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POLIROM

# ENGLISH FOR TEENS

AGE  
13-15



# Cuprins

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# I. Letters and Sounds in Words

## A. English is English!

Learning English means learning two languages, actually: the spoken one and the written one. Unlike Romanian, there are few words in which the letter-sound correspondence is perfect. Moreover, the numerous exceptions to the established rules make things even more difficult. Practice proves that those who master the written form of the language are more likely to master the spoken one as well.



### Exercise 1

a. Read the following pairs of words paying attention to the difference between the sounds [e] and [æ] represented in most cases by the letters *e* and *a*.

Ex.: pet – pat

Underline the words which do not observe this rule when it comes to spelling. Look up the words you do not know.

mess – mass	ten – tan	dead – dad	led – lad	shell – shall
then – than	set – sat	letter – latter	bed – bad	ate – at
lend – land	bet – bat	beg – bag	men – man	head – had
peck – pack	merry – marry	send – sand	said – sad	pen – pan

b. Read the following pairs of words paying attention to the difference between the sounds [i] and [i:]. In most cases the sound [i:] is represented graphically by the groups of letters *ee* and *ea*.

Ex.: rid – reed/read

Underline the exceptions to this rule. Look up the words you do not know.

bit – beat	fill – feel	fit – feet	did – deed	rich – reach
list – least	lid – lead	sit – seat	sin – scene	is – ease
it – eat	this – these	will – wheel	skim – scheme	sick – seek
still – steal	hit – heat	pick – peak	slip – sleep	bin – been/bean

## Exercise 2



a. Read the following pairs of words. As you see, the sounds [ʌ] and [ɑ:] are generally represented graphically by the letters *u*, respectively *ar*.

Ex.: luck – lark

Yet other letters or groups of letters can be pronounced like them. Underline such words if you come across them.

duck – dark	buck – bark	cut – cart	hut – heart	hush – harsh
much – march	hum – harm	come – calm	bun – barn	cuff – calf

b. Which of the following words are pronounced with [ʌ] and which with [ɑ:]?

*after, half, brother, come, laugh, dance, cover, love, butt, task, last, country, Monday, father, other, dove, pass, monk, answer, mask*

[ʌ] .....

[ɑ:] .....

## Exercise 3



Read the following pairs of words. The sound [ɔ] is graphically represented by the letter *o*. (Ex.: *box, lot, pod*.) The groups of letters *or, our, oar, ore* are generally pronounced [ɔ:]. (Ex.: *lord, pour, board, store*.)

In most cases the contrast between the two sounds looks/sounds like this: *spot – sport*.

What other groups of letters do you identify as being pronounced [ɔ:]? Underline them.

cod – cord	cot – court	don – dawn	cock – cork	not – nought
pot – port	shot – short	cot – caught	sot – salt	cops – corpse



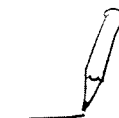
## Exercise 4

Read the following words and then introduce each of them in the column they belong to according to the first vowel you identify. There are three words per sound.

*busy, love, piece, fault, third, afraid, matter, two, fast, bury, freedom, call, bush, health, that, plum, inn, fur, least, ago, shoe, floor, cushion, goddess, begin, lose, bother, shook, birth, flood, attend, carry, card, ready, long, branch*

- [e] .....
- [æ] .....
- [ʌ] .....
- [ɑ:] .....
- [i] .....
- [i:] .....
- [ɔ] .....
- [ɔ:] .....
- [u] .....
- [u:] .....
- [ə] .....
- [ə:] .....

## Exercise 5



It is amazing how words come out of words and how they develop into other words by simply adding or taking away one letter only.

Ex.: If we place the letter *s* at the very beginning of the following 30 words we will get another 30.

In some cases this may lead to a change of sounds. Which of them?

*hare, leek, crew, pear, hire, hoe, kid, how, tale, core, lick, lid, late, tick, well, pit, take, crap, way, hip, tray, till, lap, tool, pill, pot, nail, lot, cream, kill*

a. Try to find the words that undergo the same modification if you use one of the given letters: *b, c, d, f, g, k, p, t, w, y*. In which of them do you identify a striking change of sounds? In some cases the addition does not modify the pronunciation at all; underline them.

*hair, rock, rest, not, late, rind, raw, round, harm, last, leak, link, heat, earn, rash, night, hole, lace, hip, rook, rid, lass, new, here, rush, hill, lean, lute, ram, hen, lap, rap, lot, ring, rate, right, ray, rend, hat, now*

b. See how many words you can build like this starting from the following ones using whichever consonant letter or *w-, y-*.

