

For questions 17-24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

Example: (0) **DROWNING**

### Spice it up!

Why do we love spicy things? Go to any restaurant, and you will definitely see at least one person **0**\_\_\_\_\_ their food in scorching-hot Tabasco sauce, or eating chilli peppers like bread. That's because spiciness **17**\_\_\_\_\_ your body to release endorphins, making you feel a natural high.

Is there such a thing as too spicy? Scoville scale has an answer to that. It measures **18**\_\_\_\_\_, or just how hot a pepper is. Specifically, it is an attempt to **19**\_\_\_\_\_ spiciness – to express it in real numbers, making a great **20**\_\_\_\_\_ point for people who are into such things. For instance, the habanero pepper is on average 25 times more potent than the jalapeño pepper. The number itself is not abstract too – it is the amount of water required to completely **21**\_\_\_\_\_ the **22**\_\_\_\_\_ of heat the pepper gives.

The thing that is responsible for the spiciness is an element called capsaicin. One thing worth knowing is that it is hydrophobic, which means that drinking water is not very effective in alleviating the burning feeling. An **23**\_\_\_\_\_ drink works much better there, so a glass of orange juice will come in **24**\_\_\_\_\_ when your mouth is on fire!

**0** DROWN  
**17** COURAGE  
**18** PUNGENT  
**19** QUANTITY  
**20** REFER  
**21** NEGATIVE  
**22** SENSE  
**23** ACID  
**24** HAND

## Answers and explanations

17. **Encourages.** Note that the verb has to agree with the subject ‘body’, which is in the singular. The negative prefix is not needed, as endorphins are responsible for making you feel happier. A ‘high’ mentioned here is a sensation of elevated positive feeling.
18. **Pungency.** If something is pungent, it has a distinctive and pronounced smell (or, like in this case, taste). We are looking for a noun derived from this adjective.
19. **Quantify.** When you try to quantify something, it means you want to express something in numbers. Usually this is done with the purpose of accurately comparing it with something else. Note that some things are impossible to quantify – such as happiness and success. The Scoville scale allows one to quantify something that seems impossible to – spiciness.
20. **Reference.** A reference point is a particular level that you can use for comparison. For instance, an average salary is a good reference point to know whether you earn more or less than most people in your sphere.
21. **Negate.** Negating something means removing its effects completely.
22. **Sensation.** A noun. A sensation is not necessarily a shocking piece of news in the media!
23. **Acidic.** Once we understand that we need an adjective, it all comes down to picking the right adjective-forming suffix. In this particular case it is one of the more exotic ones.
24. **Handy.** To come in handy means to become useful, especially in a particular situation. For instance, even though we use debit cards extensively, having some cash on you can come in handy if you find yourself in a shop that doesn’t accept these cards.