A. Fill the blank with correct form: past tense or past perfect tense

The Magic Cask
Chinese Folktale

Once upon a time there was a man who 1_____ (dig up) a big, earthenware cask in his field. So, he 2_____ (take) it home with him and told his wife to clean it out. But when his wife started brushing the inside of the cask, the cask suddenly began to fill itself with brushes. No matter how many were 3_____ (take out), others kept on taking their place. So, the man sold the brushes, and the family managed to live quite comfortably.

Once a coin fell into the cask by mistake. At once the brushes disappeared and the cask began to fill itself with money. So now the family 4_____(become) rich; for they could take as much money out of the cask as ever they wished.

Now the man had an old grandfather at home, who was weak and shaky. Since there was nothing else, he could do, his grandson set him to work shoveling money out of the cask, and when the old grandfather 5_____ (grow) weary and could not keep on, he would fall into a rage, and shout at him angrily, telling him he was lazy and 6_____ (do not) want to work. One day, however, the old man's strength 7_____ (give out), and he fell into the cask and died. At once the money disappeared, and the whole cask 8_____ (begin) to fill itself with dead grandfathers. Then the man had to pull them all out and have them buried, and for this purpose he had to use up again all the money he had 9_____ (receive). And when he was through, the cask 10_____(break), and he was just as poor as before.

B. Arrange the sentences into a correct paragraph!

The Ancient Man
Chinese Folktale

1. He lived on cinnabar and wore no clothing.
2. "The creature dreads the radiance of the sun and moon, so it only sticks its head out of its shell once in two thousand years. Since I have had the beast, it has already stuck its head out five times."
3. Even in winter he went about without garments.
4. Once he was asked: "About how old might this tortoise be?"
5. And the legend arose that this man was ten thousand years old.
6. Once upon a time there was a man named Huang An.
7. He must have been well over eighty and yet he looked like a youth.
8. With these words he took his tortoise on his back and went off.
9. He sat on a tortoise three feet long.
10. He answered: "When Fu Hi first invented fish-nets and eel-pots he caught this tortoise and gave it to me. And since then, I have worn its shield quite flat sitting on it."

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C. Answer the questions correctly!

The Rat and the Elephant

Some people say that rats are ugly creatures. When they see a rat running along, they go *ee-yuck!* Well, I don't know about you, but I've always thought that this was rather rude. Rats can have hurt feelings too you know! In any case, when I catch sight of my reflection in a stream, I think I'm rather cute.

Just recently, I was trotting along the King's Highway, in my sweet little way, when I heard a great commotion on the road up ahead. Who or what is causing all that fuss? I wondered.

When I got closer, I saw the King himself, riding along on top of a great fat lump of an elephant. The crowd of onlookers were *ooo-ing* and *aah-ing* full of admiration for that stupid beast with a nose that's far too big for her face. She's much uglier than me, I thought. So, I started to spring up and down and say: "Hey everyone! Why not look at me? I'm such a cutie-pie! I could join the King's household and be a royal rat, if only there was any justice in the world."

At first, nobody noticed me. They were all too busy ogling that stupid elephant. Little did I know that riding behind the elephant in a carriage, was the princess, and she was holding a beastly cat in her arms. When he caught sight of me, the cat leapt out of the carriage and started to chase me. I had to run for my life, and popped down a hole just in time before the cat could eat me up.

Now I've changed my mind about wanting people to notice me and admire me. I've decided that sometimes, it's far better not to draw attention to yourself, but just to get on quietly with your own business.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. What is the text about?

_____

2. What is the purpose of the text?

_____

3. Why did the narrator want to be a center of attention?

_____

4. How did the narrator save her own life?

_____

5. What can you learn from the text?

_____

D. Choose T (True) for the correct statement and F (False) for the wrong statement.

1. The rat thought that she was prettier than the elephant.	T	F
2. The elephant had a huge nose on her face.	T	F
3. Everyone noticed the coming rat.	T	F
4. The princess was riding before the elephant.	T	F
5. The rat was chased by the elephant.	T	F

E. Match the word with its meaning!

1. creature (n)
2. catch sight of (idiom)
3. reflection (n)
4. commotion (n)
5. crowd (n)
6. justice (n)
7. trotting along (idiom)
8. leapt out (idiom)
9. popped down (idiom)
10. get on (idiom)

a. the condition of being morally correct or fair.
b. to see someone or something very briefly or suddenly.
c. a large group of people who have come together.
d. a sudden, short period of noise, confusion, or excited movement.
e. to step along in a lively fashion.
f. to jump out of or outward from something or some place.
g. any living thing, esp. an animal.
h. to go someplace very quickly or briefly that is either on a lower level.
i. the image of something in a mirror or on any reflective surface.
j. to fare, cope, or manage.

LIVEWORKSHEETS