

C2.2

Unit 5

Exercise 1

Exercise 1. Read the text below. For each gap, choose the best answer: a, b, or c.

Whenever Dad **1** _____ me home from school, a yellow school bus would let me off at an isolated spot where I would recover my bike from the nearest ravine, hidden there each morning before I **2** _____ onto the bus.

To reach my home I had to travel a winding narrow road without any houses until I came to the huge deserted mansion that invariably drew my eyes, making me wonder who **3** _____ there; why had they deserted it? When I saw that house I automatically slowed, knowing soon I **4** _____ home. An acre from that house was our home, sitting isolated and lonely on a road that had more twists and turns than a puzzle maze that leads the mouse to the cheese. We **5** _____ in Fairfax, Marin County, about twenty miles north of San Francisco. There was a redwood forest on the other side of the mountains, and the ocean too. Ours was a cold place, sometimes dreary. The fog **6** _____ in great billowing waves and often **7** _____ the landscape all day, turning everything cold and eerie. The fog was spooky, but it was also romantic and mysterious.

As much as I loved my home, I had vague, disturbing memories of a southern garden full of giant magnolia trees dripping with Spanish moss. I remembered a tall man with dark hair turning gray; a man who **8** _____ me his son. I didn't remember his face nearly as well as I **9** _____ the nice warm and safe feeling he gave me. I guess one of the saddest things about growing bigger and older was that no one **10** _____ large enough or strong enough to pick you up and hold you close and make you feel safe again.

Chris was my mother's third husband. My own father died before I was born. He slipped on the wet floor while he **11** _____ one day. He hit his head really hard and never opened his eyes again. He **12** _____ on the spot. His name was Julian Marquet, and everyone in the ballet world knew about him. Hardly anyone outside of Clairmont, South Carolina, knew about Dr. Paul Scott Sheffield, who **13** _____ my mother's second husband. In that same southern state, in the town of Greenglenna, lived my paternal grandmother, Madame Marisha.

She was the one who wrote me a letter each week, and once a summer, we visited her. It seemed she wanted almost as much as I did for me to become the most famous dancer the world had ever known. And thus I **14** _____ to her, and to everyone, that my father **15** _____ and died in vain.

1	a	hadn't driven	b	didn't drive	c	wasn't driving
2	a	stepped	b	would step	c	had stepped
3	a	was living	b	had lived	c	lived
4	a	was	b	would be	c	had been
5	a	lived	b	had lived	c	were living
6	a	would roll in	b	had rolled in	c	rolled in
7	a	would shroud	b	shrouded	c	was shrouding
8	a	had called	b	was calling	c	called
9	a	would remember	b	had remembered	c	remembered
10	a	had been	b	was	c	would be
11	a	danced	b	had danced	c	was dancing
12	a	had died	b	would die	c	died
13	a	was	b	had been	c	would be
14	a	would prove	b	had proved	c	proved
15	a	hadn't lived	b	didn't live	c	wouldn't live

Exercise 2

Read the text below. Use the word given in **CAPITAL LETTERS** at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the numbered gap.

The Sleeping Beauty (Adapted)	
<p>For many years, the king and queen lived in quiet despair at their apparent (1) _____, until the long-awaited birth of their daughter transformed the atmosphere of the court. Celebrations were marked by a sense of profound (2) _____, as though the kingdom itself had been granted a rare blessing. Yet, amid the joy, a single (3) _____ cast a long shadow over the festivities: one fairy, feeling deliberately excluded, arrived uninvited.</p> <p>Her words, spoken with chilling (4) _____, foretold a fate that would later prove impossible to escape. The prophecy itself was delivered with such (5) _____ that few grasped its full implications at the time. In an attempt to mitigate the damage, a final fairy intervened, offering not a reversal but a (6) _____ of the curse.</p> <p>Years passed, and the princess grew in both grace and (7) _____, admired not merely for her beauty but for her thoughtful disposition. Nevertheless, destiny advanced with quiet (8) _____, indifferent to human hopes. On</p>	<p>CHILD</p> <p>DEEP</p> <p>PRESENT</p> <p>PRECISE</p> <p>CASUAL</p> <p>SOFT</p> <p>WISE</p> <p>PERSIST</p>

<p>the day foretold, a moment of innocent (9) _____ was enough to seal her fate.</p> <p>When the spell took hold, the palace fell into an eerie (10) _____, as if time itself had lost all meaning. Only centuries later would this unnatural (11) _____ be broken, proving that even the most powerful enchantments may yield to (12) _____.</p>	<p>CURIOUS</p> <p>SILENT</p> <p>STILL</p> <p>PERSEVERE</p>
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Exercise 3

Read the sentences below. For each gap choose the best answer a, b, or c.

- Life in the Aran Islands has always been _____ and difficult.
a. brisk b. barren c. Bleak
- The poor old man was too _____ to climb the hill.
a. fussy b. feeble c. dainty
- The _____ wail of a siren scared the tourists.
a. pungent b. shrill c. musty
- The _____ economy is showing no signs of recovery.
a. sluggish b. dainty c. barren
- After coming down with the flu my legs still feel a little _____.
a. musty b. wobbly c. meekly
- The committee got off to a _____ start at its first meeting.
a. disheveled b. brisk c. fussy

Exercise 4

You are going to read a text about storytelling. Six sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences (A–G) the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

“The Enduring Power of Stories”

Throughout history, storytelling has been a primary tool for communicating values, preserving memory, and interpreting the world. In ancient societies, before the advent of writing, oral storytelling served as a living archive. Elders would pass down legends, myths, and histories in an effort to maintain a collective identity.

(1)

These stories, often filled with symbolic meanings, reinforced moral lessons and cultural norms.

Today, the medium has changed, but the impulse remains. We may now consume stories through podcasts, novels, film, or social media, yet the essential purpose endures.

(2)

Whether we’re binge-watching a drama or reading a bedtime tale to a child, storytelling continues to forge connections across age, background, and geography.

There’s also a neurological component. Cognitive scientists have found that stories activate multiple parts of the brain—language, sensory, even motor processing areas.

(3)

This immersive quality may help explain why narratives are more memorable than raw data or abstract arguments.

Interestingly, storytelling also plays a role in self-construction. We constantly narrate our experiences internally, shaping our identity through the stories we tell about ourselves.

(4)

It is this narrative coherence that allows us to make sense of a chaotic world.

Yet, despite its benefits, storytelling is not neutral. It can be used to manipulate, distort, or exclude. Propaganda and misinformation rely heavily on narrative techniques, exploiting the human tendency to believe well-told tales.

(5)

This raises ethical questions about who controls the stories we consume and how they are constructed.

Nevertheless, the solution is not to abandon storytelling but to become more critical and aware readers, viewers, and listeners.

(6)

In doing so, we can continue to use stories not just to entertain, but to enlighten, challenge, and connect.

Options (A–G):

- A) These rituals, while seemingly simple, had deep societal significance.
- B) However, the prevalence of fake news is a relatively new issue.
- C) This narrative self is closely tied to our memory and mental well-being.
- D) The audience plays as much of a role as the storyteller.
- E) Stories give abstract emotions and principles a tangible form.
- F) In this way, storytelling remains one of our most powerful tools for empathy and understanding.
- G) When we hear a story, our brains simulate the events as if we were experiencing them ourselves.