



LONDON'S BIGGEST FIRE...

From 'Time', December 21, 1936

1. You are going to read a text from 1936 about the fire which destroyed The Crystal Palace. Choose the best answer in each gap.

LONDON FIRE (CONTINUED)

THE Crystal Palace (1) the biggest thing in London: 1,600 feet of glass and iron with two 300 foot water towers (*right*). A monument to the taste of Queen Victoria, it (2) like a gigantic greenhouse and, since 1854, (3) the pleasure palace of all Londoners, rich and poor. It (4) classical courts and galleries, an aviary, an aquarium and a theatre. In it (5) concerts, spectacles, movies, animal and flower shows. In 1913 the British nation (6) it from its private owners. Lately a television broadcasting station (7) in one of the towers. On Nov. 30 a fire (8) in the



women's cloak room, (9) through the wooden floors, (10) the roof of the central transept into a rain of molten glass. Then the fire (11) down the 1,600-ft. nave, (12) its glow over eight counties of England. The aquarium fish were boiled but somebody (13) the doors of the aviary. The Nottingham *Journal* called the fire "the ruin of the Victorian tradition." The Crystal Palace's manager, Sir Henry Buckland (*see right*), who had (14) the fire, holding the hand of his little daughter Crystal (named for the Palace), mournfully (15) afterward, "The Crystal Palace will never be rebuilt. It (16) \$6,750,000 in 1854 and we had just (17) \$1,500,000 in improvements for the coronation celebrations next year."

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| 1. a) has been | b) was | c) is |
| 2. a) looked | b) had looked | c) was looking |
| 3. a) was | b) is | c) had been |
| 4. a) was | b) had had | c) had |
| 5. a) held | b) had held | c) were held |
| 6. a) was bought | b) bought | c) was buying |
| 7. a) had been set up | b) was set up | c) set up |
| 8. a) started | b) was starting | c) would start |

2. Now create the past forms from the infinitives.

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| 9. sweep up | 10. turn | 11. roar |
| 12. spread | 13. open | 14. call |
| 15. announce | 16. cost | 17. spend |
