

Exercises: Chapter 23

Read the following passages and replace the nouns and adjectives, and verbs and adverbs, in italics with stronger, more specific nouns and verbs, which need no adjective or adverb to make their meanings clear.

- 1 New pathogens
- 2 Poultry farming

1. New pathogens

Humanity's destruction of biodiversity has created *the most likely circumstances* for new diseases to arise. In 2008 a UCL team of researchers identified 335 diseases that had *come about* between 1960 and 2004, 60% of which came from animals. There seem to be two *most likely agencies* for this. The first is the location of farming. In China, as industrial farming *got hold of* more land, small farmers were *forced to work their way* closer to uncultivated zones at the edge of forests, where bats and viruses that infect them lurk. The second cause is how food is produced. Modern 'agribusiness' have contributed to the *upward rise* in the number of zoonoses.

Answer:

Humanity's destruction of biodiversity has created conditions for new diseases to arise. In 2008 a UCL team of researchers identified 335 diseases that had emerged between 1960 and 2004, 60% of which came from animals. There seem to be two causes for this. The first is the location of farming. In China, as industrial farming took more land, small farmers were pushed closer to uncultivated zones at the edge of forests, where bats and viruses that infect them lurk. The second cause is how food is produced. Modern 'agribusiness' have contributed to the increase in the number of zoonoses.

2. Poultry farming

According to researchers there seems to be a clear link between the *sudden rise* of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses and intensified poultry production. Not only is this because the birds are *pressed together closely* into factory farms, but they tend to be genetic clones, *picked out carefully* for the same *highly appropriate* traits, so viruses spread quickly without resistance and, therefore, with increased virulence. In 2018 a study found that most pathogenic avian flu outbreaks *came about* in commercial poultry systems and more frequently in wealthy countries, in Europe, Australia and the US generally than in China.

Answer:

According to researchers there seems to be a clear link between the emergence of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses and intensified poultry production. Not only is this because the birds are packed into factory farms, but they tend to be genetic clones, selected for the same desirable traits, so viruses spread quickly without resistance and, therefore, with increased virulence. In 2018 a study found that most pathogenic avian



flu outbreaks occurred in commercial poultry systems and more frequently in wealthy countries, in Europe, Australia and the US generally than in China.