

A) Supply a suitable SIMPLE PAST or PAST PERFECT TENSE:

1. They (go) home after they (finish) their work.
2. She (just / go) out when I called her.
3. My brother (eat) all the pie before we got back.
4. He wondered why I (not / visit) him before.
5. She said that she (already / see) the Pyramids.
6. The fire (spread) to the next building before the firemen (arrive).
7. They drank small cups of coffee, after they (finish) dinner.
8. He told me he (catch) a young lion.
9. His mother (worry) a lot about him before she (hear) that he was asfe.
10. He (already / learn) English before he (leave) for England, but before he arrived in England, he (forget) some.
11. Mary (go) swimming after she (come) home. After she (swim), she (call) her friend Judy.
12. I (go) to the theatre with my friends yesterday. I (not / go) to the theatre for a year. We (have) a very good time.
13. After they (finish) their breakfast, they (leave) for school.
14. Linda (play) tennis after she (do) her homework.
15. My father (water) the flowers after he (clean) the car. After he (water) the flowers, he (have) dinner.

B) Combine the following sentences by using AFTER / BEFORE:

1. My mother took her umbrella. She went out.
.....
2. Frank called me. I went to school.
.....
3. I washed the dishes. I watched TV.
.....
4. She washed her hands. She had lunch.
.....
5. The boys bought a ball. They played football.
.....
6. My mother made a cake. The guests came.
.....
7. He put sugar in his tea. He drank it.
.....
8. I got up. I had breakfast.
.....
9. The children ran away. They broke the window.
.....
10. I fastened my seat belt. The plane took off.

.....

C) Complete the following sentences:

- 1. After I had watched that horror film, I
- 2. She finished her homework after
- 3. When I came home, my sister already
- 4. Before he went out,
- 5. They had telephoned me before

D) Read the passage and answer the questions:

I had an amusing experience last year. After I had left a small village in the south of France, I drove on to the next town. On the way a young man waved to me. I stopped and he asked me for a lift. After he had got into the car, I said good morning to him in French and he replied in the same language.

Except a few words, I do not know any French at all. Neither of us spoke during the journey.

I had nearly reached the town, when the young man suddenly said, very slowly, "Do you speak English?"

As I soon learned, he was English himself!

- 1. When did the writer drive on to the next town?
.....
- 2. When did he say good morning to the man in French?
.....
- 3. When did the young man say, "Do you speak English?"
.....

E) Fill in the following sentences by using PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE:

- 1. We (play) football for half an hour when it started to rain.
- 2. I (study) English for a short time when the electricity went off.
- 3. She (do) her homework before you came in.
- 4. His knees and hands were very dirty. He (crawl) in the garden.
- 5. I (drive) the car for five years when I sold it.
- 6. We were very tired. We (travel) for about sixteen hours.
- 7. They were out of breath. They (run) for a long time.
- 8. He (live) in London for ten years when he had an accident.
- 9. He was tired because he (write) letters all morning.
- 10. He (repair) the radio for an hour when you arrived.

F) Fill in the following sentences by using PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE:

- 1. I was tired because I (type) for a long time.

2. Her boss was very angry with her because she
(come) to work very late.
3. I didn't know about the earthquake because I (not /
watch) television.
4. She was too fat because she (not / keep) her
doctor's advice.
5. I took my car to the garage because the brakes
(not / work).
6. She had to go to the dentist because she (not / clean)
her teeth.
7. He got bad marks because he (not / study) hard.
8. She wasn't at home. She (go) out with her
boyfriend.
9. I thought I (behave) like an idiot.
10. He (study) English) very hard for the last
few days.

WORKSHEET 15

• Reading Comprehension 6 Level 4

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

In India, people celebrate the festival of Holi (pronounced “hoh-lee”) in March. This festival occurs after the wheat harvest. Wheat is used to make many important foods in India. Holi celebrates the triumph of good over evil.

Holi is a very bright celebration. People light bonfires, tell stories, and cover each other in a variety of colored powders. These powders are called gulal (pronounced “goo-lahl”). People are then sprayed with water, and everyone becomes a beautiful, brightly colored mess. This custom of coloring people comes from a legend about a **trickster** who loved to trick his friends by pouring colored water on them.

Questions

- 1) The festival of Holi occurs after
 - A. the month of March
 - B. the wheat harvest
 - C. people are sprayed with water
 - D. people are covered with colorful powders

- 2) The custom of coloring people during Holi comes from
 - A. a legend about a trickster
 - B. stories that are told around a bonfire
 - C. the triumph of good over evil
 - D. harvesting wheat in March

- 3) Which word best describes the festival of Holi?
 - A. colorful
 - B. tricky
 - C. flavorful
 - D. wet

- 4) As used in paragraph 2, which of the following best illustrates the actions of a **trickster**?
 - A. For Tony’s birthday, Mike brings him a soccer jersey signed by his favorite player.
 - B. Micah invites Delea to work with his group for a school project, and then he asks his mom to bake brownies when the group meets to work.
 - C. Jill excitedly convinces Mae to come see a rabbit outside, but it turns out that the rabbit is a stone statue Jill placed in the garden.
 - D. Robert refuses to let Travis play basketball at lunch, because Travis is just learning to play.