*law, urn, ride, lame, arm, aid, reed, ace, itch, eel, owl, rain, row, read, lay, rim, rail, each, air, low, oil, ass, east, ale, ask, age, and, own, ape, art*

Ex.: *claw/flaw, burn/turn, bride/pride*

Notice again the alteration of sounds that appears in some cases (such as *warm, said, bowl, bass, wand, down, gown, town*).

c. Most helpful in this respect are words such as: *one, end, ink, our, ark, ate, ire, eat, old, all, in, at, are, ash, ore, ail, ear, ill*. Make your lists – the more words, the better.

Ex.: *bone/done/gone/lone/none/tone; bend/fend/lend/mend/send/tend*

Notice again the sound alteration in words such as: *bone, none, four, pour, tour, wear, wash, bear, pear, wear* etc. (especially if we take into consideration the BE pronunciation for *ate* and the pair of homophones *tear* [tɪə/tɛə]).

d. When it comes to letters that can be added to existent words, *-e* is the most frequent. This causes the change of the short vowel in front of the final consonant of the given word into a diphthong or into a long vowel.

Ex.: *fad – fade; dam – dame; gap – gape  
din – dine; dim – dime; grim – grime  
dot – dote; rob – robe; pop – pope  
cub – cube; cut – cute; mut – mute*

Notice the changes in pronunciation in the following cases: *ton – tone; run – rune; cast – caste; met – mete; bath – bathe; lath – lathe; breath – breathe; wreath – wreathe*.

Write down the words you can get by adding *-e* to the following ones.

*sit, kit, mat, tub, rod, rat, tap, bit, hop, rid, man, past, slid, fat, cod, win, mad, con, fin, can, bad, pin, nap, slop, strip*



## Exercise 7

Match the words with their right definition.

- |            |                                                                                |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | a. a hard, usually black hat, worn especially by men in business               |
|            | b. the left or right side of an army, football team, etc.                      |
| 1. tweeds  | c. a type of hard hat that protects the head worn by soldiers, police, players |
| 2. bowler  | d. an obstacle; a difficulty to be overcome                                    |
| 3. parson  | e. a type of willow tree with long flexible shoots                             |
| 4. walrus  | f. a vicar or rector of a parish; any Protestant clergyman                     |
| 5. rim     | g. grey rock that is very light in weight used in powder form                  |
| 6. pimple  | h. money paid for the release of a person held as a prisoner                   |
| 7. spear   | i. an edge or a border of sth that is circular or similar                      |
| 8. flank   | j. a large piece of armour carried to protect the body when fighting           |
| 9. pumice  | k. a weapon with a metal point on a long handle used for hunting and fighting  |
| 10. ransom | l. clothes made of tweed (a rough woolen cloth woven with mixed colours)       |
| 11. helmet | m. a small thin branch that grows out of a larger branch on a bush or tree     |
| 12. twig   | n. a large Arctic animal, similar to a seal, but with two long tusks           |
| 13. hurdle | o. a small raised spot on the skin                                             |
| 14. shield |                                                                                |
| 15. osier  |                                                                                |

## Exercise 8



Fill in the blanks with words from the given list.

*aimlessly, amounts, chap, cloak, collar, earthquake, framework, pit, plug, pomp, straits, tidal wave, tradesman, turf, wound*

- He turned up the ..... of his jacket against the wind.
- The ..... struck at night when all of us were asleep.
- They excavated a large and deep ..... at the base of the hill.
- The pitch was covered with short, springy .....
- He wandered ..... along the streets of that unknown town.
- The ..... in his chest healed slowly.
- He's a nice ..... after all, isn't he?
- When I opened the door there stood a ..... who was selling cutlery.



9. The Duchess was wearing a purple velvet ..... over her long dress.
10. The bridge was supported by a steel .....
11. Pull out the ..... and let the water drain away.
12. They are selling their country house as they are in serious financial .....
13. Thousands of people witnessed the ..... and ceremony of the royal wedding.
14. The ..... in the Far East brought about massive loss of lives and huge damage.
15. Food was provided in large ..... to the refugees.

Exercise 9



Adverbs of manner are identifiable by the ending *-ly* in most cases. Sometimes the same ending indicates a different meaning. Which of the adverbs printed in *italics* in the following sentences are not adverbs of manner, actually?

1. Their captain was *mortally* wounded in battle.
2. He *boldly* asked for a pay rise.
3. Namibia was *formerly* South West Africa.
4. The meal was delicious, *particularly* the dessert.
5. We were *pleasantly* surprised at the profit we made.
6. She *invariably* arrives late.
7. He still visits us *occasionally*.
8. We're *mostly* out on Sundays.
9. He *willingly* agreed to give me a lift.
10. *Lastly*, I'd like to ask you about your hobbies.

