

# "Microsoft could buy TikTok next month"

## GAP FILL

The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ talks between Microsoft and the parent company of TikTok are back on again. Microsoft has been interested in buying (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of TikTok for many months. The tech giant has been in talks with the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ company ByteDance Ltd. Discussions between the two companies came to a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ last week when US President Donald Trump suggested that he might ban TikTok from the USA. He was worried that the personal (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of over 100 million Americans could get into the wrong (6) \_\_\_\_\_. President Trump changed his (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States."

*parent*  
*hands*  
*part*  
*mind*  
*halt*  
*remains*  
*on-off*  
*details*

TikTok is the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ social media platform to become hugely popular around the (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Users upload very short videos of themselves (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to well-known songs, dancing, making funny faces or doing other (12) \_\_\_\_\_ 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) \_\_\_\_\_. Microsoft is offering ByteDance \$50 billion for the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. However the business website Bloomberg disagrees with that (15) \_\_\_\_\_. It said: "The idea that TikTok - without the UK, India or dozens of other emerging markets - is (16) \_\_\_\_\_ \$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?

- C. What grade did the narrator receive for his or her box?
- D. Why did the narrator's box not turn out right?

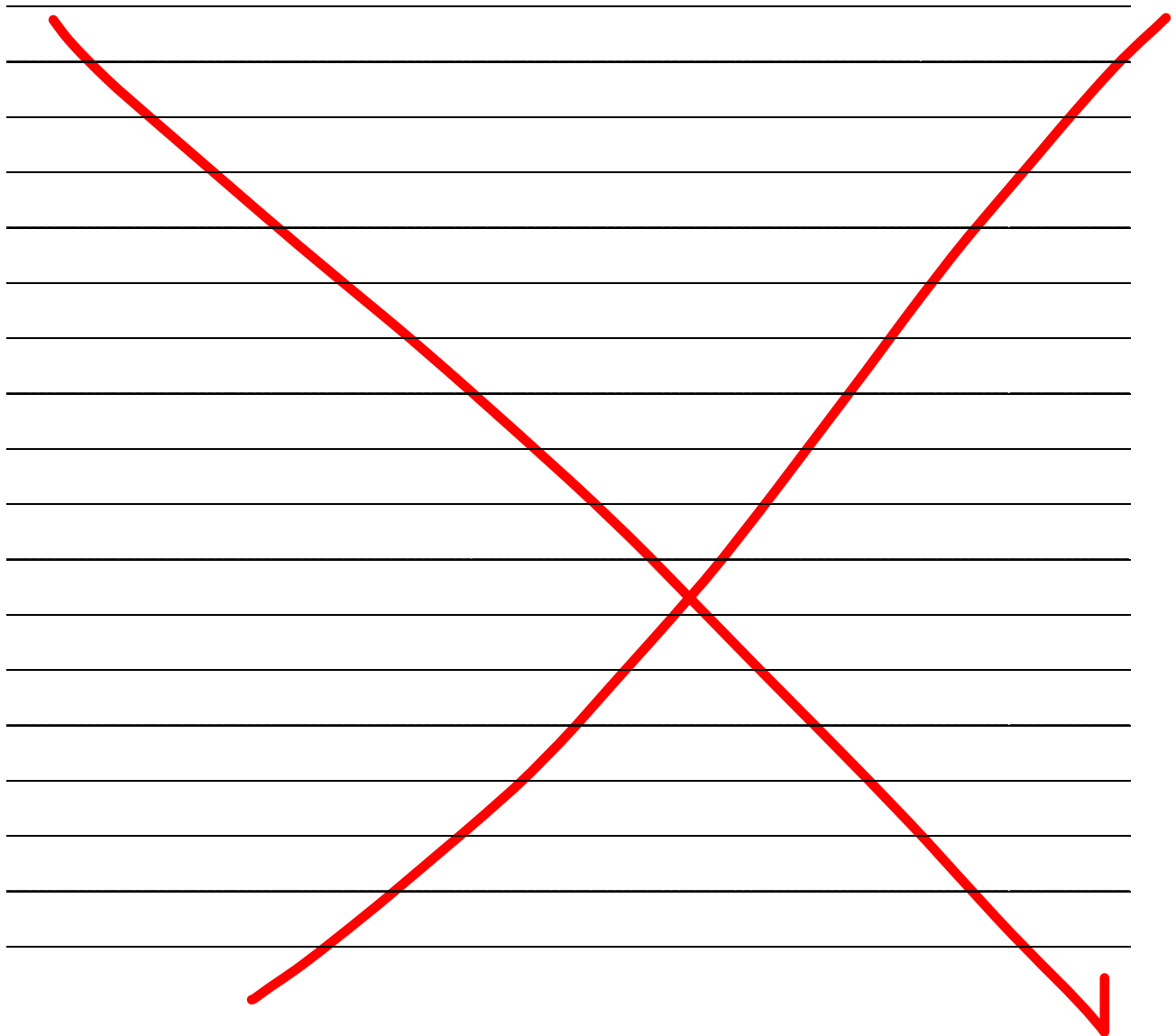
3) Based on its use in paragraph 6, the word **inevitable** has the nearest antonym in

