



Región de Murcia
Consejería de Educación y Cultura
Dirección General de Innovación Educativa
y Atención a la Diversidad

ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DE LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA

**PRUEBA ESPECÍFICA
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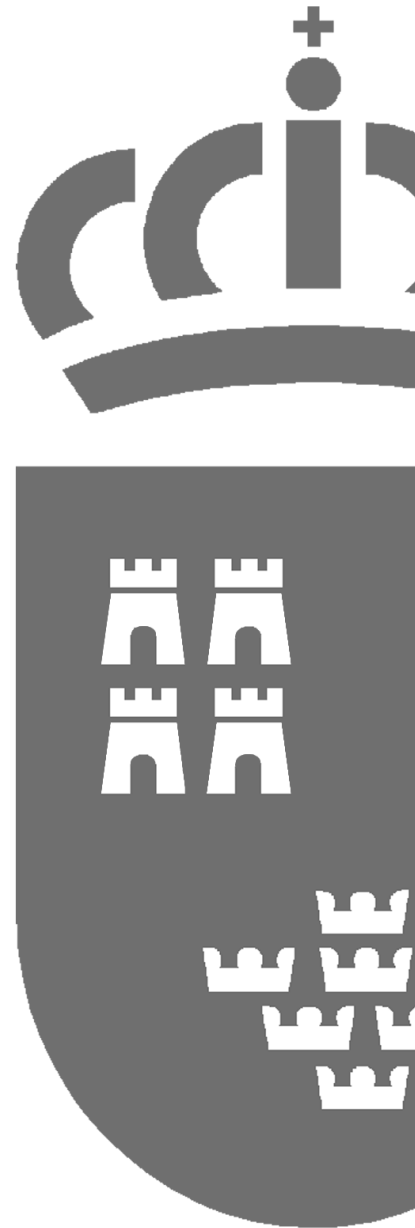
NIVEL C1

**CONVOCATORIA
SEPTIEMBRE 2020**

**CUADERNO DEL
CORRECTOR**

- CLAVE DE RESPUESTAS -

INGLÉS
C1



COMPRESIÓN DE TEXTOS ORALES

TASK 1

The Equation

0.	spiritual
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1.	bestseller
2.	predictable
3.	expectations
4.	curry
5.	enormous
6.	service
7.	transparent
8.	productive
9.	downside
10.	healthcare

TASK 2

Cybercrime

0	1	3	4	6	11	14	SCORE:
✓							___ / 6

TASK 3

Can Fast Fashion And Sustainability Be Stitched Together?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	SCORE:
C	B	C	A	C	A	C	A	B	B	A	___ / 10

COMPRESIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

TEXT 1

Weird Stories About Famous People

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	SCORE: ____ / 10
A	B	D	J	H	E	F	

TEXT 2

Olga Tokarczuk's Gripping Eco-Mystery

0. (EXAMPLE) Murder mysteries have in common ... A. that murders are always important. ✓	A	✓
1. When the body is first found, the narrator ... A. considers it could be a natural death.	A	
2. Oddball and Big Foot are ... B. nicknames given by the narrator.	B	
3. In her spare time, Janina ... A. gives forecasts based on the positions of the stars.	A	
4. In the winter, Janina looks after ... C. other people's houses.	C	
5. When describing people, Janina ... A. does it in a quick and rude manner.	A	
6. When referring to the forest, Janina ... A. can sense the growth of plants and vegetation.	A	
7. In front of her neighbour's dead body, Janina ... A. does not hide her opinions and speaks honestly.	A	
8. While at the dead man's home, she ... C. warns the reader that Big Foot was actually a criminal.	C	
9. When spring comes ... C. she perceives a negative forecast coming from nature.	C	
10. Janina feels there are going to be more deaths ... C. of local people in return for their animal crimes.	C	

TEXT 3

Reassuring children on autism spectrum when hospital looms

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	L	M	C	H	I	J	K	N	F	D

CTO

TASK 1: The Equation

TRANSCRIPT

Mo Gawdat: I've been very successful most of my life. I had uh achieved what most people aspire to achieve, but I was literally depressed and, like many of us in the modern world, I couldn't find happiness in that traditional **(0) spiritual** teachings or practices or yoga or meditation and j. They just didn't work for me.

