

## "Twitter employees can work at home forever"

### LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From [L. ...](#)

The boss of Twitter has told many (1) <sup>c</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ his employees that they can work from home forever if they want (2) <sup>d</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. CEO Jack Dorsey told many workers on Tuesday that they will be allowed to work from home even after the coronavirus pandemic ends. A Twitter spokesperson said: "Opening offices will (3) <sup>b</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ our decision. When and if our employees come back, will be their [decision]." Twitter was one of the first companies to (4) <sup>c</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ workers to work from home after the COVID-19 pandemic started. The spokesperson said it would not be, "one of the (5) <sup>c</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to return to offices". Twitter said most of its offices would not open before September. It added when they do open, it would be "careful, intentional, office (6) <sup>a</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ office and gradual".

Twitter said it was (7) <sup>b</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a good position to have many of its workers working from their home. It is an online company so many employees and bosses can contact (8) <sup>a</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ other on video conferencing platforms like Zoom. The company said: "We were uniquely positioned to respond quickly and allow (9) <sup>b</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to work from home, given our emphasis on decentralization and supporting a distributed workforce capable of (10) <sup>c</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from anywhere." It added: "The past few months have proven we can make [working from home] work. If our employees are in a role and situation that (11) <sup>c</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ them to work from home and they want to continue to do so forever, we will make that (12) <sup>d</sup> \_\_\_\_\_."

#### Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |           |             |             |             |
|-----|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) as    | (b) by      | (c) at      | (d) of      |
| 2.  | (a) by    | (b) as      | (c) at      | (d) to      |
| 3.  | (a) being | (b) be      | (c) been    | (d) is      |
| 4.  | (a) alloy | (b) allay   | (c) allow   | (d) all     |
| 5.  | (a) prime | (b) leader  | (c) first   | (d) winner  |
| 6.  | (a) by    | (b) at      | (c) in      | (d) through |
| 7.  | (a) under | (b) in      | (c) over    | (d) on      |
| 8.  | (a) each  | (b) another | (c) both    | (d) all     |
| 9.  | (a) forks | (b) folks   | (c) fakes   | (d) flicks  |
| 10. | (a) works | (b) worked  | (c) working | (d) work    |
| 11. | (a) faces | (b) masks   | (c) enables | (d) offices |
| 12. | (a) do    | (b) being   | (c) is      | (d) happen  |



## “Fingerprints”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages



*Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.*

If you enjoy watching crime shows on TV, you know that fingerprints play a large role in identifying people. But, you might be surprised to find out that using fingerprints for identification is not a new science. In fact, it is very old — dating back at least as far as 1885-1913 B.C.E. In Babylon, when people agreed to a business contract, they pressed their fingerprints into the clay in which the contract was written. Thumbprints have also been found on clay seals from ancient China.

In 14<sup>th</sup> century Persia, which is now Iran, a government doctor recognized that all fingerprints are different. In 1684, a British doctor, Nehemiah Grew, spoke about the ridged surfaces of the fingers. In 1686, a professor of *anatomy* (the study of the structure of the human body) named Marcello Malpighi, wrote about the ridges and loops in fingerprints. Malpighi’s work was considered so important that a layer of skin found on the fingertips was named after him. This layer of skin is called the Malpighian layer. Although scientists had studied fingerprints, the value of fingerprinting in the identification of individuals did not become clear until later.

Sir William James Herschel is generally thought to be the first European to realize that fingerprints were *unique* to each person. In his work as chief magistrate in the Hoogly district in Jungipoor, India, Herschel asked people to put their handprints on contracts. Herschel believed that personal contact with the contracts made people more likely to honor their commitments, or to keep their promises. As he looked at more and more handprints, he began to see that all the handprints were different. He started to believe that fingerprints were unique, which means they are all different from each other, and *permanent*, which means that they do not ever change. To prove that they never change, Herschel kept track of his own fingerprints over his entire lifetime.

