

Exercise 10

Read the extract from a seminar discussion between a history professor and two of his students. Complete the sentences with the expressions in the box.

I'm sitting on the fence	absolutely	hadn't left	not necessarily
would be speaking	would have continued	would have increased	
would have introduced	would have succeeded		

Professor Browning: We discussed the importance of speculation at our last seminar, and as a follow-up I asked you to consider what might have happened if the Romans _____ Britain in the fourth century AD. But firstly, I'd like to ask you both if you agree that speculation can help us better interpret history or at least understand it better. What do you think, Jane? Did you find it a useful approach to looking at Roman history?

Jane: _____ ! It really helped me think about how empires are built.

Tom: For the time being, _____. I haven't decided how useful it might be.

Professor Browning: OK. Jane, would you like to start off with the task I set you and then we can discuss the approach based on some historical information?

Jane: Well, it seems obvious to me that if the Romans hadn't left Britain at that time, they

_____ developing the network of roads. Additionally, they _____ the number of bridges and aqueducts. I am also pretty sure that the Romans _____ a new and comprehensive legal system, and that perhaps now we all _____ a Latin dialect instead of English!

Tom: _____. For a start, I seriously doubt that the Romans _____ in imposing their language on the Britons!

Professor Browning: Interesting. Let's go through some of those other points you raised, Jane ...