

Tom Lost His Job

Understanding

1. Tom felt he was a good provider because he could take care of his family's needs for nice housing, good food, and nice clothing.
2. Depressed means to feel sad and hopeless.
3. Being or feeling positive means having a good outlook/attitude – feeling hopeful and good about one's self and one's life. Being or feeling negative is just the opposite.
4. Tom created a healthier mind and body by deciding to make some changes in his life. He changed his sleep and exercise habits. He established a healthy morning routine.
5. Being committed means dedicating, devoting or pledging to do something.
6. A job counselor at the Workforce Center gave Tom the referral. Tom wants to meet with a mental health professional because he wants to continue making positive changes in his life.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Losing your job can be very difficult. It can make a person feel **discouraged** and depressed. Before he lost his job, Tom was a **productive** person. He was **respected** by his co-workers. He felt proud to be **providing** for his family. Since being laid off, Tom has been **struggling** to find a new job. The search has been difficult, and Tom no longer feels **positive**. Tom doesn't like thinking negative thoughts all of the time. He decided to meet with a **mental health professional**. He also changed his sleeping habits and is exercising more. These changes have given Tom more **energy**. He feels better, and he and his family are seeing the **benefits** of his commitment to change

Fill in the Blank

1. energy
2. positive
3. struggling
4. productive
5. mental health professional
6. discouraged
7. providing
8. respected
9. benefits

Language

1. F, *answers will vary*
2. F, *answers will vary*
3. F, *answers will vary*
4. S
5. F, *answers will vary*
6. S
7. F, *answers will vary*

Speaking

1. Six months ago, Tom was laid off from his job.
2. When Tom was working, he was a friendly, positive person. He felt good about himself. He was proud of providing for his family.
3. Tom's life is different now because he isn't proud or positive. He feels discouraged. He doesn't feel productive.
4. Changes Tom made were to improve his mind and body.
5. Changes Tom made were positive because Tom is happier and has more energy.

Assessment

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. c
7. a
8. a

St. Patrick's Day

Understanding

1. St. Patrick was 74 years old when he died.
2. Shamrocks are small green plants with 3 leaves.
3. St. Patrick's Day is on March 17.
4. St. Patrick's Day began in Ireland.
5. Fiction means made up or not true.
6. St. Patrick often used shamrocks to explain the Trinity.
7. People wear green clothing and drink green beer. They attend St. Patrick's Day parties and parades. They sing Irish songs and dance to Irish music.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: People celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17 to **honor** Saint Patrick. Saint Patrick was a Catholic priest who lived many years ago in Ireland. People often wear green on St. Patrick's Day because it is the **national** color of Ireland. It is a day to celebrate Irish **culture** and history.

There are many stories about Saint Patrick. Some of them are fact, but others are **fiction**. For example, people say that Saint Patrick drove all of the snakes out of Ireland. **However**, Ireland never had any snakes. Saint Patrick did use a small plant with three leaves called a shamrock to explain the idea of the Holy Trinity. The three leaves represented the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and how they could be **separate**, but also together as one. Shamrocks are another symbol of St. Patrick's Day.

Today, many people **attend** parades on St. Patrick's Day. Others eat Irish food and listen to Irish music. Still others attend Catholic **Mass**. People of all **backgrounds** can enjoy St. Patrick's Day fun.

Fill in the Blank

1. fiction
2. attend
3. national
4. backgrounds
5. honor
6. separate
7. However
8. Mass
9. culture

Language

1. a
2. the
3. a
4. The
5. a, the
6. the
7. the

Speaking

1. The main idea is that St. Patrick's Day celebrates Irish culture, history, and Saint Patrick.
2. Three ways people celebrate St Patrick's Day are to wear green hats and clothes, go to parades and parties, and eat Irish Food.
3. Saint Patrick was A Catholic priest and Bishop of the Catholic Church in Ireland.
4. Green is associated with Ireland because Ireland is covered with green grass and shamrocks.
5. Stories about Saint. Patrick that are fiction are that he drove snakes out of Ireland and raised people from the dead.

Assessment

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. b
6. b
7. a
8. c

Environmental Health

Understanding

1. An unhealthy environment isn't clean. There may be garbage, dust, dirt, mold and pests around. There may be poisonous products around.
2. A healthy environment would be clean without garbage, poisonous products, dust, dirt, mold, and pests.
3. Mold is most likely to grow in the kitchen or bathroom. Mold can be kept out of a home by keeping a home clean.
4. Cleaning products should be stored in a high, safe place because they could poison children.
5. Parents can involve their children by cleaning the home as a family and helping to clean areas outside the home, like the children's school or nearby parks.
6. The word model means to show how to do something.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: If the area around you is clean and healthy, you and your family can be healthier. A healthy **environment** should be free from dust, dirt, and mold. Your household should be free from **pollution** in the air, water, or on surfaces.

Cleaning the house every week is the first step in having a healthy environment. The bathrooms and kitchen should be cleaned especially well, because **germs** and mold can form in those rooms. When cleaning, it's a good idea to wear rubber gloves so your hands don't come into contact with the **chemicals** that are in cleaning products. Some chemicals are so dangerous they are actually **poisonous**, so keeping the products up and away from children is important. This doesn't mean that children can't help out with cleaning and other chores. Each family member can complete a **task** so that keeping the environment healthy is not all up to one person.

