
CHAPTER 7 – PRIVATE LIVES

PART A: Vocabulary

Read each sentence below. Then, use context to guess the meaning of the boldfaced word, and circle the answer that is closest to the meaning

Example: It was a beautiful day at the beach, with the sun glistening on the water.

- a. swimming **b. shining** c. setting

1. After a long day at work, a hot bath can be very soothing.

- a. exciting b. uncomfortable c. comforting

2. My house in the mountains is my sanctuary. I go there to think and relax.

- a. cottage b. office c. safe, special place

3. The boy walked barefoot and cut his toe on a piece of glass.

- a. slowly b. like a child c. without shoes

4. Alice went to a temple to mourn the loss of her mother.

- a. talk about b. feel sad about c. smile about

5. On Saturday, Paul likes to hang out at home and watch soccer on TV.

- a. relax b. work c. study

PART B: Language Focus

Circle the correct form of the verb to complete each sentence below.

Example: My wife and I (went) have gone / had gone) to Thailand for vacation two years ago.

1. My parents (got / have gotten / had gotten) married 25 years ago.

2. By the time Susan came home last night, her family (ate / has eaten / had eaten) dinner.

3. Last weekend, I saw a movie, went shopping, and (took / have taken / had taken) a long walk.

4. Michelle (visited / has visited / had visited) Toronto many times.

5. Before traveling to Seattle last year, I (was never / have never been / had never been) to the U.S.

PART C: Comprehension

1. The author chose her special beach when she _____, and never changed beaches after that?
- A. moved to Florida
 - B. moved to North Carolina
 - C. was in college
2. What is not true about the author?
- A. She has positive feelings about Jack.
 - B. She and Tom had talked about getting married.
 - C. She has always been slim.

PART D: Reading comprehension

Read the text and answer the following question

A Special Place

by Michael Hainsbury

I grew up in a small farming town in the American Midwest. It was the 1970s, and my family lived in an old three-story house on an acre or so of land on a quiet, tree-lined street. It was one of those small towns where everyone knew each other, and people seldom even bothered to lock their doors.

There was nothing special about my childhood. It was the childhood of thousands of other kids, growing up in a small town in the rural U.S. My friends and I ran barefoot all summer long. We swam in the creeks and ponds, and played hide-and-seek in the woods. It was a safe, simple, and peaceful way to grow up.

In my teens, I started to realize that there was a whole world outside of our little town. The more I learned about that world, the more I craved to leave, to go out on my own, explore, and create my own story. After graduating from university, I did just that. I packed my bags, traveled halfway around the world, and never looked back.

I have lived in Tokyo, Japan, for over twenty years now. For the most part, it has been an amazing adventure, and I am thrilled every day to wake up and know that I am a part of one of the world's biggest and most exciting cities.

Over the years, I have only returned to Ohio a few times for weddings, funerals, or the occasional side trip when I happen to be in another part of the U.S. for business or some other reason. It is always wonderful to catch up with family and old friends, to eat my mother's cooking, and fill my lungs with the fresh air of the countryside.

I returned to my hometown this past summer. The trip was only ten days long, and besides visiting family and friends, it was pretty uneventful as usual. But as I looked around the place where I had grown up, I realized something. Even though I have traveled thousands of miles over the years, even though I now spend my days using a language my family cannot understand, and even though I now call a place on the other side of the planet 'home,' there will always be a part of that quiet, little Ohio town in me. Somehow, just knowing that feels really great.

1. Which of the following is not true about the writer's childhood?
 - A. He grew up in the 1970s.
 - B. He grew up in an old house on an acre of land.
 - C. He grew up on a quiet, tree-lined street.
 - D. He grew up in a large, Midwestern American town.
2. What can we infer about the phrase "people seldom even bothered to lock their doors" in paragraph 1?
 - A. The town had a lot of crime.
 - B. The town was very safe.
 - C. No one went out at night in the town.
 - D. People didn't have locks on their doors.
3. Which of the following is not mentioned as a favorite childhood activity of the writer?
 - A. Playing hide-and-seek
 - B. Running barefoot
 - C. Swimming in creeks and ponds
 - D. Playing with thousands of other children
4. When did the writer start to think about leaving his hometown?
 - A. After university
 - B. When he was a teenager
 - C. When he was out on his own
 - D. When he was halfway around the world
5. In paragraph 3, "craved" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. imagined
 - B. considered
 - C. desired
 - D. excited