

"Microsoft could buy TikTok next month"

GAP FILL

The (1) on-off talks between Microsoft and the parent company of TikTok are back on again. Microsoft has been interested in buying (2) part of TikTok for many months. The tech giant has been in talks with the (3) parent company ByteDance Ltd. Discussions between the two companies came to a (4) halt last week when US President Donald Trump suggested that he might ban TikTok from the USA. He was worried that the personal (5) details of over 100 million Americans could get into the wrong (6) hands. President Trump changed his (7) mind at the weekend after the CEO of Microsoft phoned him. Microsoft said it "would ensure that all private data of TikTok's American users is transferred to and (8) remains in the United States."

parent
hands
part
mind
halt
remains
on-off
details

TikTok is the (9) latest social media platform to become hugely popular around the (10) globe. Users upload very short videos of themselves (11) lip-syncing to well-known songs, dancing, making funny faces or doing other (12) humorous things. TikTok's owner ByteDance is a Beijing-based Internet company founded in 2012 by Chinese entrepreneur Zhang Yiming. It now has over 800 million users (13) worldwide. Microsoft is offering ByteDance \$50 billion for the (14) operations in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. However the business website Bloomberg disagrees with that (15) valuation. It said: "The idea that TikTok - without the UK, India or dozens of other emerging markets - is (16) worth \$50 billion today is fanciful."

humorous
latest
operations
lip-syncing
worth
worldwide
globe
valuation

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

"Scientists discover why shaving blunts razors"

Scientists from MIT have discovered why razor blades become blunt (1) _____ repeated use. They did research into why razor blades lose their (2) _____. Razor blades are 50 times harder than the hairs they cut. Even (3) _____ human hair is 50 times softer than the metal of a razor blade, the hair damages the edge of the blade. Razor blades are made from stainless steel. They are usually (4) _____ with tougher materials like hardened carbon. The MIT scientists said that each time a blade cuts a hair, the hair causes (5) _____ amounts of damage. A blade usually cuts thousands of hairs in one shaving session. This means the life of a razor blade is (6) _____ and will need to be replaced regularly.

The researchers used powerful microscopes to find out how hair damages a razor blade. They got a close-up (7) _____ of what happens during a shave when the blade cuts a hair. The blade gets damaged in a (8) _____ of ways. One way is that a single hair creates a tiny chip on the edge of a blade. This chip becomes bigger (9) _____ it cuts more hair. After more shaving, the blade loses (10) _____ ability to cut cleanly and becomes blunt. A researcher said: "We are metallurgists and want to...make better metals. In (11) _____ case, it was intriguing that if you cut something very soft, like human hair, with something very hard, like steel, the hard material would fail." He said his team is "aiming (12) _____ solve an important engineering problem".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | (a) post | (b) after | (c) follow | (d) then |
| 2. | (a) sharpen | (b) sharply | (c) sharp | (d) sharpness |
| 3. | (a) through | (b) though | (c) thou | (d) thought |
| 4. | (a) jacketed | (b) clothed | (c) coated | (d) worn |
| 5. | (a) tiny | (b) tinted | (c) tinny | (d) teeny |
| 6. | (a) limited | (b) incorporated | (c) public | (d) private |
| 7. | (a) stare | (b) gaze | (c) watch | (d) view |
| 8. | (a) variety | (b) various | (c) varied | (d) varied |
| 9. | (a) was | (b) as | (c) has | (d) thus |
| 10. | (a) their | (b) them | (c) its | (d) what |
| 11. | (a) what | (b) as | (c) this | (d) much |
| 12. | (a) for | (b) to | (c) at | (d) by |

Name _____
 Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

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

Accidents

We tend to think of accidents as bad things. But they don't always have to be. Sometimes, things that happen unexpectedly and unintentionally can be good. For instance, one of the most important scientific discoveries of all time happened by accident. Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin by leaving his laboratory messier than he had intended. Likewise, less important discoveries have happened by chance too. Potato chips were discovered by an angry chef. Coca-Cola, one of the most successful products of all time, was not intentional either. The list goes on and on.