Everyone can help keep the outside environment clean too. Always **recycle** plastic, metal, paper, and glass instead of putting those items in the garbage. Make it a habit to not **litter** on the ground. When adults **model** good behavior for keeping the environment clean and healthy, children will follow.

Fill in the Blank

1. pollution
2. model
3. germs
4. litter
5. household
6. environment
7. poisonous
8. chemicals
9. task
10. recycle

Language

1. Yes, they are.
2. Yes, it does.
3. Yes, it is.
4. No, they don't.
5. Yes, I do.
6. No, it isn't.
7. No, they aren't.

Speaking

1. *Answers will vary.*
2. Some examples are garbage, dust, dirt, and mold.
3. It's a good idea because pollution can cause sickness and allergies and can attract pests.
4. Mold and germs can form easily.
5. Some cleaning products are poisonous.
6. Any of the following: I can not pollute, I can recycle, pick up trash, not litter, and not put chemicals down sinks or toilets.

Assessment

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. c
5. a
6. a
7. b
8. a

Daycare for Lea

Understanding

1. They need daycare for Lea because they both have full time jobs.
2. They would like a home daycare setting for Lea.
3. Doug has concerns about the home being clean, the possibility of any pets, and of safety. He wonders about fencing around the yard and how many kids are present at one time.
4. Licensed daycare homes are a good choice because they have to follow rules such as food guidelines. They are also checked and visited by state agencies.
5. Mae describes the daycare person she would like to hire as someone who is patient and loves kids. The person would keep Lea on the same schedule as she has at home.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Lea's parents Doug and Mae have full-time jobs. They are also **proud** parents. Lea is their baby girl. Doug and Mae need to find a day care **provider** who can take care of Lea while they are at work during the day. They talk about what type of **setting** they would like to find for day care for Lea. They are looking for someone who has a **licensed** day care in his or her home. The day care provider should be **patient** and love children. The day care provider should keep Lea on her **schedule**. Doug and Mae wonder about **safety** too. They want the home to be clean and have a fence around the yard. They will need to find out how many other children are being cared for.

If Doug and Mae find a day care, the day care provider will have to follow **guidelines** about safety and food. When a day care provider is licensed, a state agency representative will periodically make visits to these **sites** to make sure they are keeping up on safety rules.

Doug and Mae know what they are looking for. Now they have to find the right **day care** for Lea.

Fill in the Blank

1. provider
2. proud
3. licensed
4. patient
5. safety
6. day care
7. setting
8. sites
9. schedule

Language

1. *Answers will vary.*

Speaking

1. They need to find day care because they have a baby and both work full time.
2. They think a provider who loves kids, is patient, and keeps Lea on the same schedule is important.
3. He is concerned about safety.
4. Mae would like licensed day care for Lea.
5. What is good is that there are rules to follow, and state agencies visit to check in.
6. They will start calling day cares.

Assessment

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. a
6. a
7. b
8. b

Helping Others

Understanding

1. A community is an area where a group of people live.
2. Sarah wanted to help others because she wanted to live in an area where people are kind and support one another. She also wanted to get to know more people in her community.
3. Volunteering means doing a good deed for free; helping others without expecting anything in return.
4. Coaching is a good way to help others because if you are a parent who is coaching your child's team, you will not only get to know some of your child's friends, but you will also get to know the friends' parents. (Not to mention all of the benefits of encouraging children to exercise.)
5. Ways to volunteer include helping to stock shelves and/or to bag groceries at a local food shelf, helping kids with homework after school, raking leaves, planting flowers, washing windows, coaching a youth sports team, walking a neighbor's dog, cleaning trash from the ditches, and reading to children at school.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Sarah and others **desired** to live in a town where people helped each other. They wanted to be volunteers. When you volunteer, you do a good **deed** for free. People **volunteer** because they want to help others. There are many ways to volunteer in your **community**. Some people **stock** shelves and bag food at a food shelf. Others volunteer at schools or **local** libraries. You can also volunteer to **coach** a sports team. If you want to give back to the community, you can volunteer. You just have to be willing to help others without **expecting** anything in return. Volunteering is a great way to become more **involved** and meet new people.

Fill in the Blank

1. coach
2. involved
3. deed
4. desired
5. local
6. community
7. expecting
8. volunteer
9. stock

Language: Answers will vary.

Speaking

1. The story is mainly about helping others by volunteering.
2. Some ways to volunteer are stocking shelves and bagging food, helping with homework, raking leaves, planting flowers, washing windows, shoveling sidewalks, driving elderly people to the store, coaching a sports team, walking a neighbor's dog, cleaning up trash, reading to children.
3. *Answers will vary.*
4. People volunteer because they want to help the community and get to know others. They don't get any money for volunteering.
5. Volunteering helps build kind and caring communities.

Assessment

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. b
5. a
6. c
7. b
8. c

Elizabeth Wants a Career

Understanding

1. Three reasons Elizabeth wants to be a CNA are that she wants to help people, wants a better job, and wants a career.
2. Three skills students learn in a CNA class are how to write reports, how to work in teams, and how to understand basic medical words.
3. The ABE school offers reading and writing classes.
4. The ABE school can help Elizabeth and others by helping them improve their reading and writing skills.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Elizabeth has a job, but she wants to have a **career** where she can help people every day. She is interested in taking a class at the Adult Basic Education school to become a **certified nursing assistant**, or CNA. The school secretary gives her information about the class. Elizabeth learns that the students learn **basic** medical words. They will also practice their writing so they can learn to write **reports**. In the class, the students work together in teams, just like they will at work. Before the students take the CNA class, they should take reading and writing classes. The students will need very good reading and writing **skills** to do the work of a CNA.

