



Learn English Through Stories.

U Series

U27

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Contents

Vocabulary.

Nine tests.

A. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

Students learning English as a second language are sometimes given a word by their teacher and asked to give an (1)..... (EXPLAIN) as to what that word means; in other words, to provide a (2).....(DEFINE). The (3)..... (ASSUME) is that if you know a word, you can define it. (4)..... (LOGIC), that might make sense, but in reality it is not always (5).....(REASON) to assume that. There are words and phrases that even native speakers use in conversation without much (6)..... (THINK) which can lead to (7)..... (CONFUSE) when you ask a native speaker to define them. Take the (8)..... (CONCEIVE) of 'Zeitgeist', for example, which has entered English from German. It's (9).....(DOUBT) much easier to use than it is to define. With a word like 'Zeitgeist', it may be more (10) (SENSE) to test the student's understanding in ways other than asking them to define it.

B. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1. I'm never going to forget to consider Darren's views when I make a decision again. **account**

That's the last time I..... when I make a decision.

2. I don't know how on earth she thinks of such brilliant plots for her novels. **come**

How on earth such brilliant plots for her novels?

3. I'm sure Nancy is still presuming that the party starts at nine. **impression**

I'm sure Nancy..... that the party starts at nine.

4. Sean, do you know yet what you're doing this evening? **mind**

Sean, yet what you're doing this evening?

5. I told Jeanne, thinking that she'd be supportive - how wrong I was! **belief**

I told Jeanne..... that she'd be supportive - how wrong I was!

6. There's no way that you're staying out all night with your friends, I'm afraid.

Question

Your staying out all night with your friends....., I'm afraid.

7. I'm glad you now see sense and agree that your parents are right. **senses**

I'm glad and agree that your parents are right.

8. I think you think - wrongly - that this is all a conspiracy against you.

misapprehension

I think.....that this is all a conspiracy against you.

C. Write one word in each gap.

1. You really have to have your..... about you when driving through Birmingham.

2. It's a typical example of not being able to see the..... for the trees.

3. Bill Denver? That name rings a.....

4. Don't let success go to your..... whatever you do!

5. We were kept completely in the.....about what was going on - they didn't tell us anything!

6. Am I going round the..... or did you just ask me to marry you?

7. He'll never win the court case. My solicitor says he doesn't have a..... to stand on.

8. Dawn's a bit slow on the.....sometimes, so maybe she didn't realise you were suggesting she gave you a job.

D. Choose the correct word.

1. We're still trying to **part / piece / set** together exactly what went wrong.

2. It's too much information for me to **take / read / get** in in one go.

3. You'd better **create / think / work** up a very good excuse why you didn't come to the meeting.

4. Let me mull this **about / in / over** for a while and then I'll get back to you.

5. Toni was totally opposed at first but I think she's **come / made / taken** around to the idea now.

6. I think you should face up **on / with / to** the fact that our relationship's over.

7. We're still trying to **figure / think / guess** out how the burglars got in.

8. I'm going to have to **learn / swot / look up on** what all the road signs mean before my driving test.

E. Choose the correct answer.

1. I'm in a real..... and I just don't know what to do.

A dilemma **B** paradox **C** query **D** hunch

2.Alan for hours but he just doesn't answer his mobile. I hope nothing's wrong.

A I call **B** I'm calling **C** I've called **D** I've been calling

3. They're staying in rented accommodation for the time.....

A going **B** making **C** doing **D** being

4. Looking at your CV, I.....you used to live in Australia.

A gather **B** do gather **C** am gathering **D** have gathered

5. Is it really the first timefirst class?

A you ever fly **B** you're ever flying **C** you've ever flown **D** you've ever been flying

6. I..... it's going to snow tonight, don't you?

A speculate **B** reflect **C** reckon **D** ponder

7.getting a pet tarantula?

A Does Claire really **B** Is Claire really thinking

C Has Claire really think of thought that

D Has Claire really been of thinking that

8. 'Have you finished with the paper yet?' 'I've.....started reading it!'

