

Learning a Language

(Olivia McMahon — Scotland)

is like doing a jigsaw puzzle
of a million 1) _____
with a picture that keeps changing.
It's like getting lost in a foreign city
without 2) _____
It's like playing tennis without a ball,
like being 3) _____ in a field of grasshoppers.
It's being an acrobat with a broken leg,
an actor without a script,
a carpenter 4) _____ a saw,
a storyteller without a middle or an end.

But then gradually
it's like being out in the early morning
5) _____
It's like a chink of light under a door,
like finding the glove you were looking for,
6) _____ you thought you were going to miss,
getting an unlooked-for present,
7) _____

And then one day it's like 8) _____
very fast downhill.

- A) pieces
- B) catching the train
- C) without
- D) a map.
- E) riding a bicycle
- F) an ant
- G) with the mists lifting.
- H) exchanging a smile.