11 Rites of passage

1 Milestones



A **Unscramble the words to make a complete, grammatically correct sentence.**

Example: As soon as I got my first cell phone, I called all my friends.

1. I / old / was / three / the / I / time / two / by / had / languages / already / learned / years

2. I / school / I / before / to / used / watch / all / I / day / was / started / TV / carefree

3. I / bus / taking / the / became / started / I / after / independent / more / by / myself

4. got / I / driver's / my / as / license / let / as / my / soon / drive / me / parents / I / everywhere

5. opened / I / bank / moment / I / account / earned / my / a / own / money / the

6. quit / I / once / learning / studying / I / started / other / languages / English / I

7. high / graduated / I / was / from / I / school / until / unsophisticated / very

8. I / knew / more / I / than / I / became / before / more / independent / my / thought / parents

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Complete these descriptions. Use words from the box.

☐ ambitious	☐ carefree	☐ rebellious
☐ argumentative	☐ naive	☑ sophisticated

1. Sandra is so sophisticated. She always dresses well, she knows lots of intelligent people, and she never says anything silly.
2. I just spent a horrible evening with Patricia. She questioned and criticized everything I said. I wish she weren't so _____.
3. My sister is very _____. She trusts everyone and thinks everyone is good.
4. Once I turned 16, I became less _____, and my parents started to let me do what I wanted.
5. Eric is really _____. He wants to own his own business by the time he's 25.
6. I wish I could be like Susie. She's so _____ and never seems to worry about anything.

3 Do you have a friend who is special to you? Read the two paragraphs carefully. They contain 10 mistakes in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or verb tense. Rewrite the paragraphs making corrections

My best freind is Ana. She are kind, funny and always smiling Ana has long brown hair and brite eyes. She love to read books and plays guitar. We hadn't talked much until we sit next to each other in sience class. Since then, we has been inseperable.

One day I feel really sad because I fail a test. Ana notice right away and sitted with me during lunch. She encouraging me and reminded that one bad grade doesn't defined me. I hadn't understand the topic until she explain it clearly. Thanks too her, I feels more good.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Turning points

A Scan the article from a sports magazine about Usain Bolt. What lesson did he learn as a child? **Choose the best option.**

LEARNING FAST

Usain Bolt is called "Lightning" Bolt because he is considered the fastest man in the world. The Jamaican runner is an Olympic champion in the 100- and 200-meter **sprint**, as well as in the 4x100 relay, a race in which four runners each sprint 100 meters and then pass the baton to the next runner. He is the first man in the modern Olympic Games to win nine gold medals in the sprint. He is also the first athlete to win gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter races as well as in the 4x100 relay race in three Olympic Games, in 2008, 2012, and 2016.

In his autobiography, *Faster than Lightning*, Bolt writes that sports interested him most as a child. He also says that in school he learned something important about himself: he is ambitious because he loves to compete and to win.



He doesn't want to be one of the **runners-up**. This desire to be the best, plus his natural physical speed, brought him to the attention of Pablo McNeil, the former Olympic sprinter who was teaching athletics at Bolt's high school. Pablo McNeil convinced him to concentrate on sprinting and trained him in that sport.

When he was 15, Bolt **launched himself into** world-class athletics in the 2002 World Junior Championships in Jamaica's capital, Kingston. He was so nervous that he put his shoes on the wrong feet! But that was another important lesson: he would never allow stress to affect him again before a race. In spite of his nervousness, he became the youngest World Junior athlete to win the **prestigious** gold medal when he ran in the 200-meter sprint.

At the 2008 Olympic Games, Bolt learned another lesson: he should never stop learning. He broke two records at those games, becoming the fastest sprinter in the 100- and 200-meter race. At the end of the 100-meter race, he shocked everyone when he slowed down before the finish line. He was **ecstatic** because he already knew he was the winner. Some people felt he was too carefree. They thought he should have sprinted all the way. In the following 200-meter race, he didn't slow down. He ran all the way in **record time**, like the fastest man in the world.

B Read the article. Look at the words and phrases in bold in the article. Write definitions or synonyms for each word or phrase.

1. sprint — a short, very fast foot-race
2. runners-up — those who didn't win first place
3. launched himself into — began for first time
4. prestigious — very important
5. ecstatic — very happy
6. record time — fast enough to break a record

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 Write sentences about your regrets. Use *should (not) have.*



1. I spent all my money on clothes. Now I can't afford to take a vacation.
   I shouldn't have spent all my money on clothes.
2. I was very argumentative with my boss, so she fired me.
3. I changed jobs. Now I work in a bank. My job isn't very interesting.
4. I bought a new TV with my credit card. Now I can't afford the payments.
5. I studied music in school, but I'm much better at computer science.
6. I was completely rebellious when I was a student, so I got very bad grades.
7. My friend asked to copy my homework, so I let him. The teacher found out and gave us both Fs.
8. My cousin invited me to a party. I accepted but didn't put the date in my calendar. I forgot all about it.
9. I was very naive when I was younger. I lent money to people, but they hardly ever paid me back.
10. My friend asked for my opinion on her new hairstyle. I told her I didn't like it. Now she's not talking to me.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 *If . . .*

A Rewrite the sentences as hypothetical situations. Use the words given.

1. I should have studied English sooner. (get a better job)
   If I'd studied English sooner, I would have gotten a better job.
2. We should have made a reservation. (eat already)
   _____
3. I should have put on sunscreen. (not get a sunburn)
   _____
4. You should have let me drive. (arrive by now)
   _____
5. I should have ignored your text in class. (not get in trouble)
   _____

B **Complete the next** sentences describing hypothetical situations. Use the verbs in parentheses.



1. dependable If I had been more dependable as a teenager, my parents would have let me borrow the car more often.

2. ambitious
If she had ---------- less ambitious, she wouldn't have ---------- so hard to become CEO.
(be/work)

3. pragmatic
If they had ---------- more pragmatic, they would have ---------- a more realistic solution.
(be/choose)

4. naive
If he hadn't ---------- so naive, he wouldn't have ---------- the scammer.
(be/trust)

5. rebellious
If the student hadn't ---------- so rebellious, he might not have been ---------- from school.
(be/suspend)

6. wise
If I had ---------- to her wise advice, I wouldn't have ---------- that mistake.
(listen/make)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7 Complete the conversation. Circle the correct time expressions and use the correct tense of the verbs given.



Hector: I've made such a mess of my life!

Scott: What do you mean?

Hector: If I hadn't accepted (not accept) a job (as soon as / before / until) I graduated, I _____ (travel) around South America all summer – just like you did. You were so carefree.

Scott: You know, I should _____ (not go) to South America. I should _____ (take) the great job I was offered. (After / Before / Until) I returned from South America,

Hector: But my job is so depressing! (Before / The moment / Until) I started it, I hated it – on the very first day! That was five years ago, and nothing's changed. I should _____ (look) for another job right away.

Scott: Well, start looking now. I posted my résumé online last month, and five companies contacted me right away. If I _____ (not post) my résumé, no one _____ (contact) me. I accepted one of the job offers.

Hector: Really? What's the job?

Scott: It's working as a landscape gardener. (Before / The moment / Until) I saw it, I knew it was right for me.

Hector: But for me right now, the problem is that I get a very good salary and I just bought a house. If I _____ (not buy) the house, I _____ (be able to) take a lower paying job.

Scott: Well, I guess you can't have everything. If I _____ (have) a better salary, I _____ (buy) a house, too.

LIVEWORKSHEETS