



11+ BASICS ENGLISH

Half Term Holiday Homework

Name: _____

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THE BUSINESSMAN'S SONS

A rich businessman, feeling himself growing old, and finding that the cares of his company were too great for him, resolved, to divide his assets among his three sons, keeping a very small part to protect him from want in his old age.



The sons were all well satisfied, and each took his share with thanks, and promised that it should be well and properly employed. When this important work was thus finished, the father addressed the sons in the following words:

"My sons, there is one thing which I have not included in the share of any one of you. It is this costly diamond which you see in my hand. I will give it to that one of you who shall earn it by the noblest deed.

"Go, therefore, and travel for three months; at the end of that time, we will meet here again, and you shall tell me what you have done."

The sons thereupon departed, and travelled for three months, each in a different direction. At the end of that time they returned; and all came together to their father to give an account of their journey. The eldest son spoke first.

"Father, on my journey a stranger entrusted to me a great number of valuable jewels, without taking any account of them. Indeed, I was well aware that he did not know how many the package contained.

"One or two of them would never have been missed, and I might easily have enriched myself without fear of detection. But I gave back the package exactly as I had received it. Was not this a noble deed?"

"My son," replied the father, "simple honesty cannot be called noble. You did what was right, and nothing more. If you had acted otherwise, you would have been dishonest, and your deed would have shamed you. You have done well, but not nobly."

The second son now spoke. He said: "As I was riding along on my journey, I one day saw a poor child playing by the shore of a lake; and just as I rode by, it fell into the water, and was in danger of being drowned.

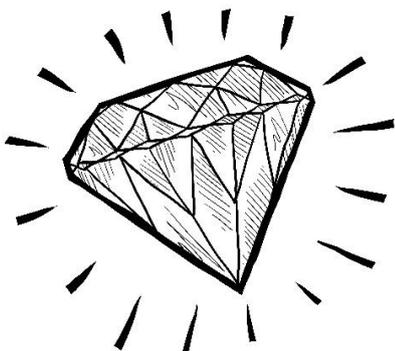
"I at once dismounted from my horse, and plunging into the water, brought it safe to land. All the people of the village where this happened will tell you that what I say is true. Was it not a noble action?"

"My son," replied the old man, "you did only what was your duty. You could hardly have left the child to die without exerting yourself to save it. You, too, have acted well, but not nobly."

Then the third son came forward to tell his tale. He said: "Father, I had an enemy, who for years had done me much harm and tried to take my life.

"One evening during my journey, I was passing along a dangerous road which ran beside the summit of a cliff. As I rode along, my horse started at sight of something in the road.

"I dismounted to see what it was, and found my enemy lying fast asleep on the very edge of the cliff. The least movement in his sleep and he must have rolled over and been dashed to pieces on the rocks below.



"His life was in my hands. I drew him away from the edge and then woke him, and told him to go on his way in peace."

Then the old businessman cried out with great joy, "Dear son, the diamond is yours, for it is a noble and godlike thing to help an enemy and return good for evil."

- 1) **How did the father divide his assets?**
 - a. Equally amongst his three sons
 - b. Equally between himself and his three sons
 - c. Gave the vast majority to his sons and kept a small part for himself
 - d. Gave everything to his sons except a diamond

- 2) **What did the sons promise with the money that their father had given them?**
 - a. Spend it on noble deeds
 - b. Spend it on a journey
 - c. Put the money to work
 - d. Spend it on a diamond

- 3) **Eldest son was *entrusted* some jewels “without taking any account of them”. Which of the following is an incorrect meaning of entrusted?**
 - a. I couldn't entrust my children to strangers
 - b. Can I entrust you with the secret plans?
 - c. They offered me bribe money if I would entrust my friends
 - d. He didn't look like the sort of man you should entrust your luggage to.

- 4) **How long were the sons away for?**
 - a. A few months
 - b. A few days
 - c. A few years
 - d. No time was mentioned

- 5) **How would you NOT describe the second son?**
 - a. Bold
 - b. Gallant
 - c. Restrained
 - d. Chivalrous

- 6) Which moral lesson is not covered in this story?**
- a. 'Honesty is the best policy'
 - b. 'Return evil with good'
 - c. 'Do your duty even if it is against yourself'
 - d. 'One good turn deserves another'
- 7) Why did the father give his wealth away to his sons?**
- a. He loved them dearly
 - b. He wanted them to be noble
 - c. Running the company was becoming too much of a burden
 - d. He was displaying noble qualities such as honesty
- 8) Which is the best reason why the third son was given the diamond?**
- a. The father liked him the most
 - b. He was noble and the other sons were not
 - c. His action saved a life
 - d. He was displaying a high moral principle
- 9) "His life was in my hands". Which part of speech is the word 'life'?**
- a. Noun
 - b. Adjective
 - c. Verb
 - d. Adverb
- 10) Which figure of speech is used by the father to describe the third son's actions?**
- a. Metaphor
 - b. Onomatopoeia
 - c. Simile
 - d. Personification