Dr. Henry Faulds, a British surgeon at a Japanese hospital, began studying the furrows (also called ridges) on fingertips in the 1870s. He published an article in a scientific journal about the use of fingerprints as a tool in identification. He also *devised*, or invented, a system of classifying fingerprints. He wrote Charles Darwin about his findings, but Darwin was getting too old to work on the findings. So, he promised to pass the information to his cousin, Sir Francis Galton. Using Henry Faulds’s findings, Galton published a major book on classifying fingerprints based on arches, loops, and whorls. His work with Sir Edward R. Henry on fingerprint classification was the basis of a classification system which is still used by law enforcement agencies in English-speaking countries.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) now uses a variation of the Galton– Henry system. Although the use of fingerprinting in identification *originated* in Britain, it has been developed in the United States. In 1924, two large fingerprint collections were combined to form the foundation of the Identification Division of the FBI. Within the Identification Division, the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (IAFIS) can search and find fingerprints anywhere in the United States within thirty minutes. The IAFIS can compare results with automated fingerprint systems in countries around the world. The IAFIS has the fingerprints of more than 250 million people on file.

About one in six Americans has fingerprints on file with the FBI. But not all the fingerprints are related to criminal investigations. People need to have their fingerprints taken for many other reasons. People have their fingerprints taken for employment, licenses, and adoption. For example, when people want to work for the government in *classified*, secret jobs, their fingerprints are checked to be sure they do not have a criminal background. When prospective parents adopt a child, their fingerprints are matched against those of all criminals for the safety of the child.

## Questions:

- 1) How were fingerprints used in ancient times?
- A. To seal contracts
  - B. To sign agreements
  - C. To identify criminals
  - D. All of the above
  - E. Both A and B are correct.
- 2) Who wrote about fingerprints in 1686?
- A. Henry Faulds
  - B. Charles Darwin
  - C. Nehemiah Grew
  - D. Marcello Malpighi
  - E. William James Hershel
- 3) Why did Sir William James Herschel ask people to put their handprints on contracts?
- A. He wanted to be able to better identify criminals.
  - B. The people were not able to write.
  - C. He wanted people to keep their promises.
  - D. He wanted to follow the local customs.
  - E. This was required by the intelligence agency that he was a member of.
- 4) How long does it take the IAFIS to find someone's fingerprints?
- A. 30 seconds
  - B. 30 minutes
  - C. 30 hours
  - D. 30 days
  - E. None of the above
- 5) Why would a non-criminal have their fingerprints taken?
- A. To adopt a child
  - B. To get some jobs
  - C. To get certain licenses
  - D. To identify themselves
  - E. All of the above

## Vocabulary:

- 1) **Anatomy** is the study of...
- A. surgery.
  - B. criminals.
  - C. the body.
  - D. fingerprints.
  - E. identification.
- 2) The best synonym for **unique** is...
- A. uniform.
  - B. honorable.
  - C. singular.
  - D. similar.
  - E. Both C and D are correct.
- 3) The best synonym for **permanent** is...
- A. scientific.
  - B. automated.
  - C. unchanging.
  - D. unimportant.
  - E. unreasonable.
- 4) Another way to say **devised** is...
- A. came about.
  - B. came around.
  - C. came up with.
  - D. came through.
  - E. came down with.
- 5) The place where something **originated** is the place where it...
- A. started.
  - B. ended.
  - C. arrived.
  - D. was remembered.
  - E. was forgotten.
- 6) If you work in a **classified** job, you...
- A. may not discuss your work.
  - B. work only with fingerprints.
  - C. work with automated systems.
  - D. must travel to many different places.
  - E. probably have a criminal background.

## “Blizzard in Birmingham”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

*Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.*



The Turner kids were not **accustomed** to snow. The most they ever got in their southern city of Birmingham was an inch or so per year. Even that was quite **infrequent**—it never snowed more than once or twice each winter. And on the few occasions that it did snow, it was always too warm for the snow to accumulate. The temperature almost never got below freezing.

What was funny was that even the slightest bit of snow was enough to cancel school and close businesses. No one knew how to drive in the stuff. It was never enough for young Lily Mae Turner, though, because the snow that came was always too sparse to build a snowman or to go sledding.

But one night, in March of 1993, something magical happened.

An unexpected blast of cold air from Canada and moist air from the Caribbean converged on the eastern part of the United States to create the “Storm of the Century.”

All that the Turner kids knew was that when they woke up Saturday morning, there was 17 inches of unbelievable snow on their front lawn and as far as the eye could see.

The Turner parents were in shock. Most folks in town were ill-prepared for such a storm. They had no shovels to dig their way out and no salt to keep from slipping. They had no idea what to do.

