



# Student File

*Listening*  
*Reading*  
*Writing*  
Language Organiser

**Fatal attraction** ★★★★★ pages 24-25

*Pre-listening*  
Assignment 71

5 ⌚



**A**  
Before listening to the spoken text, have a look at the title and the pictures. Also read the lead (*in italics*). Don't read the whole text yet. What is this text about?

**B**  
Here are some words from the article. Match them with the right description. Draw lines.

- |   |            |   |
|---|------------|---|
| 1 | goo        | the process of changing something to make it suitable for a new situation |
| 2 | unsettling | an animal, bird, etc. that is hunted and eaten by another animal          |
| 3 | adaptation | an area of low wet muddy ground   |
| 4 | prey       | a substance that is put on the soil to make plants grow                   |
| 5 | tissue     | an unpleasantly sticky substance  |
| 6 | bogs       | the natural home of a plant or animal                                     |
| 7 | fertiliser | specialised animal or plant cells that form a distinct type of material   |
| 8 | habitat    | making you feel nervous or worried  |

*Listening*  
Assignment 72

10 ⌚



Read the following questions first. Then listen to the recorded text and choose the correct answer while listening. There is one question for each section of the text.

- What killed the fly in this first fragment?
  - a sweet but poisonous nectar
  - chemicals released by the plant
  - the tight squeeze of the trap
- According to Carl Linnaeus...
  - some plants are designed to eat insects.
  - there isn't such a thing as a carnivorous plant.
  - meat-eating plants are wonderful.
- Charles Darwin thought carnivorous plants...

- had adapted to their environment.
  - weren't as 'clever' as he first thought.
  - were more like animals than like plants.
- Why do carnivorous plants eat meat?
    - They need the protein in the meat to store energy.
    - They use the nutrients in the meat to build their death-traps.
    - They use the meat to grow light-harvesting enzymes.
  - What is the carnivorous plants' biggest threat?
    - humans
    - habitat
    - black market trade

*Reading*  
Assignment 73

15 ⌚



Read the text. Are the following statements *true* or *false*?

- Carl Linnaeus actually believed that a plant would release an insect once it stopped struggling to get out.
- Darwin's first experiments were performed on exotic carnivorous plants.
- Some plants even snapped shut after Darwin had dropped raindrops on their leaves from a great height.
- Darwin reasoned that smaller insects could escape in order to save the plant's energy.
- After years of study, scientists like Alexander Volkov still don't fully understand how these plants work.
- The plant will only shut its leaves when there is enough electric charge.
- Carnivorous plants eat meat for other reasons than carnivorous animals.
- Carnivorous plants are better at converting sunlight into tissue than normal plants.
- The slightest change in the soil's properties can be fatal for some carnivorous plants.
- Some carnivorous plants are marked with dye so that the inspectors can easily locate them when they return.

*Language Organiser*  
Assignment 74

15 ⌚



**A**  
Many words can have more than one meaning. Find the following verbs in the text and examine the context. Choose the correct English definitions, i.e., the ones that fit the context.

- 1 to unleash (l. 11)
  - A to free from restraint or control
  - B to release
- 2 to shatter (l. 28)
  - A to completely destroy someone's hopes, beliefs or confidence
  - B to break suddenly into very small pieces
- 3 to enthrall (l. 38)
  - A to captivate
  - B to enslave
- 4 to encounter (l. 39)
  - A to experience something, especially problems or opposition
  - B to meet someone or something without planning to
- 5 to initiate (l. 47)
  - A to introduce someone into an organisation, club, group, etc.
  - B to bring into being
- 6 to secrete (l. 60)
  - A to produce a liquid substance
  - B to hide something
- 7 to digest (l. 73)
  - A to understand new information
  - B to change food that you have just eaten into substances that your body can use
- 8 to convert (l. 106)
  - A to change to a different religion
  - B to change into a different form or thing
- 9 to poach (l. 125)
  - A to take or appropriate unfairly or illegally
  - B to make land muddy or broken up by trampling
- 10 to determine (l. 130)
  - A to give direction to
  - B to find out the facts about something

**B**  
Now fill in the blanks with the correct verbs from exercise A.

- 1 There was so much information that I struggled to ... the news.
- 2 When Harriet was twenty-one, she ... to Catholicism.
- 3 They ... serious problems when two members of the expedition were injured.
- 4 At the age of thirteen the boys in the tribe are ... into manhood.
- 5 Unfortunately, elephants are still ... for their ivory tusks.
- 6 The money was nowhere to be found; it had been ... in a Swiss bank account.

**Language Organiser**  
**Assignment 75**

10



Look at the following adjectives. They're all taken from the text. Read the context and match them with their Dutch translations.

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 fleshy (l. 4)       | a kleverig           |
| 2 ruddy (l. 4)        | b in elkaar grijpend |
| 3 swampy (l. 16)      | c voortreffelijk     |
| 4 sticky (l. 23)      | d onschuldig         |
| 5 hapless (l. 33)     | e vlezig             |
| 6 topsy-turvy (l. 37) | f opmerkelijk        |
| 7 remarkable (l. 48)  | g gevoelig           |

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 8 exquisite (l. 57)     | h roodachtig   |
| 9 interlocking (l. 63)  | i ontoereikend |
| 10 insufficient (l. 65) | j omgekeerd    |
| 11 lousy (l. 103)       | k levendig     |
| 12 sensitive (l. 114)   | l moerassig    |
| 13 vigorous (l. 123)    | m waardeloos   |
| 14 harmless (l. 128)    | n ongelukkig   |

**Language Organiser**  
**Assignment 76**

5



Carnivorous plants 'eat' meat. The following sentences are all about eating. Fill in the missing prepositions.

- 1 Paul bolted ... his breakfast and rushed to catch the 8 o'clock bus to school.
- 2 Some carnivorous plants slurp ... their prey like underwater vacuum cleaners.
- 3 Sarah was feeling sick. She'd munched her way ... three packets of biscuits.
- 4 There is something unsettling about a plant that feasts ... animals.
- 5 While Matt was speaking on the phone, he was chomping ... a bread roll.
- 6 High quality chocolate should not be wolfed ... but savoured at leisure.
- 7 They gorged themselves ... strawberries and cream.
- 8 Bob and Tim shovelled the cake ... their mouths as fast as they could.

**Pre-writing**  
**Assignment 77**

10



Before you do the writing assignment, answer the following questions. Make notes.

- 1 Carnivorous plants are becoming endangered. Which threats are mentioned in the last section of the article? Make a list.
- 2 Why should these plants be protected? Name at least two reasons.
- 3 Can you think of any solutions to this problem? Write them down.

**Writing**  
**Assignment 78**

30



Imagine you live in a city in North Carolina. Several species of carnivorous plants thrive in your area. You have read in the local newspaper that a big estate agent plans to build houses and a big shopping mall in the area. This will pose a huge threat to the habitat of these sensitive plants. You want to save the plants and you are not alone in this. On behalf of a group of people you write a letter of protest (200–250 words) to your local Wilmington council in which you explain your point of view. Use your notes from Assignment 77.

Use these pointers:

- Start the letter correctly. Make up an address.
- Introduce your letter: say what you're writing about.
- Describe the problem as you see it.
- Suggest at least one possible solution.
- End the letter correctly.