Kavita Puri: This is Mo Gawdat, former chief business officer of Google X, which looks into radical technologies. He had a big salary and a dream job, but he wasn't happy and he wanted to know why.

MG: And so my research was all about what are the reasons that make us unhappy and, and how do we alleviate that.

KP: His work resulted in the international **(1) bestseller** "Solve for happy". He quit his job and now dedicates his life to making other people happy. He even has a modest goal of reaching 1 billion people. His answer:

MG: Happiness is uh surprisingly **(2) predictable**. You can sum it up in an equation. So that your happiness is equal to or greater than the difference between the events of your life, minus your **expectations** of how life should behave.

KP: So the key is just all about your **(3) expectations**.

MG: So you could be in India or be in... And your **expectation** from life is if I eat today, that would be a good day. And so you get a bowl of rice with some **(4) curry** on it and you're very, very happy. You could, on the other hand, be in America and you know, your expectation is that the portions are gonna be **(5) enormous**. If, if the portion is a little less than what you expect, even though you're going to throw half of it away, you're going to feel unhappy. You know, I, I think people in the Western societies, especially in Europe, by the way, they seem to think that there is some kind of a **(6) service** level agreement with life. It's like, you know, and you've paid 20 pounds for the **service**, so you should expect that **service** to be perfect all the time. And life is sometimes going to be kind, and sometimes going to be harsh.

KP: How does this equation translate to governments? Should they even be thinking about happiness?

MG: Should governments strive uh to make us happy? Of course. At the same time, governments cannot make us happy. I think the best they can ever do is to stop making us unhappy.

KP: By that, he means governments need to be **(7) transparent** and provide for the basic needs of its people so that they're not unhappy. Interestingly, he does think linking happiness to economic prosperity is really important.

MG: It's actually, it's a very smart view and in many studies, humans are more **(8) productive** when we're happier. So happy people **produce** more. And that's expected because happy people don't waste cycles in complaining about things that, you know, their colleagues like them, their customers like them and so on.

KP: So he argues we're actually more economically productive as a nation if we're happy. And the **(9) downside** of unhappiness is negative economic consequences.

MG: Very high correlations between stress and depression and mental health issues and you know, diseases like diabetes and other diseases, which costs governments quite a lot in terms of productivity, but it all also in terms of **(10) healthcare** in the long term. So it's actually the wise thing to do. A happy citizen is a citizen that contributes more, that costs the government less, and hopefully, a citizen that can cultivate an environment where we all collaborate and do better.

Source: *The Inquiry: Can a government make you happy?* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3csytg4>

CTO

TASK 2: Cybercrime

TRANSCRIPT

Adam - What does cybercrime look like? Is it just digital versions of analogue crimes?

Ross - Well there are three types of crime that you can think about that are **(0) analogue crimes that haven't changed very much at all, like tax fraud. That's technically cybercrime because you fill your tax return online and that's basically unchanged.** Then there are crimes that we used to have in the analogue world which have changed their nature radically as we've gone online, such as card fraud. **(1) Fraud against people's bank accounts and credit cards used to involve things like shoulder-surfing people at ATMs** or fishing credit card carbons out of bins in restaurants. Now it's mostly stuff that's done online. And the third type of online crime you get is the pure cybercrime. Things like ransomware, for example. And underpinning all this is cybercriminal infrastructure, or the botnet, made up of thousands or even millions of infected computers which send out the spam which hosts dodgy content and so on and so forth.

Adam - Are there trends though? Even if it's remained constant, how has cybercrime changed over the years?

Ross - There's a number of changes in the ecosystem. The first is that **(3) card crime overall has about doubled in the past eight years.** But the total volume and value of card payments has more than doubled, it's almost tripled. What's happening is that **(4) the card payment system is growing as the online component grows and it's also becoming more efficient.** So that's a good thing. What we also see is that particularly cybercrimes have dropped away. Seven or eight years ago, you got an awful lot of spam that was trying to sell Viagra. Now Viagra is out of patent, you just buy it in the chemists so there's not a big deal anymore and so you don't get that kind of stuff. And **(6) similarly, there's not a lot of people trying to sell pirated software** or movies or music because nowadays everyone just downloads music and movies, **and software tends to be in the cloud and free anyway.**

What has replaced them are crimes involving bitcoin, for example, with dodgy Bitcoin exchanges where you're invited to take part in some scheme or another, or invest in a new coin, or invest in some high yield investment plan. And what then typically happens is that the scammers just take your money and vanish with it.