Now that Elizabeth knows the steps to take toward her goal, she is **excited** to go back to school. She is ready to **begin** taking reading and writing classes. Then she will enroll in the CNA class so she can start her career in **healthcare**. Elizabeth knows it will be hard work, but she also knows she is making the right decision.

Fill in the Blank

1. skills
2. career
3. begin
4. basic
5. excited
6. certified nursing assistant
7. healthcare
8. reports

Language

1. dance
2. financial planning
3. speaking and listening
4. certified nursing Assistant
5. reading and writing
6. computer
7. Chinese
8. Painting

Speaking

1. She calls the local ABE school.
2. Students will learn basic medical words, writing, and teamwork.
3. They should take reading and writing classes.
4. Elizabeth thinks it's a good idea.
5. She plans to begin the CNA class in three months.
6. She will study for a healthcare career.

Assessment

1. a
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. b
7. c
8. a

Getting a Job Reference

Understanding

1. The store owner wants to find out if the person will be a good worker.
2. Courtney decided to ask a lady for whom she cleans houses and her English teacher to be references.
3. Courtney should not ask a family member or friend to be a reference.
4. Courtney got her job application at the grocery store.
5. A reference is a person who will say good things about you; someone who can tell about you and recommend you for a job.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Courtney wants to **apply** for a job at a grocery store. Her friend, Lupe, told her about the job. Courtney brought home an **application** form. She started to **fill out** the application. The form asked her to **list** previous jobs. She also needed to include at least one job **reference**. Courtney did not know what a reference was. She asked Lupe. Lupe told her that a reference is someone who can tell good things about you. Lupe **suggested** listing an employer or a teacher. Lupe said that a reference should not be a friend or family member. Courtney decided to ask a lady she cleans house for to be a reference. She also decided to ask her English teacher and her **job counselor**. After calling them, she **neatly** wrote their names on the application form.

Fill in the Blank

1. fill out
2. list
3. job counselor
4. application
5. suggested
6. neatly
7. apply
8. reference

Language

1. Courtney should fill out the application.
2. Courtney should find out what a reference is.
3. Courtney should find out who she could use as a reference.
4. Courtney should ask someone who is not a family member to be a job reference.
5. Courtney should ask her English teacher to be a reference.
6. Courtney should go to the interview.
7. Courtney should dress professionally for the interview.

Speaking

1. Courtney wants to work at the grocery store.
2. Courtney knows because her friend Lupe told her about the job.
3. Courtney asked for help because she didn't know what a reference was.
4. A job reference is a person who can tell good things about you.
5. *Answers will vary.* A family member or friend should not be listed.
6. It is important to ask a reference before you list the name on your application.

Assessment

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. a
7. c
8. a

Merry Christmas

Understanding

1. A tradition is a custom or belief that is passed from one generation to another.
2. Carols are songs of joy and celebration, especially Christmas songs.
3. People often say, “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays” during the Christmas season.
4. The colors of Christmas are red and green.
5. The words “Mary” and “Merry” both sound the same and are spelled almost exactly the same. Mary is a woman’s name. Merry means very happy and full of good cheer.
6. Answers will vary - student opinion.
7. Festive means joyful or merry, often related to a feast or celebration.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Christmas is a holiday that is full of **tradition**. People **decorate** trees with strings of lights and put wreaths on their doors. Other Christmas **sights** include red and green clothing and Santa at the shopping mall. You can hear the sounds of **carols** being sung. You can hear the sound of a **cash register** ringing up sales. Christmas is a busy time for shopping. Many people also send holiday cards that **include** family photos and letters. The letters tell about the year’s most important **events**. Cut-out cookies in **festive** shapes, like stars and trees, and decorated with frosting are also very popular. Although Christmas is a Christian holiday, it is enjoyed by people from a variety of **backgrounds**. Many people like to **celebrate** with family and friends during this special time of year.

Fill in the Blank

1. decorate
2. cash register
3. tradition
4. celebrate
5. carols
6. sights
7. events
8. backgrounds
9. include
10. festive

Language

1. see, smell, and hear
2. It’s
3. “Frosty the Snowman”
4. grandmother’s
5. ages
6. “Merry Christmas”
7. said,

Speaking

1. *Answers will vary.*
2. People of all ages and backgrounds celebrate Christmas.
3. People might see candles, Christmas trees, wreaths, red and green clothing, strings of lights, reindeer on people’s lawns, Christmas cards, ads in the newspaper, and Santa.
4. People might smell Christmas cookies.
5. People might hear Christmas carols, Christmas greetings and the sound of cash registers.
6. *Answers will vary.*

