

### **Practice 1**

You are going to read an extract from an article. For questions 19 to 26, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) and mark the correct letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet.

My wife and I decided that we should do something for society. My wife suggested running an old folks' home as we both had seen our parents struggling through their illness in their later years. We had looked after our parents with much love and had watched them go in peace. But there were so many other lonely souls who had nobody. Perhaps we could do something for them.

My father's last words rang in my ears. He had said that we should give more to society when we could. He had been a living example of his words. He always helped people in need. Whether people needed a hot meal, some advice or some cash, he was there for them. However, he didn't do anything with hopes of getting something in return. He told me specifically not to expect anything from anyone. Thus, I will never be disappointed. Do not keep hatred in your heart, he had said. Do not spoil you're your todays by worrying about tomorrow. Live a simple, you really don't need a lot of luxurious items to be happy. His words had had a powerful impact on me.

Yesterday, I had one of those moments which stay in our memories for a long time. A 92-year-old man moved into our folks' home. He looked well and carried himself with great dignity. He was one who took great trouble with his appearance. His wife had just passed away. Now he needed looking after. I described the small room to him in great detail, including the curtains that hung in his room.

"I like it very much," he said with an enthusiasm of an eight-year-old boy who had been given a small puppy

"Sir, you haven't seen the room yet. Hang on a moment, we're almost there," I said.

"That has nothing to do with it", he replies. "Happiness is something to choose in advance. Whether I like it or not does not depend on the furniture or the décor. It depends on how I decide to see it. It is already decided in my mind that I like my room. It is a decision I take every day in the morning. I can choose. I can spend the day counting all the difficulties that I have with the different parts of my body that no longer work very well or I can get up and give thanks to the heavens for those parts that are still in working order. Every day is a gift and as long as I can open my eyes, I will focus on the new day and all the memories that I have built up during my life. Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw in later life what you deposited along the way. My advice to you is to deposit all happiness you can in your bank account of memories".

I listened quietly to the old man's comments. I found out that his name is Steven. He had a wonderful attitude to life. He didn't grumble about what he didn't have. Neither did he grouse about the situation he was in. He had such a wonderfully positive outlook that it was infectious. During his stay, he talked to the other people who were there and helped them in whatever way he could. He would take the morning coffee for wheelchair-bound Mrs. Tan and read the newspapers for Mr. Siva who was visually impaired. Sometimes he would break into one of those evergreen melodies and make everyone else sing along with him. Steve was a ray of sunshine n our home and I was glad that he was there.

One morning the nurse went to take Steven as he hadn't risen as usual. She rushed out within seconds to say that Steven had passed away. An atmosphere of gloom descended on the home. Our lives had been enriched by Steven's presence. It was how one had lived and whose lives had been touched by one's presence that mattered. Steven had touched our lives with his love and positive attitude. Mrs. Siva hummed one of the songs Steven used to sing. The other joined too.

1. From paragraph 1, why did the writer decide to start an old people's home?

- A Many parent struggles with illness.
- B He wanted to help his ageing parents.
- C He wanted to help society move forward.
- D There were many people who had no help.

2. In paragraph 2, the phrase living example can best be replaced with ..

- A icon
- B model
- C clone
- D match

3. When would the writer not be disappointed?

- A When he leads a simple life
- B If he doesn't expect any repayment.
- C If he doesn't have great hopes for tomorrow.
- D When he doesn't always hold hatred in his heart.

4. From paragraph 3, we know that the 92-year-old man

- A needed help in walking.
- B had lost his wife years ago.
- C held himself with respect.
- D was very independent.

5. From paragraph 5, what does the old man's response regarding his room say about his character?

- A He is positive minded.
- B He is quick with his judgement.
- C He sees things in a light manner.
- D He hopes things work to his benefit.

6. Which of the following phrases identifies Steven's attitude to his later years?

- A "as long as I can open my eyes".
- B "memories that I have built up".
- C "that no longer work very well"
- D "give thanks to the heaven".

7. From paragraph 7, which of the following phrases does not show his 'wonderfully positive outlook?

- A he didn't grouse
- B he didn't grumble
- C he didn't sing
- D he helped them in whatever way

8. In the last paragraph, we know that the main point is

- A Steven had passed away.
- B there was gloom in the home.
- C Mr Siva sang one of Steven's songs
- D Steven enriched the lives of the people.