Adam - With all this cybercrime you'd imagine there'd be a lot of emphasis on enforcement. Well...

Ross - The shocking thing is this. Despite the fact that half of all acquisitive crime is now online, the total number of police officers who are involved in fighting cybercrime in Britain is somewhere between 200 and 300. That's out of a total police force of 120,000 officers. So it's given essentially no priority at all despite the fact that it's half the total.

Adam - So what can we do?

Ross - Basically it comes down to being out and arresting people. You see **(11) the typical online scam is a bit like the typical burglary.** There may very well be no usable evidence but if you look closely, then in a significant minority of cases there will be some. The burglar may have picked up a paper hankie from your kitchen and blown his nose or he may have cut himself from the window as he went in or whatever. And with modern DNA and fingerprinting techniques then you've got them. Similarly, people who do online crimes are very often poor at their operational security and they leave traces back to their real names, and their real email addresses and so on. Simply because, up to now, they've been able to operate with impunity. They didn't have to learn to be careful. Now the problem is that many police forces will say "it's not our policy to investigate frauds under £10,000". Right? And this very rapidly becomes known to the crooks that you can go and steal an awful lot of money, in thousand-pound helpings from some particular neighbourhood. And the police will never get off their butts to chase you. So **(14) what's really needed here is for police enforcement to be randomised.** If the police say they're always going to investigate fraud over £10,000, then if somebody starts from £900 then **(14) the police should roll some dice and investigate that crime** with probability 9 per cent.

And that means if anybody goes out and rips off a whole lot of students for deposits for non-existent flats from £900, student after student, dozens, hundreds every year, then eventually the number will come up and they'll get chased. That is the way to do it.

Source: *The Naked Scientist*. <https://www.thenakedscientists.com/articles/interviews/state-cybercrime>

CTO

TASK 3:

Can Fast Fashion And Sustainability Be Stitched Together?

TRANSCRIPT

SARAH MCCAMMON, HOST: Spanish retailer Zara announced it will only use sustainable materials by the year 2025. **(0) This is a big deal because Zara is the giant in the fast-fashion space.** It's a retail category that's ballooned in the United States in the last two decades. And the concept is in the name - fashionable clothing made quickly and sold at affordable prices. It's allowed brands like Zara to move inventory at a rapid pace. But that kind of turnaround can have a negative impact on the environment.

Here to tell us more about the decision is Mark Sumner. **(1) He lectures on fashion and sustainability at the University of Leeds in the U.K.** And he worked in the retail industry for over 15 years. Welcome to the program.

MARK SUMNER: Pleasure to be here. Thank you.

MCCAMMON: So let's set the table quickly. **(2) When people think about environmental hazards,** they often talk about things like car emissions or maybe plastics in the ocean. **They may not be thinking though about what is in their closet.** How is fast fashion harmful to the environment?

SUMNER: Well, **(3) the fashion industry encompasses a whole range of other industries** to provide us with the clothing that we're wearing. The industries that we need to create those materials are things like agriculture. We need agriculture to grow cotton. That has impacts to do with soil health and carbon emissions and water consumption. Polyester comes from the oil industry. We have, obviously, issues associated with the extraction of oil. And then to convert those fibers, that raw material, into the garments you're wearing, we have **(4) energy-intensive processes such as yarn spinning,** turning that fiber into yarn.

(5) And a really important part of the fashion industry is about color. And to apply color to fabrics, we're using water, we're using energy, and sometimes we're using potentially quite harmful chemicals. And then, ultimately, that fabric is then sent to the garment factories to turn it into the garments that we're wearing. And when we add up all of those different impacts, we then start to see a picture of those environmental issues associated with clothing.

MCCAMMON: And let's talk a bit about Zara's announcement. What does it mean, first of all, for materials used in fashion to be sustainable?

