



Learn English Through  
Stories.

U Series

U23

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## **Contents**

**Vocabulary.**

**10 tests.**

**1. Choose the preposition that best completes each sentence.**

1. My attention was drawn..... the picture on the far wall.

**a** with      **b** to      **c** for      **d** on

2. The stolen paintings were eventually restored ..... their rightful owner.

**a** for      **b** by      **c** to      **d** with

3. Italy were knocked..... the World Cup.

**a** into      **b** away from      **c** out of      **d** forward to

4. The argument is centred..... whether or not to lower the age limit.

**a** on      **b** towards      **c** of      **d** about

5. Emphasis is placed..... practical training.

**a** over      **b** with      **c** by      **d** on

6. The younger sons consider themselves to have been robbed..... their rightful inheritance,

**a** by      **b** with      **c** around      **d** of

7. The discussion will be divided..... three parts for the sake of clarity.

**a** to      **b** for      **c** into      **d** with

8. The white Audi was eliminated..... police enquiries at an early stage.

**a** with      **b** from      **c** of      **d** for

9. A whole host of criticisms have been levelled .....the committee.

**a** against      **b** towards      **c** by      **d** for

10 The final cost has been estimated..... anything between four and five million dollars.

**a** against      **b** to      **c** at      **d** in

**2. Fill each of the gaps with a suitable passive verb in such a way that the new sentence is as similar in meaning as possible to the sentence above it.**

a. They *moved towards* the piazza from all sides.

The piazza.....from all sides.

b. The two sides *came to* an agreement after hours of negotiation.

Agreement..... after hours of negotiation.

c. The men *poured* concrete into the hole until it was full.

The hole..... with concrete.

d. People *came into* the room through a sort of tunnel.

The room..... through a sort of tunnel.

e. Everyone *got out of* the stadium as the fire spread.

The stadium..... as the fire spread.

**3. Choose the word that best fits the sentence.**

1. Do you think he could be.....upon to make a speech after the presentation?

**a** prevailed **b** impelled **c** urged **d** pressured

2. I'm afraid a penalty clause has been written ..... your contract.

**a** out of **b** into **c** down **d** away for

3. I was completely..... over by their warm reception.

**a** pushed **b** run **c** bowled **d** thrown

4. I think the implications have been rather quickly ..... over.

**a** painted **b** removed **c** sprayed **d** glossed

5. A number of very interesting proposals have been put.....

**a** across **b** down **c** forward **d** through

**4. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it is as similar as possible to the sentence before it.**

a. The sports centre presents a certificate of attendance to every student when they leave.

All .....

b. I don't think they should have pressure put on them to make a decision.

I don't think they should be .....

c. The price is exclusive of airport taxes.

Airport taxes .....

d. The way the managing director behaved last night really shocked me.

I .....

e. Several people came up to me to congratulate me.

I .....

f. I grew up in a little village on the Scottish border.

I was .....

g. The letters will have your name printed on them.

The letters will be .....

h. The couple didn't tell the police about the theft until it was far too late.

The theft .....

i. An old woman once tricked my father into giving her several hundred pounds.

My father was once conned out.....

j. Government guidelines really do emphasise the importance of starting education early.

A lot of emphasis .....

**5. For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence, but using the word given.**

a. An awful lot has been omitted from the final draft of the agreement. **out**

b. There were thousands of sunbathers on the beach. **packed**

c. Our founder was given an honorary doctorate in law by Edinburgh University. **conferred**

d. My uncle underwent a five-hour operation to remove the growth that had been diagnosed. **operated**

e. My watch and traveller's cheques were stolen while I was abroad. **robbed**

f. The accused claimed he hit the police officer as a result of provocation. **provoked**

g. Both parties ripped the contract to pieces. **torn**

h. Many of us were shocked when a former actor took the oath as President of the United States. **sworn**

i. The present came as a complete surprise to me. **aback**

j. Trading activities in the war-stricken area have been reduced. **Scaled**

**6. Choose a letter A, B, C or D that best fills each numbered gap.**

A popular character in the nation's top television soap is ..... (1) for something of which she was probably innocent. Having been ..... (2) guilty of a series of fraudulent acts, she contemplates months of incarceration. A good story-line, but wait! Within hours the television station is being ..... (3) with calls of protest. A national newspaper soon ..... (4) up a campaign to have her freed. Thousands of T-shirts are printed with slogans ..... (5) for her release. Offices and factory floors ..... (6) to the sounds of animated debate. It is even mentioned in Parliament. It's easy to ..... (7) off such idiocies as 'a bit of fun', but there's surely a more serious side. A fair proportion of viewers were obviously..... (8) in by the story to such an extent that their perception of fact and fiction was clearly ..... (9). Everywhere, millions will ..... (10) over their 7-day TV guide to get a preview of the week's soaps. If a character is ..... (11) to be past his or her sell-by date, and the decision has been taken to..... (12) him or her out,

possibly to have them ..... (13) off in spectacular fashion, viewing figures are likely to soar by up to 25%. A life-threatening fire can be..... (14) upon to add millions to the ratings. A major wedding can find half of Britain sitting ..... (15) to the screen! It's all very strange.

