



B1 Overall Reading Comprehension (Common European Framework):
Can read straightforward factual texts on subjects related to his/her field and interests with a satisfactory level of comprehension.

1. TASK IDENTIFIER

TITLE	How I became a Wildlife Photographer
NUMBER OF WORDS	384
READING BEHAVIOUR	Careful reading
GENERAL FOCUS	Reading for main ideas and supporting details
CEFR LEVEL	B1
TEST METHOD	Multiple Choice Questions
NUMBER OF ITEMS	7



How I became a Wildlife Photographer

Read the text about how a man’s love for photography grew, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1-7.

Only one answer is correct.

The first one (0) has been done for you.

First, I've always loved and “lived for” animals—ever since I was a kid. I remember when I was 5 years old, I'd feed the stray kittens on my street. Or, when I was 13, I joined the hiking club at my school; but while everyone else was admiring the mountains and valleys, I was busy looking under the rocks for snakes and scorpions...

Even then, I knew I wanted to work with animals when I grew up. So, while working a full-time job and raising my two kids, I attended veterinary school and received my diploma in 2002. I dreamed of becoming a wildlife veterinarian, but practicing in New York City makes this a bit difficult, so I treat primarily dogs and cats.

The next ingredients any wildlife photographer needs are a deep love, respect and curiosity for nature and seeing new places. During a hiking trip to South America in 1995, I was “infected” with the “travel bug”. Since then, I've made it my mission to see and experience as many places as possible, especially those that have wildlife.

The last part of the equation is a passion for photography. I've always liked it, but never studied it in a serious way until I bought my first “zoom-y” camera before a safari trip to Kenya with my son and my best friend. That was one of the most special trips of my life. I discovered that, because I'm a veterinarian and know animals so well, I'm able to anticipate their behavior and capture some very special moments. Unfortunately, when I got home I saw that—even though I got some incredible shots—the image quality wasn't there. So I invested in a better camera, and taught myself the basics of photography. The more I learned and practiced, the more I fell in love with it, and the better I became. When one of my shots, “Near and Far”, was selected by National Geographic as their Photo of the Day, I was inspired to take things to the next level and make the transition from amateur to professional photographer.

If you combine all my passions—animals, traveling and photography—it's only natural that I became a wildlife photographer. I see this as another way of helping animals—the ones I can't treat medically.



- 0** When the author was a teenager, he
- A was very careful when walking in the mountains.
 - B was terrified of wild animal species.
 - C developed an interest for natural landscapes.
 - D had different interests from his mates.
- Q1** The author's love for animals
- A was the reason why he chose to do further studies.
 - B immediately became his occupation.
 - C was negatively influenced by his personal life.
 - D started with his university studies.
- Q2** The author's present job as a vet in New York
- A can be difficult due to the area where he lives.
 - B is his very first dream come true.
 - C is mainly connected with making pets healthy.
 - D involves driving around a lot.
- Q3** In 1995, the author
- A went on his first trekking adventure.
 - B joined a professional photographic mission.
 - C caught a very dangerous disease.
 - D realised he had discovered a new passion.
- Q4** The author's interest in photography
- A was born after an expedition into the wild.
 - B was influenced by a friend of his.
 - C changed after he bought some equipment.
 - D arrived suddenly and without warning.
- Q5** The pictures the author takes
- A are taken from a very short distance.
 - B are influenced by a specific ability he has.
 - C have proved as good as those of others.
 - D show ordinary instants in the life of animals.
- Q6** After buying a new camera, the author
- A started making better pictures immediately.
 - B saw his interest become stronger.
 - C did not need to improve his technical knowledge.
 - D took private lessons in photography.



Q7 When he got press recognition for his work, the author

- A decided to make photography more than a hobby.
- B saw his life change in a variety of ways.
- C thought this was very likely to happen.
- D realised photography was the only way to help wildlife.