SUMNER: **(6) It's a really complex area. And depending on who you talk to, the definition of what sustainable means will vary.** We're talking about carbon emissions, we're talking about water consumption, water pollution, eutrophication, ozone depletion. And sometimes you can reduce one particular environmental impact and, at the same time, by the actions you've taken, you're actually increasing the impact somewhere else. **(7) The challenge for the fashion industry,** because it's so diverse and so broad, **is that there are so many different aspects of sustainability that are trying to be addressed.**

Some brands will talk about it in a very inclusive way and talk about many, many different areas of sustainability. Other brands will be talking about sustainability and maybe only reference one aspect, and that might be carbon, for example. **(7) So the idea of having something sustainable is really ambiguous, and that's one of the challenges,** I think, for consumers and commentators when they're trying to look at the statements being made by brands like Zara. You know, what does that actually mean?

MCCAMMON: Depending on how they go about it, how big of a deal could this announcement by Zara be, and what kind of an impact could it have?

SUMNER: Well, I think the really interesting thing about Zara's statement is **(8) they've made a public statement to back their intention, and they will be held accountable for whether they achieve that target or not** over time. So the fact that they made this very public target I think is really positive. And I think hopefully what that will do is also encourage other brands and retailers to be bold and to make these statements as well.

MCCAMMON: What individual responsibility do consumers have here?

SUMNER: Personally, **(9) I think every consumer has some responsibility for their actions.** The consumers are buying products, they are making decisions about where they're buying those products from, how long they keep those products for and what they do with those products at end of life. **(9) So I think there is definitely some**

responsibility that the consumers have in all of this. But (10) I also recognize as - there is this deep-seated sort of psychological driver within our human psyche to engage in fashion.

And, of course, at the same time, we have this culture of consumption, which, for an individual to try and rebel against that, is really, really difficult to do. So I recognize the fact that consumers have a responsibility but also recognize the fact that there are some powerful factors that are influencing the way that consumers behave.

MCCAMMON: That's Mark Sumner of the University of Leeds. Thank you so much for joining us.

SUMNER: Thank you.

Source: NPR All things considered
<https://one.npr.org/i/745418569:745925063>

ME
TAREA A:
Auxiliares de Conversación Extranjeros
RESPUESTA MODELO

Dear candidate,

Thank you for your interest in our programme. Let me summarize the economic conditions:

- All language assistants will receive a monthly allowance for diet and accommodation, of 700 euros, working a minimum of 12 hours per week, with the corresponding economic compensation if these hours are increased.
- In the case of UK citizens, the Ministry of Education, or the Autonomous Community of destination will arrange a health insurance policy. (Assistants from EU countries should have the European Health Card)
- All selected candidates must pay for their travel expenses to Spain and back to the country of origin.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Kind regards,

111 palabras

CTE

TEXT 1: Weird Stories About Famous People

956 palabras

History rocks, but your poor history teachers didn't have time to cover all the fun little bits. Whether these bits were sad, hilarious, or heartwarming, we think it's a shame you missed out. And we're righting that wrong.

0. Albert Einstein - I. One of them had some embarrassing secrets to hide. (EXAMPLE)

Albert Einstein is the archetypal kooky scientist who was clearly more than a little bit off and yet was brilliant as brilliant could be. Einstein, although a seemingly friendly, intelligent guy **had quite a few skeletons in the closet**. In 1901, Einstein and his first girlfriend, Mileva Maric, were on holiday in Italy. It ended when Mileva found herself with child and Einstein found himself with no money to support her and the new baby. The child, Lieserl, was born in 1902 and disappeared from Einstein's letters to Mileva around 1903. It's unknown what happened to the child, but she probably died of scarlet fever.

Later in life, Einstein left Mileva in 1912 (and divorced her in 1919) and married his cousin Elsa Lowenthal soon after. In the latter marriage, Einstein had numerous affairs during the marriage and well after Elsa's death in 1936. Genius? Yes. Playboy? Definitely.

1. Abraham Lincoln – B. As a child, he had to carry out tasks that required physical effort.

Famous for his mighty beard, Abraham Lincoln was a curious figure. Though he wasn't actually born in a log cabin, he did have a relatively **hard childhood. Hard labor was part of the daily regime** in the frontier where Lincoln grew up, and, at the age of nine, he lost his mother to milk sickness. As President, he would grow to be history's tallest President of the United States, standing proud at 6'4". Even after he died, his story didn't quite end. In 1876, a group of counterfeiters wanted to hold Lincoln's body for ransom, at the hefty fee of \$200,000 in gold and the release of one of their accomplices. They were caught and sentenced to a year in jail.

