



Learn English Through Stories.

U Series

U36

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Contents

Vocabulary.

Eight tests.

1. Identify the sentences in which the speakers are optimistic or pessimistic that the project will go ahead.

- a. I have little doubt that the project has great potential.
- b. I must confess to a few reservations concerning the ultimate success of the project.
- c. I have my doubts as to the wisdom of going ahead with such a project.
- d. There's every chance that the doubts being expressed about the project will be unfounded.
- e. The odds are against such a project getting off the ground.
- f. It's odds on that the project will fall flat on its face.
- g. I do believe that, contrary to public opinion, the project has every chance of success.
- h. There's no way this project is going to see the light of day I assure you.
- i. I wouldn't bet against this project being the best thing to happen to us since the Euro.
- j. Barring a miracle, this project is bound to hit the dust almost immediately.

2. Choose two options in each item are possible to complete the sentences.

- a. You'll have the *chance / possibility / occasion / opportunity* to look over the house tomorrow.
- b. I have my *doubts / uncertainties / beliefs / reservations* as to this applicant's suitability.
- c. The *chances / odds / possibilities / probabilities* are she will reject him.
- d. I'd *stake / offer / bet / invest* my mortgage on the fact that she's honest.
- e. Our new gardener's *bound / convinced / hoped / certain* to make a good job of cutting the hedge.
- f. The new student's *bound / likely / sure / confident* of passing the initial test.
- g. She's in *any / little / no / full* doubt as to the identity of the intruder.
- h. It doesn't look as *whether / though / how / if* the meeting's going to take place.
- i. There's a *distant / remote / far / distinct* possibility that I'll be able to help after all.
- j. There will almost *inevitably / probably / certainly / inconceivably* be some teething troubles initially.

3. Write full sentences from the prompt words, adding any necessary words and putting the verbs into a suitable form. (All the sentences contain the word chance(s), not always expressing likelihood.)

- a. He / no chance / ever / persuade / her / marry / him.
- b. They / stand / much chance / A grade / as / I / become / Prime Minister.
- c. There / a chance / that / my company / send / United States / for a year.
- d. There / little chance / of / management / agree / employees' demands.
- e. No-one / have / a chance / yet / predict / outcome / this dispute / certainty.
- f. is / there / chance / of my borrow / your bicycle / half an hour?
- g. The chances / that / the match / cancel.
- h. you / a chance / speak / the Personnel Manager / yesterday?

4. Fill each of the numbered blanks with a suitable word from the box.

Probability bound prospects doubt certainly possibly
Likely possibility likelihood will might well certain heading can't

This will now almost..... (1) prove to have been the driest April since the calamitous drought of 1924 and forecasters say the current spell is very..... (2) to continue well into next week and quite..... (3) beyond. A Met. Office spokesman suggested there was a slight..... (4) of rain just after the weekend but admitted there is every..... (5) that rain heading across the Atlantic..... (6) miss Britain completely. If it does,..... (7) of further rain within the next fortnight are thought to be slim. John Field of the National Farmers' Union said that many farmers were clearly..... (8) for the bankruptcy courts. 'The past few months..... (9) have been easy for anybody,' he commented yesterday. 'But here in the north, it's been without..... (10) the worst time anyone can remember. I haven't got the official figures but losses (11) run into tens of millions of pounds. And that's..... (12) to affect prices in the supermarkets very soon.' A ban on hose-pipes in all gardens now looks virtually..... (13) and the supply of general household water may very.....(14) have to be rationed in some areas. The Government will, in all (15), issue an official statement sometime in the next twenty-four hours.

5. Match the beginning of each idiom on the left with its ending on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1. left holding the | a. wall |
| 2. brick | b. block |
| 3. stumbling | c. music |
| 4. dire | d. baby |
| 5. draw | e. barrel |
| 6. have you over a | f. straits |
| 7. face the | g. blank |

6. Put the words in the right order and make sentences.

1. done/said/Easier/than
2. too / to / Try / spread / thin / not / yourself
3. 1 / 1 / foot / it / wish / my / put I hadn't / in
4. a/ life I older / of / Getting I fact I is
5. straits/The/is/company/dire/in
6. life / primary / facts / of / the / Children / taught / in / school / are

7. Complete each of these idioms with one word.

1. You'd better stop talking or you'll dig yourself into a deeper.....
2. I hoped I'd find the address I needed in the library, but I drew a.....
3. If you take on any more work, you'll be spreading yourself far too.....
4. Stranded on the island with no money and no luggage, we were well aware that we were in dire.....
5. The police explored a number of ways, but each time they came up against a brick.....
6. Not having enough savings to set up a business was a major stumbling.....
7. I wish I could leave my job, but they've got me over a.....

8. Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence using words from below.

**mildly; loosely; wildly; absolutely; completely; thoroughly; highly; slightly;
dead; faintly.**

1. The American writer Mark Twain is famous for commenting that reports of his death had been over-exaggerated.
2. This restaurant is recommended by many different people.
3. The exam was extremely easy; everyone got high marks. (make this informal)
4. The musical West Side Story is kind of based on the plot of Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet. (make this less informal)
5. The idea of the boss singing Happy Birthday to me struck me as a little bit ridiculous.
6. The success of the Wimbledon tennis tournament is 100% dependent on the weather.
7. I really enjoyed the days I spent at your lovely house in the country.
8. I was just a little surprised by her decision to quit her job so soon.
9. I was really delighted when they told me I'd got the job.
10. The new model of this camera is a little bit different from the old one.

