

EmSAT English – Practice Test 1

Text 2

Empire State Building

Known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World, the Empire State Building is located in New York City. It has 102 **stories**, which made it the tallest building in the world until 1972.

In the 1700s, the land where the Empire State Building is now located was the John Thompson Farm. In the 1800s, a luxury hotel, the Waldorf Astoria, was built there. Then, in the late 1920s, the land was bought by the Bethlehem Engineering Corporation for about \$16 million (approximately 58 million Dirhams), and in 1930 construction of the Empire State Building began.

At that time, the Empire State Building was in a world competition, or race, to be the world's tallest building. The Eiffel Tower, built in 1889, was 295 meters tall. About 3,400 workers, mostly from Europe, built the Empire State Building. Also helping on the project were hundreds of Native Americans who were very good iron workers. Five workers died during the construction of this building. It was finished on 1 May 1931, with a height of 443 meters, making it 148 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower. For the time, the Empire State Building was a huge building, with 85 floors for offices, 73 elevators, 6,500 windows, more than 100 public toilets, and 1,576 steps from bottom to top.

The Empire State Building is one of the most famous buildings in the world, and there are many interesting stories about it. For example, in the race to be the tallest building, the designers had to add five floors at the last minute to make sure it would be taller than the Chrysler Building, also in New York. And since the 102nd floor was originally designed to be a landing platform for gas-filled airships, they decided to add a tower to tie the airships on to, just to make sure that it remained the tallest building. Another story about the building is that of Elvira Adams, who jumped from the 86th floor but was saved when high winds blew her back into an 85th floor window. And did you know that the last rivet, or bolt, put into the building is made of solid gold?

Today, about twenty thousand people work in the Empire State Building, and about four thousand tourists a day go up to the building's observatory to enjoy a wonderful view of New York City. There is also a race every year, called the Empire State Building Run-Up. In this competition, runners race up the steps to the top of the building. The fastest time was in 1978, when Australian runner Paul Crake ran up the 1,576 steps in only 9 minutes and 33 seconds.

Although there are now several buildings in New York that are taller than the Empire State Building, it is surely one of the best-known and best-loved landmarks in the city.

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Questions:

1. The main idea of the text is _____.
 - A. The Empire State Building is located in New York.
 - B. The size of Empire State Building makes it one of the seven New Wonders of the world.
 - C. The Empire State building Run-Up is organized every year.
 - D. Despite competition, the Empire State Building is still one of the famous seven wonders of the modern world.

2. The word **stories** in paragraph 1 refers to _____.
 - A. plans
 - B. books
 - C. buildings
 - D. floors

3. The Empire State Building was the world’s tallest building for about how many years?
 - A. 30
 - B. 40
 - C. 60
 - D. 70

4. According to the text, what was the land last used for before the Empire State Building was built there?
 - A. apartments
 - B. a hotel
 - C. a farm
 - D. a factory

5. The Native Americans mentioned in the text were very good at _____.
 - A. Building the stairs
 - B. Putting in windows
 - C. Working with metal
 - D. Making the observatory

6. How many workers died during the construction of the Empire State Building?
 - A. Less than 10
 - B. Between 20 and 30
 - C. Just over 50
 - D. Nearly 100

7. Where in the text is the best place to put the sentence, “It took about 15 months to finish”?
 - A. Beginning of the paragraph 2
 - B. Middle of the paragraph 3
 - C. Beginning of paragraph 4
 - D. End of paragraph 5

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8. What is the main theme of paragraph 4?
- A. Stories about the Empire State Building
 - B. The history of the Empire State Building
 - C. The 85 floors of the Empire State Building
 - D. Accidents at the Empire State Building
9. According to the text, which one of these statements is true?
- A. Many people still work at the Empire State Building.
 - B. The Eiffel Tower is taller than the Empire State Building.
 - C. Tourists are not allowed to go up to the observatory.
 - D. A luxury hotel will replace the Empire State Building.
10. What is the record time for the Empire State Building Run-Up (in minutes: seconds)?
- A. 15:76
 - B. 19:78
 - C. 20:00
 - D. 09:33

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Text 3

“The Transfers”

Loren had been surreptitiously moving money from the accounts of his bank’s wealthiest clients to one he created for himself in the Cayman Islands for over 8 years. He had every reason to believe that no one suspected a thing, and he knew the money would be safe in an offshore account.