2. King George III - D. He was forced to wear a special garment due to his mental condition.

He was the King of England during the War, right? So? So, he was nuttier than a squirrel. He is thought to have begun to lose his marbles due to arsenic poisoning, since arsenic was spread around like fairy dust in everything back in the early 19th century from medicine to cosmetics. Eventually **confined to a straitjacket** within his own palace, he died in 1820, blind and insane. He may have been a tyrant to the American colonists, but you can't help but feel a bit sorry for the guy.

3. Theodore Roosevelt – J. Something he was carrying with him saved his life.

Theodore Roosevelt's story is one of privilege, big personalities, and bigger sticks. Teddy Roosevelt was born to the wealthy Roosevelt family in New York City and was known to be sickly, asthmatic, and (very) hyper child. He also took up boxing at a young age to combat his weak constitution. Roosevelt had an injury to the left eye caused by boxing while in office. He took many trips to Africa and South America where he hunted and studied numerous exotic species.

His best story, perhaps, concerns a speech in Milwaukee in 1912. During the speech, an assassin tried to kill Roosevelt with a gun, but **the bullet was slowed down by his folded speech and eyeglass case**. Roosevelt promptly told the crowd he'd just been shot, continued giving his speech, and then headed over to the hospital to get it removed. Well played, Mr. Roosevelt, well played.

4. Peter the Great - H. One of them could be considered the weirdest ruler of all.

If this were a list about strange monarchs, Peter the Great would top the list. Peter the Great was the Czar of Russia in the 18th century. Seeing how backwards Russia was, he decided to tour Western Europe in order to find ways to modernize his country.

Peter took the guise of an average merchant to avoid being discovered and came back to Russia with many ways to improve the empire. He set up new schools, created the mighty port of St. Petersburg, and ordered all Russian men to shave their beards or pay a tax. Yes, you read that right. Russians grow such poor beards that they had to pay to keep them.

He also had a museum of oddities ranging from deformed animal fetuses to animal parts to dispel superstition in his country. Now that's scientific curiosity.

5. Charlie Chaplin - E. He was obliged to give someone a large amount of money.

Sir Charles "Charlie" Chaplin is perhaps best known for his comedic films of the Roaring Twenties, and he certainly has tales to tell. Chaplin's parents weren't exactly role models—his mother had two illegitimate children from affairs and his father left the family when he was young. His mother eventually died of liver issues after becoming psychotic due to syphilis and malnutrition.

His adult life was no less fascinating—Chaplin was once **forced to pay child support for a child** that wasn't even his. When a young woman claimed that her child was Chaplin's, blood testing determined that the child was not Chaplin's, but the judge refused to have the test admitted into court, so **he made Chaplin pay a substantial sum**. Even after death, his story didn't quite end. In 1977, Chaplin's body was stolen for ransom, but it was recovered about two months later.

6. Sir Richard Francis Burton - F. He went to extremes to avoid being identified.

Spy, explorer, soldier—so many words to describe Sir Richard Burton, but his stories were perhaps the most amazing. In 1853, Burton convinced the Royal Geographic Society to give him a leave of absence from the army to travel to Mecca and **disguise himself as a Muslim—even getting circumcised to keep up the illusion—to make it there**. While exploring in Africa, he was impaled by a javelin in a foray with a group of Somali warriors, yet escaped alive. He spoke over 30 different languages and dialects and was a diplomat later in life. It seems likely Sir Richard took plenty of tales to the grave.

Source: Listverse.com

<https://listverse.com/2013/06/23/10-historical-figures-with-strange-and-awesome-stories-to-tell/>

CTE

TEXT 2: Olga Tokarczuk's Gripping Eco-Mystery

825 palabras

Murder mysteries, however else they might differ, rely on one major, shared belief: that **0. murder matters, and is worth looking into**. Whoever did the killing, whoever was killed, the investigation moves forward because the people inside the story and those outside of it, following along as the clues unfold, agree that the murder has moral weight, and ought to be solved. The Polish novelist Olga Tokarczuk's *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* starts off with the discovery of a body, but before the body is cold, the narrator immediately begins to question its importance—was it a crime, a tragedy, a dishing out of just deserts, **1. or maybe nothing as important as any of that, just another instance of the inevitable transformation that awaits all flesh?** Which is to say the book doesn't progress like a classic murder mystery.