Most of us would not know by looking at these things that they were not intended to exist. Of course, that's partially because they have since been perfected. But you get the point.

Still, some accidents just end up looking like they were obviously unintentional. This has happened to me twice.

My First Accident

I had been trying to make a wooden box as part of my technical education class in woodworking. There is an old adage in carpentry—"measure twice, cut once." Well, let's just say I did the opposite. First, one edge of the box was too long; then, after another turn through the band saw, the other side was too long. Then, I grabbed a new piece of cherry wood and started over, again cutting too many times. In the end, my "box" was hardly a box. It really was just five pieces of misshaped wood haphazardly nailed together and handed in for a grade, which turned out to be a "D."

My Second Accident

Years later, I was working in a chemistry lab as part of a freshman lab class. I'll keep this mistake brief. Let's just say it was clear to anyone that I did not mean to set my shirt on fire.

Accidents Will Happen

Not all accidents are bad, but they are a fact of life. I have not been totally honest in saying I have only made two accidents in my life. What I really mean is that I have made two memorable accidents. And though they were, unfortunately, not those lucky mistakes like Coca-Cola and penicillin, they were **inevitable**. Accidents are often unavoidable, but we should always try to prevent them as much as possible. Or at least we can keep our fingers crossed that the accidents we make are good ones!

- 1) The tone of this passage is most similar to
 - A. **an informal conversation**
 - B. an impassioned sermon
 - C. an important treatise
 - D. an informational board report

- 2) The fourth paragraph provides information that answers all of the following questions EXCEPT
 - A. What was the narrator's box made out of?
 - B. **How long did it take the narrator to make the box?**

Write sentences from the words in the given tense.

1. He – be – an interesting man (**past simple**) **He was an interesting man**

2. I – arrive – at 11. (**going-to future**) **I am going to arrive at 11**

3. I – not do – that – if – I – be – you (**conditional 1 and past simple**)

I would not do that if I were you

4. Many people – wear – dark clothes – night (**present simple**)
Many people wear dark clothes at night

6. They – just finish – homework (**present perfect simple**)

They have just finished homework

7. She – get up – now? (**present progressive**)
Is she getting up now?

9. When – he – come back – workers – already clean – pavement (**past simple and past perfect simple**)

When he came back the workers had already cleaned the pavement

10. What – you – do – yesterday evening? (**past progressive**)

What were you doing yesterday evening?

11. The boys – play – football – whole day (**present perfect progressive**)

The boys have been playing football the whole day

12. He – often – shop – Harrods. (**present simple**)

He often shops at Harrods

13. If – I – see – lights – I – stop (**past simple and conditional 1**)

If I saw the lights I would stop

14. He said – Mum – already – go out (**past perfect simple**)

He said that Mum had already gone out

15. I – run into – Tom – yesterday (**past simple**)

I ran into Tom yesterday

16. Next week – I – sit – on the beach (**future progressive**)

Next week I will be sitting on the beach

17. The sales – start – next Monday (**present progressive**)

The sales are starting next Monday

18. When – I – enter – classroom – lesson – go on (**past simple and progressive**)

When I entered the classroom the lesson was going on

19. Can – you – ski – when – you – be – little? (**past simple**)

Could you ski when you were little?

20. I – ski – when – I – be – at the university (**past simple**)

I skied when I was at the university

21. How long – you – work – company? (**present perfect progressive**)

How long have you been working for the company?

22. She – sell – the ring (**conditional 2**)

She would sell the ring

23. I – learn – type – now (**present progressive**)

I am learning to type now

24. You – hear – from – him – lately? (**present perfect simple**)

Have you heard from him lately?

25. You – see – moon – last night? (**past simple**)

Did you see the moon last night?

