

SAT Writing and Language Sample Paper 8

[1]

Bats have always seemed mysterious predators. While many other animal predators use methods ¹ similar to human hunters, bats have evolved a series of unique methods of capturing prey. ² The main curiosity among the bat's weaponry is its use of echolocation, or sonar.

[2]

Because bats hunt in the dark, they are not often able to see their prey. Instead, they use a process wherein they emit sounds and listen for the echoes. If ³ they are, say, standing atop a mountain and shout, you can figure out the distance across the canyon using the speed of sound waves and a series of precise calculations. Using its innate senses, a bat does these same ⁴ calculations instinctively. With extreme precision, a bat can identify its prey's location and size in the dark and capture its prey. While a bat does have relatively acute vision, ⁵ though not nearly as acute as some species of shrimp, its echolocation is what makes it such an effective predator.

[3]

However, scientists have recently discovered a species that can disrupt the bat's usually failsafe echolocation. The tiger moth, a victim of bat predation for over 50 million years, has figured out a way to "jam" ⁶ its system of echolocation. Most tiger moths can emit clicks that warn bats away from the moths, suggesting that the moths might be inedible toxic compounds.⁷

[4]

In the long history of bat research, scientists have never seen the like of these tiger moths. Although human methods of warfare have used sonic deception for as long as such warfare has existed, the tiger moth and ⁸ their sonar jamming provide one of the first instances of aural camouflage in the animal kingdom that scientists have discovered. It seems that no matter how ancient the conflict, bats and tiger moths continue to attack, ⁹ counterattack, and adapt in a war as old as time.

[5]

One species, the tiger moth *Bertholdia trigona*, has done even better. This species emits a high-frequency clicking noise that throws off the bat's sonar altogether. While no one is certain exactly how these clicks camouflage the *B. trigona*, the clicks have been remarkably successful in defending the moths from bat attacks. Some suggest that the clicks force bats to misinterpret their sensory data, taking the moth clicks for their own echoes. As a result, bats ¹⁰ miss their prey at the moment of attempted capture, and the tiger moths flit away unharmed.¹¹

This image adapted from the Journal of Experimental Biology © 2011.

1.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. similar to that of human hunters
- C. similar to those of human hunters
- D. like human hunters

2.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. The echolocation, sonar, of the bat's weaponry is its main curiosity.
- C. The bat has a curious weaponry, main among which is its echolocation and sonar.
- D. The bat's weaponry is mainly curious in its use of echolocation of sonar.

3.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. they're,
- C. one is,
- D. you are,

4.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. calculations by instinct.
- C. calculations with its instincts.
- D. calculations.

5. The writer intends to insert a phrase or clause that emphasizes a common misunderstanding about bats' vision. Which of the following would best suit that intention?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. undermining the cliché "blind as a bat,"
- C. despite the pitch darkness in which it hunts,
- D. in addition to its incredible hearing,

6.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. the bats'
- C. the bat's
- D. the bats

7. If the writer were to delete the words inedible and toxic from the preceding sentence, the sentence would primarily lose

- A. an indication that the tiger moth is not consumed by any predators.
- B. a specific description of the compound that prevents the bat from eating the tiger moth.
- C. a detailed analysis of the mechanism of the clicks that produce this particular compound.
- D. nothing, because the information is stated elsewhere in the passage.

8.

A. NO CHANGE

B. it's

C. its

D. its'

9.

A. NO CHANGE

B. counterattack, and, adapt

C. counterattack and adapt

D. counterattack and adapt,

10. Which of the following provides accurate information based on the diagrams?

A. NO CHANGE

B. attack other animals they find easier to detect,

C. fly after one another, bonking their heads together,

D. hear no sounds at all,

11. In the context of the passage as a whole, the best placement for paragraph 5 would be

A. where it is now.

B. after paragraph 1.

C. after paragraph 2.

D. after paragraph 3

Question	Correct Answer
1	C
2	A
3	D
4	D
5	B
6	C
7	B
8	C
9	A
10	A
11	D