



Learn English Through Stories.

U Series

U43

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Answers

1. Read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Ours is a vanishing world, one in which the familiar is constantly disappearing and technological change is often difficult to cope with. So it should come **as** no surprise to most of us to hear that yet another part of everyday life is about to go for ever. Apparently, within the next decade, money as we **know** it will probably **cease** to exist in technologically advanced countries. **According to** Professor Gerry Montague of the Institute for Economic Reform, the familiar coins and banknotes will soon be replaced entirely by credit cards of various kinds. And the shop of the future will be linked directly to the network of banking computers. The assistant will simply key in your bank account code number and the amount you have spent, and thank you politely. You won't have to dig **deep** in your pockets for change. You may not even have a number for your account as such, as the computer may by then be able to read your handprint. So no more instances of credit card **fraud**. But I am afraid that I shall miss money. I have felt **strongly** attached to it, ever since I received my first pocket **money** when I was five, and kept it in a money-box. Even if my credit card of the future will be able to tell me exactly how much spending **power** I have left in the computer files, even if it lights up and plays a happy (or sad) tune at the same time, nothing will be able to replace the **sheer** pleasure I gained from rattling the coins in my money- box.

2. Match each sentence (a-i) with a sentence from (1-9) which has a similar meaning.

- a). We have to haggle. — 5. We argue about the price.
- b). We have a nice little nest-egg. — 9. We have some savings.
- c). We spend a lot. — 1. We have a high expenditure.
- d). We are in debt. — 8. We owe money.
- e). We don't waste money. — 2. We are very thrifty.
- f). We are paid on commission. — 4. We earn according to what we sell.
- g). We want a rise. — 7. We need higher wages.
- h). We lend money. — 3. We let people borrow from us.
- i). We earn a lot. — 6. We have a high income.

3. Take one word from each column to complete the collocations you need for each space.

Column A

stock, tax, raise, monthly,
savings, down, household,
current, earns, business

Column B

capital, venture, account,
exchange, installments, account,
return, interest, bills, payment

Advisor: ... and what about your bank details?

Mr Lumley: Well, I have a regular **current account** from which we pay all our **household bills** such as gas and water, and also a **savings account** which **earns interest** at a rate of 4%%.

Advisor: I notice you have a regular monthly payment of £200 going out to JCS. What's that?

Mr Lumley: Oh yes, that'll be the settee. We made an initial **down payment** of £400; then we're paying the rest in **monthly instalments** of £200.

Advisor: Right, and do you have any other savings or investments?

Mr Lumley: I have some shares invested on the **stock exchange**, but their value has gone down to just a few hundred pounds.

Advisor: And last time we spoke, you were talking about maybe starting a new **business venture** with a colleague.

Mr Lumley: No, that's fallen through. We couldn't **raise** the necessary **capital** to satisfy the bank manager. Probably just as well. It will make filling in my **tax return** a lot easier.

Advisor: Yes, that's certainly true. It all gets very complicated if you're self-employed ...

4. Underline the two words that are appropriate in each sentence.

a). Harry has a good salary. He **gets** over £20,000 a year.

Or: Harry has a good salary. He **makes** over £20,000 a year.

b). Mary was awarded a **grant** to study child psychology.

Or: Mary was awarded a **scholarship** to study child psychology.

c). How much did you **give** for your new car?

Or: How much did you **pay** for your new car?

d). Their house **fetched** for a lot more than they expected.

Or: Their house **sold** for a lot more than they expected.

e). I'm going to the bank to **get out** the money for the rent.

Or: I'm going to the bank to **withdraw** the money for the rent.

f). The manager disappeared with the **receipts** from the concert.

Or: The manager disappeared with the **takings** from the concert.

g). By the time Kate retired she was a **prosperous** businesswoman.

Or: By the time Kate retired she was a **wealthy** businesswoman.

h). We had a good holiday but it was rather **costly**.

Or: We had a good holiday but it was rather **expensive**.

i). Unfortunately the old painting I found turned out to be **valueless**.

Or: Unfortunately the old painting I found turned out to be **worthless**.

j). We would appreciate it if you would **settle** your bill as soon as possible.

Or: We would appreciate it if you would **pay** your bill as soon as possible.

5. Complete the fixed phrases in each space by choosing a word from the box which collocates with the words in bold.

Have your shares just fallen in **value** and you don't know what to do? Or have you come into a **fortune** and don't know how to invest it? Well, whether you've been made **redundant** or qualified for early **retirement**, whether your business is **booming** or you've just been declared **bankrupt**, we are the bank for you, the caring bank. We've got the account for you and can advise you accordingly. Come over to us and you will be making a wise **investment**. We offer some of the most competitive loans and mortgages on the **market**. Provided you maintain your account in **credit**, and at a minimum level of £500, we will offer you financial advice completely free of **charge**, whenever you request it. Can't be bad, can it?

6. Using the draft as a guide, complete the letter. Use one or two words in each space. The words you need do not occur in the draft.

Dear Mrs Carter,

Please accept my apologies for any **inconvenience** caused to you by the late **delivery** and incorrect contents of consignment 3882. We pride ourselves in maintaining a consistently high **standard** of packing. As a goodwill **gesture**, we are sending you £200 by way of **compensation**. Please find a cheque for this amount **enclosed**. Will you be good **enough** to **acknowledge** receipt of this cheque? To **date**, we have had an excellent working relationship, which we wish to maintain at all costs. We are always at **your service**.

Yours sincerely,

John Barr,

Customer Services Manager.

7. Which of these people are in a good situation (from their point of view) and which are in a bad situation?

1. Jack: good situation. He has been freed from some unpleasant task or responsibility.

2. Lily: bad situation. She has had to take the blame instead of other people.

3. Carmen: bad situation. She has to do what everyone else tells her to do, whenever they want it.

4. Beena: good situation. She has persuaded someone to let her do what she wants.

8. Complete each of these idioms with a preposition.

1. It's wrong to take the law **in** your own hands.

2. It's time I laid **down** the law and made them do their duty.

3. I would not want to be **on** the receiving end of his bad temper.

Or: I would not want to be **at** the receiving end of his bad temper.

4. Old Bob seems to have become a law **unto** himself at work. He does just what he likes.

5. Nobody tells you what to do. You're just left **to** your own devices.

9. Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence with an idiom.

1. I think there is **a hidden agenda in** that letter she sent to the boss.

2. I thought I was going to have to represent my class at the staff-student meeting, but **they've let me off the hook**.

Or: 2. I thought I was going to have to represent my class at the staff-student meeting, but **I've got off the hook**.

3 She's an awful boss to work for; the secretaries **are at beck and call**, eight hours a day, seven days a week.

4. He has **been on the receiving end of** a lot of criticism from the press in recent weeks.

Or: He has **been at the receiving end of** a lot of criticism from the press in recent weeks.

5. They cause all the trouble, and I always have to **carry the can**.

6. I don't want someone telling me what to do all the time. I'd rather be **left to my own devices**.