- A. certain
- B. planned
- C. avoidable
- D. possible

4) The narrator's main point about accidents is that they are

- A. impossible to prevent and should therefore be embraced
- B. rarely beneficial to civilization, and they are often very harmful
- C. not ever intentional, but they sometimes cause problems
- D. not always bad events, but they should be avoided if possible

5) The author of this passage mentions several historical accidents that turned out to be successful. Can you think of any accidents in your own life that have turned out to be more beneficial than harmful? Describe one such accident below and explain why it was actually a good event.



**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)
3. I – not do – that – if – I – be – you (conditional 1 and past simple)
4. Many people – wear – dark clothes – night (present simple)
5. They – just finish – homework (present perfect simple) They have just finished
6. She – get up- now? (present progressive)
7. When – he – come back –workers – already clean –pavement (past simple and past perfect simple)
8. What –you – do - yesterday evening?(past progressive)
9. The boys –play – football – whole day (present perfect progressive) They have been playing
10. He –often – shop – Harrods. (present simple)
11. If – I – see – lights – I – stop (past simple and conditional 1)
12. He said – Mum –already – go out (past perfect simple)
13. I – run into –Tom- yesterday (past simple)
14. Next week – I – sit – on the beach (future progressive)
15. The sales – start – next Monday (present progressive)
16. When – I – enter – classroom – lesson – go on (past simple and progressive)
17. Can – you – ski – when – you – be - little ?(past simple)
18. I – ski – when – I – be – at the university (past simple)
19. How long – you – work – company? (present perfect progressive)
20. She – sell – the ring (conditional 2)
21. I – learn – type – now (present progressive)
22. You – hear – from – him –lately? (present perfect simple)
23. You – see – moon – last night? (past simple)

Complete the sentences with one of the prepositions from the box.

**AT - BY - FOR - IN - ON**

1. I liked him \_\_\_\_\_ first, but then he started being bossy and arrogant.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ conclusion, the report told us to follow the guidelines.
3. We went to the stadium \_\_\_\_\_ bus.
4. The nurse was \_\_\_\_\_ duty from 6 in the morning until midnight.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ your left you can see one of the biggest libraries in the world.
6. When his wife died, he put up the house \_\_\_\_\_ sale.
7. My sister travelled to the Far East \_\_\_\_\_ the first time \_\_\_\_\_ her life.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ theory it was a good method, but we did not know if it would work \_\_\_\_\_ practice.
9. We had to learn all the poems \_\_\_\_\_ heart.
10. I filled out the wrong application \_\_\_\_\_ mistake.
11. He's \_\_\_\_\_ a diet so don't offer him any sweets.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ any case, the police have to catch the criminal before he causes any more harm.
13. The black Porsche was driving \_\_\_\_\_ a speed of over 100 m.p.h.
14. After the attack they found themselves \_\_\_\_\_ war with the enemy.
15. We must try to avoid deaths and casualties \_\_\_\_\_ all costs.
16. John is \_\_\_\_\_ university and comes home every two or three months.
17. Why don't you go with your mother \_\_\_\_\_ a change?
18. She had to travel to New York \_\_\_\_\_ business.
19. The paintings are \_\_\_\_\_ loan to the Guggenheim museum.
20. She can't sleep \_\_\_\_\_ night and always needs to take some pills.
21. \_\_\_\_\_ all means, we must try to bring all the parties together and work out a solution.
22. The children get \_\_\_\_\_ trouble all the time.
23. I didn't want to break the vase \_\_\_\_\_ purpose. It just slipped out of my hand.
24. Do you, \_\_\_\_\_ chance, have a phone charger with you?
25. Could I have a word with you \_\_\_\_\_ 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, _____ let's have lunch together.  | for example           |
| 2. My sister loves to eat, _____ I don't care much about food.   | finally               |
| 3. When you begin an exercise program, you must be careful not to overdo it.<br>My father, _____, hurt his back by exercising too hard without warming up first. | but<br>so<br>still    |
| 4. She had looked everywhere for a job; _____, she was called for an interview.  | beyond<br>to the left |

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

- 
- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 10. He stayed up too late last night; _____, he slept until noon.   | meanwhile                  |
| 11. I want you to buy milk, eggs, and fruit juice; _____,<br>I want you to be sure to get cereal and ice cream. | furthermore<br>first       |
| 12. I was concentrating on my homework. _____,<br>the soup boiled over.   | third<br>in fact           |
| 13. _____, I will boil the water. Second, I will brew the tea,<br>and _____, I will serve it.                   | until then<br>consequently |
| 14. _____, I will boil the water. Second, I will brew the tea,<br>and _____, I will serve it.                   | in contrast                |
| 15. Jane studies all the time; _____, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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