Fill each gap with a suitable word from the box. **DO NOT change the form of the words.** Use each word only **ONCE.** Be careful! There are more words than you need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>common</th>
<th>famous for</th>
<th>stages</th>
<th>quite</th>
<th>excitement</th>
<th>prevent</th>
<th>instead of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>required</td>
<td>rapid</td>
<td>explorers</td>
<td>quiet</td>
<td>species</td>
<td>fascinating</td>
<td>feed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why does kissing cause so much 1) ________________________?
A kiss means “I love you” in many countries – but not everywhere. In the past, while traveling across newly discovered lands, European 2) ________________________ found plenty of places where people had never even heard of kissing. For example, the Ainu people of Japan liked to bite their lovers’ cheeks. Eskimos rubbed their noses together instead, and so did certain African tribes and Pacific islanders, which is now unusual and 3) ________________________ for today’s people. In other places, people would just put their noses close to their lovers’ faces and sniff. Many Malay tribes did this, and probably the ancient Egyptians did so too because in several languages the word for “kiss” means “smell.” Today, kissing is used for saying hello. Do you kiss relatives on the cheek when you visit them? If you live in Europe or South America, and of course in Turkey, it is very 4) ________________________ to see many more of these greeting kisses. Also, some men kiss each other on the cheeks at business meetings. It’s like shaking hands. Moreover, many European men and women say hello with two kisses, one on each cheek. On the other hand, three kisses are polite in Belgium, and young people in Paris often prefer four. You must start with the right cheek. Another 5) ________________________ interesting variation on the cheek kiss is found in Brazil. When ladies meet, they put their cheeks together and kiss the air. Kissing was even more popular in ancient times. The Hebrews, Christians, Greeks, and Romans kissed a lot – family, friends and perfect strangers. The Romans might have kissed anyone they met on the hand, the cheek or the mouth. They often put a perfume in their mouths to 6) ________________________ unpleasant smells. In old times, kisses were necessary, and they were 7) ________________________ for sealing a promise. For over five hundred years, the knights in Europe knelt down before their lords in special respect ceremonies and promised to fight for the lord, and the lord promised to give the knight a piece of land near the castle. Then, the men kissed each other on the mouth. Have you ever seen a row of XXXs at the bottom of a letter or an e-mail? That comes from the time of knights and castles, too. In the Middle Ages many people could not write their names and they would sign an X on a paper (symbolizing a cross), and then, kiss it to promise that they would stick to the deal. Now an X just means a kiss.
Kisses can also show respect. To illustrate, in ancient Rome, students used to kiss their teachers’ hands. Today, people kiss religious statues and flags. Sometimes people kiss the ground when they come home to the country they love.

Southern Europeans and Latin Americans are 8) ________________ kissing their fingertips when they see a pretty girl, a Ferrari or a great soccer game to say “beautiful.” Yet, you can also say “goodbye” to someone by kissing your fingertips and blowing the kiss away.

Humans may be the only 9) ________________ who believe in magic, but we are not the only ones who kiss. Chimpanzees greet each other with little or big, wide-mouthed kisses. They also kiss to make up after a fight. When prairie dogs meet, they kiss each other to see who is a family member and who is a stranger. Fish called “kissing gouramis” press their mouths together. However, 10) ________________ greeting each other, they actually fight by doing so. Kissing will probably still be around a thousand years from now, but the rules may keep changing.

Adapted from Kissing Your Way around the World by Leslie Dendy

GOOD LUCK!

😊
INTERMEDIATE GROUP
Answer Key

1. excitement
2. explorers
3. fascinating
4. common
5. quite

6. prevent
7. required
8. famous for
9. species
10. instead of