

Salvador Dalí

Exercise 1. Match each vocabulary word with its synonym or definition.

1. **Chance encounter**	To have good luck or be lucky.
2. **Coincidence**	To feel regret for missing an opportunity.
3. **Deliberate decision**	A sudden and unexpected opportunity that brings success.
4. **Life-changing experience**	To be somewhere by luck when something good happens.
5. **Lucky break**	To be very surprised by one's good or bad fortune.
6. **Be fortunate**	An unexpected meeting.
7. **Be in the right place at the right time**	A choice made carefully and intentionally.
8. **(Not) believe my luck**	A surprising or accidental event that seems planned.
9. **Kick yourself**	An event that significantly alters someone's life.

Regrets and Reflections: The Stories of Robert and Margaret

As Robert sat on the park bench, he thought about the many **deliberate decisions** he had made in his life. Some of these decisions had been wise, while others had directed to deep regret. His wife, Margaret, who sat beside him, shared similar feelings. Over the years, they had both experienced **chance encounters** and **life-changing experiences**, but now, in their later years, they wished they had done things differently.

Robert sighed and said, "If I **had taken** that scholarship abroad, I **might have built** a completely different life. I still remember when I got the offer, but I hesitated because I was afraid of leaving home. Now, I **kick myself** for not being braver."

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Margaret nodded and added, "I feel the same way. I should have **pursued** my passion for painting, I **could have had** a career as an artist. Instead, I chose a safer job that I never truly enjoyed. Looking back, I **can't believe my luck** in meeting you, but I definitely wish we had taken more risks."

Despite their regrets, Robert and Margaret also recognized their **fortunate** moments. "At the very least," Robert reflected, "we were **in the right place at the right time** when we met. That is a beautiful part of my life that I would never change."

Comprehension Questions:

1. **Why does Robert regret not accepting the scholarship?**

   a) He wanted to stay with Margaret.

   b) He was afraid of leaving home.

   c) He did not have enough money.

   d) He did not get the scholarship offer.

2. **What was Margaret's regret?**

   a) Not traveling abroad.

   b) Not pursuing her dream of being an artist.

   c) Not meeting Robert sooner.

   d) Choosing a difficult career.

3. **What does "kick yourself" mean in the passage?**

   a) To celebrate success.

   b) To be physically active.

   c) To feel regret for a missed opportunity.

   d) To feel happy about a past decision.

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4. **Which phrase describes Robert and Margaret's positive reflection?**

a) "I can't believe my luck"

b) "We were in the right place at the right time"

c) "I kick myself"

d) "I wish I had taken more risks"

5. **Why does Margaret say she "can't believe her luck"?**

a) Because she won the lottery .

b) Because she met Robert despite her regrets.

c) Because she became a famous artist.

d) Because she had no regrets.

True or False:

6. Robert regrets taking the scholarship abroad. True False

7. Margaret wishes she had chosen a safer job. True False

8. They believe that meeting each other was a fortunate event. True False

Open Question:

9. What is one major regret you have? Use "I wish" to share your answer.

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10. Do you think regrets can be useful for personal growth? Why or why not?

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