PREPOSITIONS

KEY

1. I liked him **at** first, but then he started being bossy and arrogant.
2. **In** conclusion, the report told us to follow the guidelines.
3. We went to the stadium **by** bus.
4. The nurse was **on** duty from 6 in the morning until midnight.
5. **On** your left you can see one of the biggest libraries in the world.
6. When his wife died, he put up the house **for** sale.
7. My sister travelled to the Far East **for** the first time in her life.
8. **In** theory it was a good method, but we did not know if it would work **in** practice.
9. We had to learn all the poems **by** heart.
10. I filled out the wrong application **by** mistake.
11. He's **on** a diet so don't offer him any sweets.
12. **In** any case, the police have to catch the criminal before he causes any more harm.
13. The black Porsche was driving **at** a speed of over 100 m.p.h.
14. After the attack they found themselves **at** war with the enemy.
15. We must try to avoid deaths and casualties **at** all costs.
16. John is **at** university and comes home every two or three months.
17. Why don't you go with your mother **for** a change?
18. She had to travel to New York **on** business.
19. The paintings are **on** loan to the Guggenheim museum.
20. She can't sleep **at** night and always needs to take some pills.
21. **By** all means, we must try to bring all the parties together and work out a solution.
22. The children get **in** trouble all the time.
23. I didn't want to break the vase **on** purpose. It just slipped out of my hand.
24. Do you, **by** chance, have a phone charger with you?
25. Could I have a word with you **in** private?

TRANSITION WORDS

Transition words are used to link sentences and ideas. If you use them correctly, your writing will be easier to understand and more mature. Look for transitions when you are reading the newspaper, a magazine, or a book. Notice how other writers have used these words, then try to use them yourself in your own writing.

Directions: For practice, use the transitions at the right in the sentences at the left. In each group, use a transition only once. Read each sentence carefully so that you can choose an appropriate transition. Capitalize when necessary.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. I would like to see you tomorrow, so _____ let's have lunch together. | for example |
| 2. My sister loves to eat, but _____ I don't care much about food. | finally |
| 3. When you begin an exercise program, you must be careful not to overdo it.
My father, for example _____, hurt his back by exercising too hard without warming up first. | but
so
still |
| 4. She had looked everywhere for a job; finally _____, she was called for an interview. | beyond
to the left |

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 5. She had been studying for hours. As a result/therefore _____, she hoped to do well on the test. | similarly
third
nevertheless |
| 6. First, Mary went to the store. _____, she went to visit her mother. | however |
| 7. I would like to read many books; however/nevertheless _____, I don't seem to have enough time to read. | as a result
then |
| 8. John ate and ate; however/nevertheless _____, he never gained weight. | for instance |
| 9. Joe ate too fast. as a result _____, he had indigestion. | therefore |

- | | |
|--|---|
| 10. He stayed up too late last night; consequently _____, he slept until noon. | meanwhile |
| 11. I want you to buy milk, eggs, and fruit juice; furthermore _____,
I want you to be sure to get cereal and ice cream. | furthermore
first |
| 12. I was concentrating on my homework. Meanwhile _____,
the soup boiled over. | third
in fact |
| 13. First _____, I will boil the water. Second, I will brew the tea,
and third _____, I will serve it. | until then
consequently
in contrast |
| 15. Jane studies all the time; in contrast _____, Billy never studies. | |



3rd Grade Spelling Challenge

Grade 3 Spelling Worksheet

For each question only one is spelled correctly and matches its clue.
Write the letter of the correctly spelled word in the space.

C A. FAVORE B. FAVER C. FAVOR D. FAVVOR
reward

C A. INJOYS B. ENJOTS C. ENJOYS D. ENJIYS
appreciates

D A. ABL B. ABBLE C. ABEL D. ABLE
capable

C A. COCH B. KOUCH C. COUCH D. CAUCH
sofa

A A. FINE B. FINNE C. FINI D. FIN
beautiful

C A. SERE B. SOPE C. SORE D. SOR
aching

D A. ATEND B. ATREND C. ATTENND D. ATTEND
show up

C A. POINNT B. PIINT C. POINT D. POENT
mark