Our narrator lives in a remote forest in Poland, on a plateau in the mountains near the border with the Czech Republic. It's winter, and the little community, which during the summer is populated with families and professionals who come out from the city, has emptied. Only three people stay there through the hard winters: the narrator and her neighbors, Oddball and Big Foot. **(2. She doesn't like to use the unimaginative names assigned at birth—**though readers will eventually learn hers: Janina Duszejko.) She is sure the townspeople regard the three of them as “old eccentrics” and “pathetic hippies.” Oddball has found Big Foot dead, and the two remaining go up to dress him properly and await the police. Big Foot seems to have choked on a small bone.

Janina, we learn as she narrates, **3. loves calculating horoscopes** (the book's first of many references to a retrograde Mercury comes just a few paragraphs in), suffers from mysterious ailments, and often cries without seeming to understand why. She translates William Blake into Polish in the evenings, and leaves the weather channel on all day. **4. She works as the off-season caretaker for her absent neighbors—**the professor, the horror-story author, the grocery-store owners, and their “pampered children”—taking long walks through the town and forest and **keeping watch over their empty houses**. “Many people can afford to have one house in the city,” she explains, “and another—a sort of frivolous, childish one—in the country.”

She is matter-of-fact about things, and **5. about people, whom she describes simply, brusquely, summing them up in a moment** as one of those women with too fake a tan, one of those men who think they know everything. **6. But when she describes the natural world,** her voice goes tender. A couple of deer standing in the snow look as if “we had caught them in the middle of performing a ritual whose meaning we couldn't fathom”; catching sight of a patrolling fox is “like seeing an old friend”; in the spring, she is attuned to subtle, **6. fresh energies that nobody else can hear,** “the rustle of the grasses growing, the ivy climbing the walls, and the mushroom spores expanding underground.”

And so it makes sense that, in the dead man's home, **7. she is straightforward enough about his body.** “Just a piece of matter,” she notes, “reduced to a fragile object, separated from everything else. It made me feel sad, horrified.... The same fate awaits me too, and Oddball, and the Deer outside; one day we shall all be nothing more than corpses.” She doesn't bother to eulogize him. **8. He was a poacher, a crime that's truly monstrous in her view.** “The forest nurtured this little goblin,” she says, but he did not respect it. Instead, “he treated the forest like his own personal farm.” Only when she notices evidence of another death does she become truly upset. She spots the head of a deer in Big Foot's kitchen—severed, the rest of its body butchered and eaten. At Big

Foot's house, the death that she registers as a crime isn't his but the animal's: "One creature had devoured another, in the silence and the stillness of the Night."

A deadly spring comes to the plateau. Janina **9. senses "a feverish vibration under the grass ... as if vast, underground nerves, swollen with effort, were just about to burst."** After the poacher's death, a local hunter is found dead, his body surrounded by hoofprints. **10. Janina has a theory—that wild animals are taking their revenge on those who hunt them.** A businessman goes missing from town, and some say he has just run off with his mistress, as he's done in the past. But with a cataloguing of his business interests—a delicatessen, fox farm, slaughterhouse, and meat-processing plant—his fate seems all but sealed. The police laugh at Janina's theory, but her neighbors, returning with the warm weather, don't. It seems right enough to the dentist, who says, "There has to be some justice, doesn't there? Yes, yes. Animals."

Source: *New Republic*

<https://newrepublic.com/article/155257/olga-tokarczuk-nobel-prize-novel-drive-plow-bones-dead>

CTE

TEXT 3: Reassuring children on autism spectrum when hospital looms

906 palabras

Today's data-saturated output of evidence-based medical science invites the inference that the "art of medicine" is in temporary abeyance. So, it is refreshing that central to a recent Irish ground-breaking medical innovation undertaken at Galway University Hospital's Department of Paediatrics is ...a story.

