

11

BOOKS

- Reading: Elements of a Short Story
 - Writing: Summary of a Short Story
 - Review: Articles – Pronouns
 - Fun Corner
-

PRONUNCIATION

a) Circle the word whose **bold part** is pronounced differently from that of the other three.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. down | B. crow | C. crowd | D. browse |
| 2. A. piece | B. beak | C. here | D. people |
| 3. A. cawed | B. water | C. story | D. novel |
| 4. A. praised d | B. stressed d | C. snapped d | D. walk ed |
| 5. A. th rough | B. th ough | C. th ing | D. th eme |

b) Circle the word whose **stress pattern** is different from that of the other three.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. A. persuade | B. surpass | C. exchange | D. moment |
| 2. A. flatterer | B. character | C. element | D. ambition |
| 3. A. possession | B. magazine | C. behavior | D. experience |
| 4. A. author | B. figure | C. success | D. conflict (<i>noun</i>) |
| 5. A. indirectly | B. biography | C. represented | D. entertainment |



LISTENING

a) Look at the picture and listen to Aesop's fable *The Fox and the Crow* (two times). As you listen, fill in each blank with an appropriate word you hear.

1. A crow was carrying a piece of _____ in its beak (the hard pointed part of a bird's mouth).
2. It flew to a tree and sat on a _____.
3. A hungry fox walked up to the _____ of the tree.
4. The fox praised the crow in order to persuade it to sing a _____.
5. The crow _____ its mouth and started to caw (make a loud harsh cry).
6. The cheese fell to the _____.
7. The fox snapped up the cheese. Before running away, it gave the crow a piece of _____: "Don't _____ flatterers."



b) Listen again to the story (two times). As you listen, complete the praises that Master Fox gave to Mistress Crow in order to flatter* her (*to praise somebody too much, often without sincerity).

1. You're looking very _____ today.
2. Your feathers are _____.
3. Your eyes are _____.
4. Your voice must _____ that of other birds.
5. Your figure _____, too.
6. I may greet you as the _____ of Birds.



SPEAKING

- a) Two students are talking about Helen, a character in a story they have read. Fill in each of the blanks with an appropriate adjective from the box.

unreliable
ambitious

deceitful
inconsiderate

unpleasant
inflexible

A: Helen's always wanted to get to the top in her career, hasn't she?

B: Yes, she's an (1)_____ girl.

A: She never cares about other people's feelings, though.

B: Right. She's (2)_____ to other people. She even tells lies and makes people believe things that aren't true.

A: I know what you mean. She's always deceiving people. That's horrible, isn't it?

B: Yeah. Such (3)_____ behavior is very (4)_____.

A: No wonder she isn't successful. If only she could change and adopt a new way of behaving!

B: But she's very stubborn and (5)_____, as you know. By the way, do you honestly think you can depend on that kind of person?

A: No way! I'm not going to trust anyone who is so (6)_____.

- b) Check the answers. Then practice the above conversation with a partner.



READING

- a) Read the following passage and answer the questions below it.

Elements of a Short Story

A short story is a short work of fiction. Fiction, as you know, is prose writing about imagined events and characters. Novels, which are much longer than short stories, are another example of fictional prose. Some short stories, however, can be quite long. If a short story is a long one, say, fifty to one hundred pages, we call it a novella.

American literature contains some of the world's best examples of the short story. Readers around the world enjoy the finely crafted stories of

American writers such as O. Henry, Stephen Crane, Jack London, Mark Twain, and Edgar Allen Poe.

What makes these authors such remarkable short story writers? They are true masters at combining the five key elements that go into every great short story: character, setting, conflict, plot, and theme.

Questions

1. Is a short story about real facts, people, and events?
2. In what way is a short story different from a novel?
3. Find a word in the above passage which means ‘a short novel.’
4. Some famous American short story writers are mentioned in the passage. Who are they?
5. What are the five key elements of great short stories?

b) Complete the following definitions with the correct word from the box.

setting	conflict	character	theme	plot
---------	----------	-----------	-------	------

A (1)_____ is an imaginary person, or sometimes an animal, who is represented in a work of fiction (a play, movie, or story), especially someone who takes an active part in the story.

The (2)_____ of a short story is the time and place in which the events of the story take place.

The (3)_____ of a short story or novel is the organization of events and actions relating to the central conflict.

The (4)_____ is the opposition of two forces or characters in a story. It usually occurs between two main characters (e.g., between the hero and the villain), or between a character and society or the forces of nature. It may also occur within one character (e.g., opposing feelings, emotions, or interests).