A even **B** just **C** still **D** already

F. Correct the mistakes in these idioms.

1. I don't have even a faint idea where he is today; you'll have to ask somebody else.
2. The title of the book has familiar rings to it, but I don't think I've ever read it.
3. My cousin knows the tax laws outside and in, so if you want advice on your tax, he'll help you.
4. I can't for life think what it was I came into the kitchen for.
5. I saw Tom and Lily together in a restaurant looking adoringly into each other's eyes. I added up two and two, and decided they must be madly in love.

G. Use the idioms below to rewrite the underlined parts of this paragraph.

put two and two together inside out had a familiar ring to it
the faintest idea for the life of me

I always thought I knew my computer in every detail, but the other day it started to crash every time I opened a certain program. I could not in any way understand why it was doing this, and I didn't have any idea at all about what to do to fix it. I rang the helpline which I had used in the past, and after about 20 minutes I spoke to someone who said his name was Patrick, and that he was there to help me. He gave me some advice which sounded quite familiar to me from previous calls I had made to the same helpline. I thought about all this, put the facts together, and concluded that they give the same advice to everybody, and that it's just a way of getting rid of you. The computer still crashes every time I open the program.

H. Complete this conversation between a doctor and a patient, using the verbs in the box in the appropriate form.

come clear do feel get run take write

Doctor: What can I (1)for you, Mr Wilson?

Patient: Well, Doctor, I've been (2)..... a temperature for the last couple of days and I've (3) out in a rash on my neck. Do you see? These red spots here.

Doctor: Hmm. Let's (4)a look.

Patient: It's very irritating and I have trouble (5)off to sleep at night. Then I (6) down all day and can't concentrate on my work.

Doctor: Right. I don't think it's anything serious. I'll (7)..... you out a prescription for some lotion which should help to (8)up the rash.

I. Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence using a metaphor given below.

shouldered the blame faced the facts kept everyone on their toes
has an eye for foot the bill heading

1. The presidential visit meant no one had time to relax.
2. Rosetta took full responsibility for the failure of the project.
3. I don't think Greg will ever win Rosie's heart; it's time he accepted that.
4. The company had done so well that year that it agreed to pay for a staff night out.
5. I'm glad I'm not in charge of this team.
6. Eva is very good at finding a bargain.

Answers

A. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

Students learning English as a second language are sometimes given a word by their teacher and asked to give an **explanation** as to what that word means; in other words, to provide a **definition**. The **assumption** is that if you know a word, you can define it. **logically**, that might make sense, but in reality it is not always **reasonable** to assume that. There are words and phrases that even native speakers use in conversation without much **thought** which can lead to **confusion** when you ask a native speaker to define them. Take the **concept** of 'Zeitgeist', for example, which has entered English from German. It's **undoubtedly** much easier to use than it is to define. With a word like 'Zeitgeist', it may be more **sensible** to test the student's understanding in ways other than asking them to define it.

B. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1. I'm never going to forget to consider Darren's views when I make a decision again.

That's the last time I **forget to take Darren's views into account** when I make a decision.

Or: That's the last time I **forget to take into account Darren's views** when I make a decision.

Or: That's the last time I **forget to take account of Darren's views** when I make a decision.

2. I don't know how on earth she thinks of such brilliant plots for her novels.

How on earth **does she come up with** such brilliant plots for her novels?

3. I'm sure Nancy is still presuming that the party starts at nine.

I'm sure Nancy **is still under the impression** that the party starts at nine.

4. Sean, do you know yet what you're doing this evening?

Sean, **have you made your mind up** yet what you're doing this evening?

Or: Sean, **have you made up your mind** yet what you're doing this evening?

5. I told Jeanne, thinking that she'd be supportive - how wrong I was!

I told Jeanne **in the belief** that she'd be supportive - how wrong I was!

Or: I told Jeanne **in the mistaken belief** that she'd be supportive - how wrong I was!

6. There's no way that you're staying out all night with your friends, I'm afraid.

Your staying out all night with your friends **is out of the question**, I'm afraid.

