Tower died at the age of 44. **So although ravens have a long life** the Tower has started a successful breeding programme for the ravens. 17 chicks are waiting for a place at the Tower should one of the ravens there die or manage to escape.

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