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses the basic background of the festival of Holi in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of the first paragraph reads: "In India, people celebrate the festival of Holi (pronounced 'hoh-lee') in March." This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in the first paragraph. In the first paragraph, after introducing the festival of Holi, the author writes, "This festival occurs after the wheat harvest." Using this information, we can tell that the festival of Holi occurs after the wheat harvest. This means **(B)** is correct. In the first paragraph, the author writes, "people celebrate the festival of Holi (pronounced 'hoh-lee') in March." Since this festival is celebrated in March, we can understand that Holi does not occur after the month of March. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 2, the author writes, "People are then sprayed with water, and everyone becomes a beautiful, brightly colored mess." This detail explains one part of the celebration of the festival of Holi. Because it happens during Holi, we can understand that the festival of Holi does not occur after people are sprayed with water. This means choice **(C)** is incorrect. In paragraph 2, the author writes, "People light bonfires, tell stories, and cover each other in a variety of colored powders." This detail explains one part of the celebration of the festival of Holi. Because it happens during Holi, we can understand that the festival of Holi does not occur after people are covered with colorful powders. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **A**

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses the history behind the custom of coloring people during Holi. A good way to do this is to scan the passage for words like "custom," "history," or "from," since these words will likely tell us the location of the information we want. The last sentence of paragraph 2 reads: "This custom of coloring people comes from a legend about a trickster who loved to trick his friends by pouring colored water on them." This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in this part of the passage. In paragraph 2, the author writes, "This custom of coloring people comes from a legend about a trickster who loved to trick his friends by pouring colored water on them." From this, we can tell that the custom of coloring people during Holi comes from a legend about a trickster, so **(A)** is correct. In paragraph 2, the author writes, "People light bonfires, tell stories, and cover each other in a variety of colored powders." From this, we can tell that stories are told around a bonfire during the festival of Holi, but the author never says that all of these stories that are told explain the custom of coloring people. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. In the first paragraph, the author writes, "Holi celebrates the triumph of good over evil." This lets us know what the festival of Holi celebrates, but it does not explain the custom of coloring people. The author never writes that the custom of coloring people comes from the triumph of good over evil. This means **(C)** is incorrect. In the first paragraph, the author explains that the "festival occurs after the wheat harvest," in March. This fact does not, however, explain how the custom of coloring people came about. Using this information, we can tell that the custom of coloring people during Holi does not come from harvesting wheat in March. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

3) **A**

In paragraph 2, the author writes, "Holi is a very bright celebration." If we read on—searching for context clues—we can find out what the author means by "bright" here. The author goes on to describe how people "cover each other in a variety of colored powders," and "everyone becomes a beautiful, brightly colored mess." This lets us know that bright must mean something like colorful since everyone becomes a "brightly colored mess" from the powders used during the festival of Holi. Using this information, we can tell that being colorful is an important part of this celebration. This lets us know that the word that best describes the festival of Holi is colorful, and **(A)** is correct. In paragraph 2, the author writes, "This custom of coloring people comes from a legend about a trickster who loved to trick his friends by pouring colored water on them." From this, we can see that the custom of coloring people during Holi comes from a trickster who played tricks on his friends. While it might seem like the word tricky is involved in the festival of Holi, the author provides this background detail about the trickster and his tricks to explain a more important aspect of the festival—the reason why people become so colorful. Using this information, we can tell that the word tricky is not the best word to describe the festival of Holi. This means **(B)** is incorrect. The passage does not provide any information to support choices **(C)** or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **C**

trickster (*noun*): a person who plays tricks.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, "This custom of coloring people comes from a legend about a trickster who loved to trick his friends..." We can use context clues—hints from words or phrases we understand around the unknown word—to help figure out a close definition for trickster. The selection says that a trickster "loved to trick his friends," so this lets us know that a trickster must be a person who plays tricks on people. If Jill pretends to be excited about a "rabbit" outside to get Mae to come look, but it turns out the rabbit was a stone statue that Jill placed in the garden, we can tell that Jill is playing a trick on Mae. This makes Jill a person who plays tricks, or a trickster. Using the above information, we can understand that the example of Jill and Mae best illustrates the actions of a trickster, so choice **(C)** is correct. If Mike presents Tony with a signed soccer jersey for Tony's birthday, this would be a kind gesture. Mike would not be tricking Tony, since he is giving him a real birthday gift. This lets us know that the example of Tony and Mike does not best illustrate the actions of a trickster, so we can eliminate **(A)**. If Micah invites Delea to work with his group for a school project, he is being nice by including his classmate. There is no information here that would lead us to believe Micah is playing a trick on Delea. If Mike asks his mother to bake brownies when the group meets to work, we can see that this is not a trick, it is just a favor he asks of his mom. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Robert's refusal to let Travis play basketball at lunch—because Travis is just learning to play—is not a nice thing to do. There is no trick involved in what Roberts does when he refuses, so Roberts' actions are not like a trickster's. This lets us know that the example of Robert and Travis does not best illustrate the actions of a trickster, so **(D)** is incorrect.

WRITING

Choose one of the following and write the story of it.

a) invention of the smart phone

b) discovery of penicilin

Recommended web pages:

https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/tenses/past_perfect_simple_past.htm