Assessment

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. b
7. a
8. c

Education in My Life

Understanding

1. The author was limited in not knowing English in the following ways: she couldn't communicate with people, she couldn't ask questions, she couldn't read signs in stores, and she couldn't go anywhere without her husband.
2. Complete means to finish.
3. The author attends North Metro Adult Education.
4. A neighbor told the author about North Metro Adult Education.
5. Reading thirty minutes a day has helped improve her reading. Why? Answers may vary.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: I moved to the U.S., but I did not speak English. I could not **communicate** with people here. Not knowing English **affected** my life a lot. I was dependent on my husband because he knew English. I could not go places without him. I wanted to learn English. I watched TV at home, but I could not learn it by myself. My neighbor told me about an education program for adults. Now I am **working** hard in school. One of my goals is to **complete** high school. I'm working toward getting my **diploma**. At the school, the teachers **encourage** me to keep learning. Reading every day for thirty minutes has helped me to **increase** my reading level. Reading at a higher **level** is important for my second goal to go to college. After I get my high school diploma, I want to continue learning. I would like to earn a **degree**. I plan to study child **development** and get a job working with children. Education is important in my life!

Fill in the Blank

1. working
2. diploma
3. degree
4. increase
5. level
6. communicate
7. affected
8. development
9. encourage
10. complete

Language

1. couldn't
2. could
3. could
4. couldn't
5. couldn't
6. couldn't
7. could

Speaking

1. The author's life was affected because she couldn't do much alone.
2. She relied on her husband.
3. She tried to learn English by watching TV.
4. She goes to North Metro Adult Education.
5. She is studying for her high school diploma.
6. She has been reading thirty minutes each day.
7. In the future, she wants to go to college and earn a degree.

Assessment

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. a
5. a
6. b
7. b
8. b

Winter Driving

Understanding

1. Joe drives 60 miles in a typical workday.
2. Good tips for driving on icy roads include the following: do not follow cars too closely; take turns very slowly, and brake before coming to curve, not while you're in it.
3. Cautious means using care to avoid danger or trouble; being careful.
4. Joes always has the headlights of his car on when it is snowing.
5. Joe takes turns slowly because turns can become very icy from slipping and sliding of cars.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Joe drives from Walnut Grove to Marshall to go to work. He drives thirty miles to work and thirty miles home from work. He usually doesn't mind driving so much each day. Driving in winter, however, can be very difficult. Joe has learned to be a **cautious** driver in winter weather. He has his headlights on all of the time, even during the day. He **brushes off** the snow on his headlights, mirrors, windows, and hood of his car. Sometimes there is **frost** on his windows. He always **scrapes** it off before driving.

In the winter, the ice and snow make the roads **slippery**. The time that Joe needs to stop his car can **increase**. He has to put more **distance** between his car and the car in front of him. He needs to **brake** long before coming to a curve. Many cars start **sliding** on curvy roads.

Joe knows he can't be **too** careful when he drives in the winter.

Fill in the Blank

1. sliding
2. distance
3. slippery
4. increase
5. too
6. scrapes
7. cautious
8. frost
9. brake
10. brushes off

Language

1. there
2. new
3. too
4. read
5. brake
6. week
7. Who's
8. know
9. write
10. ate

Speaking

1. He drives 45 miles each way.
2. Joe makes sure to keep his headlights clean.
3. If there is snow, ice, or frost, Joe brushes or scrapes it off.
4. To avoid hitting a car in front of him, Joe does not follow cars too closely.
5. Joe is careful to slow down or brake before turning.
6. *Answers will vary.*

Assessment

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. b
5. b
6. a
7. b
8. c

What the GED Means to Me

Understanding

1. The word pursue means to follow in order to reach or achieve something.
2. The author didn't graduate from high school because he didn't think school was important; he cut or was late for many of his classes; he eventually got kicked out of school.
3. Work was hard to find. The jobs he did find were low paying ones.
4. He wants a career in computers.
5. He is trying to fulfill his dream by taking GED classes. His plan is to get his GED and go to college, where he will study computers.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: The author of this story, Marcus Gilmore, writes about how important getting his **GED** will mean to him. He always had a dream of working with computers, and he wanted to **accomplish** it. He wanted to **program** and fix computers. Marcus had a problem, though. In high school, he didn't pay **attention** to computers or to his classes. He went late to class, and he **cut** many classes. He eventually got **kicked out** of high school. At first, Marcus didn't care. He worked, but he soon found that without a high school diploma or a GED, he couldn't find a good job. He needed to **further** his education in order to reach his goal. Marcus decided to **pursue** his dream again. He will get his GED. Then he will go to college.

Marcus knows he will **fulfill** his goal of programming and fixing computers.

Fill in the Blank

1. attention
2. pursue
3. kicked out
4. further
5. cut
6. fulfill
7. accomplish
8. GED
9. program

Language

1. used to
2. is used to
3. got used to/are used to
4. used to
5. got used to
6. used to
7. got used to/is used to

Speaking

1. The author wants to work with computers.
2. In high school, he didn't pay attention to computers and cut or was late for classes.
3. Cut class means to skip or not go to class.
4. After high school, he had trouble finding a job or only worked low-paying jobs.
5. He wants to earn his GED now so he can go to college.
6. He wants to go to college and fulfill his dream.

Assessment

1. a
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. a
8. b

Happy New Year!