- |                |             |             |               |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. A jailed    | B prisoned  | C sentenced | D charged     |
| 2. A arrested  | B called    | C found     | D discovered  |
| 3. A bombed    | B attacked  | C streamed  | D inundated   |
| 4. A opens     | B starts    | C puts      | D establishes |
| 5. A demanding | B calling   | C insisting | D sounding    |
| 6. A echo      | B ring      | C fill      | D deafen      |
| 7. A laugh     | B smile     | C take      | D put         |
| 8. A thrown    | B carried   | C indulged  | D taken       |
| 9. A blurred   | B hampered  | C tampered  | D glossed     |
| 10. A flick    | B go        | C pore      | D sit         |
| 11. A decided  | B resolved  | C deemed    | D suspected   |
| 12. A write    | B cast      | C sort      | D work        |
| 13. A ridden   | B taken     | C driven    | D killed      |
| 14. A leaned   | B construed | C relied    | D improved    |
| 15. A swamped  | B stuck     | C paralysed | D glued       |

7. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with **one** suitable word.

After living ..... (1) the threat of extinction for more than 30 years, the national bird of the United States has ..... (2) granted an official reprieve, as the bald eagle and twenty-eight other animal and plant species have been earmarked ..... (3) removal from America's list of endangered species. The bald eagle, also ..... (4) as the white-headed sea eagle, took pride of place at the top of a list of species likely to .....(5) taken off the endangered register in the coming years. The proposed 'delistings' are .....(6) promoted .....(7) the US interior secretary to counter a growing feeling among Republicans that endangered-species laws do not work. Charges of ineffectiveness have been .....(8) against these laws before, but more recently it has ..... (9) been suggested that the situation may actually have been ..... (10) worse by them. The recovery of the bald eagle follows thirty-one years on the critical list. Its numbers had been ..... (11) to fewer than five hundred ..... (12) the use of pesticides that reacted adversely ..... (13) its reproductive system. The number of nesting pairs is now estimated ..... (14) five thousand. The interior secretary claims that the new list was a vindication of the legislation under which the eagle, a national symbol ..... (15) originally from the Indians, and more than a thousand other species ..... (16) protected. (A spokesperson denied that it was simply a publicity stunt timed to coincide ..... (17) the swearing ..... (18) of the president for his second term.) Until now, few species have ..... (19) been removed from the list. When they..... (20), it was usually because they had become extinct.

8. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it is as similar as possible in meaning to the sentence above it.

a. Do not switch off unless the screen shows 'Ready for Shutdown'.

This machine is only .....

b. It's over a year since anyone saw William.

William .....

c. It's too early to send anything off to shareholders.

Nothing .....



**d.** The calculation would have baffled me completely if it had not been for your help.

I .....

**e.** We want justice and we need to see it carried out.

Justice must not .....

**f.** I'd never let anyone use a photograph of my children in an advertisement.

I'd never have .....

**g.** The driver was fined especially heavily because of his several previous convictions.

Having been .....

**h.** The manageress often made us stay behind after closing time to do extra work.

We .....

**i.** The investigators think a fault in the fuel lines caused the crash.

A fault .....

**j.** They've had to fax the insurance company three times for a decision.

The insurance company .....

**9.** Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase.

**a.** The origins of the tribe ..... in mystery.

**b.** Everyone ..... aback by the public reaction to the news about the President.

**c.** It's six months since the tests, and she still ..... the all-clear by her consultant.

**d.** Mr Bennett's office has ..... 'the torture chamber' by his staff.

**e.** In my family, a lot of furniture ..... down from generation to generation.

**f.** Look - it's all over the papers. You should never ..... be photographed in such a compromising situation.

**10.** For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence, but using the word given. This word must not be altered in any way.

