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Morris dancing 'extinction' fear

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/entertainment/arts_and_culture/7812300.stm

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Morris dancing could be "extinct" within 20 years because young people are too embarrassed to take part, a UK Morris association has warned.



The number of people taking part in the English folk dance is falling while the average age of the dancers is going up. The Morris Ring, which represents 200 troupes, hopes a recruitment drive will **revive** the flagging tradition.

"There is still time for new blood to get ready for the spring fertility **offensive**," said the ring's Paul Reece.

Morris dancing involves teams of dancers - often wearing hats and bells on their legs - wielding handkerchiefs, sticks or swords, to the accompaniment of folk music. It dates back centuries, though its origins are **unclear**.

Charlie Corcoran, bagman of the Morris Ring, said: "There's a **distinct** possibility that in 20 years' time there will be nobody left.

"It worries me a great deal. Young people are just too **embarrassed** to take part.

"This is a **serious** situation. The average age of Morris dancing sides is getting older and older.

"Once we've lost this part of our culture, it will be almost impossible to revive it."

Dancing season

The Morris Ring aims to **encourage** the performance of Morris dancing and **maintain** its traditions. It says there are more than 14,000 Morris dancers in the UK dancing for more than 800 sides. The association hopes younger people will join over the coming months in time for the **main** dancing season in the spring. Mr Reece, chairman of the ring's advisory council, said: "Such customs and activities were once a **common** sight around the country.

"Today they are carried out by an ever-dwindling stalwart band of enthusiasts who are determined to keep them alive.

"But there is a serious danger that, in less than a few decades, Morris dancing will be confined to the history books."

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A. Read the text.

Now answer these vocabulary questions. All the words are in **bold** in the text.

1. Which word could be used instead of **revive**

a. recover	b. restore
c. remind	d. reappear

2. Which word could be used instead of **offensive**?

a. aggression	b. action
c. attitude	d. campaign

3. Which word could be used instead of **unclear**?

a. dark	b. unknown
c. varied	d. uncertain

4. Which word could be used instead of **distinct**?

a. sure	b. definite
c. positive	d. confident

5. Which word could be used instead of **embarrassed**?

a. humiliated	b. worried
c. mortified	d. self-conscious

6. Which word could be used instead of **serious**?

a. grave	b. anxious
c. important	d. hard

7. Which word could be used instead of **encourage**?

a. cheer	b. promote
c. dissuade	d. deceive

8. Which word could be used instead of **maintain**?

a. patronize	b. complete
c. destroy	d. uphold

9. Which word could be used instead of **main**?

a. large	b. highest
c. principal	d. domestic

10. Which word could be used instead of **common**?

a. everyday	b. vulgar
c. long	d. rare

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B. Read the text.

Now answer these questions.

1. Why according to the article might Morris dancing no longer exist in two decades time?
2. Where do the dancers wear their bells?
3. What may a dancer wield?
4. What is known about the origins of Morris dancing?
5. Why are young people not taking up Morris dancing?
6. What does the Morris Ring aim to do?

C. What are your views? Should we try and save these traditions or are they now irrelevant in today's world. Things change and we should accept change and along the way traditions may disappear. Use the space below to explain your views.

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Answers

A

1. b
2. d
3. d
4. b
5. d
6. a
7. b
8. d
9. c
10. a

B

1. Young people are not joining
2. On their legs
3. Handkerchiefs, sticks or swords
4. Not much, although it dates back centuries
5. Because they are embarrassed
6. To encourage the performance of Morris dancing and keep its traditions