Exercise 10



Fill in the blanks with nouns derived from the verbs at the end of the lines.

1. The bird was shot in .....
2. His ..... of self-control made the boss fire him.
3. A tidal wave brings death and ..... in its wake.
4. The ..... of the compass needle confused us.
5. She is of average ..... for her height.
6. Are you good at .....
7. I have no ..... of meeting her before.
8. A homonym is a word with several .....
9. An ..... of fat in one's diet can lead to heart disease.
10. The meat was declared unfit for human .....

- FLY
- LOSE
- DESTROY
- OSCILLATE
- WEIGH
- DIVIDE
- RECOLLECT
- MEAN
- EXCEED
- CONSUME

b. The most frequent negative prefixes adjectives get are: *un-*, *in-*, *im-* and *dis-*. Each of them will make five of the following adjectives express their opposites. Write down the four *lists*.

*perfect, believable, sane, honest, conscious, offensive, agreeable, patient, happy, credible, polite, obedient, true, practical, animate, possible, satisfied, active, usual, honourable*

3.

### a) Museums

#### Exercise 1



Fill in the blanks with words that keep the text logical and grammatically correct.

The term *museum* was not applied (1) ..... a number of objects of value and beauty (2) ..... the Renaissance. The first museum was founded in 290 BC in Alexandria, Egypt, (3) ..... Ptolemy. It included objects which were also (4) ..... for teaching.

Museums, (5) ..... they are known today, were first established in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. (6) ..... Louvre became the first great public art museum. Early in the history of modern museums special kinds began to be organized. Today we (7) ..... museums in five basic categories: general, history, history and science, science and technology, art.

The type of museum (8) ..... is particularly popular in Europe and Asia holds collections of material of the ancient world. The (9) ..... famous museum of (10) ..... kind is the British Museum.

#### Exercise 2



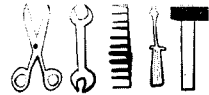
Choose from the words below the ones that fit in the gaps.

*exhibits, will, highlights, prehistoric, papyri, galleries, founded, hieroglyphs, consisting, replicas, facilities, houses, mummies, tours, displays*

The British Museum, (1) ..... in 1753, is one of the greatest museums of the world, showing the works of man from (2) ..... times to the present day. A museum of antiquities until 1973, it was also the national library of Great Britain. Like many other museums, it started from personal collections. The first one was that of a British physician and naturalist Sir Hans Sloane who left his collection of medals and coins, antiquities, drawings and pictures and his library (3) ..... of 50,000 volumes and manuscripts to the British nation in his

(4) ..... Nowadays, the British Museum (5) ..... ten departments of antiquities and part of the British Library. There are permanent exhibitions of ancient objects from Egypt, the Far East, Greece and Rome, Medieval and Renaissance times and many others.

The Department of Greek and Roman antiquities contains many remarkable (6) ....., especially works of art, among which sculptures from the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus and from the Temple of Arthemis at Ephesus. By far the most famous of all is the Department of Egyptian antiquities which (7) ..... a large collection of (8) ....., mummy cases, (9) ..... and the Rosetta Stone, which served as the key to reading ancient Egyptian (10) ..... Prints and drawings, coins and medals, manuscripts and stamps can be admired in a series of temporary exhibitions.



Exercise 3

Read the text and choose the correct answer.

Established in 1770, Madame Tussaud's has a fascinating history. New wax figures have enlarged the collection year after year and the treasures on view today speak both about the past and the present of this extraordinary exhibition.

The oldest figure is that of the Sleeping Beauty, modelled by Doctor Philippe Curtius. In her young days Madame Tussaud had worked for the doctor and had contributed to the collection with the death masks taken of the prisoners guillotined during the French Revolution.

In 1925 a fire broke out and destroyed much of the exhibition. It was not until three years later that Madame Tussaud's opened again.

The development of technology has enabled the museum to create "moving" and "talking" figures, which contribute to the recreation of the atmosphere of 400 years of London's history.

- 1. Madame Tussaud's focuses only on history/has had an interesting history of its own.
- 2. The collection has added for more than 200 years/was made 200 years ago.
- 3. The Sleeping Beauty is a figure made by Madame Tussaud's former employer/a death mask taken during the French Revolution.
- 4. The exhibition was completely destroyed by the 1925 fire/was rebuilt three years after the fire.
- 5. Madame Tussaud's has a 400-year-old collection of English history/has modernized its exhibits due to technological progress.