

8. When I was younger I _____ (**play**) badminton for my local team.
9. In the past few years, it _____ (**become**) more and more difficult to get into university.
10. I _____ (**enjoy**) skiing ever since I _____ (**live**) in Switzerland.
11. I _____ (**have**) these shoes since my eighteen birthday.
12. We _____ (**live**) in Newcastle for three years now and like it a lot.
13. The last time I _____ (**go**) to Brighton was in August.
14. When my parents were on holiday, I _____ (**stay**) with my grandparents for two weeks.
15. I _____ (**not see**) Rachel for ages. She _____ (**not visit**) us since July.

C. READING

I. Read the passage and fill in the blanks with the suitable words.

THE BEATLES

In the 1960s, The Beatles were probably the (1) _____ famous pop group in the whole world. Since then, there have (2) _____ a great many groups that have achieved enormous fame, so it is perhaps difficult now to imagine how sensational The Beatles were at the time. They were four boys from the north of (3) _____ and none of them had any training in music. They started by performing and recording songs (4) _____ black Americans and they had some success with these songs, then they (5) _____ writing their own songs and that was when they became really popular. The Beatles changed pop music. They were the first (6) _____ group to achieve great success from songs they had written themselves. After that it became common for groups and singers to write their own (7) _____. The Beatles did not have a long career. Their first hit record was in 1963 and they split up (8) _____ 1970. They stopped doing live performances in 1966 because it had become too dangerous for them their fans were so excited (9) _____ they surrounded them and tried to take their clothes as souvenirs! However, today some of their songs remain as (10) _____ as they were when they first came out. Throughout the world, many people can sing part of a Beatles song if you ask them.

II. Choose the word or phrase among A, B, C or D that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

Either boys or girls, usually aged from seven to ten, play the two-person game of "Mandarin's Box". They draw a rectangle on the ground and (1) _____ it into ten small squares called "rice fields" or "fish ponds".

They also draw two additional semi-circular boxes at the two (2) _____ of the rectangle, which are called "mandarin's boxes" – the game's name, each person has 25 small pebbles and a bigger stone.

Each player places the stone in one of the mandarin's boxes and five small pebbles in each of the other squares. Then the game begins. The first player takes up the contents of one square on his or her side of the board, but not a mandarin's box and distributes the pebbles one by one, (3) _____ with the text square in (4) _____ direction. Since each square contains five pebbles at the beginning, the first move will distribute five pebbles to the left or right.

After the last pebble is distributed, the player takes the contents of the following square and repeats the distribution (5) _____. But if the following square is one of the mandarin's boxes, the turn ends and passes to the other player.

If the last pebble falls into a square that precedes one empty square, the player wins all the contents of the square following the empty square and (6) _____ these pebbles from the board. However, if there are two or more empty squares in a row, the player (7) _____ his or her turn.

Once a player has taken pebbles from the board, the turn is (8) _____ to the other player. If all five squares on one player's side of the board are emptied at any time, that player must place one pebble he or she has aside back in each of the five squares so that the game can resume.

The game (9)_____ until the two mandarin's boxes both been (10)_____. At the end of the game, the player with more pebbles wins, with each of the large stones counting as ten points.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. divide | B. share | C. separate | D. leave |
| 2. A. aims | B. ends | C. small points | D. stops |
| 3. A. start | B. starting | C. start | D. having started |
| 4. A. no | B. all | C. either | D. both |
| 5. A. action | B. method | C. change | D. process |
| 6. A. ends | B. disappears | C. leaves | D. removes |
| 7. A. loses | B. succeeds | C. fails | D. wins |
| 8. A. gone | B. made | C. handed | D. rewarded |
| 9. A. starts | B. pauses | C. stops | D. continues |
| 10. A. held | B. taken | C. moved | D. accepted |

III. Read the reading passage and choose the correct answer.

Cardamom is not as widely used as a spice in the United States as it is in other parts of the world. This fruit of the ringer plant provides oil that basically has been used *solely* as a stimulant in American and English medicines. Other cultures organized the *multipurpose* benefits of this aromatic fruit. In Asia it is used to *season* sauces such as *curry*, in Middle Eastern countries it is *steeped* to prepare a flavorful golden-colored tea; in parts of Northern Europe it is used as a spice in various types of pastry.

- The word "*solely*" in the passage could best be placed by _____.
 A. initially B. only C. reportedly D. healthfully
- The word "*multipurpose*" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
 A. health B. singular C. recognized D. varied
- Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word "*season*" in line 5 _____.
 A. divided B. forecast C. spice D. put a time limit
- "*curry*" in the passage is _____.
 A. the fruit of the ringer plant B. a spicy type of sauce
 C. a culture in the area of the Middle East D. a type of golden-colored tea
- The word "*steeped*" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
 A. soaked B. dried C. stored D. grown

D. WRITING

I. Write sentences beginning *I wish...*

- I don't know many people in the town.
I wish I knew many people in the town.
- It would be nice to be able to fly a plane.

- It's a shame I don't have a key.

- Ann isn't here and I need to see her.

5. I don't like being so short.

6. Unfortunately, I have to work tomorrow.

7. Don't shout all the time. It's so annoying.

8. I'm sorry I can't go to the party.

9. I'd like to get access to the Internet, but I don't have a computer.

10. It's a pity the weather isn't better today.

II. Write the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the word in brackets.

1. No one told me about the change of the plan. **(know)**

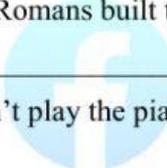
2. When I was a child, we lived in Bristol. **(used)**

3. My friend was the winner of the competition. **(won)**

Ms. Khánh Hà's class

4. Is it a fact that the Romans built this wall? **(did)**

5. She's sorry she can't play the piano. **(wishes)**

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6. Our trip to Africa was in October. **(We)**

7. It was breakfast-time when Susan rang. **(I)**

8. There were lights on the spacecraft. **(had)**

9. I had my old coat on. **(wearing)**

10. It isn't true that I made a mistake. **(didn't)**
