

## “Tattoo”

### Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

Justin’s mom had set down the house rules with aplomb. Only the most **obtuse** person would have failed to understand: no tattoos, no body piercings, and no co-ed sleepovers while living in the house of Elaine Tucker Brown.

Still, the day Justin turned 18, he lied to his mother about where he was going and headed straight to the tattoo parlor, as if **impervious** to his mother’s wrath. He got a light blue heart the size of an orange permanently etched on his arm. Above this work of art was the word “Blessed.”



No, Justin was not stupid, but he was obstinate.

Elaine saw this as an act of sheer defiance. She was incensed, her anger **exacerbated** by the fact that Justin had breezed into the house, found her in the kitchen, taken off his shirt with a smile, and said, “Got it!”

“No, Justin. Let me tell you what you’ve got,” Elaine said angrily. “You’ve got five minutes to go upstairs and pack a bag. I’m taking you to Pop-Pop’s.”

The ride to Pop-Pop’s house was chilly, to say the least. Elaine berated Justin for everything she could think of, which wasn’t much because he was a straight-A senior with a full academic scholarship to his top college pick. He had a kind heart and had started a foundation in the ninth grade, which donated used sporting equipment to underprivileged kids in South Africa.

Elaine pulled up to her father’s door and ordered Justin out. Not 10 minutes later, her cell phone rang.

“Elaine, have you lost it? *You are kicking a boy who is as good as him out of the house for a tattoo – that says ‘Blessed,’ no less?*” her father asked, incredulous. “You will miss him so much. Don’t *cut off your nose to spite your face*, Elaine. Come pick this young man up.”

Elaine, having grown up obeying most of her parents’ demands, turned her car around and went back to pick up her son. Justin was surprisingly **contrite**. “Sorry for being so disrespectful, Mom,” he said earnestly. “I will try to follow house rules from now on.”

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## Questions:

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- 1) What other title would best fit this passage?
- A. "House Rules"
  - B. "Visiting Pop-Pop"
  - C. "Straight A's"
  - D. "Body Piercings"
- 2) As used in paragraph 1, which is the best antonym for **obtuse**?
- A. foolhardy
  - B. **intelligent**
  - C. passionate
  - D. stubborn
- 3) Which of the following proverbs does Elaine seem to learn by the end of the story?
- A. **much ado about nothing**
  - B. familiarity breeds contempt
  - C. no arguments will give courage to the coward
  - D. if words suffice not, blows must follow
- 4) Which of the following proverbs does Justin seem to learn by the end of the story?
- A. look before you leap
  - B. pleasure bought with pain hurts
  - C. **youth's first duty is reverence to parents**
  - D. if men had all they wished, they would often be ruined
- 5) In the final paragraph, the author writes, "Justin was surprisingly **contrite**." Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the above sentence while keeping its original meaning the same?
- A. Justin was surprisingly relaxed.
  - B. **Justin was surprisingly remorseful.**
  - C. Justin had surprisingly lost his bad attitude.
  - D. Justin had surprisingly become somber.
- 6) What was Justin's attitude when he showed his mother the tattoo?
- A. **willfully defiant**
  - B. cautiously jubilant
  - C. convincingly contrite
  - D. obviously melodramatic
- 7) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best antonym for **impervious**?
- A. elated
  - B. impenetrable
  - C. invigorated
  - D. **vulnerable**
- 8) As used in paragraph 4, which is the best antonym for **exacerbated**?
- A. intensified
  - B. evened
  - C. extinguished
  - D. **decreased**
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### Questions (continued):

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- 9) "You are kicking a boy as good as him out of the house for a tattoo – that says 'Blessed,' no less?"

The above sentence from the story has a grammatical error. Which of the following correctly identifies this error?