**a.** The accused became very emotional. **overcome**

**b.** Naturally, they will deduct points if you arrive late. **penalised**

**c.** The model's clothes lay all over the floor. **strewn**

**d.** Our new Director wants you to call her 'Madam'. **addressed**

**e.** I can't say I enjoy it when people tear my writing to pieces in front of me.  
**having**

**f.** We'll have to make up our minds by the end of the week, won't we? **be**

**g.** It's just possible the hotel may need more staff in the summer. **ruled**

**h.** Surely nobody likes it when people make fun of them in public. **being**

**i.** Never forget that the customer is always right. **borne**

**j.** This school-leaver's qualifications are not adequate for such a demanding job, are they? **sufficiently**

## Answers

### 1. Choose the preposition that best completes each sentence.

1. My attention was drawn **to** the picture on the far wall.
2. The stolen paintings were eventually restored **to** their rightful owner.
3. Italy were knocked **out of** the World Cup.
4. The argument is centred **on** whether or not to lower the age limit.
5. Emphasis is placed **on** practical training.
6. The younger sons consider themselves to have been robbed **of** their rightful inheritance,
7. The discussion will be divided **into** three parts for the sake of clarity.
8. The white Audi was eliminated **from** police enquiries at an early stage.
9. A whole host of criticisms have been levelled **against** the committee.
- 10 The final cost has been estimated **at** anything between four and five million dollars.

### 2. Fill each of the gaps with a suitable passive verb in such a way that the new sentence is as similar in meaning as possible to the sentence above it.

a. They *moved towards* the piazza from all sides.

The piazza **was approached** from all sides.

b. The two sides *came to* an agreement after hours of negotiation.

Agreement **was reached** after hours of negotiation.

c. The men *poured* concrete into the hole until it was full.

The hole **was filled** with concrete.

d. People *came into* the room through a sort of tunnel.

The room **was entered** through a sort of tunnel.

e. Everyone *got out of* the stadium as the fire spread.

The stadium **was evacuated** as the fire spread.

### 3. Choose the word that best fits the sentence.

1. Do you think he could be **prevailed** upon to make a speech after the presentation?
2. I'm afraid a penalty clause has been written **into** your contract.
3. I was completely **bowled** over by their warm reception.
4. I think the implications have been rather quickly **glossed** over.
5. A number of very interesting proposals have been put **forward**.

### 4. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it is as similar as possible to the sentence before it.

- a. The sports centre presents a certificate of attendance to every student when they leave.

All students at the sport centre are presented with a certificate of attendance when they leave.

- b. I don't think they should have pressure put on them to make a decision.

I don't think they should be pressurised into making a decision.

- c. The price is exclusive of airport taxes.

Airport taxes are not included in the price.

- d. The way the managing director behaved last night really shocked me.

I was really shocked by the way the managing director behaved last night.

- e. Several people came up to me to congratulate me.

I was approached and congratulated by several people.

I was approached with congratulations by several people.

- f. I grew up in a little village on the Scottish border.

I was brought up in a little village on the Scottish border.

- g. The letters will have your name printed on them.

The letters will be printed with your name on.

h. The couple didn't tell the police about the theft until it was far too late.

The theft was not reported to the police until it was far too late

i. An old woman once tricked my father into giving her several hundred pounds.

My father was once conned out several hundred pounds by an old woman.

j. Government guidelines really do emphasise the importance of starting education early.

A lot of emphasis is placed on government guidelines on the importance of starting education early.

**5. For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence, but using the word given.**

a. An awful lot has been omitted from the final draft of the agreement.

An awful lot has been has been left out of the final draft of the agreement.

b. There were thousands of sunbathers on the beach.

The beach was packed with sunbathers.

c. Our founder was given an honorary doctorate in law by Edinburgh University.

An honorary doctorate in law was conferred on our founder by Edinburgh University.

d. My uncle underwent a five-hour operation to remove the growth that had been diagnosed.

They operated on my uncle for five hours to remove the growth that had been diagnosed.

Or: My uncle was operated on for five hours for the growth that had been diagnosed to be removed.

e. My watch and traveller's cheques were stolen while I was abroad.

I was robbed of my watch and traveller's cheques were stolen while I was abroad.

f. The accused claimed he hit the police officer as a result of provocation.

The accused claimed he had been provoked into hitting the police officer.

g. Both parties ripped the contract to pieces.

The contract was torn up by both parties.

h. Many of us were shocked when a former actor took the oath as President of the United States.

Many of us were shocked when a former actor was sworn in as President of the United States.

i. The present came as a complete surprise to me.

I was completely taken back by the present.

j. Trading activities in the war-stricken area have been reduced.

Trading activities in the war-stricken area have been scaled down.

**6.** Choose a letter **A, B, C** or **D** that best fills each numbered gap.

A popular character in the nation's top television soap is **jailed** for something of which she was probably innocent. Having been **found** guilty of a series of fraudulent acts, she contemplates months of incarceration. A good story-line, but wait! Within hours the television station is being **inundated** with calls of protest. A national newspaper soon **starts** up a campaign to have her freed. Thousands of T-shirts are printed with slogans **calling** for her release. Offices and factory floors **echo** to the sounds of animated debate. It is even mentioned in Parliament. It's easy to **laugh** off such idiocies as 'a bit of fun', but there's surely a more serious side. A fair proportion of viewers were obviously **taken** in by the story to such an extent that their perception of fact and fiction was clearly **blurred**. Everywhere, millions will **pore** over their 7-day TV guide to get a preview of the week's soaps. If a character is **deemed** to be past his or her sell-by date, and the decision has been taken to **write** him or her out, possibly to have them **killed** off in spectacular fashion, viewing figures are likely to soar by up to 25%. A life-threatening fire can be **relied** upon to add millions to the ratings. A major wedding can find half of Britain sitting **glued** to the screen! It's all very strange.

7. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with **one** suitable word.

After living **under** the threat of extinction for more than 30 years, the national bird of the United States has **been** granted an official reprieve, as the bald eagle and twenty-eight other animal and plant species have been earmarked **for** removal from America's list of endangered species. The bald eagle, also **known** as the white-headed sea eagle, took pride of place at the top of a list of species likely to **be** taken off the endangered register in the coming years. The proposed 'delistings' are **being** promoted **by** the US interior secretary to counter a growing feeling among Republicans that endangered-species laws do not work. Charges of ineffectiveness have been **levelled** against these laws before, but more recently it has **even** been suggested that the situation may actually have been **made** worse by them. The recovery of the bald eagle follows thirty-one years on the critical list. Its numbers had been **reduced** to fewer than five hundred **through** the use of pesticides that reacted adversely **with** its reproductive system. The number of nesting pairs is now estimated **at** five thousand. The interior secretary claims that the new list was a vindication of the legislation under which the eagle, a national symbol **taken** originally from the Indians, and more than a thousand other species **were** protected. (A spokesperson denied that it was simply a publicity stunt timed to coincide **with** the swearing **in** of the president for his second term.) Until now, few species have **ever** been removed from the list. When they **were**, it was usually because they had become extinct.

8. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it is as similar as possible in meaning to the sentence above it.

a. Do not switch off unless the screen shows 'Ready for Shutdown'.

This machine is only to be switched off when the screen shows 'Ready for Shutdown'.

b. It's over a year since anyone saw William.

William has not been seen for over a year.

c. It's too early to send anything off to shareholders.

Nothing can be sent to off to shareholders yet.

d. The calculation would have baffled me completely if it had not been for your help.

I would have been completely baffled by the calculation if it had not been for your help.

e. We want justice and we need to see it carried out.

Justice must not only be done, it must also be seen to be done.

f. I'd never let anyone use a photograph of my children in an advertisement.

I'd never have a photograph of my children used in an advertisement.

g. The driver was fined especially heavily because of his several previous convictions.

Having been convicted several times previously, the driver was fined especially heavily

h. The manageress often made us stay behind after closing time to do extra work.

We were often made to stay behind after closing times to do the extra work.

i. The investigators think a fault in the fuel lines caused the crash.

A fault in the fuel lines is thought to have caused the crash.

j. They've had to fax the insurance company three times for a decision.

The insurance company has had to be faxed three times for a decision.

9. Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase.

a. The origins of the tribe **are shrouded** in mystery.

b. Everyone **was taken** aback by the public reaction to the news about the President.

**Or:** Everyone **has been taken** aback by the public reaction to the news about the President.

c. It's six months since the tests, and she still **has not been given** the all-clear by her consultant.



d. Mr Bennett's office has **been dubbed** 'the torture chamber' by his staff.

Or: Mr Bennett's office has **been called** 'the torture chamber' by his staff.

e. In my family, a lot of furniture **has been handed** down from generation to generation.

f. Look - it's all over the papers. You should never **have allowed yourself to be** photographed in such a compromising situation.

Or: Look - it's all over the papers. You should never **have agreed to be** photographed in such a compromising situation.

**10.** For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence, but using the word given. This word must not be altered in any way.

a. The accused became very emotional.

The accused was overcome with emotion.

b. Naturally, they will deduct points if you arrive late.

Naturally, you will be penalised if you arrive late.

c. The model's clothes lay all over the floor.

The model's clothes were strewn all over the floor.

d. Our new Director wants you to call her 'Madam'.

Our new Director wants to be addressed as 'Madam'.

e. I can't say I enjoy it when people tear my writing to pieces in front of me.

I can't say I enjoy having my writing torn to pieces in front of me.

f. We'll have to make up our minds by the end of the week, won't we?

A decision will have to be made by the end of the week, won't it?

g. It's just possible the hotel may need more staff in the summer.

The possibility of the hotel needing new staff in the summer can't be ruled out.

h. Surely nobody likes it when people make fun of them in public.

Surely nobody likes being made fun of in public.

**i.** Never forget that the customer is always right.

It should be borne in mind that the customer is always right.

**j.** This school-leaver's qualifications are not adequate for such a demanding job, are they?

This school-leaver is not sufficiently qualified for such a demanding job, is s/he?