While the adults seemed paralyzed with disbelief, the Turner kids set about having the time of their lives. Lily Mae discovered that a rope tied to a metal trash can lid made a perfect sled. John Henry figured out that if he put his feet in plastic grocery bags before putting on his rain boots, his feet stayed warm for a longer time. Rachel made snow angels in every part of the yard. Together, all the kids made a huge snowman and dressed it in their dad’s hat and jacket. (Mr. Turner didn’t own a scarf!)

For three straight days, the Turner kids had a **splendid** time. On Tuesday, the temperature hit 70 degrees, and life for these Southerners went back to normal.

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Questions:

- 1) As used at the beginning of the story, what does **accustomed** mean?
- A. **used to**
  - B. aware of
  - C. scared of
  - D. interested in
- 2) As used at the beginning of the story, which is the best antonym for **infrequent**?
- A. **common**
  - B. long
  - C. rare
  - D. surprising
- 3) Which other title would best fit this passage?
- A. "1993"
  - B. "A Cold March"
  - C. **"Magical Snow"**
  - D. "Ill-Prepared Parents"
- 4) The author may have described the storm as magical because
- A. Lily Mae believed the snow was magic
  - B. **it was such an unusual thing to happen that it felt like magic**
  - C. there was no other explanation for why the storm occurred
  - D. the author wanted to cast doubt on whether the storm actually took place
- 5) How are the children different than the adults in this passage?
- A. The kids stayed warm, while the adults were very cold.
  - B. The kids knew the storm was coming, while the adults did not.
  - C. **The kids went out and had fun, while the adults did not know what to do.**
  - D. The adults still had to go to work, while the kids stayed home.
- 6) What conclusions can be drawn about what the weather is typically like in Birmingham during the month of March?
- I. It is warm.
  - II. It does not snow.
  - III. It is windy.
- A. I only
  - B. **I and II**
  - C. II and III
  - D. I, II, and III

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Questions (continued):

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7) What can be said about the Turner kids' ideas for playing in the snow without the usual snow gear?

- I. They were creative.
- II. They were effective.
- III. They were complicated.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

8) *"What was funny was that even the slightest bit of snow was enough to cancel school and close businesses."*

*"No one knew how to drive in the stuff."*

Which of the following punctuation marks could best be used to combine the above sentences?

- A. a comma ( , )
- B. a semicolon ( ; )
- C. an ellipsis ( ... )
- D. a hyphen ( - )

9) What was going on outside of Birmingham during the snowstorm?

- A. The rest of the country was also dealing with snow.
- B. Nothing—Birmingham was the only area affected by the storm.
- C. The Eastern United States was also hit by the storm.
- D. The passage does not provide enough information to say.

10) As used at the end of the story, which is the best antonym for **splendid**?