Understanding

1. People visit with friends and family, watch college football on TV, and make New Year's resolutions on New Year's Day.
2. Attempt means to try.
3. January 1 is New Year's Day. New Year's Day is a national holiday.
4. About 17,000 people are killed every year by drunk drivers.
5. Vow means to promise to do something.
6. If you've had too much to drink, you should call a taxi, take a city bus, or ask a friend who hasn't been drinking to drive you.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: New Year's Eve is a time of celebration. At parties, people use noisemakers and blow paper horns. Drinking alcohol, especially champagne, is a common New Year's Eve **tradition**. At the end of the **countdown**, people raise their glasses. Then, they make a **toast** to the new year that has just begun. Drinking and driving is also all too common even though it is **illegal**. For those who **attempt** to drive home after a party, the results can be deadly. People who drink and drive put themselves and others **at risk** for becoming injured or dying in an accident. Using a bus or taxi is a much safer idea.

Other New Year's Eve traditions are not so risky. A lot of people make a New Year's **resolution**. They **vow** to lose weight, save money, or improve a skill.

Fill in the Blank

1. resolution
2. countdown
3. vow
4. toast
5. attempt
6. illegal
7. at risk
8. tradition

Language

1. so, and
2. yet, but
3. and
4. but, yet, and
5. but, yet, and
6. or

Speaking

1. Many people drink champagne or other alcohol and go to parties.
2. I should use a bus or a taxi to get home.
3. Each year, about 17,000 people are killed by drunk drivers.
4. Most people have the day off work and spend it at home or watch hours of college football.
5. A New Year's resolution is a promise that people make on New Year's to make their lives better.
6. Many people make resolutions to lose weight, exercise more, save money, or learn a new skill.

Assessment

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. a
5. b
6. c
7. a
8. b

Divorce Hurts

Understanding

1. The author mentions learning two important things from her parents: not to fight in front of your kids and to know for sure that the person you marry is the right person for you.
2. The author's brother and younger sister both struggle in their relationships.
3. The author seems to have a more stable, happier life than her brother and sister.
4. To commit means to promise to do something.
5. The author is probably 17 (parents separated when she was 10, they got divorced seven years ago, and she's not yet 18).
6. Struggle means to have difficulty with something, despite good efforts.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: **Divorce** is hard on kids and families. When parents decide to **separate**, it can affect the children in negative ways. For example, the children might feel very sad or **depressed**. They might also **struggle** with relationships. **Initially**, or right after the divorce, the family might seem to be out of control. Everything may feel in **chaos**. With time, however, things can get back **on the right track**. Children might find that they have learned things from their parents, like to not fight in front of kids. Fighting can hurt them **emotionally**. Some children of divorced parents might decide that when they **commit** to being with someone, it will be for the rest of their lives. They won't want their children to be **put through** what their parents put them through.

Fill in the Blank

1. on the right track
2. chaos
3. emotionally
4. Initially
5. depressed
6. struggle
7. divorce
8. commit
9. put through
10. separate

Language

1. younger, youngest
2. older, oldest
3. harder, hardest
4. worse, worst
5. more difficult, most difficult
6. easier, easiest
7. more intelligent, most intelligent
8. longer, longest
9. prettier, prettiest
10. more expensive, most expensive

Speaking

1. She was 10 years old. She had her daughter likely when she was 15 years old.
2. The divorce affected the author and her siblings differently.
3. Her brother has been angry and struggles with relationships. Her younger sister goes through good and bad times and struggles with relationships.
4. Initially, the author felt depressed. Now she feels good.
5. Some examples are to not fight in front of your kids and to be sure the person you marry is the right one.

Assessment

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. c
5. a
6. a
7. b
8. c

Flag Day

Understanding

1. Flag Day is June 14.
2. The first U.S. flag was adopted on that day, June 14, 1777.
3. Fold the flag; don't stuff it in a box or drawer.
4. Put a light on the flag if flying it at night.
5. Another name for the U.S. flag is The Red, White, and Blue.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: There are many holidays in the United States. One holiday is called Flag Day. It is on June 14 because the first U.S. flag was **adopted** on June 14, 1777. Many people and businesses **display** the U.S. flag outside on this day. The streets are **lined** with flags! Everyone can put a flag up outside any day or just on Flag Day, but there are some rules about displaying the U.S. flag. The flag shouldn't be **flown** in bad weather or even when it's rainy. It shouldn't be flown in the dark. It shouldn't ever touch the ground. The flag is flown at **half-staff**, or half-mast, for thirty days to commemorate a **tragedy** or a death. A flag shouldn't be buried, burned, or thrown away in the trash. People should always **fold** a flag before putting it away in a box or a drawer.

Following the rules for displaying a flag show respect for the flag as a symbol of the U.S. You can fly the flag, sometimes called "The Red, White, and Blue," any time you like to show your national pride.

Fill in the Blank

1. lined
2. tragedy
3. half-staff
4. flown
5. display
6. adopted
7. fold

Language

1. You should not let a U.S. flag touch the ground.
2. You should get to work on time.
3. Buy cheese, bread, and milk.
4. You should take out the recycling.
5. Don't throw a flag in the garbage.
6. Turn left up here.
7. You shouldn't drive so fast.

Speaking

1. The first U.S. flag was adopted on June 14, 1777.
2. Most city streets are lined with flags.
3. You should not fly a flag in the dark, in rain, or in bad weather.
4. After a tragedy or death.
5. You should fold it.
6. You can fly a flag every day.