The (5)_____ is the subject or central idea of a work of literature. It may express, directly or indirectly, an important truth about everyday life or about human nature, for example.

c) Complete the following Aesop's fable with the words from the boxes.

The Tortoise and the Hare

The Hare was once boasting (1)_____ his speed before the other animals. "I've never yet been (2)_____, " he said, "I challenge anyone here to (3)_____ against me when I put forth my full (4)_____."

The Tortoise said quietly, "I (5)_____ your challenge." "That's a good joke," said the Hare, "I could dance round you all the way."

"Keep your (6)_____ till you've won," answered the Tortoise. "Shall we race?"

So a course was fixed and a start was made.

The Hare darted almost out of (7)_____ at once, but soon stopped and, to show his contempt for the Tortoise, lay down to have a (8)_____. The Tortoise plodded on and on, and when the Hare (9)_____ from his nap, he saw the Tortoise approaching the winning post, but he could not run up in time to save the race.

Then the Tortoise said, "Slow but (10)_____ progress wins the race."

accept
awoke
beaten
boasting
nap
of
steady
race
sight
speed



WRITING

a) Read the summary of the short story *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry and fill in the form below it.

The Gift of the Magi

Jim and Della lived in a rented room in New York. They were quite poor. Jim earned twenty dollars a week, so after paying the rent and buying groceries, the couple hardly had any money left. The next day would be Christmas, and Della had only one dollar and eighty-seven cents to buy her husband a gift. She had decided on a chain – simple round rings of silver – for Jim's gold watch. They did not own anything of any value, but

Jim was proud of that watch. And Della? Her most valued possession was her beautiful long brown hair. However, she really wanted to buy that chain, which cost \$21, for Jim's watch, so she went to a woman who made wigs and other hair articles and sold her hair for twenty dollars. Now that she had enough money, Della went to the store, bought the chain, and went home to prepare dinner and waited for Jim to come home. She was kind of worried that Jim would be shocked when he saw her without her long brown hair. When Jim came home, he did stare at her in a strange way and it scared her. She hurriedly explained how she had sold her hair to buy him a special Christmas gift. Jim assured her that nothing could change his love for her; then, he took a small package from his coat and told her to open it and she might see why she had frightened him. Della unwrapped the package with trembling hands. There was a scream of joy; and then, alas! a change to tears and cries. Jim had bought her a special set of combs to hold her hair that she had wanted ever since she saw them in a shop window, but they cost a lot of money. Then, she remembered Jim had not seen his beautiful gift. She happily held it out to him in her open hands, but Jim could not produce his watch for Della to put the chain on. He had sold the watch to get the money to buy the set of combs. He smiled and said that they should put their Christmas gifts away and keep them a while. They were too nice to use just right then.

(from *The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories* by O. Henry)

Model Note Form

Title:
Author:
Setting (place? time?):
Audience (children? teenagers? adults?):
Main characters (names? relationship to each other?):
.....
Based on a true story?:
Plot:
Conflict:
Theme(s) (love? loyalty?):
Ending (exciting? disappointing?):

b) Now use the above model note form, jot down the main points of a story you have read, and then develop them into a paragraph.

c) Rewrite each question so that it means the same as the original question. Pay attention to question structures. Number 1 is an example.

1. When did you first watch the play *Romeo and Juliet*?

Do you remember when you first watched the play *Romeo and Juliet*?

2. In your opinion, is it an interesting play?

Do you think?

3. Why are the two families opposed to the marriage?

Do you know the reason?

4. Why does Romeo kill Juliet's brother?

Does the writer explain?

5. How does Juliet feel when Romeo kills her brother?

Can you describe?

6. Does Juliet ever hate Romeo for killing her brother?

Can anyone guess?

7. In your opinion, does Romeo really love Juliet?

Do you believe?

8. Do they get married in the end?

Does anyone remember?

9. Does the play have a sad ending?

Are you sure?

10. In your opinion, is Shakespeare a great writer?

Do you think?



USE OF LANGUAGE

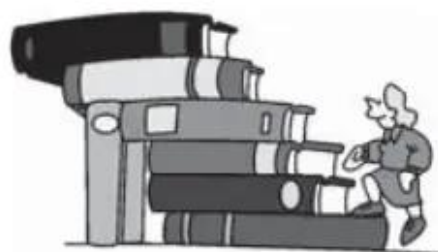
a) Put in a, an, the, or Ø (zero article).