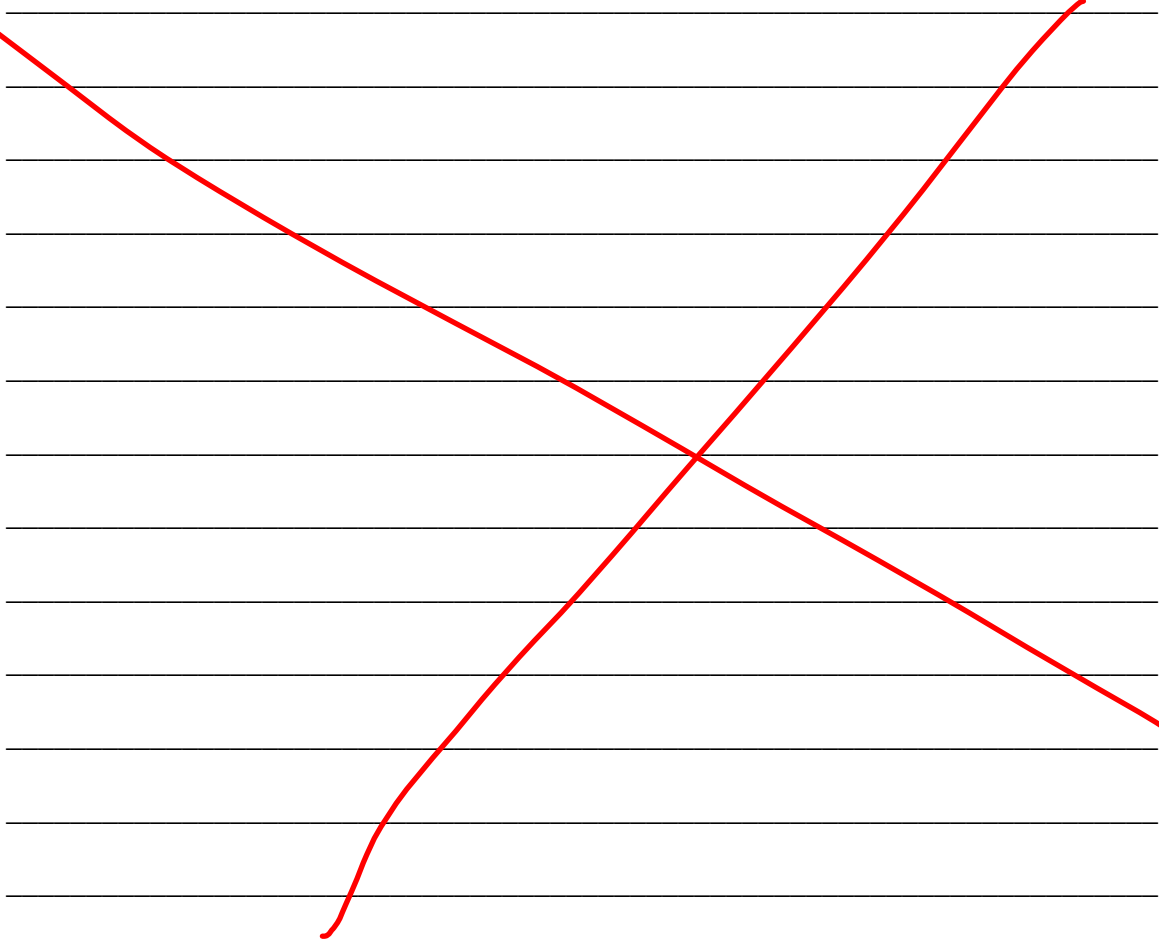
- A. good should be well
- B. him should be he
- C. 'Blessed,' should be "Blessed,"
- D. less should be lest

- 10) Using the passage as a guide, which is the best interpretation of the idiom, "cut off your nose to spite your face," as used in paragraph 8?

- A. calling something bad that is not
- B. trying to teach something too difficult
- C. loving a person less for what he has done
- D. pursuing revenge and hurting yourself in the process

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Have you ever done anything rebellious? Explain.



A series of horizontal lines for writing, with a large red 'X' drawn across them from the top left to the bottom right.

**WORKSHEET 45**  
**Simple Tenses All Mixed Exercise I**  
**Level: Basic (A2)**

Circle the correct option.

