

Part 3

Questions 19 to 26

You are going to read an extract from an article. For questions 19 to 26, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) and mark the correct letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet.

It is hard to believe that a kilogram of carrots cost me \$10 000 last summer. I had to completely renovate my kitchen because of the twelve carrots.

I have a vegetable garden and I enjoy eating my own vegetables. One summer I picked a dozen carrots. I then removed the dirt off the carrots by rinsing them in a bucket of water. I usually keep a full bucket of water beside the vegetable plot just for this purpose. But that day, as I was getting up with my twelve carrots, I tripped and fell over the bucket. The water spilled all over my feet and I had to change my shoes and socks. When I was finally done cleaning myself, there was very little time to make dinner with these carrots. They were covered in a large amount of dirt from the garden. So I decided to wash the carrots quickly in the kitchen sink. I put the carrots in the sink, rinsed them with water and watched all the dirt wash away down the drain.

The next day, when I was washing dishes, I noticed that the water was draining out of the sink very slowly. So I went to the store and bought a bottle of special drain cleaner to use in the drain. And the water seemed to drain a little faster. However, the following day, the drain worked even more slowly. I spent \$100 on different kinds of drain cleaners but none of them worked well.

Soon the water stopped draining. I then called a plumber to fix my drain. He tried several different drain cleaners and equipment, but nothing worked as well. So he tried to check the pipes under the house. But when he could not reach them, he cut a hole in the floor, where the drain pipe was, in order to try to find the problem. While doing so, he accidentally cut the hot-water pipe. The hot water sprayed over him, onto the floor, behind the worktops, under the refrigerator, and all over the kitchen. Two hours later, the water was cleaned up, but it had caused a lot of damage to my kitchen.

My refrigerator suddenly stopped working because the water had affected the electrical wires. So I had to call an electrician to come and fix the refrigerator. The electrician had to move the refrigerator to work on the wires. In order to move the refrigerator, he had to balance it on an angle and pull it away from the wall. As he was pulling it away, he tripped over the plumber's tools and fell down. To my dismay, the refrigerator tipped over, crashed into the wall, resulting in a huge hole in the wall.

I called a carpenter to fix the wall. In order to repair the hole in the wall, he had to tear down half of the entire wall. When this was done, the electrician found more electrical problems caused by the water damage. This resulted in the other half of the wall had to be removed to replace the damaged wiring. Meanwhile, the plumber was still looking for the source of the drain problem. As the kitchen was already in a terrible mess, he wanted to cut out a bigger portion of the floor to look at the pipe there. I gave him permission to do so. Finally, after removing that part of the floor, he found the problem: the dirt from the carrots was stuck in the pipe and nothing could go through or go past the clump of dirt, not even water.

I looked at the disaster I had on my hands. There was a sink that did not drain, a refrigerator that was spoilt, a wall that was gone, and part of a floor that was missing. I realised that what I really needed was a new kitchen. So, I called in a building contractor to fix my kitchen. Three weeks later, I had a new sink, a new refrigerator, new cupboards on a new wall, and new tiles on a new floor. And I had \$10 000 less in my fixed-deposit account. However, I have learned my lesson from this unpleasant experience. I never wash carrots in the kitchen sink and I stopped growing them in my garden; I get them, clean and ready to eat, from the store.

Adapted from: *From Carrots to Renovations: How I Spent \$10 000 Without Really Trying*
by Charlotte Sheldrake

- 19 In paragraph 1, how did a kilogram of carrots cost \$10 000?
- A The carrots caused water to spill everywhere.
 - B The carrots were very expensive during summer.
 - C The severe drought had ruined the carrot harvest.
 - D The dirt from the carrots blocked the drain, which led to other serious problems.

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- 20 In paragraph 2, why does the writer keep a pail of water beside the vegetable plot when harvesting the carrots?
- A To easily water the vegetables.
 - B To cool off herself in the hot summer.
 - C To rinse and clean the dirt off the carrots immediately.
 - D To clean herself thoroughly after a day's toil in the garden.
- 21 In paragraph 3, why did the writer spend \$100 on different kinds of drain cleaners?
- A The drains in her house were always dirty and smelled mouldy.
 - B Drain cleaners were necessary household items that she needed.
 - C She was a germophobe who always wanted her kitchen to be sparkling clean.
 - D She had to try a few different kinds of drain cleaners when the first one did not work.
- 22 Which of the following steps was taken to make the sink drain more quickly?
- A \$100 was spent on several different kinds of drain cleaners.
 - B Seek help from a skilled technician to repair the burst pipe.
 - C \$10 000 was forked out to repair the sink and its pipe.
 - D A new sink and a drainpipe were installed.
- 23 In the last paragraph, the writer ended up
- A clearing the clogged drains with enzymatic-based cleaners.
 - B painting over the dirty marks on the kitchen walls.
 - C remodelling the house and the vegetable garden.
 - D redoing the whole kitchen.
- 24 What caused the most damage to the kitchen?
- A The clogged pipes
 - B The water damage
 - C The electrical fault
 - D The clumsy plumber
- 25 How did the writer feel about the incident?
- A She was relieved that her kitchen was still intact.
 - B It was fortunate that she was not injured in a nasty trip.
 - C It is vital to learn extraordinary uses for ordinary things at home.
 - D It acted as a reminder to her to be cautious about doing her daily chores.
- 26 How would you describe the writer's predicaments?
- A Habit is second nature.
 - B It never rains but it pours.
 - C A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
 - D Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.