Assessment

1. c
2. a
3. a
4. c
5. c
6. b
7. c
8. a

Valentine's Day

Understanding

1. Popular means liked by many people.
2. Current year – 270 = correct answer.
3. Valentine's Day gifts include cards; candy - chocolate, conversations hearts, Valentine M & M's; flowers/roses.
4. A mystery is something that is now known or cannot fully be explained.
5. Florists are people who work in the flower business growing or tending, arranging and selling flowers.
6. Valentine's Day is not a national holiday.
7. Ancient Rome – annual February 15 festival where young couples were matched for the year.
Christian tradition – Saint Valentine performed many marriages illegally; he died on February 14.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: On Valentine's Day, people go to work, children go to school, and it seems like a normal day. People often give cards to their loved ones. Children give cards to each other that contain riddles or funny jokes. These valentine cards might say, "You're a **super** friend!" and are shared in school. Other ways to celebrate Valentine's Day include giving flowers and candy to loved ones. Many people also buy chocolate candy as a tasty **treat** to give to a husband, wife, child, or friend. **Florists** are very busy!

How did Valentine's Day begin? The history of this holiday remains a **mystery**. One possibility is that it began in **ancient** Rome. A **festival** was held every year on February 15. At the festival, young men and young women were paired up. For the **remainder** of the year, they stayed together as couples. These couples would often get married. Another possibility is the story that comes from Christian **tradition**. Saint Valentine was a kind priest who **performed** marriages in Rome. **However**, these marriages were against the law at this time. Saint Valentine was beaten and jailed. He died on February 14—Valentine's Day.

Fill in the Blank

1. remainder
2. tradition
3. However
4. florists
5. mystery
6. ancient
7. super
8. festival
9. performed
10. treat

Language

1. are read
2. are called
3. was found
4. is celebrated
5. were married
6. were paired
7. are sold

Assessment

1. c
2. a
3. a
4. c
5. b
6. a
7. c
8. a

Speaking

1. It's not a national holiday because people go to school and work and businesses and banks are open.
2. Loved ones give romantic cards, flowers, and candy.
3. Children give each other valentines, often with funny jokes or riddles.
4. It's the busiest because many people give flowers as gifts.
5. At the festival, young men were paired with young women.
6. Saint Valentine was a priest who performed illegal marriages in ancient Rome.
7. The main purpose is to celebrate love and friendship.

My Dinner is on Fire!

Understanding

1. Two ways to stop a small grease fire: put a handful of baking soda on the fire or smother the fire with the pot or pan lid.
2. Two things you should not use on a grease fire: baking powder – it contains flour and/or starch which can spread the fire; water – it can cause grease to splatter and fire to spread.
3. Most kitchen fires happen because someone started heating fat or oil and forgot about it.
4. Keep a fire extinguisher in or near the kitchen.
5. Require means to need.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Cooking is an enjoyable hobby for many people. Sometimes people can get distracted by something, though, and forget to turn off oil or grease that is heating up on the stove. When the oil gets very hot, it can smoke and become a **grease fire**. One of the leading **causes** of fire in homes is cooking. It's important to remember to **turn off** the heat of the stove if you need to leave the kitchen for any reason.

A small grease fire can be put out with a handful of **baking soda**. Be careful not to use **baking powder**. Don't use water, either. Water can make grease **splatter** on the stove and anything nearby. It is possible to put out a grease fire if you **smother** it with a lid over the fire in the pan.

A larger grease fire will **require** a fire extinguisher. If you keep a **fire extinguisher** in your kitchen, make sure you know how to use it.

Remember to always turn off the stove if you leave the kitchen while hot oil or grease is heating to avoid coming back to a grease fire.

Fill in the Blank

1. baking powder
2. causes
3. turn off
4. require
5. splatter
6. grease fire
7. fire extinguisher
8. baking soda
9. smother

Language

1. Do
2. Does
3. Do
4. Do
5. Does
6. Do
7. Does
8. Does

Speaking

1. Most kitchen fires start because someone is heating fat or oil and forgets about it on the stove.
2. You can put baking soda on a small grease fire.
3. Baking powder can spread a grease fire.
4. Water can splatter grease and cause a fire to spread.
5. I should use a fire extinguisher.
6. I should turn off the stove.

Assessment

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. b
7. c
8. a

Safety in the Kitchen

Understanding

1. Use a long-handled utensil when frying foods.
2. Remove means to take off or away from a place.
3. Pan handles should be turned toward the center of the stove. Handles that stick out over the floor can cause great harm.
4. Hot oil can cause deep and painful burns.
5. Do not wear loose clothing with floppy sleeves when cooking.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Fried foods taste good, but frying foods at home means being careful. When the oil in a pan is hot and you add food to the pan, the oil can **splatter** you. Hot oil or **grease** can burn you when removing food from a pan also. If you use a **utensil** with a long handle, it will help you to keep some space between you and the hot oil. Using utensils with long **handles** can help you stay safe. They can **decrease** your chances of being burned by the oil or grease.

Make sure to keep the handles turned in, not out toward you, when you are not holding on to them. Small children are often **curious** about what you are cooking. A child might pull on a handle he sees and the hot oil can **spill** on his face and body.

Another thing to remember is what to wear when you are frying foods. If you wear a loose shirt or robe with **floppy** sleeves while cooking, the clothing can get **caught on** the handles of the pans and start on fire. Anything made of cloth or paper should be kept far from the cooking area.