He had been prudent with all the money he had embezzled from Signet Bank. He wore secondhand suits to his job as a bank teller there. He rode his bike from Anacostia— the squalid, blighted neighborhood he called home— to his Dupont Circle branch each day.

He rarely traveled outside of the Washington, DC area. He did nothing at all to raise a red flag. He appeared as nothing more than an 18-dollar-an-hour bank employee in a town where many made millions.

No one, he was sure, had ever scrutinized the **myriad** of transactions that had taken place – dozens, sometimes hundreds of small transfers that amounted to \$9,000 every other week. Otherwise, the truth would have surely come to light a long time ago.

“Nine thousand dollars every other week is just a drop in the bucket to these rich folks,” Loren reasoned. This assuaged his guilt.

In Loren’s mind, it was the greedy people who got caught doing these things. It was the ostentatious ones, too. It was the guys who built multi-million dollar homes with 24 rooms on a pauper’s salary.

To him, the bank was fraught with idiots; no one was capable of unraveling his master plan. No – it was too late for them.

Today was the day Loren would begin reaping the benefits of all his patience and cunning and begin living in blissful obscurity.

After an ordinary day at work, Loren got on his bike and road over the river to National Airport.

As the plane lifted off the runway for the Caribbean, Loren watched intently out the window. He had close to \$2 million collecting interest in the bank and had managed to pull it off, unnoticed.

As the plane landed, Loren finally allowed himself to fully dream of the carefree life he was about to begin. He moved down the airplane steps, across the tarmac and headed toward the airport. The balmy air felt comforting to his skin.

He breathed in slowly and deeply with anticipation, and then he was surprised to hear a familiar voice.

“Hey, Loren. Not so fast.”

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Questions:

1. As used in paragraph 1, which is the best synonym for “surreptitiously”?

- A. easily
- B. carefully
- C. overtly
- D. secretly

2. ***"He had been prudent with all the money he had embezzled from Signet Bank."***

Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the above sentence from paragraph 2 while keeping its original meaning as used in the story?

- A. He had been discreet with all the money he had stolen from Signet Bank.
- B. He had been showy with the funds he had taken from Signet Bank.
- C. He had saved all the money he had deposited into Signet Bank.
- D. He had felt guilty about all the money he had taken from Signet Bank.

3. What were some of the things Loren did NOT DO TO raise suspicion?

- A. He wore the same clothes every day.
- B. He walked to work daily.
- C. He wore second-hand suits and rode his bike to work.
- D. He only made a certain number of transactions per week.

4. The expression "to raise a red flag" (from paragraph 3) means to

- A. be guilty
- B. give a warning signal
- C. appear impoverished
- D. seem very smart

5. What made Loren feel confident his crime would go undetected?

- A. The stolen money was being held at the bank.
- B. He felt no one would suspect a bank teller of fraud.
- C. The money was held in the Island and he did not show his wealth.
- D. Everyone knew he was rich.

6. What kind of expression is "drop in the bucket" (from paragraph 5)?

- A. demonstrative, characterized by the open expression of emotion
- B. idiomatic, characterized by the use of figurative, not literal, language
- C. sarcastic, characterized by the use of harsh or bitter derision, or irony
- D. understatement, characterized by an expression that is weaker than the facts would bear out

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7. As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for “myriad”?
- A. shortage
 - B. number
 - C. multitude
 - D. overflow
8. Which line from the passage best serves as its climax?
- A. “Hey, Loren. Not so fast.” (the final paragraph)
 - B. Otherwise, the truth would have surely come to light a long time ago. (paragraph 4)
 - C. Now it was too late for them. (paragraph 7)
 - D. After an ordinary day at work, Loren got on his bike and road over the river to National Airport. (paragraph 9)
9. Loren's attitude toward his bank colleagues was
- A. benevolent
 - B. disdainful
 - C. accepting
 - D. fearful
10. As used in paragraph 7, what does the phrase “fraught with” mean?
- A. filled with
 - B. short on
 - C. lead by
 - D. visited by