



LISTENING Time

1. Listen to Hollie McNish recite the first part of her poem.

1.1 How much could you understand of the poem? Underline any of these words that you think are important in it.

- Racial prejudice • Immigration • Cake • British history • Swearing

1.2 Listen again and try to fill in the gaps.



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Soluções



1.
1.1 All of them except *cake* and (maybe) *swearing*.
1.2 a. Pakistanis; b. jobs
c. shops; d. dreams
e. employment; f. blame
g. true; h. news
i. Mathematics; j. empty
k. planned

2.
2.1 Personal answer.
2.2 The person the narrator is talking to is British, because he uses the first-person plural personal pronoun - "**our** British workers" -, which means he identifies himself with this culture.
2.3 He doesn't like other cultures, because, according to him, they're responsible for unemployment in Britain. In his opinion, immigrants came to his country and stole British people's jobs.
2.4 He describes an idyllic country, where everybody had a job and full time employment. **Model answer:** No, I don't agree with his vision, because I don't think immigrants are the cause of unemployment or lack of jobs in a country. High unemployment rates are a symptom of economic weakness that does not necessarily have to do with immigration.
2.5 **Model answer:** No, I don't think s/he shares his opinion, because s/he tries to attack the reasons of his argument, identifying its fallacies and faulty reasoning and repeatedly asking him about the source of his information. S/He calls his vision of a perfect country "a scene", meaning, a utopia, a dream, where everybody had jobs, and shows him real facts - maps and architectural plans - that prove immigrants' contribution to the development of the country.

20 AULA DIGITAL

■ Link
Mathematics

Mathematics

He said "those goddamn^(a) _____ and their goddamn corner shops;
Built a shop on every corner, took our British workers' ^(b) _____."
He said "those goddamn Chinese and their goddamn China ^(c) _____."
I told him they're from Vietnam but he doesn't give a toss.

- 5 I ask him what was there before the damn Japan man's shop.
He looks at me and ^(d) _____ a scene of British workers' jobs,
Of full time, full ^(e) _____, before the goddamn boats all came,
Where everybody went to work for full time, full weeks, every day.
A British business stood there first, he claims, before the Irish came.
10 Now British people lost their jobs and bloody Turkish there to ^(f) _____.
I ask him how he knows that fact. He said "Because it's ^(g) _____!"
I ask him how he *knows* that fact. He said he read it in the ^(h) _____.
"Every time a Somalian comes here they take a job from us
The ⁽ⁱ⁾ _____ one from one, from us to them it just adds up."
15 He bites his cake, he sips his brew. He says again he knows this plot:
"The goddamn Caribbeans came and now good folk here don't have jobs."
I ask him what was there before the goddamn Persian curtain shop,
I show him architecture's plans of ^(j) _____ goddamn plots of land,
I show him the historic maps,
20 A bit of sand, a barren land,
There was no goddamn shop before the Pakistani came and ^(k) _____.

www.enca.com/life/british-poet-trends-online-work-immigration (adapted), accessed in October 2013

2. Answer these questions on the poem.

- 2.1 Can you now add or subtract anything from the list of words in question 1.1 above?
2.2 What nationality is the person the poet is talking to? Justify your answer.
2.3 What's his opinion about the other cultures? Why?
2.4 How does he describe his country before these people's arrival? Do you agree with his vision? Why?
2.5 Does the poet share the same opinion as the interlocutor? What leads you to that conclusion?



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Soluções



3.

3.1 b

3.2 a

3.3 c

3.4 a

3.5 b

4.

4.1 The poet is making a point about immigrants' importance in the development of a country. According to the poet, they add more value than cost, because some of them create their own jobs and give employment to locals. So, even if they are just one, they can help two or more people.

5. **Model answer:** The title of the poem expresses the author's opinion about the problem of immigration and unemployment. The first does not inevitably lead to the second, so an immigrant does not necessarily take a local's job. It's not a question of pure Mathematics: we cannot say that every new immigrant that arrives takes a job from a local, that is, one for one. The reason is that some immigrants contribute to create more jobs and employ local people. So, in this case, one gives opportunities for several.

3. Listen to the second excerpt of Hollie McNish's poem and choose the correct option to complete the following sentences.

3.1 The poet is fed up with...

a. problems.

b. bad mathematics.

c. calculus.

3.2 The poet spent ... years studying economics.

a. three

b. five

c. two

3.3 In the poet's opinion, immigrants also come to one's country to...

a. work and relax.

b. fight and argue.

c. spend and lend.

3.4 Immigrants also give work to other people, like accountants and...

a. builders.

b. teachers.

c. vets.

3.5 Immigration is not a ... issue.

a. difficult

b. plain

c. good

4. Read the final part of the poem and answer the question that follows.

Cos sometimes one that comes makes two
And sometimes one can add three more
And sometimes two times two is much much more
Than four.

5. And most times immigrants bring more
Than minuses.

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4.1 Explain the poet's accounts. What does s/he mean?

5. Now that you have read and heard the whole poem, explain its title.