1. Judith **goes** / **is going** to school by bike every day.
2. I **am normally doing** / **normally do** the housework on Fridays, but today I **go out** / **am going out** with my classmates.
3. Carmen and Toni **have** / **had** an accident last week.
4. Marlene **was waiting** / **waited** for her sister when she arrived.
5. Right now, Kathy **reads** / **is reading** the newspaper but usually she **doesn't read** / **isn't reading** in the mornings.
6. I think we **are going to finish** / **will finish** our job until 7 PM.
7. Laura and Benedict **were** / **are going to be** happy last weekend.
8. Colin **is never forgetting** / **never forgets** his daughter's birthday.
9. Lena **doesn't like** / **isn't liking** playing football.
10. Fred and Jude **are leaving** / **left** their office very late yesterday.
11. Emily and Ray **bought** / **buy** their tickets last Monday. They **go** / **are going to go** to the theatre tonight.
12. I **was serving** / **will be serving** the guests this time tomorrow night.
13. Bing **doesn't feel** / **isn't feeling** good today.
14. While I **was buying** / **bought** new clothes in a shop I **was noticing** / **noticed** a strange woman.
15. Next summer Victor and his parents **are going to be** / **were** in Nice.
16. I **accepted** / **accept** the offer. I **will work** / **am going to work** as a nurse.
17. Selena **improves** / **is improving** her German day by day.
18. The gardener **watered** / **is watering** the grass at present.

## WORKSHEET 2

### Present Perfect (positive) Multiple Choice

#### Level: Basic - Intermediate (A2 – B1)

Choose the correct option.

1) She ---- shopping.

- A) has goed
- B) **has gone**
- C) have gone
- D) has go

2) I ---- this movie before.

- A) has seen
- B) have see
- C) **have seen**
- D) have seed

3) Derek ---- in Australia for two years.

- a) **has lived**
- b) have lived
- c) has living
- d) has live

4) We ---- to many exotic countries in ten years.

- a) **have travelled**
- b) has travelled
- c) have travelling
- d) has travel

5) Rebecca ---- three languages over the last five years.

- a) has learning
- b) has learn
- c) have learned
- d) **has learned**

6) The train ---- at King Street station.

- a) have arrived
- b) **has arrived**
- c) has arrive
- d) have arriving

7) My children have never ---- abroad before.

- a) be
- b) **been**
- c) being
- d) was

8) Alice has ---- her purse again.

- a) losing
- b) lose
- c) **lost**
- d) losted

**9)** Emily ---- in the same firm for a long time.

- a) **has worked**
- b) have worked
- c) has work
- d) has working

**10)** Tom ---- a sports car.

- a) have bought
- b) has buy
- c) have buying
- d) **has bought**

**11)** The postman ---- the letters early in the morning.

- a) have brought
- b) **has brought**
- c) has bring
- d) has bringing

**12)** They ---- the bell twice.

- a) have rang
- b) has rung
- c) **have rung**
- d) have ringing

**13)** The costumers ---- for the dress.

- a) **have paid**
- b) has paid
- c) have payed
- d) has paying

**14)** Their teacher has already ---- us a lot of homework.

- a) give
- b) gave
- c) **given**
- d) giving

**15)** Linda has just ---- her dress.

- a) weared
- b) wore
- c) wear
- d) **worn**



● Same Sound 2

**Directions:** Find the word that has the same sound as the underlined letter or letters in the first word.

**Board** sounds like **tore**.



Example:

<b><u>BOARD</u> :</b>	A. boat B. <b>tore</b> C. scared D. card
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1)

<b><u>PAIN</u> :</b>	A. pan B. <b>same</b> C. man D. talk
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2)

<b><u>BAKE</u> :</b>	A. <b>steak</b> B. cat C. pack D. tea
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3)

<b><u>KNIFE</u> :</b>	A. kid B. catch C. <b>name</b> D. play
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4)

<b><u>LIKE</u> :</b>	A. sink B. think C. sick D. <b>night</b>
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5)

<b><u>RUN</u> :</b>	A. gone B. own C. <b>done</b> D. phone
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6)

<b><u>PLAN</u> :</b>	A. <b>can</b> B. sad C. cake D. mad
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7)

<b><u>SOUND</u> :</b>	A. bone B. loan C. <b>town</b> D. donate
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8)

<b><u>GO</u> :</b>	A. <b>snow</b> B. move C. ball D. mop
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9)

<b><u>CHOOSE</u> :</b>	A. <b>cruise</b> B. rose C. owes D. please
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10)

<b><u>CUTE</u> :</b>	A. cut B. quiet C. cool D. <b>cucumber</b>
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