

Birdsong: reading tasks



- 1 Which sentence describes your feelings towards birds?
 - I really like birds, I have some binoculars and a guidebook.
 - My favourite bird is the chicken; it tastes delicious!
 - I like birds but I only know the names of a few of them.

- 2 You're going to read about a man called Jim who is very keen on birds. Read the text quickly, what happens to his friend?
 - She becomes as fascinated by birds as Jim.
 - She becomes interested in birds and wants to help them.
 - She doesn't change her mind about birds.

- 3 Read the text more slowly. Match column A with columns B and C to make meaningful sentences about the text. There is an example done for you.

A	Who	B	What they did	C	The reason why
	The blue tit		finishes not long after sunrise		because he is the most sensitive to light.
	The male birds		sing		to survive in a noisy city.
	The sparrow		sing complicated songs		to help them survive.
	The robin		made his friend get up early		to defend their territory and find a mate.
1.	Jim		is the first to start singing		because the dawn chorus is incredible.
	The male birds		has reduced in numbers		because the cities are too noisy and light.
	Jim's friend		choose the best singer		because the birds can now look for food.
	The dawn chorus		was confident about his friend's reaction		to listen to the dawn chorus.
	Jim		decides to feed the birds		to impress the females.
	The females		has adapted its song		as he will be fit and strong.

- 4 Now put the sentences in the order they are referred to in the text.

5 Read the text again and find the words or expressions that have the same meaning as:

- a* very dark

- b* birdwatcher

- c* birds

- d* very early in the morning, and perhaps annoying

- e* shaking slightly because you are cold

- f* to do with birds

- g* good at tricking or cheating (people)

- h* to copy

- i* all the songs that a singer knows

- j* to make something happen suddenly

- k* to remember something without writing it down