7. I'm glad you now see sense and agree that your parents are right.

I'm glad **you have now come to your senses** and agree that your parents are right.

8. I think you think - wrongly - that this is all a conspiracy against you.

I think **you are under the misapprehension** that this is all a conspiracy against you.

C. Write one word in each gap.

1. You really have to have your **wits** about you when driving through Birmingham.

2. It's a typical example of not being able to see the **wood** for the trees.

3. Bill Denver? That name rings a **bell**.

4. Don't let success go to your **head** whatever you do!

5. We were kept completely in the **dark** about what was going on - they didn't tell us anything!

6. Am I going round the **bend** or did you just ask me to marry you?

7. He'll never win the court case. My solicitor says he doesn't have a **leg** to stand on.

8. Dawn's a bit slow on the **uptake** sometimes, so maybe she didn't realise you were suggesting she gave you a job.

D. Circle the correct word.

1. We're still trying to **piece** together exactly what went wrong.
2. It's too much information for me to **take** in in one go.
3. You'd better **think** up a very good excuse why you didn't come to the meeting.
4. Let me mull this **over** for a while and then I'll get back to you.
5. Toni was totally opposed at first but I think she's **come** around to the idea now.
6. I think you should face up **to** the fact that our relationship's over.
7. We're still trying to **figure** out how the burglars got in.
8. I'm going to have to **swot** up on what all the road signs mean before my driving test.

E. Choose the correct answer.

1. I'm in a real **dilemma** and I just don't know what to do.
2. **I've been calling** Alan for hours but he just doesn't answer his mobile. I hope nothing's wrong.
3. They're staying in rented accommodation for the time **being**.
4. Looking at your CV, I **gather** you used to live in Australia.
5. Is it really the first time **you've ever flown** first class?
6. I **reckon** it's going to snow tonight, don't you?
7. Is Claire really thinking getting a pet tarantula?

A Does Claire really

B Is Claire really thinking

F. Correct the mistakes in these idioms.

1. I don't have even **the faintest** idea where he is today; you'll have to ask somebody else.
2. The title of the book has **a familiar ring** to it, but I don't think I've ever read it.
3. My cousin knows the tax laws **inside out**, so if you want advice on your tax, he'll help you.
4. I can't for **the life of me** think what it was I came into the kitchen for.
5. I saw Tom and Lily together in a restaurant looking adoringly into each other's eyes. I **put two and two together**, and decided they must be madly in love.

G. Use the idioms below to rewrite the underlined parts of this paragraph.

I always thought I knew my computer **inside out**, but the other day it started to crash every time I opened a certain program. I could not **for the life of me** understand why it was doing this, and I didn't have **the faintest idea** about what to do to fix it. I rang the helpline which I had used in the past, and after about 20 minutes I spoke to someone who said his name was Patrick, and that he was there to help me. He gave me some advice which **had a familiar ring to it** from previous calls I had made to the same helpline. I **put two and two together**, and concluded that they give the same advice to everybody, and that it's just a way of getting rid of you. The computer still crashes every time I open the program.

H. Complete this conversation between a doctor and a patient, using the verbs in the box in the appropriate form.

Doctor: What can I **do** for you, Mr Wilson?

Patient: Well, Doctor, I've been **running** a temperature for the last couple of days and I've **come** out in a rash on my neck. Do you see? These red spots here.

Doctor: Hmm. Let's **take** a look.

Patient: It's very irritating and I have trouble **getting** off to sleep at night. Then I **feel** down all day and can't concentrate on my work.

Doctor: Right. I don't think it's anything serious. I'll **write** you out a prescription for some lotion which should help to **clear** up the rash.

I. Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence using a metaphor given below.

1. The presidential visit **kept everyone on their toes**.
2. Rosetta **shouldered the blame** for the failure of the project.
3. I don't think Greg will ever win Rosie's heart; it's time he **faced the facts**.
4. The company had done so well that year that it agreed to **foot the bill** for a staff night out.
5. I'm glad I'm not **heading** this team.
6. Eva **has an eye for** a bargain.