



Learn English Through Stories.

U Series

U44

**Adapted and modified by  
Kulwant Singh Sandhu.**

<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

## **Contents**

**Vocabulary.**

**Eleven tests.**

## Answers

**1. Find 15 common collocations or fixed phrases by completing each space in the text with an appropriate word from the box.**

I guess I was what one might call a **spoilt** child, for I was the only child of Mary and David Bettleman and I got whatever I wanted. I had a rather weak-minded mother and by contrast a very **domineering** father who had exceedingly high expectations of me, expectations that I could not **live up to**. You see, my father was quite an eminent lawyer and wanted nothing more than for me to **follow** in his footsteps. He encouraged me to win at everything and to be ultra-competitive. He just couldn't see that he was being far too **pushy** and putting too much **pressure** on me. He simply thought that he was acting in my best **interests**. Not surprisingly, perhaps, I **rebelled** against my upbringing by becoming thoroughly apathetic at school. As soon as I turned 18, I **struck out** on my own and went off on a trip to India. It was there that I met Ingrid, a fellow traveller. It became clear that we came from very similar backgrounds. She too was running away from something: in her case a very **sheltered** upbringing, caused by having two very over-protective parents. We **hit it off** immediately, and I **plucked up** courage and asked her to be my girlfriend. But I was young and I needed space, and I guess I was too immature to handle the give and take of a relationship. Or perhaps I was just afraid of **commitment**. Anyway, we went through a very bad **patch** and had a **trial** separation for a couple of months.

**2. Underline the most suitable word in each sentence.**

- a). As I am officially **an alien** I have to register with the police.
- b). Let me introduce you to my **fiancee**. We're getting married next month.
- c). Jim is just **an acquaintance** I met on holiday.
- d). Why not bring your child along to the Mothers and **Toddlers** group? It's for one and two year-olds.
- e). Local people are campaigning for better facilities for the aged.
- f). Our **ancestors** are all buried in the local churchyard.

g). Peter is 50 and unmarried and his friends call him 'an eligible **bachelor**'.

h). The bridegroom was handed the ring by the assistant **best man**.

i). When I was a **lad** I used to walk ten miles to school.

j). We call her 'Auntie Flo', though she is not really any **relation** to us.

### 3. Complete each sentence with the most appropriate word from the box.

a). Sharon works very hard and is extremely **conscientious**.

b). David does everything alone. He is a rather **solitary** person.

c). What a lovely couple! They seem totally **devoted** to one another.

d). Jim has extreme views, and is **prejudiced** against all immigrants.

e). Very few students wanted to join in the activities. They seemed rather **apathetic**.

f). Simon is always getting into fights, he's so **aggressive**.

g). Jane may look rather young, but she has a very **mature** attitude.

h). Pauline is a good teacher, and very **attentive** to the needs of the students.

i). Bill is shy but his brother Mike is more **extrovert**.

j). Mary doesn't realise how she hurts people. She is really **insensitive**.

### 4. Match each expression (a-j) with one of the explanations (1-10).

a). nearest and dearest — 7. a person (or people) from your immediate family

b). newlyweds — 2. people who have only recently been (or are still) on their honeymoon.

c). the nuclear family — 10. parents and their children.

d). adult — 8. people who are no longer teenagers.

e). a community — 6. all the people living together in the same area.

f). a generation — 3. all the people of approximately the same age

g). contemporaries — 1. people who are alive at the same time or e.g. attend the same school.

h). the extended family — 5. the entire range of relatives in one family.

i). a household — 4. the people in a family who live together under the same roof.j). outcasts — 9. people abandoned by their families or by society in general

### 5. Complete each sentence with the most appropriate word from the box.

a). Keith's parents **neglected** him badly when he was a baby.

b). The small child was being **scolded** by its mother for getting dirty.

c). Tom deeply **offended** Ann by ignoring her at the party.

d). David is not my real father, I was **adopted** by him when I was small.

e). Ian and Fiona are **separated** and they may get divorced.

f). I **quarrelled** with my boyfriend but we made it up in the end.

g). Jack **retired** on his 65th birthday and received his pension.

h). My parents **criticised** me for having a ring in my nose.

i). Julie's mother **abandoned** her when she was a few months old and she grew up in an orphanage.

j). My boss utterly **humiliated** me in front of important clients, so I resigned.