- A. great
  - B. perfect
  - C. happy
  - D. terrible
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1. Several \_\_\_\_ friends attended last night's concert.  
A) them B) my C) of my D) of them
2. The actor \_\_\_\_ house we visited was Robert Redford.  
A) which B) whose C) who D) of whom
3. A person who talks to \_\_\_\_ is not necessarily mad.  
A) himself B) oneself C) him D) itself
4. My sister taught \_\_\_\_ to cook Chinese dishes.  
A) myself B) themselves C) himself D) herself
5. Sometimes it's a good idea to study \_\_\_\_.  
A) by yourself B) itself C) by itself D) in yourself
6. \_\_\_\_ of the men brought his tools.  
A) Both B) Neither C) Some D) Not all
7. \_\_\_\_ you decide to take violin classes let me know.  
A) While B) Should C) Do D) Because
8. I wish I \_\_\_\_ what to do now.  
A) know B) knew C) have known D) had known
9. The whole house \_\_\_\_ if he hadn't called the fireman.  
A) would be destroyed B) would have been destroyed  
C) will have been destroyed D) would destroy
10. \_\_\_\_ been late if he hadn't forgotten his keys?  
A) Would he have B) He had  
C) Had he D) Have he
11. \_\_\_\_, which is essential in learning a language, can be difficult for beginners.  
A) Students ask questions B) If students ask questions  
C) Students who ask questions D) Asking questions
12. If Bruce \_\_\_\_ the top up, his car wouldn't have gotten wet.  
A) put B) has put C) had put D) puts
13. If she \_\_\_\_ somewhat taller, she would join the team.  
A) were B) be C) am D) will be
14. They would refuse to read the book if they \_\_\_\_ it.  
A) like B) doesn't like C) didn't like D) don't like
15. Nancy would have \_\_\_\_ a vacation if she had had enough money.  
A) take B) taken C) takes D) took
16. They \_\_\_\_ to the cinema if they had known it was the last night of the film.  
A) will go B) would go  
C) would have gone D) had gone
17. \_\_\_\_ said under oath was disputed by several other witnesses.  
A) It is the man B) What the man  
C) That the man D) The man
18. \_\_\_\_ is prevalent in both primitive societies and advanced cultures.  
A) They believe in life after death  
B) Life after death  
C) Their life after death  
D) The belief in life after death
19. Holman's Department Store \_\_\_\_ business in the same location for fifty years before it moved.  
A) doing B) had been  
C) had been doing D) is doing
20. She will be late unless she \_\_\_\_ now.  
A) leaves B) is leaving C) is going to leave D) will leave
21. She \_\_\_\_ the bus before the accident took place.  
A) had gotten off B) was getting off  
C) has gotten off D) would get off
22. \_\_\_\_, measles can now be prevented by a vaccine.  
A) Although a serious health hazard  
B) It was once a serious health hazard  
C) That once a serious health hazard  
D) Once a serious health hazard
23. Jimmy and Linda were walking home when they \_\_\_\_ a loud noise.  
A) saw B) were hearing C) heard D) met
24. The library \_\_\_\_ since last Wednesday.  
A) has been closed B) was closed  
C) closed D) is closed
25. She \_\_\_\_ television since she got home a couple of hours ago.  
A) watched B) is watching  
C) has been watching D) watched
26. The last time \_\_\_\_ to the library was last week.  
A) I have gone B) I have been to  
C) I was D) I went
27. The old man died not of injuries \_\_\_\_ in the accident but of a heart attack.  
A) were sustained B) sustained  
C) to sustain D) what sustained
28. It was recently reported that a young research scientist \_\_\_\_ a blood test to diagnose cancer.  
A) found B) finding C) who found D) to have found
29. There are over 12000 people \_\_\_\_ in New York.  
A) they don't have any fixed address  
B) don't have any fixed address  
C) whose fixed address  
D) with no fixed address
30. In the desert \_\_\_\_ for water is of primary importance.  
A) all living things need B) if there is no need  
C) the need D) all living things that need
31. \_\_\_\_, generally found in the desert, is useful as a water softener in the laundry industry.  
A) When Borax B) Borax C) It is Borax D) Borax is
32. Pete \_\_\_\_ by the time the meeting starts.  
A) arrived B) had arrived C) will have arrived D) has arrived
33. No sooner \_\_\_\_ the door than the thief fled.  
A) had I opened B) have I opened  
C) did I open D) I had opened
34. Linda hoped \_\_\_\_ to Ralph's party.  
A) to be invited B) to have invitation  
C) for being invited D) she will be invited
35. After working on the same project for several months, Mr. Williams asked \_\_\_\_ a different assignment.  
A) for a more interesting B) to be interested for  
C) to be given D) for giving him
36. Before the computer could be repaired, a special part had \_\_\_\_ from Japan.  
A) to import B) to be imported  
C) a very long delivery D) to have been important
37. If it keeps on raining the game may \_\_\_\_.  
A) delay B) be delayed C) have delayed D) have to delay
38. \_\_\_\_ the president given a warm welcome?  
A) Did B) Have C) Should D) Was
39. \_\_\_\_ your company's products guaranteed?  
A) Do B) Are C) Would D) Will
40. The packages \_\_\_\_ at the post office.  
A) weighs B) was weigh C) weigh D) are weighed
41. The Sea of Marmara \_\_\_\_ so much that it can now support only little life.  
A) is polluted B) with dangerous pollution  
C) has been polluted D) has polluted
42. The answers \_\_\_\_ into Spanish.  
A) were translated B) are translate  
C) is translated D) are translating
43. The order \_\_\_\_ sent last month.  
A) is B) will C) was D) will be
44. All developed countries are running out of space \_\_\_\_ their garbage.  
A) it discards B) in which to discard  
C) which discards D) which they discard
45. If Charles Lindbergh \_\_\_\_ across the Atlantic, another person would have done that sooner or later.  
A) hasn't been B) would not fly C) did not fly D) hadn't flown
46. Gilberto \_\_\_\_ more precise instructions; he couldn't do the job.  
A) must be given B) should be given  
C) should have been given D) must have been given
47. \_\_\_\_ the legendary land of the lost continent of Atlantis may some day be found.  
A) The belief B) It is believed that  
C) Believing D) That belief
48. Do you intend \_\_\_\_ English while you are visiting England?  
A) to study B) study C) studying D) studied
49. I'd appreciate \_\_\_\_ an answer as soon as possible.  
A) receive B) to receive C) receiving D) received
50. Do you want me \_\_\_\_ that doctor's address for you.  
A) to copy B) copy C) copying D) copied
51. Won't you let the children \_\_\_\_ a little longer?  
A) stay B) to stay C) staying D) stayed