Few of us look forward to hospital visits, and the prospect of giving a blood sample (phlebotomy) can fuel one's apprehension. **0 - A. However, for those with heightened sensations – like those with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) – (EXAMPLE)** the problem can be magnified. ASDs are a group of life-long neurodevelopmental disorders characterised by impaired social interaction and communication; a recent Department of Health report estimated the prevalence of ASDs in Ireland at 1-1.5 per cent.

Paediatric specialist registrars Drs Claire Connellan and Lisa Dann – along with consultant Dr Orla Flanagan – note in the journal *Archives of Disease in Childhood*: "Children can find hospitals and procedures stressful. This is particularly true for children with intellectual disabilities or ASD. **1 - L. These children can find phlebotomy distressing and often need repeated testing** due to medications and screening tests for associated diseases." Dr Connellan explained to *The Irish Times* the background to their study: "We found that we were unsuccessful with drawing blood in a certain cohort of children who were becoming very distressed, so we began using medications such as midazolam for light sedation."

2 - M. This approach causes a little sleepiness or drowsiness and relaxation, but Dr Connellan's team found that "the more we used it, the more it made us reflect on using other strategies. Anyone working with children with ASD will know that visual schedules and stories work well to lessen stress and we know that the unknown or unplanned is particularly distressing."

3 - C. And it was the clever application of this knowledge that provided the solution to the problem they had identified. At its core is the concept of social stories, first developed in 1990 by a United States teacher Carol Gray, who describes social stories as social learning tools that support the safe and meaningful exchange of information between parents, professionals, and people of all ages with ASD.

4 - H. The impetus for the Galway study arose when a parent approached Dr Connellan's team about using social stories to help address the challenge of phlebotomy. "The story," explains Connellan, "is in short, simple phrases that follow a logical sequence and is simple enough that those with mild learning difficulties can also understand it. It brings the child step by step through the process with visual aids."

Connellan's team selected 10 children with ASD who had previously been distressed or needed sedation prior to blood being taken. **5 - I. The social story the paediatricians used was a five-page picture document, explaining what would happen.** "For example," says Connellan, "showing the main entrance door, the waiting room, the consultation room and pictures of the nurse and doctor. This is accompanied with short explanations like: 'we will sit in the waiting room until it's time for our appointment' or 'when it's our turn we go to the exam room'."

6 - J. The social story was paired with a phlebotomy pack, minus needle, – assembled by community nurse Phil Noone – and parents and children practiced with both before returning one or two weeks later. "We felt," Connellan points out, "this was important as it gives an element of control back to both parent and child".

The experiment was successful, with nine out of 10 patients providing a blood sample without needing sedation. Parental comments included “a fantastic improvement” and “without a doubt we would use it again”. The study authors’ report states in relation to social stories: “- 7 - **K. There is a paucity of evidence behind their use**, with no published reports on their use in phlebotomy. We have used it on a limited number of patients but with remarkable success.”

Deputy executive director of the Irish Society for Autism Tara Matthews said: “The Irish Society for Autism have found that social stories can be an invaluable tool to some people with autism and familiarisation with situations can dramatically reduce levels of anxiety. It is very encouraging to hear that this work is taking place and hope that many other areas will adopt this approach for children and adults with autism who may benefit.”

Is future research planned? “At the moment,” replies Connellan, “- 8 - **N. We are looking at broadening our project to other community paediatricians and specialist registrars doing their training in community paediatrics**, but this is at an early stage.”

She adds: “We realise that this approach is all about planning, practice and familiarising the child with what is going to happen and all of that takes time, both at home and in the clinic. - 9 - **F. So it’s not applicable to all aspects of healthcare that a child with ASD will encounter**, such as visiting the emergency department. But although it was only a small number of patients, it made such a difference to those children and parents that it’s worthwhile taking the time, if possible”

In Jerome Groopman’s book *How Doctors Think* (2007) he cites Dr Myron Falchuk, who observed that specialised technology “...has taken us away from the patient’s story... - 10 - **D. And once you remove yourself from the patient’s story**, you no longer are truly a doctor.”

Source: *The Irish Times*

<https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/health-family/reassuring-children-on-autism-spectrum-when-hospital-looms-1.4023926>