6. Replace the words underlined with the most appropriate phrase from the box.

- a). When Brian asked her to marry him, Ann **turned him down**.
- b). I **kept in touch** with most of my old friends
- c). Ann **grew up** in London.
- d). David and Jean **went out together** for three months before they got engaged.
- e). Kate **fell out** with her boyfriend and they stopped seeing each other.
- f). Helen had **got on well with** her in-laws
- g). Harry **ran away from home**.
- h). Sophia promised to meet Michael after work but **let him down**.
- i). After a few weeks I **moved in with** some friends.
- j) I **got to know** Pam when we worked together.

**7. Complete the spaces by finding one word which fits in all three sentences.**

a). Barry was a very complicated individual who easily **took** offence.

I **took** to the job immediately and felt like I'd been doing it all my life.

After 36 days of fighting, the invading forces finally **took** the city.

b). After quarrelling with David, Martina was **close** to tears.

It was a **close** call, but I think Leupers just won it from Collins in second place.

In such sweltering heat, it was unbearably **close** and humid on the Underground.

c). Jane's father **shook** with rage when she told him she was pregnant.

Events in oil-producing countries **shook** the confidence of investors.

The lion **shook** its magnificent mane and gave an almighty roar.

d). John and Mary met at university, and they've been going **steady** for almost five years.

'**steady** on - is that really what you want you to do?'

There has been a **steady** decline in the number of male applicants.

e) 'I just can't imagine my Dad **leading** me down the aisle in church to get married!' said Maggie.

Michael Schumacher is currently **leading** the drivers' championship.

She emerged from the stable **leading** a beautiful black horse.

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

1. a can of worms.

2. the acid test.

3. a vicious circle.

4. in a nutshell.

5. on the other hand.

6. the other side of the coin.

7. tie yourself up in knots.
8. go round in circles.
9. be called to account
10. won't give an inch.

**9. What are the situations describing? Match an idiom from the box with each situation.**

1. Trying out a new invention for the first time — **the acid test.**
2. Trying to explain something complex that you do not really understand — **tying yourself up in knots.**
3. The advantages and disadvantages of moving to a different town — **the pros and cons of a situation.**
4. Explaining a complicated situation in two minutes — **putting it in a nutshell.**
5. Trying to reach agreement when neither side is prepared to modify its position — **going round in circles.**
6. Getting rid of some books so you have space on your bookshelves, then buying more books because you now have space, so you now need to get rid of more books to clear a bit more space — **a vicious circle.**

**10. Complete each sentence with an idiom from the box.**

1. In some ways it's glamorous being a pop star. But **the other side of the coin** is that you no longer have any privacy.
2. It's time these petty criminals were **called to account** for their irresponsible actions.
3. I know Bill's a nice friendly person, but, **be that as it may**, he still has to pull his weight in the office.
4. **On the one hand**, I think Janna might have the best personality for the job, but, on the other, Mina has more experience.
5. If he's apologised, I think you should **give him the benefit of the doubt.**
6. It would be opening **a can of worms** to inquire about his finances.



**11. Rewrite the underlined part of each sentence with an idiom.**

1. I **tyed myself up in knots** trying to explain to Karl how I felt about him.
2. I'd like you to write an essay **on the pros and cons** of working abroad.
3. To put it **in a nutshell**, James needs to produce better homework.
4. Natasha was prepared to compromise, but Alex wouldn't **give an inch**.
5. You need more money so you work more. You earn more so you spend more. So you need to work more. **It's a vicious circle**.