Lastly, let a pan with hot oil in it sit on the stove and cool before moving it to the counter or sink.

Fill in the Blank

1. grease
2. handles
3. curious
4. caught on
5. decrease
6. splatter
7. fried
8. spill
9. utensil
10. floppy

Language

1. fried
2. burnt
3. roasted
4. bakes
5. roast
6. fried
7. bake

Speaking

1. Hot oil can splatter when you add or remove food from a frying pan.
2. I should use a long-handled utensil.
3. I should keep the handles turned because a child may pull the pan down and spill hot oil.
4. Towels, napkins, and loose clothing can easily start on fire.
5. Loose, floppy sleeves could get caught on pan handles or could fall into hot grease and start on fire.
6. Let the hot oil or grease cool.

Assessment

1. c
2. a
3. a
4. a
5. c
6. b
7. b
8. c

Protect Your Family from Lead

Understanding

1. Harmful means likely to cause harm or damage; dangerous.
2. Lead can cause brain damage; behavior, learning and hearing problems; and slowed growth.
3. Look for lead in peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking lead-based paint. Look on windows and window sills, door and door frames, and stairs and railings. Lead may also be found in the soil or dirt around pre-1978 homes.
4. Lead can enter the body through eating it, absorbing it through soil or through breathing in lead dust.
5. Young children have rapidly growing bodies and brains that absorb lead easily.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Lead is a metal that can be found in homes built before 1978 and is **harmful** to humans. **Lead** is harmful to people of all ages and especially to children. Young children often put their hands, toys, objects, and even paint chips in their mouths. The **paint chips** could have lead in them. Objects with household **dust** could have lead on them. Soil from the ground could have lead in it. People can bring lead into the house from the soil. People can breathe in lead dust.

Older homes were often painted with **lead-based** paint. If that paint is peeling or chipping, young children might put it in their mouths. The children can **absorb** the lead, causing damage to the brain. Lead can also cause delayed growth, hearing problems, learning problems, and **behavior problems**.

If you think your home might have lead-based paint in it or on it, try to take the paint off right away. Look at the **window sills** around your windows, the door frames around your doors, and the stairs and **railings**. Check the **porches** too.

Fill in the Blank

1. porches
2. lead-based
3. harmful
4. railings
5. dust
6. lead
7. window sills
8. behavior problems
9. paint chips
10. absorb

Speaking

1. Bob was driving, singing along to his favorite song, and tapping to the beat.
2. He thought "So much for the great day."
3. He turned off the radio and rolled down his window.
4. He asked, "Do you know how fast you were going?"
5. He was driving 60 mph in a 50 mph zone.
6. He received a warning.

Language

1. Ingesting, or eating, lead-based paint is harmful.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Thule built a porch, a type of deck, on the front of their home.
3. People might bring lead into the house on the soil, or dirt, on their shoes.
4. Mrs. Cinnamon has found that scraping, or chipping away, at the paint outside her home is a slow process.
5. Young children often put small objects, or items, into their mouths.
6. Melese brought injera bread, a type of thin, spongy bread, that she makes at home.
7. Mr. Stewart held onto the railings, the barriers along the sides of the stairs.

Assessment

1. a
2. b
3. a
4. b
5. b
6. a
7. c
8. c

Fishing is a Great Hobby

Understanding

1. Fishing is a great hobby because people of all ages and abilities can participate, it's both relaxing and exciting, and it doesn't cost much money.
2. Inexpensive means low cost.
3. In Minnesota, all persons ages 16 and older need to have a fishing license when fishing. It's the law.
4. You might be able to find some night crawlers in your yard.
5. Fishing is relaxing because you can enjoy the great outdoors, watch the ripples of the water, listen to the soothing sounds of the waves, feel the warmth of the sun, and experience a fresh breeze of air.
6. Fined means to punish by charging a sum of money.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Many people enjoy the hobby of fishing in the summertime. Everyone can learn to fish. People of all **abilities** and ages can fish in rivers and lakes. Fishing is **exciting** when you catch a fish. Fishing is relaxing when you are waiting for a fish.

While you are waiting for a fish to bite your fishing line, sitting or standing on the **shore** of a lake or river bank is relaxing. You can listen to the **soothing** sounds of the water. You can gaze at the **ripples** on the water. You can feel a breeze coming off the water. Many people enjoy just waiting for a **bite**.

Fishing can also be exciting because catching a fish is fun. When a fish tugs on your fishing line, it might **put up a fight**. You could **land** a fish bigger than you imagined! You could catch a lot of fish in one day!

Lastly, fishing is not an expensive hobby. If you have a fishing pole, some bait or worms, and a fishing **license**, you can go fishing. Buy a license every year. If you don't, you can be **fined**. Then fishing will not be such an inexpensive hobby.

Fill in the Blank

1. put up a fight
2. shore
3. license
4. ripples
5. exciting
6. abilities
7. fined
8. bite
9. land
10. soothing

Language: Answers will vary

Speaking

1. Three reasons are it is relaxing, exciting, and inexpensive.
2. Fishing is relaxing because you can watch and hear the water and be outdoors.
3. Fishing is exciting because fish put up a fight and you may catch a lot of fish.
4. You put bait at the end of your fishing line.
5. Someone age 16 and older needs to buy a fishing license.
6. You could be fined.

