

Внимательно прочтите текст:
“Organic food: why?”

Today, many governments are promoting organic or natural farming methods that avoid the use of pesticides and other artificial products. The aim is to show that they care about the environment and about people's health. But is this the right approach?

Europe is now the biggest market for organic food in the world, expanding by 25 percent a year over the past 10 years. So what is the attraction of organic food for some people? The really important thing is that organic sounds more “natural”. Eating organic is a way of defining oneself as natural, good, caring, different from the junk-food-scoffing masses. As one journalist puts it: “It feels closer to the source, the beginning, the start of things”. The real desire is to be somehow close to the soil, to Mother Nature.

Organic farming is often claimed to be safer than conventional farming - for the environment and for consumers.

But the notion that organic food is safer than “normal” food is contradicted by the fact that many of our most common foods are full of natural toxins. Parsnips cause blisters on the skin of agricultural workers. Toasting bread creates carcinogens. As one research expert says: “People think that the more natural something is, the better it is for them. That is simply not the case. In fact, it is the opposite that is true: the closer a plant is to its natural state, the more likely it is that it will poison you. Naturally, many plants do not want to be eaten, so we have spent 10,000 years developing agriculture and breeding out harmful traits from crops.”

Yet educated Europeans are more scared of eating traces of a few, strictly regulated, man-made chemicals than they are of eating the ones that nature created directly. Surrounded by plentiful food, it's not nature they worry about, but technology. Our obsessions with the ethics and safety of what we eat - concerns about antibiotics in animals, additives in food, GM crops and so on - are symptomatic of a highly technological society that has little faith in its ability to use this technology wisely. In this context, the less something is touched by the human hand, the healthier people assume it must be.

Ultimately, the organic farming movement is an expensive luxury for shoppers in well-manicured Europe. For developing parts of the world, it is irrelevant. To European environmentalists, the fact that organic methods require more labour and land than conventional ones to get the same yields is a good thing; to a farmer in rural Africa, it is a disaster. Here, land tends to be so starved and crop yields so low that there simply is not

enough organic matter to put back into the soil. Perhaps the focus should be on helping these countries to gain access to the most advanced farming techniques, rather than going back to basics.

Read the text and say which of the following statements are TRUE, which are FALSE and which are NOT STATED.

1. Organic farming relies on the use of chemical substances other than pesticides.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated
2. Within the last 10 years Europe has been producing 25 per cent more organic food annually.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated
3. Traditional agriculture is considered to be less safe for the environment than organic farming.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated
4. The meat of farm-raised animals is full of natural toxins because they eat plants containing pesticides.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated
5. The closer a plant is to its natural state, the more likely it is not to poison you.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated
6. Breeding edible crops free of harmful traits has taken the humankind thousands of years of agricultural development.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated

7. It is commonly believed that the less something is touched by the human hand, the healthier it must be.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated

8. Organic farming is also popular in developing countries.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated

9. Farming in rural parts of Central Africa requires less labour and land than that in other parts of the continent.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated

10. European experts recommend that the governments of developing countries should invest more into growing fruit and vegetables.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not stated

Writing task:

How popular is organic farming in Russia? Do you think Russian people should be encouraged to produce and eat organic food? Why? / Why not? Write 150-200 words to answer the questions and support your answer with relevant arguments.

БЛОК 2. ВАРИАНТ 14

Выберите один правильный вариант из предложенных в скобках:

Over the past thirty years or so, the methods used for collecting money from the public to aid the developing world **1** (change, have changed, are changing) out of all recognition, along with the gravity of the problems faces, and the increasing awareness among the population that something **2** (must have been done, must be done, would be done). At the beginning of this period, it would have been common to put money in a collecting box, perhaps on the street or at church, or to receive a small 'flag' to wear in the lapel. The 1960s saw the development of shop which sold secondhand goods, donated by the public, and which also began to sell articles manufactured in the developing world in projects **3** (set out set off, set up) by the parent charity, to guarantee a fair income to local people. The next development was probably the charity 'event', in which participants **4** (sponsored, were sponsored, had been sponsored) to run, cycle, swim or what have you, and collected money from friends and relatives according to how far or long they managed to keep going. The first hint of what was to become the most successful means of raising money was the charity record, where the artists donated their time and talent, and the proceeds from sales went to a good cause. This was perhaps a reflection **5** (on, of, about) the fact that young people felt increasingly **6** (concerning, concerned, content) about the obvious difference between life in Europe and the United States, and that in most Africa and Asia, and this concern was reflected in songs, **7** (however, though, besides) being clearly shown on television. The problems were becoming hard to avoid, but a feeling of frustration was building up. Why was **8** (so few, so much, so little) being done? The huge success of Band Aid, and subsequent televised concerts, reflected the power of the media, and of music in particular, but also differed in style from other events. People phoned up in their thousands on the day and **9** (loaned, handed in, pledged) money by quoting their credit card numbers. After all, if you have enough money to buy CDs and stereo player, you can **10** (allow, permit, afford) something for the world's starving children.

Из представленных в беспорядке предложений восстановите исходный текст. Обратите внимание на логическую и смысловую связь предложений.

Phaethon

3. 0 Phaethon was a little boy who lived with his mother. He started going to school, and the other children teased him because he didn't have any father.
3. ____ 1. Phaethon said "Well if you are really my dad then let me drive the chariot of the sun one time. That will show everyone at school and they'll stop making fun of me."
3. ____ 2. Phaethon promised to be very careful.
3. ____ 3. He said, "Lord Helios, are you really my dad?" And Helios said, "Yes, I am."
3. ____ 4. At first his mother didn't want to tell him, but then she said, "Your father is the sun god, Helios. He lives up in the sky and drives the chariot of the sun."
3. ____ 5. Helios really didn't want to do that. Phaethon was only a little boy, and he was only half a god, and he certainly wasn't strong enough to handle those wild horses of the chariot of the sun!
3. ____ 6. Phaethon said, "Really? Cool ! Wow, wait till I tell the other kids!"
3. ____ 7. Well, but Phaethon begged and cried and sulked and teased and after a long time Helios gave in and said "Okay, you can drive them, but just this once. And you must be very careful."
3. ____ 8. But when he told them, the other kids made fun of him. "Yeah, right," they said. "You just don't know who your dad is and you're making this up. You expect us to believe your dad is a god?"
3. ____ 9. So when he got home he asked his mother, "Mom, who is my father?"
3. ____ 10. Phaethon sulked for a while and then he decided to show those mean kids what was what. He took a little food in a leather bag and he walked and he walked and he walked until he got to the end of the earth and he found where the gods were and got to Helios.
3. 11 But the horses, feeling that it was only a little boy holding the reins, began to run away! Phaethon could not hold them back.