

Basic Skills Language Contentions 5 – Contents

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Comprehension – recount 1

Read this recount. Shade the bubble to show the best answer.

Cobb & Co

Cobb & Co was Australia's most important stage coach company during the 1800s. It was established in Melbourne in 1853, at the height of the gold rushes, by a group of Americans headed by a man called Freeman Cobb.

The company's first route ran from Melbourne to Castlemaine, and it proved to be very popular with diggers on their way to the goldfields. Soon horse-drawn coaches were carrying passengers throughout Victoria. In 1862 the company, now owned by another American called James Rutherford, started operations in New South Wales, and became well known for its speed and reliability. Because of this, the Government asked the company to carry mail as well as passengers, making it even more profitable.

Soon after, the coach line expanded into Queensland. The company remained the main means of land transport in the eastern colonies until the spread of steam railways in the 1880s took away many of the passengers and mail routes. The last Cobb & Co coach service ran in 1924.

- The first route was between which two places?
 - Melbourne and Sydney
 - Melbourne and Castlemaine
 - Victoria and New South Wales
 - Melbourne and the gold fields
- Which major event helped Cobb & Co to succeed?
 - the spread of steam railways
 - the gold rushes
 - the last Cobb & Co coach service in 1924
 - the expansion to Queensland
- Who was Cobb & Co named after?
 - James Rutherford
 - Cobb Castlemaine
 - Freeman Cobb
 - James Cobb
- Which of these statements is false?
 - Cobb & Co carried both passengers and mail.
 - Cobb & Co was a successful coach company.
 - Freeman Cobb founded Cobb & Co.
 - Freeman Cobb was the owner of the company in 1862.
- In the passage, what is the best meaning for the word 'established'?
 - started
 - built
 - run
 - concluded
- Which of these statements suggests that Cobb & Co did not operate in Western Australia?
 - The company remained the main means of land transport in the eastern colonies.
 - Soon after, the coach line expanded into Queensland.
 - The company's first route ran from Melbourne to Castlemaine.
 - The Government asked the company to carry mail as well as passengers.



Comprehension – recount 2

Read this recount. Shade the bubble to show the best answer.

Escape from Sydney Town

Towards the end of the 18th century, some convicts managed to escape from the penal colony of Sydney. One of these was Mary Bryant. Her husband, William, had been a smuggler and he was an expert sailor.

On the night of 28 March 1791, they stole a row boat, and silently slipped out of Sydney Harbour. On board were William, Mary, their two children and seven other convicts. Once on the open ocean, they headed north.

It was a long and dangerous voyage. They were blown out to sea by storms, and were nearly wrecked many times as they navigated the treacherous Great Barrier Reef.

After ten weeks they reached Timor, where they were arrested and sent back to England.

- How many people were aboard the boat?
 - 2 7
 - 10 11
- Which event happened first?
 - They stole the boat.
 - They were arrested in Timor.
 - They sailed through the Great Barrier Reef.
 - They were blown out to sea.
- In the passage, what is the best meaning for the word 'navigated'?
 - escaped wrecked
 - floated steered
- What is the purpose of this text?
 - to explain why Mary Bryant was transported to Sydney
 - to recount the story of Mary Bryant's escape
 - to persuade you that Mary Bryant was innocent
 - to recount the story of Mary Bryant's life

Nouns – naming people, places and things

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place or thing. Read the sentences. Shade the bubble next to the word that is a noun in the sentence.

- My computer is broken. is broken computer
- The astronauts were ready. astronauts The ready
- These tickets are very cheap. These tickets are
- There were several islands nearby. nearby several islands
- A vine had begun to twist itself around the tree. itself around vine
- This is the tallest residential building. building is tallest
- Without waiting, they raced to the water. Without they water
- Two of the trains were running late. of trains late

Punctuation edit

Sentences **begin** with a capital letter and **end** with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark.

Circle the error in each sentence. Shade the bubble to show the correct letter or punctuation mark to replace the circled error.

- Bring the other ball with you, b , ?
- Would you like something to eat. w ? ,
- don't press the red button or the power will go off. ; D ?
- you may borrow up to three books at one time. Y T :
- Wash your hands before you handle food? w . F
- the captain of the class is on the committee. . ; T
- Our flight was delayed because of bad weather! o W .
- This bridge was designed by an engineer from Melbourne? t ! .

Plurals – more than one

Plural means more than one. A plural noun is often formed by adding 's' or 'es' to the noun.

Tim has written some sentences. Each sentence contains a noun in bold. Each noun should be a plural. Tim is not sure if he has spelt the plurals correctly. Shade the bubble next to the correctly spelt plural.

- Jo entered all the **relaies** at the swimming carnival.
 relaies relays relays
- There were quite a few **speechs** at the assembly.
 speechies speeches speechs
- We saw lots of unusual **creatures**.
 creatures creaturs creature's
- The **buoyes** marked the position of the channel.
 buoyes buoys buo'ies
- Three of the **state's** were represented in the race.
 state's stats states
- Put the **disces** in that container.
 disces disc's discs
- They all fitted into three **busses**.
 buses bus's busses
- He hadn't paid all his **taxs**.
 tax's taxes taxs

Time to write

Writing a factual recount

A factual recount tells about a series of events in the time order in which the events occurred.

