Isn’t it strange that there is still no language that everyone on our planet understands? Many people say that English is the international language, yet there are many places you can go where English would not be understood. Even though we have sent people to the moon, invented computers and can travel anywhere on earth in a matter of hours, we still have not come up with a universal way to communicate with each other.

There is a legend that long ago there was only one language. The people at that time, being proud and ambitious, decided to build a tower that would reach up to the heavens. God was not pleased with this, however, and mixed up their language, in the process creating many languages, so they would not understand each other. As a result, they were not able to work together, and so the tower, known as the tower of Babel, was never completed. Inspired by this story, people have dreamed of recreating a single universal language ever since.

For many centuries, Latin was the language that educated people in Europe used as a common means of communication. It was the language of science and education. However, in the 17th century, the German philosopher Leibniz dreamed about constructing a language that could replace Latin. It would be able to mathematically express every thought possible and would therefore be better than any existing natural language. Unfortunately, the project was too ambitious and never completed, and even if it had, it probably would have been too abstract and difficult for people to learn.

Throughout history, there have been times when a particular language is widely used by many different people in addition to their own native languages as an international language. Lingua franca is the term used to describe such languages. Many people think this word refers to French, which was a lingua franca in Europe in the 19th century. In fact, the term refers to a language spoken around the eastern Mediterranean Sea as a language of trade and diplomacy from late medieval times until the Renaissance. It was mostly Italian but mixed with French, Spanish, Greek and even Arabic. In modern times, English enjoys the status of a lingua franca in many parts of the world.

The most successful attempt at creating a constructed language that could be used as a lingua franca has been Esperanto. It was created by Ludwik Zamenhof, a Polish medical doctor in the 19th century. Saddened by the many quarrels and arguments between the different ethnic groups living in Poland at the time, such as Russians, Poles, Tatars, Germans and others, he dreamed of creating a language that could be easily learned by everyone and be used as a neutral tool of communication by people from different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds.

Esperanto is still around today, but it has failed to become a universal language. One of the reasons is that it is not taught at school except as an experiment in Hungary and China, and so never really caught on. People still study it as a hobby and meet up with other enthusiasts of Esperanto, but the numbers of those who learn it cannot compete with the popularity of English. Although Esperanto failed to attract enough speakers to become a lingua franca people have never given up on the dream and continue to create new international languages such as Interlingua, Ido and others.
Задание 12
In the last sentence of the first paragraph the author implies that ...
1) the ability to travel anywhere fast requires a universal language.
2) a universal language is needed for effective use of computers.
3) creating a universal language is harder than creating a computer.
4) computers should be used to create a universal language.

Задание 13
According to the legend, which of the following is NOT one of the reasons why God created many languages?
1) For the people not to be able to complete the tower.
2) For the people not to be able to understand each other.
3) To inspire the people to create a new universal language.
4) To punish the people for being too proud and ambitious.

Задание 14
Which word is closest in meaning to the word ‘ambitious’ in the third paragraph?
1) proud
2) challenging
3) enthusiastic
4) impractical

Задание 15
Which choice is closest in meaning to the phrase ‘English enjoys the status of a lingua franca’ at the end of the fourth paragraph?
1) The English language has become a lingua franca.
2) English speakers enjoy the fact that English is a lingua franca.
3) English has been officially given the status of a lingua franca.
4) People all around the world enjoy learning English.

Задание 16
Which of the following statements is true?
1) Esperanto is now taught in school in Poland, Hungary and China.
2) Esperanto served as a lingua franca in the 19th century Poland.
3) Ludwik Zamenhof often quarreled with Russians, Tatars and Germans.
4) There were many ethnic groups living in the 19th century Poland.

Задание 17
Which of the following is NOT the reason why Esperanto has failed to become a universal language?
1) Esperanto is not an obligatory subject at schools.
2) Esperanto is a difficult language to learn.
3) There are not enough enthusiasts of Esperanto.
4) Its place has already been taken by English.