VOCABULARY 1

Match the definitions with the words in the table below. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know

(Example: *The answer to question 1 is M. Write your answers below*)

1) M	2)	3)	4)	5)	6)	7)
8)	9)	10)	11)	12)	13)	14)

No.	Word		Definition
1	CONTEST	A	to call wrong
2	NOTED	B	be against
3	CONCEAL	C	to make known
4	OPPOSE	D	well known; famous
5	FATIGUE	E	clean
6	LENIENT	F	tired
7	COMMENCE	G	not strict with rules
8	WASTEFUL	H	to hold back
9	REVEAL	I	very serious
10	RESTRAIN	J	weak
11	CONDEMN	K	using more than is needed
12	GRAVE	L	begin
13	FEEBLE	M	to argue against; challenge
14	SANITARY	N	to hide

CLOZE

Fill in the missing blanks from the word table below

fifteenth	hundred	asleep	despair	King	laughed	twelve
curious	delighted	misfortune	passed	terrified	knocking	invited

ONCE upon a time there lived a **1)**_____ and Queen who had no children. They longed very much for a child; and when at last they had a little daughter they were both **2)**_____, and great rejoicings took place.

When the time came for the little Princess to be christened, the King made a grand feast and **3)**_____ all but one of the fairies in his kingdom to be godmothers. There happened to be thirteen fairies in the kingdom; but as the King had only twelve gold plates, he had to leave one of them out.

The **4)**_____ fairies that were invited came to the christening, and presented the little Princess with the best gifts in their possession. One gave her beauty, one gave her wisdom, another grace, another goodness, until all but one had presented their offerings. Just as the last fairy was about to step forward and offer her gift, there came a tremendous **5)**_____ at the door, and before anybody could get there to open it, it was burst open, and in came the thirteenth fairy, in a furious rage at not having been invited to the feast.



When she saw all the gifts which the other fairies had presented the child, she **6)**_____ and exclaimed:

"A lot of good all this beauty and virtue and wealth will do to you, my pretty Princess! You shall pay for the slight your Royal Father has

put upon me!" Then, turning to the 7)_____ King and Queen, she said, in a loud voice:

"When the Princess is fifteen years old she shall prick her finger with a spindle and die!" Having said this, she flew away as noisily as she came.

The King and Queen were in 8)_____, and the courtiers stood aghast at the terrible disaster; while the little Princess began to cry piteously, as if she knew the fate in store for her. Then the twelfth fairy stepped forward.

"Do not be afraid," she said, "I have not yet given my gift. I cannot undo the wicked spell, but I can soften the evil. The Princess, on her 9)_____ birthday, shall prick her finger with a spindle, but she shall not die. Instead, she shall fall 10)_____ for a hundred years."

"Alas!" cried the Queen, "what comfort will that be to us? Long before the 11)_____ years are past we shall be dead, and our darling child will be as lost to us as if she were indeed to die!"

"I can make that right," said the fairy. "When the Princess falls asleep, you shall sleep, too; and awaken with her when the hundred years are 12)_____."

But the King still hoped to save his daughter from such a terrible 13)_____. So he ordered all the spinning-wheels in his kingdom to be burnt or destroyed, and made a law that no one was to use one on pain of instant death. But all his care was useless. On her fifteenth birthday the Princess slipped away from her attendants, and wandered all through the Palace. At last she came to a tower which she had never seen before, and, wondering what it contained, she climbed the stairs. From a room at the top came a 14)_____ humming noise, and the Princess, wondering what it could be, pushed open the door and stepped inside.



NOUNS REVISION

Griffin was caught and put in a cage. The cage has a lock on it. The key to opening the cage is to find all the nouns. Read the following sentences and circle all of the nouns. If you find all of the nouns, Griffin can get out of the cage. Remember nouns name a person, place, or thing.

Noun is place, person, thing or animal

- 1. The girl likes to play on the slide.**
- 2. Harry and Ben are best friends.**
- 3. The puppy was playing with the ball.**
- 4. The teacher yelled that it was time to come inside.**
- 5. The class went to the zoo.**
- 6. The cupcakes were sitting on the table.**
- 7. Sam is going to the doctor today.**
- 8. I like to visit the Statue of Liberty.**