topic: **MIXED VERB TENSES 1**

For each sentence, choose the correct tense of the verb.

1. John \_\_\_\_\_ in San Diego for the past 3 years (and he still lives there).  
a) lived b) was lived c) **has lived**
2. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ in San Diego up until last year.  
a) was lived b) **was living** c) has lived
3. I worked as a graphic designer before I \_\_\_\_\_ to England.  
a) **came** b) have come c) did come
4. \_\_\_\_\_ reading the paper yet?  
a) Were you finished b) **Have** you finished c) Are you finishing
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ in love three times in my life.  
a) was being b) was c) **have been**
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ in love with Mary, but she left me for another man.  
a) have been b) was being c) **was**
7. Frank \_\_\_\_\_ tennis for three years when he was at school.  
a) **played** b) has played c) was play
8. \_\_\_\_\_ me last night?  
a) Have you called b) **Did you call** c) Were you called
9. I was at the club yesterday, but I \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
a) haven't seen b) did not saw c) **did not see**
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ this upset in many years!  
a) **haven't been** b) was not c) was not being



topic: **AUXILIARY VERBS (To be, to do, to have) 3** | level: **Intermediate/Advanced**

Fill in each blank space with the correct auxiliary verb:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher explain this properly?  
a) **Did**    b) Was    c) Had
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the professor angry?  
a) Did    b) **Was**    c) Had
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ you spoken to him before he called you?  
a) **Had**    b) Did    c) Were
  
4. If you \_\_\_\_\_ told me, I would have never found out.  
a) didn't    b) weren't    c) **hadn't**
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ they seeing each other?  
a) Did    b) Had    c) **Were**
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ they continue seeing each other?  
a) **Did**    b) Had    c) Were
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ you learn anything?  
a) Hadn't    b) **Didn't**    c) Weren't
  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ he in my American History class?  
a) Didn't    b) **Wasn't**    c) Hadn't
  
9. I realized that I \_\_\_\_\_ learned a thing (= anything).  
a) didn't    b) wasn't    c) **hadn't**
  
10. \_\_\_\_\_ your sister living in Paris for a while?  
a) Hadn't    b) **Wasn't**    c) Didn't

### Phrasal Verbs Exercise 1

Choose the correct phrasal verb: go on / pick up / come back / come up with / go back / find out / come out / go out / point out / grow up / set up / turn out / get out / come in(to) / take on.

1. Can you **come up with** \_\_\_\_\_ (think of an idea) a better idea?
2. She **pointed out** \_\_\_\_\_ (showed / mentioned) that the shops would already be closed.
3. I wish I hadn't **taken on** \_\_\_\_\_ (become responsible for) so much work!
4. I **went out** \_\_\_\_\_ (went to an event) for dinner with my husband last night.
5. He **came into** \_\_\_\_\_ (entered a place where the speaker is) the kitchen and made some tea.
6. Where did you **grow up** \_\_\_\_\_ (become an adult)?
7. I'd love to **set up** \_\_\_\_\_ (arrange / create) my own business.
8. I really want to **get out** \_\_\_\_\_ (leave a building) of this office and go for a walk.
9. As I arrived, he **came out** \_\_\_\_\_ (appeared from a place) of the door.
10. She **picked up** \_\_\_\_\_ (got something from a place) some dinner on the way home.
11. Could you **find out** \_\_\_\_\_ (get information) what time we need to arrive?
12. I thought the conference was going to be boring but it **turned out** \_\_\_\_\_ (in the end we discovered) to be quite useful.