Use this scaffold to write a recount. Possible topics include:

- a news report about an event in your local area
- an account of an excursion you have attended
- an account of an explorer's journey

Recount planner

Opening statement which introduces the topic and gives some background information.

A **series of events** organised in time (chronological) order, with paragraphs used to show changes in time or setting.

Event 1 _____

Event 2 _____

Event 3 _____

Event 4 _____

Conclusion — sometimes including a **personal comment**

Comprehension 1 – narrative

Brad's bad day

Today was not the best day I have ever had.

First I missed the bus, so Mum had to take me to school. As I walked in the school gate my friend, Pete, asked me if I had remembered to bring my money for the cake stall at recess. I'd forgotten all about it and Mum was already too far down the road to hear me.

Then, when we went into the classroom, I discovered I'd left my homework sheet at home. After such a bad start I thought the day couldn't get any worse, but I was wrong.

At recess, when Pete was eating his chocolate cake, someone accidentally bumped into him. He stumbled, and grabbed onto my arm. I ended up with chocolate cake and icing all over my shirt.

The day went downhill even more after that. It was quite a relief to get to bed at last. Surely tomorrow will be better.

1. What two things had Brad forgotten?
 - homework and cake
 - money and cake
 - money and homework
 - a clean shirt and money
2. Which word best describes Brad's day?
 - lucky
 - short
 - unfortunate
 - first-rate
3. Which of these statements is true?
 - Tomorrow was better.
 - Pete got icing on his shirt.
 - Brad normally catches the bus.
 - No more bad things happened after Brad got cake on his shirt.
4. In the passage, what is meant by the term 'went downhill'?
 - went slower
 - got worse
 - got better
 - went quicker
5. How do you know Pete probably remembered to bring money for the cake stall?
 - He asked Brad if he had remembered to bring money for the cake stall.
 - He grabbed Brad's arm.
 - He told Brad.
 - He was eating cake.
6. What is the purpose of this text (the writer's reason for writing the text)?
 - to persuade
 - to explain
 - to entertain
 - to inform

Comprehension 2 – explanation

Diurnal and nocturnal animals

Animals can be classified according to what time of the day they are active.

Most of the animals that we hear and see during the day are called diurnal animals. This means that they are active in the daytime when the light is bright. They can see easily so they can do all the things they need to do to live, such as hunt for food and build shelters. However, their eyes are not good enough to see in

the dark, so when night falls they usually go to sleep.

Not every animal sleeps at night, though. Some animals are active at night and sleep through the day. These animals are called nocturnal. Many of these animals have large eyes which help them make out shapes in the dark. Others have very good hearing and a good sense of smell. This helps them work out where things are in the dark.

- When do nocturnal animals sleep?
 - at nightfall at dawn
 - during the night
 - during the day
- Which type of animal usually has better eyesight?
 - nocturnal animals
 - diurnal animals
 - animals who build shelters
 - neither nocturnal or diurnal animals
- Which of these statements is false? \Rightarrow
 - There are no examples of diurnal or nocturnal animals given in the text.
 - Many nocturnal animals have large eyes.
 - Diurnal animals hunt during the night.
 - Hearing and smell help nocturnal animals 'see'.
- Which of these is a meaning for the word 'classified'?
 - advertised grouped
 - written fed

Grammar and punctuation

Some words and punctuation are missing from this passage. Shade the bubble to show the correct word or punctuation mark to use.

Air safety

Air traffic controllers use radio and radar to track all aircraft flying in skies and direct their movement between and around airports. They sure aircraft stay well clear of each other and avoid bad weather conditions. Satellites are also used to monitor aircraft movements

Aircraft design and maintenance also important in preventing air accidents. and other parts of an aircraft are checked regularly, and airliners are completely every five years. Pilots are trained to handle emergency . They fly many hours under the supervision of an experienced pilot before are put in charge of large passenger aircraft

- Australian australian Australia
- made making make
- ? ! .
- is were are
- engine Engine Engines
- overhauled overhaul overhauling
- situation situations situating
- it she they

Spelling

The person who wrote this passage has circled some words that are not correct. Shade the bubble next to the best word to use.

Chickens play havoc with traffic

by Shona Coop

Yesterday, a truck carrying a load of live chickens bound for the Delicious Drumstick Frozen Chicken factory in Fowlside was involved in a miner collision with an ice-cream van. In the confusoin that followed, about 600 ten-week-old chickens escaped from dameged the truck, quickly bringing the center of Littleton to a standstill.

Traffic was blocked in all directons for an hour as emergency workers and local police tried to recapture the distresed birds. While most were quickly taken into custidy, some determined chickens maneged to reach the edge of town, and some escaped into bushland.

1. minar minor mynor
2. confusion confushon confussion
3. dammaged damagered damaged
4. senter centre sentre
5. direcions directions derections
6. destressed disteressed distressed
7. custody custoddy cusstody
8. mannaged managed managedd

Grammar

Shade the bubble to show the best word to use to complete each sentence.

Christmas Day

Most people that Christmas Day is on the 25th of . In fact, over the years the festival Christmas has had various in December, January and even March. Even now, in some places (such as Armenia) Christmas Day observed on the 6th of January.

It is likely that we celebrate Christmas late December because it has been a traditional festival time in Europe for of years, marking middle of winter and the return of longer, warmer days.

1. think thought thinking
2. December december
3. for off of
4. dated dates date
5. is was are
6. for on in
7. many thousands thousand
8. a an the