## **Practice 2**

You are going to read an extract from a story. For **question 1 to 8**, choose the correct answer (**A, B, C or D**) and mark the correct letter **A, B, C or D** on your answer sheet.

The Creightons were very proud of their son, Frank. When he went to college, naturally they missed him; but he wrote and they looked forward to his letters and saw him on weekends. Then Frank was drafted into the army. After he had been in the army for about five months, he received his call to go to Vietnam. Of course, the parents' anxiety for his first letter was greater than ever before. And every week they heard from him and were thankful for his well-being.

Then one week went by without a letter, two weeks and finally three. At the end of the third week a telegram came, saying, "We regret to inform you that your son has been missing for three weeks and is presumed to have been killed in action while fighting for his country."

The parents were shocked and grieved. They tried to accept the situation and go on living, but it was tragically lonesome without Frank.

About three weeks later, however, the phone rang. When Mrs. Creighton answered it, a voice on the other end said, "Mother, it's Frank. They found me, and I'm going to be all right. I'm in the United States and I'm coming home soon." Mrs. Creighton was elated, with tears running down her cheeks, she sobbed, "Oh, that's wonderful! That's just wonderful, Frank."

There was silence for a moment, and then Frank said, "Mother I want to ask you something that is imperative to me. While I've been here, I've met a lot of wonderful people and I've really become close friends with some. There is one fellow I would like to bring home with me to meet you and Dad. And I would like to know if it would be all right if he could stay and live with us, because he has no place to go." His mother assured him it would be all right.

Then Frank said, "You see, he wasn't as fortunate as some; he was injured in battle. He was hit by a blast and his face is all disfigured. He lost his leg, and his right hand is missing. So you see, he feels apprehensive about how others will accept him."

Frank's mother stopped to think a minute. She began to wonder how things would work out with a cripple at home, and she worried about how the people in town would react to someone like that. She said, "Sure Frank, you bring him home, for a visit, that's it. We would love to meet him and have him stay for a while; but about him staying with us permanently, well, we'll have to think about that." There was silence for a minute, and then Frank said, "Okay, Mother," and hung up.

A week went by without any word from Frank, and then a telegram arrived, "We regret to inform you that your son has taken his own life. We would like you to come and identify the body." Their wonderful son was gone. The devastated parents could only ask themselves, "Why had he done this?"

When they walked into the room to identify the body of their son, they found a young man with a disfigured face, one leg missing, and his right hand gone.

*(Adapted from The Army Son (Author unknown), <https://www.inspirationalstories.com/0/96.html>)*

1. In paragraph 2, the phrase fighting for his country means?

- A He was fighting the Vietnam army in his country.
- B He was fighting against Vietnam as United States army.
- C He was one of the Vietnam army to fight for their country.
- D He was fighting for Vietnam and United States of America.

2. In paragraph 3, why were the parents tragically lonesome?

- A They were shocked to hear news about Frank.
- B They had accepted the situation and went on living.
- C They received a call from Frank after four weeks.
- D They found it hard to cope life after Frank was gone.

3. In paragraph 4, why was Mrs. Creighton elated?

- A She had been found and is coming home.
- B She had received a telegram from the army.
- C Her son had been found and is coming home.
- D Her son had received a call from the army.

4. In paragraph 5, it has been mentioned that he wasn't as fortunate as some. Who was the person?

- A Mrs. Creighton's son.
- B Frank's friend.
- C Mr. Creighton.
- D Frank's dad.

5. How long was Frank missing before the army presumed him dead?

- A One week.
- B Two weeks.
- C Three weeks.
- D Four weeks.

6. Mrs. Creighton hesitated on Frank's request. Why was she uncertain about her son's wish?

- A She was worried about how the rest of the family will react to the situation.
- B She wondered how to cope with a cripple in their home.
- C She felt apprehensive about how others would accept her condition.
- D She was not sure of the idea on meeting and having Frank staying for a while.

7. What was the reason Frank took his own life?

- A Frank hesitated to accept his cripple friend.
- B Frank's mother was ashamed of Frank's condition.
- C Frank's mother was worried about how the people in his town would think of him.
- D Frank thought his parents would be ashamed of him.

8. What might be the Creighton's feeling when they see their son's body?

- A Melancholy.
- B Fatigued.
- C Sympathy.
- D Remorseful