Assessment

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. b
5. a
6. a
7. b
8. a

Learning English

Understanding

1. Omar had class in the mornings.
2. Value means how much something is worth.
3. Omar wanted to learn English for many reasons: he wanted to read the newspaper; he wanted to read the notes his children brought home from school; he wanted to better understand and complete forms and applications; he wanted to secure a better job.
4. Practice means to do something again and again in order to get better at it.
5. Omar had reading class on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
6. Secure means to get.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Omar went to class four mornings a week. He studied reading, writing, and math. He **believed** that improving his English was important. If he improved his English, he **could** understand many things better. He could understand **forms**. He could fill out **applications** for jobs and for insurance. He knew studying English would help him to **secure** a new job. He hoped the new job would be **better** than the job he had.

Omar learned many things in math class. He learned the **value** of coins in the U.S. He learned about paper money too. In reading and writing class, Omar learned the letters of the English **alphabet**. He learned how to read English articles and write in English. Omar knew it would take a lot of **practice** and time to learn English well. He was willing to keep studying because learning English was important to him.

Fill in the Blank

1. practice
2. believed
3. value
4. secure
5. could
6. applications
7. alphabet
8. forms
9. better

Language

1. f
2. e
3. b
4. a
5. g
6. c
7. d

Speaking

1. He went to English class four mornings a week.
2. He had reading class Mondays through Thursday mornings.
3. He learned about money.
4. Learning how to read and write English took a lot of practice.
5. He could read the newspaper, notes his children brought home from school, and forms and applications.
6. His goal was to get a better job.

Assessment

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. a
8. b

Mother's Day and Father's Day

Understanding

1. Mother's Day is in the spring.
2. Relax means to rest without work or worry.
3. There are special holidays for mothers and fathers because they work so hard and love so much!
4. Mother's Day became a holiday 58 years before Father's Day became a holiday.
5. Father's Day is the third Sunday in June.
6. Honor means to show respect or admiration for.
7. The president has the power to make U.S. holidays.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: Mother's Day and Father's Day are two **official** U.S. holidays. These holidays **honor** the special adults in our lives. Mother's Day, which is celebrated in May, is a day for moms to **relax**. They **get a break from** all of their regular tasks and responsibilities. Moms often get a special **treat** on Mother's Day, like flowers or candy. On Father's Day, which is in June, dads get cards with **phrases** like, "Happy Father's Day, Dad!" Dads can also be **treated** to a nice meal in a restaurant or breakfast in bed. Most U.S. holidays celebrate famous people or **events**. Therefore, it's nice to have these two days to celebrate the more **commonplace** folks who are so important.

Fill in the Blank

1. events
2. gets a break from
3. relax
4. official
5. treat
6. honor
7. phrases
8. commonplace
9. treated

Language: Answers will vary

Speaking

1. The main idea is the history and celebration of Mother's Day and Father's Day.
2. People celebrate Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June.
3. Some special things for moms are cards, flowers, candy, jewelry, breakfast in bed, and a day off to relax.
4. Some special things for dads are cards, books, clothes, a special meal, and breakfast in bed.
5. These days became national holidays when presidents made them official.

Assessment

1. a
2. a
3. c
4. c
5. b
6. c
7. a
8. a

Save Money on Your Phone Bill

Understanding

1. The “amount due” is the sum of money you must pay to the company that sends you the bill for your phone service.
2. You should check how much data you’re using because you may be able to get a cheaper plan if you aren’t using as much as you think.
3. Apps can make your bill more expensive because they may be using data in the background even if you aren’t using the apps.
4. The company may reduce your bill if it can automatically take money out of your bank account.
5. You should look around at other carriers because you might get a good deal or special extras if you change your carrier.

Supplement

Vocabulary Cloze Paragraph: We need to pay our bills, but some bills are larger than others. If you are expecting a large bill, it could be scary to open it! Paying your phone bill doesn’t have to be frightening. Here are some tips that could **actually** help you save money.

Don’t **stream** video or music unless you can do it with Wi-Fi. If Wi-Fi is **available**, use it to save data! Also, if you aren’t using all the data on your plan, don’t pay for **unlimited** data, which can be expensive. **Apps** can use data even if they are only running in the background, so try to remember to turn them off. Ask your **carrier** about different ways to pay your bill. If you sign up for an **automatic** payment plan, you may save money. Consider using a different carrier. If you **switch** carriers, you may get some good deals from your new carrier! But be sure to do your **research** first to make sure you make the right choice. Finally, **reduce** the number of times you must buy a brand new phone. If the phone you have works well, use it longer.

Fill in the Blank

1. apps
2. available
3. stream
4. switch
5. actually
6. unlimited
7. research
8. carrier
9. reduce
10. automatic

Language

1. ID
2. TV
3. email
4. app
5. info
6. phone
7. blog
8. lab

Speaking

1. It is the amount of money owed for a bill.
2. I should stream when Wi-Fi is available.
3. I should check how much data I use in case I can reduce my data plan.
4. I should turn off apps that I’m not using.
5. Automatic payments come out of a bank account. A benefit is that a company may reduce your bill if they can automatically take money for the bill.
6. I should do research and compare services.

Assessment

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. b
5. a
6. c
7. c
8. a