

English in Mind Second edition

Level 5 Unit 6

Worksheet**Light fantastic: why birds burst into song at dawn as spring arrives****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Lead-in**

- 1** You are going to read an article whose main title is 'Light Fantastic'. What do you think the article could be about? Discuss your ideas with your partner.

Reading comprehension (1): gist task

- 2** Why do birds sing? Before you read the text, discuss your ideas with your partner and write down three reasons why you think birds sing. Now read the article and see how many of your ideas are mentioned.

Reading comprehension (2): key facts

- 3** There are a lot of scientific details in the text explaining why birds sing. Read the text quickly to find the information you need to complete the following sentences:
- a The hypothalamus is a part of the _____.
 - b _____ on the hypothalamus produce a thyroid-stimulating hormone.
 - c When the days lengthen, this hormone stimulates the release of _____.
 - d These sex hormones prepare the birds physically for _____.
- 4** Now read the whole text more closely and decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Find evidence for your answers and discuss them with your partner.
- a Professor Sharp first identified the brain area involved with singing 40 years ago.
 - b Global warming helped Professor Sharp to scan more genes than in the past.
 - c The human brain does not produce the same thyroid-stimulating hormone as birds.
 - d The study was carried out on Japanese pigeons.
 - e The research showed that the genes were activated when there was enough daylight.
 - f The findings could help treat infertile couples in the future.

Vocabulary: cause and effect

- 5** Read through the article again and underline the main verbs and phrases to describe cause and effect. Use your dictionary if necessary and write the phrases below.

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- a Songbirds produce a hormone that *responds to* _____
- b Cells produce a hormone which *triggers* _____.
- c Thyroid-stimulating hormone is produced by these cells *in response to* _____
- d The hormone *stimulates* _____ that *prepare* _____ for spring.
- e The genes involved in triggering birdsong *are activated* _____.
- f Birds sing *in order to* _____
- g Scientists are not sure what *effect* the hormone *has on* _____.

7 Complete the following sentences about yourself and share your ideas with your partner:

- a _____ triggers happy memories for me.
- b I always prepare myself well when _____
- c I _____ in order to _____
- d _____ has a negative/positive effect on me.
- e I am very rarely affected by _____.

Grammar: passive forms**8 The text uses many passive verbs forms. Look at the examples below and say what kind of passive appears in each sentence:**

- a ... the same hormone *is produced* by a similar set of cells ... (para 4)
- b ... we could work out which ones *are affected* by seasonal change ... (para 5)
- c ... it *was also produced* in this region of the hypothalamus. (para 8)
- d The study, which *is published* in the journal *Nature* ... (para 10)
- e ... *was carried out* on Japanese quails. (para 10)
- f ... the genes ... *are activated* in two waves. (para 10)

9 Now write two sentences about yourself or your country using any passive verb forms. One must be True and one False.

e.g. The Titanic *was filmed* in my home town.
 My first novel *is going to be published* next year.

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INDEPENDENT**Discussion****10 With your partner, discuss the following questions:**

- In your country, when do the seasons start and end?
- What, for you, signals the start or end of a season?
- Do you think the seasons affect your mood?
- Why do you think this happens?

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