

Grammar

A. Choose the correct words to complete the paragraph.

_____ student in my class had to give a presentation about a famous person last week. _____ the students had to work in groups of four. _____ student in the group had to work on part of the presentation. Lara and I were in the same group. _____ us wanted to do a presentation about a singer. Keith and Ricardo were also in our group. _____ them liked our idea. They wanted to do the presentation on a famous athlete instead of a singer. We finally decided to write about Shaquille O'Neil. He was a basketball player who also became a rap singer and recorded a few albums. _____ athlete can easily become a singer because _____ their music is judged harshly by others. In my group, _____ us liked Shaquille's music, but a few of his songs were popular. He was definitely an interesting person to learn about for our presentation.

B. Complete the blog post. Rewrite the sentences changing a word into a *gerund*.

What do you remember most about your childhood? Post your memories!

1. My happiest times were go on vacation with my family.

2. When I was young, we'd ride bikes everywhere, have fun wherever we went.

3. I remember neighbors invite me over for cookies when I was young.

4. A highlight for me was be at the top of my class.

5. I remember talk on the phone with my friends for hours.

6. I used to stay in my room all day, listen to my favorite music.

C. Select the correct form of the next verb according to the meaning.

1. When I talk to Julia I try not to talk / not talking about John. She has been really sensitive since the breakup.

2. After my last visit to the doctor, I stop to drink / drinking coke because my sugar levels were high.

3. I will always remember to go / going fishing with my dad for the first time.

4. I spilled some coffee on my way to work so I needed to stop to get / getting cleaned before my presentation this morning.

Vocabulary

D. Complete the conversation. Choose the correct expression from the box.

get in her way	get to be	get her down	get to the top	get off the ground
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Carla: How's your sister doing, Marvin?

Marvin: She's great. You know, she's really worked hard to _____. Her t-shirt business is in sales on the Internet right now.

Carla: Really? That's great.

Marvin: Yeah. She started designing t-shirts five years ago, but the company didn't really _____ until two years ago. Once it started, it took another year for her to make money.

Carla: Why did it take so long?

Marvin: Well, some unexpected things seemed to _____ at first. You know, like some of her designs didn't print well on the t-shirts and that kind of things. But she didn't let it _____. She stayed positive and kept working hard. Now, it's one of the most popular t-shirt companies around.

Carla: How did it _____ so popular?

Marvin: Well, she does a lot of advertising on social networking sites. That really helped.

E. Read the words in bold. Choose a word from the right column that has a similar meaning and can replace the word in bold. Write it on the line. Make any necessary modifications so it fits in the sentence.

1. It's difficult to **continue with** your life when you get divorced, but you can still be happy. _____.

2. To fight crime I think the **countries** should try to focus on better education for their **people**. _____, _____.

3. Our school has this new **program** for doing homework that consists on staying after classes until you finish all your work and I think it's working. _____.

4. Troy and Melissa are doing good in their business, even though they **didn't start so good**. _____.

5. Isn't happiness what we're all looking for? That's why I think it should be **at the top of the list** of every government. _____.

citizen
get on with
priority
get off to a good start
policy
nation

Conversation strategy

F. Choose the correct expression to complete the conversation. There is one expression that you do not need to use.

Oli: I saw your brother Dan yesterday. _____, he seems pretty happy with his.

Dawn: Oh, yes. He loves his new job! He's making a lot of money, too.

Oli: Well, _____, I don't think it makes people happy. I'm happy, and I'm not rich!

Dawn: It's true. You are always happy, Oli. What's your secret?

Oli: You know, _____, it's all about spending time with family and friends. I don't think you can define happiness _____.

Dawn: That's true. But work does make some people happy, and having money is nice! Just ask my brother.

- a) as far as money is concerned
- b) in terms of money or work
- c) when it comes to enjoying my life
- d) as far as careers go
- e) in terms of where you live

Listening

G. Listen to three people talking about success. What two things make each person successful?

Education Exercise Friends Luck Persistence Vision

1. Debra
2. Kobe
3. Maya

Writing

H. What is happiness and what is not? Can it be defined or quantified? Should it be a person's or community's life goal? If so, how would you find it? Write an essay discussing these topics. Use phrases to add ideas in writing. Write from 60 – 70 words.

Reading

I. Read the article. Then read the statements and check "True", "False" or "Not given" if the information is not given.

Music and happiness

Can music make people happy? According to experts it can. Many people find great enjoyment in sitting and listening to music. Playing musical instruments, singing, and dancing to music can bring joy to people as well. Apparently, there's a good reason why. Studies show that music enables part of the brain to release a chemical that makes people feel good.

This may be one reason why music is so important to many people. In fact, music has been shown to have many positive effects. In one study, a group of college students listened to the classical music, while another group didn't listen to any music. The students who listened to the classical music before a test had higher scores than those who didn't. In another study, listening to music helped foreign language students learn hundreds of new words in one day and they remember 92% of the new vocabulary.

Music is also good for those who want to keep fit. All of the subjects in one study were found to benefit from listening to music while exercising. Their heart muscles worked harder when compared to those people who exercised but didn't listen to music.

Besides these benefits, music is also known to improve mental health, help people recover from illness, and lower stress levels. Thus it seems that everyone can benefit from the positive effects of music.

True False Not given

1. Many more people get enjoyment from listening to music than from playing musical instruments.
2. When people listen to music, a chemical in the brain is released.
3. Classical music can help students learn large numbers of vocabulary items.
4. The heart muscles work harder in people who don't listen to music while exercising.
5. People who exercise while listening to music are able to lose weight more quickly.
6. Music can benefit people who are sick.