

1. FELADATSOR

Task 1 Inside out with Tal R



Interviewer: Copenhagen-based Israeli artist Tal R has work on display in the Statens Museum and is decorating the foyer of the new Copenhagen Opera House. He will be exhibiting at London's Saatchi Gallery later this year as part of the group show The Triumph of Painting.

Interviewer: If there is only time to visit one gallery in the city, which one should it be?

Tal R: Storm P, which is the museum of a Danish cartoonist. It's small and after spending 10 minutes there, which I think is the maximum time to spend in a gallery, you should go to Frederiksberg park, which is next door, and lose yourself there.

Interviewer: It's a weekend afternoon in February. Ideally, where are you in Copenhagen and what are you doing?

Tal R: I would go to the Botanical Gardens and look for turtles in the lake. There are hundreds there because after the Ninja Turtle thing, every kid in Copenhagen got one, and when they got bored of them, they put them into this lake. Now, there are signs all over the park saying: "Please, no more Ninja Turtles".

Interviewer: What is the perfect memento to take home from the city?

Tal R: Go and get beautiful women's lingerie in a shop called Tekinoktay. It's the most beautiful shop in Copenhagen. It's not naughty but the shop itself is very old and has a lot of atmosphere. Also, go to Tobi's Café. He makes the most amazing coffee and serves five kinds of cake. Ask for the one that Tal always eats and you'll get the best one there!

Interviewer: Something everyone should do before leaving Copenhagen?

Tal R: Visit Christiana. It's a free town in Copenhagen that was formed by hippies in the early 60s.

Interviewer: To which restaurant would you take a first-time visitor to the city and why?

Tal R: To Slotskaelderen hos Gitte Kik to have herring and enjoy the beautiful impolite service there; it's amazing. Don't ask for salad because they'll throw you out – it's not good for vegetarians. Try the smørrebrøds – bread with meat, fish or cheese in it.

Interviewer: Something you really appreciate in the city...

Tal R: Copenhagen is made for walking and communication, with plenty of parks and streets with no cars – and it's bicycle-friendly. They did a wonderful thing here by cleaning up the harbour two years ago so you can actually swim there. That's something really beautiful in a city – that you can just jump into the harbour from a bridge.

Task 2 Literary Figures

The stunning seaside and countryside of Bournemouth and its environs have provided both a retreat and an inspiration for some of literary history's greatest figures. Perhaps the most famous is Thomas Hardy, born in 1840 at Higher Bockhampton, near Dorchester.

He wrote and set many of his classics in this area, which he called by its ancient name of Wessex. Bournemouth is featured in some of his works including *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, under the pseudonym of "Sandbourne".

Bournemouth's most famous literary association is with the Shelley family. Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein* and wife of the Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, is buried in St Peter's Church graveyard, along with – as legend has it – the heart of her husband.

Another resident of Bournemouth was Robert Louis Stevenson, who lived in Alum Chine for three years, during which time he penned the grisly story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, among others.

A more salubrious inspiration was gained by Lewis Carroll, whose real-life Alice, Mrs. Reginald Hargraves, is buried in the village churchyard at Lyndhurst.

Another resident writer of fantasy was J. R. R. Tolkien, famous author of *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*, who was frequent visitor to the Hotel Miramar in Bournemouth and died in the town while visiting friends in 1973.

If you are a clever detective, you will find the simple grave of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of the famous Sherlock Holmes, in Minstead church, its inscription reading "Steel true, blade straight". Elementary, my dear Watson...

Task 3 The Things That Make You a Slow Reader

Remember in elementary school, how annoying it was to watch the kid at the next table mouthing all the words he was reading? Unfortunately, that kid is probably you – and you don't even know it. Reading experts call this "subvocalization", and it is the habit of sounding out words in your head as you read them. If you do this, your reading speed slows down to your talking speed. Some experts recommend you use your finger like a pace car, driving it along the page at a faster speed than you would ordinarily read. Once you cannot say the words, your mind focuses on the most important ones, speeding up your reading.

Another problem, familiar to anyone ever given a boring high school history text to read, is rereading. Your eye travels left to right and back again to read, and if you are not keeping your place with your finger, it is easy to take in the same words twice. That side-to-side travel also adds time to the reading process, which is why makers of software that projects a single word at a time across the screen believe their product will help you read more quickly.

Reading every word can also slow you down. Though writers would debate this, reading coaches say some words are more important than others. The important ones convey meaning; the less important ones, structure. For comprehension, the content-oriented words are the most important.

Also, experts say it's faster to read groups of words at once, because you can discern the meaning more easily from a group than you can by adding a single word at a time. One way to understand this is to think back to your early days as a reader. When you had to sound out every letter, it took you forever to get through a single word, and even longer than that to get through a sentence. And very often, by the time you reached the last word in the sentence, you'd forgotten the first, which made comprehension tough. You really earned your grape juice, graham crackers, and carpet-square nap in those days. Anne E. Cunningham, a Berkeley professor, found that the time your mind spends on word recognition takes away brainpower that can be used in understanding the meaning. So it stands to reason that if you can read as quickly as your mind can comprehend – in solid chunks of words – you're less likely to forget key points or get distracted, boosting your comprehension.

Reading any faster, though, just seems sort of silly. There's a great Woody Allen line about speed-reading that illustrates the point. "I took a speed-reading course and read *War and Peace* in 20 minutes", the joke goes. "It involves Russia." Rather than reading faster to improve your life, reading more may be a more profitable strategy.

2. FELADATSOR

Task 1 Time to Relax



Interviewer: Author James Patterson talks to us about his latest books, *Lifeguard* and *Judge and Jury*. James Patterson has written countless international bestsellers. He's probably best known for his thrillers, but he's also written detective books, love stories and a series called *Maximum Ride*, aimed at young teenagers. He lives in Florida with his wife and young son, Jack.

Interviewer: How did you get the ideas for *Lifeguard* and *Judge and Jury*?

J. P.: I had the ideas for both books for a long time. I don't want to talk about them too much though, as "I don't want to give anything away"!

Interviewer: You seem to have a book out almost every couple of months – how long does it take you to write a novel?

J. P.: It's hard to say because it's difficult to pinpoint when the book actually starts. From the moment where I have a good outline of the story, it's usually just a matter of months. But from the point where the idea first occurs to me – that can vary quite a lot. Some ideas I have for books sit on my desk for years before I work on them.

Interviewer: You have a young son – does he read your books?