

Forged Letters 4

There's a saying that desperate times call for desperate measures. What does it mean?
Do you agree with the saying?



clink¹

/kɪŋk/

noun

a sharp ringing sound, such as that made by striking metal or glass.
"the clink of ice in tall glasses"

verb

make or cause to make a clink.
"his ring clinked against the crystal"

to go to the clink – to go to jail

1. Listen and fill the gaps with prepositions _____. Then shadow some of the lines.

In 1993 Lee's convicted of the class D felony.

She got _____ having **to go to the clink**, which was her biggest fear.

But check this out: she's barred _____ almost all libraries and archives. So, her career as a biographer is pretty much over. "Oh-ho, what a punishment, I'm barred _____ all libraries..." What? _____

And the court also told her to attend an alcohol treatment program, but Lee never went.

The FBI tracks _____ a significant number of letters forged _____ Lee and returns the stolen ones to the archives. But they think that many of her letters are still _____ there. _____

And even after she's busted, dealers continue to sell her work as legit.

A couple of the Noël Coward letters ended _____ in a biography of Coward as source material. _____

Yeah, you heard that right. In 2007 two of her forgeries are published in a critically acclaimed book titled "The Letters of Noël Coward".

2. In these sentences two other onomatopoeic words – *rustle* and *buzz* were changed for some forms of *clink*. Try to figure out the correct places for them – you may look up the additional meanings in a dictionary (pay attention to the preposition *up*!)

Examine the sentences and type in either the correct verb or the same form of *clink*

- a) The ice clinked _____ as she dropped it into the glass.
- b) I clinked _____ him but there was no answer.
- c) We clinked _____ the bottles together and gloated.
- d) There is a real clink _____ about the place.



e) He managed to clink _____ up a couple of blankets.

f) We all clinked _____ our glasses together and drank to a happy new year.

g) Many more questions were clinking _____ around in my head.

h) The leaves clinked _____ in

the breeze.

- i) I could hear the clink _____ of coins in his pocket.
- j) Mosquitoes were clinking _____ all around us.
- k) Everyone always said Joe would end up in the clink _____ .
- l) She clinked _____ along the M1 back into town.
- m) He clinked _____ his papers to hide his embarrassment.
- n) The place was clinking _____ with excitement.
- o) The singer confirmed that he and his girlfriend were expecting a boy and said, "I'm clinking _____ !"
- p) His hairstyles generated more clink _____ than his music.
- q) We heard the clink _____ of her dress.
- r) Press the intercom and I'll clink _____ you in.
- s) Let's see if somebody can clink _____ up a cup of coffee.
- t) Many tasty and nutritious meals can be clinked _____ up in next to no time.

3. Unjumble the lines and find the correct place for them (there are two false places marked in the transcript, put X into them).

A. /shy away from the uglier /the book/ parts of her life/ is breezy about /the scam and Lee doesn't/.

B. /very relatable /but her/ plight is/.

C. /brilliant /one FBI / the case /agent on / calls Lee/.

D. /her forgeries / proud of/ pretty /so, Lee – she's/.

So, that's after she's been busted for forgery. ____

Everyone is pretty impressed by Lee. ____ And the bio even says the letters are terrific even if they are fake.

____ She goes so far as to say that some of her work is even better than the original people's.

In 2008 Lee's own memoir's published.

Lee got the last laugh by writing "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"

In truly Israel style, she wasn't actually asking for forgiveness, she was just quoting that line from her forged Dorothy Parker letter.

____ She doesn't seem to be very sorry though.

She's so self-lacerating and doesn't make herself seem like an angel whatsoever.

____ This is why I think the book was such a success. As we all are hustlers in a way, we all wish that we had the courage to tell jerks they're jerks to their face.

And to top it off, her book gets option to become a movie. ____

Listen and check _____



New York's oldest Gay bar and Greenwich Village's oldest bar.

4. Listen and read _____

AS: That's when Jeffry gets involved to work on the screenplay. He sends one of his drafts to Lee.

JW: She read that one and liked it, much to my delight and surprise.

AS: And it all comes full circle.

JW: It was my fortieth birthday. My friends took me on this bar crawl.

AS: It's 2011 and Jeffry and his friends are going to Julius', a gay bar in NYC.

JW: People had been putting costume pieces on me, like, bunny ears and, you know, various wigs and things.

AS: So, here is Jeffry, sitting there in these bunny ears with his friends having a great time. As it's his fortieth birthday, so you know it's gonna get a little messy.



JW: I've had a few drinks by this point and I look across the room and I said "Howdy, that's Lee Israel!"

AS: Now, at this point, Jeff has been working on the screenplay of Lee's memoir for few years. Imagine, you're working night and day writing the script about the person, getting into their mind, obsessing over every detail of their life. Then, drunk in the bar, you spot them sitting across from you. I mean, of course, you gonna say hi, his gotta say hi, right?

JW: So, I staggered over to where Lee was sitting in the front of the bar with a friend. And I said "Lee Israel?" And she said, "Yes", sizing me up. And I said, I'm Jeff Whitty, I wrote the screenplay of your life. And she said, "Oh, I was looking at you over there with those bunny ears on and telling my friend I couldn't wait for you to leave."



AS: That's typical Lee – brutally honest.

JW: And (chuckles) I turned bright red coz I realized what a ridiculous figure I was cutting and you know, I started laughing really hard, and she laughed and you know, I passed the test.

AS: They get burgers a few weeks later, and all's good.

And the movie ends up being pretty big. Melissa McCarthy signs on to play Lee and she does a pretty good job.

JW: The film came out in 2018, in the fall.

AS: But Lee passed away in 2014, so she never got to see it.

JW: So, she didn't get to take that victory lap which is heartbreaking for me, coz I think she would have just loved it. Her story was worthy of a Hollywood movie. I mean, it's a great ending, you know.

Find in the script and unjumble the expressions for the following definitions:

ti lal cosme lulf lercic

after a long series of events or changes the
same situation that you started with still exists



rab lawrc

the act of visiting multiple pubs or bars
in a single session

sdegtargete rove

came up unsteadily

a refugi I saw titncug

having a particular appearance

a orvicty pal

a run or drive around a track or sports
field that is made by a winner

Retell the snippet.

5. Listen to the clip. Number the lines in order you hear them. Put at the end of each piece either A (Alzo Slade) or J (Jeff Whitty)

____ If these desperate measures that you are engaged in save you, and no one else is hurt, the benefit seems to be greater than the cost. Would you do it? ____

____ And then the sort of wonderful irony of the story – the end is that if you know that you're holding onto a Lee Israel forgery, it's probably even more valuable than the original article would have been. ____

____ There are the good hustles and the bad hustles. There are the ones where one is deliberately hurting the others to get themselves ahead. ____

____ She's a woman who was down on her luck, lonely with only her best friend – the sickly cat, and her home in complete disarray. There's a saying that desperate times call for desperate measures. If you're hungry and you need to survive, you steal an apple to eat. ____

____ What I kind of love about the whole story is that it was a victimless crime in the end. Because if you believed in it, if you believed that what you had was real, who was really harmed there? ____

____ And there are the other ones, the hustles where you are just hanging onto life by your fingernails and trying to get by. And Lee, Lee is very much the latter. ____

What do/don't you like about the story of Lee Israel?

