

【問】 次の英文の () 内に適切な語(句)を下の選択肢から選んで解答欄に書きなさい。ただし、文頭に来て大文字になるものも選択肢の中では小文字で表記されているので、その場合には大文字で始めて解答しなさい。

An even more disturbing secret has been hidden from *Homo sapiens*. Not only do we possess an abundance of uncivilized cousins. Once upon a time we had quite a few brothers and sisters as well. We are used to thinking about ourselves as the only humans, because for the last 10,000 years, our species has indeed been the only human species around. Yet the real meaning of the word human is ‘an animal belonging to the genus *Homo*’, and there used to be many other species of this genus besides *Homo sapiens*. (1), in the not so distant future we might again have to contend with non-*sapiens* humans. To clarify this point, I will often use the term ‘Sapiens’ to denote members of the species *Homo sapiens*, while reserving the term ‘human’ to refer to all members of the genus *Homo*.

Humans first evolved in East Africa about 2.5 million years ago from an earlier genus of apes called *Australopithecus*, which means ‘Southern Ape’. About 2 million years ago, some of these archaic men and women left their homeland to journey through and settle vast areas of North Africa, Europe and Asia. Since survival in the snowy forests of northern Europe (2) different traits from those needed to stay alive in Indonesia’s steaming jungles, human populations evolved in different directions. The result was several distinct species, (3) each of which scientists have assigned a pompous Latin name.

Humans in Europe and western Asia evolved into *Homo neanderthalensis* (‘Man from the Neander Valley’), popularly referred to simply (4) ‘Neanderthals’. Neanderthals, bulkier and more muscular than us Sapiens, were well adapted to the cold climate of Ice Age western Eurasia. The more eastern regions of Asia were populated by *Homo erectus*, ‘Upright Man’, who survived there for close to 2 million years, making it the most durable human species ever. This record is unlikely to be broken even by our own species. It is (5) whether *Homo sapiens* will still be around a thousand years from now, so 2 million years is really out of our league.

On the island of Java, in Indonesia, lived *Homo soloensis*, ‘Man from the Solo Valley’, who was (6) to life in the tropics. On another Indonesian island — the small island of Flores - archaic humans underwent a process of dwarfing. Humans first reached Flores when the sea level was exceptionally low, and the island was easily accessible from the mainland. When the seas rose again, some people were trapped on the island, which was poor in resources. Big

people, who need a lot of food, died first. (7) fellows survived much better. Over the generations, the people of Flores became dwarves. This unique species, known by scientists as *Homo floresiensis*, reached a maximum height of only 3.5 feet and weighed no (8) than fifty-five pounds. They were (9) able to produce stone tools, and even managed occasionally to hunt down some of the island's elephants — though, to be fair, the elephants were a dwarf species as well.

In 2010 another lost sibling was rescued from oblivion, when scientists excavating the Denisova Cave in Siberia discovered a fossilized finger bone. Genetic analysis proved that the finger belonged to a previously unknown human species, which was named *Homo denisova*. Who knows how many lost relatives of ours are waiting to be discovered in other caves, on other islands, and in other climes.

While these humans were evolving in Europe and Asia, evolution in East Africa did not stop. The cradle of humanity continued to (10) numerous new species, such as *Homo rudolfensis*, 'Man from Lake Rudolf', *Homo ergaster*, 'Working Man', and eventually our own species, which we've immodestly named *Homo sapiens*, 'Wise Man'.

The members of some of these species were massive and others were dwarves. Some were fearsome hunters and others meek plant-gatherers. Some lived only on a single island, while many roamed over continents. (11) all of them belonged to the genus *Homo*. They were all human beings.

It's a common (12) to envision these species as arranged in a straight line of descent, (13) Ergaster begetting Erectus, Erectus begetting the Neanderthals, and the Neanderthals evolving into us. This linear model gives the mistaken impression that at any particular moment only one type of human inhabited the earth, and that all earlier species were merely older models of ourselves. The truth is that from about 2 million years ago until around 10,000 years ago, the world was home, at one and the same time, to several human species. And why not? Today there are many species of bears: brown bears, black bears, grizzly bears, polar bears. The earth of a hundred millennia ago was walked by (14) least six different species of man. It's our current (15), not that multi-species past, that is peculiar — and perhaps incriminating. We Sapiens have good reasons to repress the memory of our siblings.

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