Today nearly all people have (1)_____ televisions in their homes, but few people buy (2)_____ books and magazines. Many people say, “Why should I read (3)_____ article in (4)_____ magazine, when (5)_____ TV news brings me (6)_____ information together with (7)_____ pictures in (8)_____ few minutes? Why should I read (9)_____ novel, when (10)_____ play on (11)_____ TV tells me (12)_____ same story with (13)_____ colors, pictures, and actions? Why should I read (14)_____ biographies of (15)_____ famous men and women, when (16)_____ hour-long TV program gives me enough information about any of them?”

Television has not killed reading, however. Today, (17)_____ newspapers and magazines sell in very large numbers. In fact, (18)_____ books of every kind are sold more than ever before. They are still (19)_____ cheap way to get (20)_____ information and entertainment; and what’s more you can keep (21)_____ book forever and read it as many times as you like.

Books in (22)_____ home are (23)_____ great source of (24)_____ knowledge and pleasure. Some types of (25)_____ books should be in every home, for example (26)_____ good dictionary and (27)_____ atlas of (28)_____ world, with (29)_____ large

clear maps. (30)_____ good encyclopedia is very useful, too, though it might be expensive, because it provides you with (31)_____ information on any subject. It is equally important to have other nonfiction books such as (32)_____ history books, (33)_____ science textbooks, (34)_____ cookbooks, and (35)_____ books about medicine and health, etc. Finally, there should be some fiction on your shelves. Then you can relax with (36)_____ good story, or you may occasionally take (37)_____ book of poems off your shelves and enjoy (38)_____ experience of sharing your favorite poets’ thoughts and feelings.



b) Put the following words and phrases into the two categories below them.

atlas	autobiography	biography	travel book
cookbook	detective story	dictionary	encyclopedia
ghost story	guidebook	historical novel	instructions manual
novel	reference book	romantic novel	science fiction
short story	textbook	thriller	

FICTION <i>(A type of literature that describes imaginary people and events)</i>	NONFICTION <i>(Books, articles, or texts about real facts, people, and events)</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

c) Read the following passage and fill in each blank with a pronoun given.

I	he	they	us	them
my	his	their	myself	himself
themselves	no one	everyone	anyone	someone

Look at these picture books. (1)_____ are all about violence! I don't want (2)_____ children to see (3)_____. (4)_____ should see garbage like this. When (5)_____ was a kid, I used to enjoy (6)_____ at good movies. The kids today don't enjoy them at all. They like violence movies.

Nowadays, (7)_____ knows that violence isn't only in the movies. Did (8)_____ read the newspaper yesterday? One crazy man shot

(9)_____ wife and (10)_____ baby, and then (11)_____ killed (12)_____. A couple tried to poison (13)_____ after (14)_____ set their home on fire. Why don't reporters look on the bright side and tell (15)_____ more about good news?

d) Put each of the following words or phrases into its correct place in the sentences below.

look up	skim	skip	browse
refer to	read from cover to cover		

1. I spend a lot of time in bookstores, but I don't often buy books. I just _____ around.
2. Whenever I come to a boring bit in a novel, I _____ a few pages till the real story starts again.
3. Wait a minute! I'll _____ his number in the phone book for you.
4. It's an open test. You may _____ your notes and dictionaries.
5. An encyclopedia is a reference book. It's not a book you _____.
6. When you _____ a page, you read it quickly, just taking in the main points.

FUN CORNER

a) Who are they?

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1. "I write poetry." <i>A poet</i>
2. "I write novels."
3. "I write plays."
4. "I write articles for newspapers."
5. "I write books about particular subjects for use in schools."
6. "I write books about the life stories of famous people."

7. "I change words in a book from one language
to another, e.g., from English to Vietnamese."
8. "I prepare books to be published. That is, I
revise the manuscripts by correcting errors and
making changes to improve them."

b) Where are they in the grid?

A	K	O	T	S	F	O	O	T	E
G	V	I	E	K	E	T	I	F	E
J	B	A	X	V	O	R	A	G	E
S	I	E	T	S	E	A	G	H	T
K	O	C	B	A	U	N	O	U	P
W	G	I	O	G	D	S	I	K	L
N	R	P	O	E	T	L	B	L	A
Y	A	E	K	N	E	A	B	L	Y
W	P	A	W	V	O	T	E	R	W
O	H	F	R	S	S	O	L	E	R
L	E	D	I	T	O	R	A	G	I
V	R	U	T	R	I	N	G	E	G
N	O	V	E	L	I	S	T	S	H
J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	T