Answers

1. Identify the sentences in which the speakers are optimistic or pessimistic that the project will go ahead.

- a. I have little doubt that the project has great potential. **Optimistic**
- b. I must confess to a few reservations concerning the ultimate success of the project. **Pessimistic**
- c. I have my doubts as to the wisdom of going ahead with such a project. **Pessimistic**
- d. There's every chance that the doubts being expressed about the project will be unfounded. **Optimistic**
- e. The odds are against such a project getting off the ground. **Pessimistic**
- f. It's odds on that the project will fall flat on its face. **Pessimistic**
- g. I do believe that, contrary to public opinion, the project has every chance of success. **Optimistic**
- h. There's no way this project is going to see the light of day I assure you. **Pessimistic**
- i. I wouldn't bet against this project being the best thing to happen to us since the Euro. **Optimistic**
- j. Barring a miracle, this project is bound to hit the dust almost immediately. **Pessimistic**

2. Choose two options in each item are possible to complete the sentences.

a. You'll have the **chance** to look over the house tomorrow.

Or: You'll have the **opportunity** to look over the house tomorrow.

b. I have my **doubts** as to this applicant's suitability.

Or: I have my **reservations** as to this applicant's suitability.

c. The **chances** are she will reject him.

Or: The **odds** are she will reject him.

d. I'd **stake** my mortgage on the fact that she's honest.

Or: I'd **bet** my mortgage on the fact that she's honest.

e. Our new gardener's **bound** to make a good job of cutting the hedge.

Or: Our new gardener's **certain** to make a good job of cutting the hedge.

f. The new student's **sure** of passing the initial test.

Or: The new student's **confident** of passing the initial test.

g. She's in **little** doubt as to the identity of the intruder.

Or: She's in *no* doubt as to the identity of the intruder.

h. It doesn't look as **though** the meeting's going to take place.

Or: It doesn't look as **if** the meeting's going to take place.

i. There's a **distant** possibility that I'll be able to help after all.

Or: There's a **remote** possibility that I'll be able to help after all.

j. There will almost **inevitably** be some teething troubles initially.

Or: There will almost **certainly** be some teething troubles initially.

3. Write full sentences from the prompt words, adding any necessary words and putting the verbs into a suitable form. (All the sentences contain the word chance(s), not always expressing likelihood.)

a. He has no chance of ever persuading her to marry him.

Or: He had no chance of ever persuading her to marry him.

b. They stand as much chance of getting a grade A as I do of becoming Prime Minister.

c. There is a chance that my company will send me to the United States for a year.

Or: There is a chance that my company might send me to the United States for a year.

d. There is little chance of management agreeing to the employees' demands.

e. No one has had a chance yet of predicting the outcome of this dispute with any certainty.

f. Is there any chance of my borrowing your bicycle for half an hour?

g. The chances are that the match will be cancelled.

h. Did you have a chance to speak to the Personal Manager yesterday?

4. Fill each of the numbered blanks with a suitable word from the box.

This will now almost **certainly** prove to have been the driest April since the calamitous drought of 1924 and forecasters say the current spell is very **likely** to continue well into next week and quite **possibly** beyond. A Met Office spokesman suggested there was a slight **possibility** of rain just after the weekend but admitted there is every **likelihood** that rain heading across the Atlantic **will** miss Britain completely. If it does, **prospects** of further rain within the next fortnight are thought to be slim. John Field of the National Farmers' Union said that many farmers were clearly **heading** for the bankruptcy courts. 'The past few months **can't** have been easy for anybody,' he commented yesterday. 'But here in the north, it's been without **doubt** the worst time anyone can remember. I haven't got the official figures but losses **might** run into tens of millions of pounds. And that's **bound** to affect prices in the supermarkets very soon.' A ban on hose-pipes in all gardens now looks virtually **certain** and the supply of general household water may very **well** have to be rationed in some areas. The Government will, in all **probability**, issue an official statement sometime in the next twenty-four hours.

5. Match the beginning of each idiom on the left with its ending on the right.

1. left holding the **baby**.
2. brick **wall**.
3. stumbling **block**.
4. dire **straits**.
5. draw a **blank**.
6. have you over a **barrel**.
7. face the **music**.

6. Put the words in the right order and make sentences.

1. Easier said than done.
 2. Try not to spread yourself too thin.
 3. I wish I hadn't put my foot in it.
 4. Getting older is a fact of life.
 5. The company is in dire straits.
 6. Children are taught the facts of life in primary school.
- Or: Children in primary school are taught the facts of life.

7. Complete each of these idioms with one word.

1. You'd better stop talking or you'll dig yourself into a deeper **hole**.
2. I hoped I'd find the address I needed in the library, but I drew a **blank**.
3. If you take on any more work, you'll be spreading yourself far too **thin**.
4. Stranded on the island with no money and no luggage, we were well aware that we were in dire **straits**.
5. The police explored a number of ways, but each time they came up against a brick **wall**.
6. Not having enough savings to set up a business was a major stumbling **block**.
7. I wish I could leave my job, but they've got me over a **barrel**.

8. Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence using words from below.

1. The American writer Mark Twain is famous for commenting that reports of his death had been **wildly exaggerated**.

2. This restaurant is **highly recommended**.

3. The exam was **dead easy**; everyone got high marks. (make this informal)

4. The musical West Side Story is **loosely based** on the plot of Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet.

5. The idea of the boss singing Happy Birthday to me struck me as **faintly ridiculous**.

6. The success of the Wimbledon tennis tournament is **completely dependent** on the weather.

7. I **thoroughly enjoyed** the days I spent at your lovely house in the country.

8. I was **mildly surprised** by her decision to quit her job so soon.

9. I was **absolutely delighted** when they told me I'd got the job.

10. The new model of this camera is **slightly different** from the old one.