



1. Prefix and Suffix Multiple Choice. Choose the correct option (A, B, or C) to complete each sentence.

1. If you do not agree with someone's opinion, you might express your _____.

- A. disagreement
- B. agreement
- C. agreeable

3. She wants to become a famous _____ when she grows up. She loves writing stories.

- A. write
- B. writing
- C. writer

5. Please turn off the lights when you leave the room to avoid _____ electricity.

- A. waste
- B. wasteful
- C. wasting

2. Tom failed the test because he didn't read the instructions properly; he _____.

- A. understood
- B. misunderstood
- C. understanding

4. The heavy rain caused a major _____, delaying all morning trains.

- A. connect
- B. connection
- C. disconnection

6. My little brother is very _____; he always makes friends easily on his first day at school.

- A. friend
- B. friendly
- C. unfriendly

The Sweet Currency: When Chocolate Was Worth More Than Gold

piece of chocolate would have been
literally worth its weight in gold.

Long before European explorers
ever set foot in the Americas, the ancient
Maya and Aztec civilizations held cacao
beans in extremely high regard. To these
powerful societies, cacao was not just a
tasty treat; it
was a sacred gift from the gods and a powerful symbol of wealth. Because
cacao trees only flourished in specific, warm tropical climates, the beans were
scarce, difficult to transport, and highly coveted.

Because of their value, cacao beans naturally evolved into a sophisticated
system of currency. People did not need modern coins or paper bills; instead,
they used bags of cacao beans to carry out everyday business in bustling local
markets. Historical documents and artifacts show that ordinary citizens could
buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and clothing using just a handful of beans. Even
more impressively, people could use cacao to pay their mandatory taxes to the
ruling kings or emperors.

When we walk into a
supermarket today, we rarely think
twice about buying a bar of chocolate.
We simply use paper money, plastic
cards, or digital wallets. However, if
you had lived in Central America
several centuries ago, that same



To give you an idea of just how much things cost back then, historical records reveal fascinating price comparisons. For instance, in Aztec marketplaces, a person could easily purchase a fresh rabbit for about 10 cacao beans. If you wanted to host a grand feast, a large, healthy turkey would cost you roughly 100 beans. Other luxury items, like a fine cotton cape or a ceramic pot, also had strict price tags measured entirely in cacao.

Naturally, where there is valuable money, there will always be crime. Because cacao beans were so precious, some clever and dishonest merchants tried to find ways to beat the system. They would carefully collect empty cacao bean shells and fill them with ordinary dirt, mud, or clay, then sew them back up. They hoped to trick unsuspecting buyers in the crowded market squares. However, sharp-eyed market inspectors were always on the lookout for these fake beans to protect honest traders.

The history of chocolate took a major turn when European explorers arrived in the 16th century. Spanish conquistadors, such as Hernán Cortés, quickly noticed how important the brown beans were to the locals. Recognizing their economic power and unique bitter taste (which the locals drank as a frothy, spicy beverage), the explorers decided to ship sacks of cacao back across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe.

Once the beans reached the royal courts of Europe, they created a sensation. European innovators eventually decided to experiment by mixing the bitter cacao paste with sweet cane sugar, vanilla, and rich milk, transforming it into the sweet, solid chocolate bars we enjoy today. So, the next time you unwrap a piece of candy, remember that your sweet treat carries a long, rich history that once served as the driving force of an ancient empire's economy.

- A. People today (1) _____ purchase chocolate using electronic methods or physical bills, unlike people in past centuries.
- B. Cacao was considered a divine present from deities rather than just a delicious snack by early Central American (2) _____ .
- C. Due to growing only in specific warm weather regions, these valuable beans were difficult to find and heavily (3) _____ .
- D. Everyday people (4) _____ handfuls of these beans to acquire basic necessities and settle government fees.
- E. Fraudulent traders attempted to fool shoppers in crowded trading areas by (5) _____ empty pods with earth or mud.
- F. Spanish adventurers transported large quantities of the brown seeds across the ocean after observing their (6) _____ economic status.

3. Rewrite the following sentences using the causative forms (have/get something done or have someone do / get someone to do).

1. A professional photographer took photos of us at the graduation ceremony.
→ We had _____.
2. The dentist checks my teeth twice a year.
→ I have _____.
3. My father persuaded the plumber to fix the leaking kitchen sink.
→ My father got _____.
4. Someone stole Jane's bicycle while she was at the supermarket.
→ Jane had _____.

5. The tailor is making a new traditional dress for Loan next week.

→ Loan is going to have _____.

4. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets using the Past Simple or "used to".

1. We _____ (live) in a small apartment in the city center, but we moved to a big house last year.
2. What _____ you _____ (do) last night when the power went out?
3. My brother _____ (not like) cats, but now he has two cute kittens at home.
4. Beethoven _____ (compose) some of the most famous classical music in history.
5. People _____ (not have) smartphones or social media fifty years ago.

5. Can you live for one day without smart devices and the Internet? Write about what you would do if you had to spend a day without them.

In your writing, you should write:

- what activities you would do during the day
- who you would spend time with
- what would be difficult without smart devices and the Internet
- whether you would enjoy the experience and why

