

Skills Test Unit 8

Everyday English

1 Complete the dialogue with the phrases below.

Good luck Poor you Did you have Lucky you What about

Tim Hi James. ¹ _____ a good weekend?

James Not really. I lost my bag, with my laptop in it, in town on Saturday.

Tim Oh dear! ² _____ ! Did you find it?

James No, I didn't. I reported it to the police. ³ _____ your weekend?

Tim It was great! I went to see my favourite band in concert!

James ⁴ _____ ! Oh, I hope someone returns my laptop.

Tim ⁵ _____ . I hope you get it back.

Reading

Charles Dickens

The English writer Charles Dickens was born in 1812 in Portsmouth, England. He grew up in a large family with seven brothers and sisters. As a child he spent a lot of time reading and enjoyed being outdoors. He didn't get much formal education because he left school early and got a job in the same factory where his father worked as a clerk. His father had problems with money and had to go to prison because of his debts. Dickens tried very hard to raise some money to free his father, but he wasn't successful. His father only came out of prison when Dickens' grandmother died and left them some money.

Before Dickens became a political journalist, in 1831, he worked at the law office of Ellis and Blackmore in London as a junior clerk. He became famous in 1836, when he started writing *The Pickwick Papers*. He edited a weekly journal for twenty years, and also wrote fifteen novels, including *Oliver Twist* and *David Copperfield*. He also wrote hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles. He wasn't just a writer, though; he also campaigned for children's rights and social reforms.

Dickens fell in love with Catherine Hogarth in 1835, and they got married a year later, in 1836. They had the first of their ten children, Charley, in 1837. This was also one of the saddest times of his life, because it was when his sister-in-law, Mary, who lived with them in London, died after a short illness. Dickens and his wife Catherine stayed together for twenty-two years, but got divorced in 1858, a year after Dickens fell madly in love with an actress, Ellen Ternan. His love for Ellen lasted until he died, in 1870.

At just twenty years old, Dickens already knew that he wanted to become famous. Later in his life, and after his death and the beginning of the 20th century, critics recognized him as a literary genius. Today, he is considered one of the most successful writers of all time.

2 Read the text about Charles Dickens and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Charles Dickens' parents had eight children. _____
- 2 As a child, Dickens wasn't interested in reading. _____
- 3 As a young man, Dickens wanted to help his father get out of prison. _____
- 4 Dickens was a clerk in an office before he started working as a political journalist. _____
- 5 He wrote two novels and hundreds of short stories. _____
- 6 He married Catherine in 1836. _____
- 7 Dickens was very sad when his sister died in 1837. _____
- 8 Dickens and Catherine were together for twenty-two years. _____
- 9 Dickens fell in love with an actress, Ellen Ternan. _____
- 10 Dickens became famous after he died. _____

Vocabulary

3 Complete the text with the correct form of the words below.

have divorce university married story grow up born a job novel die

Roald Dahl, one of the world's best-selling authors, was ¹ _____ in Wales in 1916. He wrote mainly short ² _____ and ³ _____. His stories include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Dahl's parents were from Norway, but Dahl ⁴ _____ in Wales. After he finished school, he didn't go to ⁵ _____, but instead got ⁶ _____ at the Shell Petroleum Company and went to work in Kenya. He got ⁷ _____ to American actress Patricia Neal in 1953 and they ⁸ _____ five children. They stayed together for thirty years, but got ⁹ _____ in 1983. Roald Dahl ¹⁰ _____ in 1990.

4 Use a suffix to make these nouns into adjectives. Then complete the sentences.

power wonder music politics peace success nature profession

- 11 My uncle is a _____ businessman. He runs three different companies!
- 12 I watched the _____ debate on TV on Saturday morning. I thought the Prime Minister had some interesting views.
- 13 I had a _____ birthday party. It was a surprise party. I didn't know it was going to happen.
- 14 Sri Lanka is a country full of _____ beauty. It has beautiful mountains and beaches.
- 15 I think _____ football players earn too much money. Some of them earn hundreds of thousands of pounds a week!
- 16 When Slovakia and the Czech Republic separated, it was very _____. There was no conflict between the two countries.
- 17 I come from a _____ family. My grandparents, parents and brothers all play at least three instruments.
- 18 A lion is one of the most dangerous and _____ animals in Africa. It is strong and fast.

Grammar

5 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

I ¹ _____ (see) a film called *The Lost Sister* last night. It ² _____ (be) about a man who ³ _____ (travel) to Africa to meet his sister. He ⁴ _____ (not know) his sister because their parents ⁵ _____ (divorce) when they ⁶ _____ (be) very young and they ⁷ _____ (not grow up) together. When they eventually ⁸ _____ (meet), they both ⁹ _____ (cry) with happiness. I really ¹⁰ _____ (enjoy) the film.

6 Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verbs below.

stop make leave finish go open

1 He _____ the door and _____ home for ever.

2 I _____ my assignment and gave it to my teacher.

3 It _____ raining so we _____ for a walk.

4 Unfortunately, our favourite restaurant wasn't _____, so we _____ dinner at home.

Writing

7 Write a narrative about a memorable day in your life. Remember to use past simple and narrative adverbs.

Follow the plan:

Paragraph 1: Introduction: what happened?

Paragraph 2: The start of the day.

Paragraph 3: Later in the day.

Paragraph 4: How you feel about the day.

Send your writing to your teacher's email.