**Text 06:**

**Invertebrate**, any [animal](https://www.britannica.com/animal/animal) that lacks a [vertebral column](https://www.britannica.com/science/vertebral-column), or backbone, in contrast to the cartilaginous or bony vertebrates. More than 90 percent of all living animal species are invertebrates. Worldwide in distribution, they include animals as [diverse](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/diverse) as sea stars, sea urchins, earthworms, sponges, [jellyfish](https://www.britannica.com/animal/jellyfish), lobsters, crabs, insects, spiders, snails, clams, and [squid](https://www.britannica.com/animal/squid). Invertebrates are especially important as agricultural pests, parasites, or agents for the transmission of parasitic infections to humans and other vertebrates. Invertebrates serve as food for humans and are key elements in food chains that support birds, [fish](https://www.britannica.com/animal/fish), and many other [vertebrate](https://www.britannica.com/animal/vertebrate) species.

Apart from the absence of a vertebral column, invertebrates have little in common. Indeed, they are distributed between more than 35 phyla. In contrast, all vertebrates are contained within a single phylum, the [Chordata](https://www.britannica.com/animal/chordate). (Phylum Chordata also includes the sea squirts and some other invertebrate groups.) Invertebrates are generally soft-bodied animals that lack a rigid internal skeleton for the attachment of muscles but often possess a hard outer skeleton (as in most mollusks, crustaceans, and insects) that serves, as well, for body protection.

1. **Questions: Choose the correct answer.(Put a cross in front of the correct answer, just one answer is correct).**
2. An Invertebrate animal
   * + - Is a bony vertebrate
       - lack a vertebral column
       - has a backbone
3. Insects and spiders are
   * + - Vertebrates animals
       - Invertebrate animals
4. Invertebrate animals are very important for human beings food and in food chains.
   * + - * True
         * False
5. Invertebrates are more diversified than vertebrates.
   * + - * True
         * False
6. Vertebrates posses a hard outer skeleton for protection.
   * + - * True
         * False
7. Invertebrates have a rigid internal skeleton.
   * + - * True
         * False
8. 1) **Synonyms**: Find in the text words or expressions that have similar meaning to the following words:
9. contain=..........................b) externe=....................................c) sending=..............................

2) **Opposites**: Find in the text words or expressions that have opposite meaning to the following words:

1. dead≠..........................b) many≠...............................c) soft ≠..............................
2. Complete the following sentences by a verb into the correct form (use the present tenses) .
3. Ann.....................................(to play) hand ball very well.
4. Bad driving ................................(to cause) many accidents.
5. I...................................................(to wake/always) early in the morning.
6. The library .....................................(to open) at 8.00 in the morning.