Задание 18
Which choice is closest in meaning to the phrase ‘never really caught on’ in the last paragraph?
1) Was never taught in schools.
2) Was never fully developed.
3) Was never really popular.
4) Was never easy to learn.
Philanthropy

Philanthropy is defined as the love of humanity. A modern definition is “private initiatives, for the public good, focusing on quality of life”, which combines an original humanistic tradition with a social aspect developed in the 20th century.

Growing up in this state, I dreamed of attending a college one day. On fall Saturdays at the stadium, I caught a glimpse of the brick buildings and tree-lined walkways. I knew they led to information, knowledge, and a whole tribe of new minds to connect with. When the day finally came to unpack my few belongings in the residence hall, I knew I was finally where I had always wanted to be. My years on campus certainly lived up to the anticipation. The classes, professors, friends, and opportunities created a life-changing experience.

Philanthropy is a critical part of the life and success of the whole local community, and college in particular. As a board member of the Center for Advancement, I have seen firsthand the joy of our alumni and friends as they make a difference in the life of this institution. They are delighted to pay it forward as they understand what college means to them. As a student, one does not always value how much the path was paved by those who have gone before, those who have an ability to give back. Now that my friend and I have made this community our family’s home, we have a much better understanding of how vital the longterm success of the college is for our entire state.

Through my involvement with the Center for Advancement, I truly witness the breadth of areas one can support. This institution is doing incredible researching, educating, and programming in so many areas. And our donors can discover their passion and connect in a meaningful way that goes beyond the dollars given. Whether it is the joy of the written word, the connection to firstgeneration college students, the atmosphere of a football Saturday, or a desire to support the cure for a hereditary medical condition, our donors become a part of the life of the college.

I have also seen philanthropy directly affect the life of the college from my experience in the Department of Finance. I work with students who have the opportunity to attend college because of the financial assistance they receive from our donors. Continued support has fostered the enhanced facility we work in today which has been reconfigured to remain relevant to today's needs. The educational experience is much richer because of the generosity of others. Our new auditorium is one shining example that we are proud to support. Not only is this facility a marvel of world-class architecture and programming, it also strives to make the arts accessible to all citizens. These experiences spark curiosity and imagination in audiences, young and old, to remind us what it means to be alive in this era of technology and separation.

Different funds provide a real-life working experience that is as relevant as any internship. Through philanthropy, students and faculty are able to use technology that could not be supported with tuition dollars. Private gifts also allow us to assist our faculty, who are the life of the institution, and provide our students a top-notch education.

Every dollar of support to the university today replays itself over and over as successive generations of learners have an opportunity to develop the skills they need to save lives, shape minds, and transform our future. One of the values we hope to instill in our children is the understanding of the value of giving back.
Задание 12
The author’s childhood dream was to …
1) enter a college.
2) leave the state she grew up in.
3) visit a college campus.
4) change her life.

Задание 13
The pronoun They, as used throughout paragraph 3, refers to …
1) board members.
2) former students.
3) future graduates.
4) the author’s friends.

Задание 14
Working in the Center for Advancement allowed the author to …
1) make a big difference in students’ lives.
2) make lots of new friends.
3) appreciate donors’ aid.
4) become more successful.

Задание 15
Which of the following did the college donors NOT do?
1) Write for college publications.
2) Sponsor health treatment.
3) Communicate with students.
4) Attend college sport clubs.

Задание 16
It is implied that the new auditorium supports an education program in …
1) arts.
2) architecture.
3) technology.
4) programming.

Задание 17
It is implied that college teachers …
1) are paid regularly.
2) lack technology skills.
3) have relevant experience.
4) may be supported by private gifts.

Задание 18
The major aim of the article is to …
1) explain what philanthropy really is.
2) pay tribute to the people supporting college.
3) show the author’s experience of philanthropy.
4) criticize how the donors’ money is spent.