

Using Language Elements

1. Dialogue Completion.

Commonly, in high school English examinations, this element is used as a touch-stone to test the knowledge of students in various grammar terms and the language usages. Students are asked to complete the dialogue by filling in the missing parts with suitable words, phrases or clauses. Students should be familiar with the following grammatical structures which are most often tested in examinations.

- ❖ Framing questions (Wh/Yes or No)
- ❖ Question tags
- ❖ The more...the more
- ❖ Conditionals
- ❖ Had better....,
- ❖ As though/as if
- ❖ So...that
- ❖ No sooner...than, Hardly/Scarcely...when/before
- ❖ Neither...nor
- ❖ Would rather

Complete the following conversations suitably: (Questions from SCERT Question Pool)

Question 1

Vanka: Good morning, sir

The Man: Good morning, _____ a _____?

Vanka: Do you know where the post office is?

The Man: _____ b _____

Vanka: _____ c _____?

The Man: You should walk fifteen minutes from here.

Vanka: If I post a letter today, _____ d _____?

The Man: I don't know. It may take two to three days

Vanka: You mean the letter will reach day after tomorrow, _____ e _____?

The Man: Not sure. You had better _____ f _____.

Vanka: Yes, I will ask the postmaster. Thank you, sir.

Question 2

Varun: You look so worried, _____ a _____?

Doctor: Yes, A snake coiled round my arm.

Varun: _____ b _____?

Doctor: I sat like a piece of granite.

Varun: If the snake had bitten you, _____ c _____.

Doctor: Yes. I had no medicines at home.

Varun : _____ d _____?

Doctor: No, I didn't.

Varun: You had better _____ e _____.
Doctor: I was terribly frightened. So I couldn't do anything.

Question 3

Mr. Thorat: Good Morning Mr. Ray
Ray: Good Morning. You are Mr.Thorat, _____ a _____?
Mr. Thorat: Yes. _____ b _____?
Ray: I want a tiger for the shooting of my film.
Mr. Thorat : _____ c _____?
Ray: I need it for a couple of hours.
Mr. Thorat : OK. I will bring the tiger.
Ray: Can you make the tiger act the scene?
Mr. Thorat: If I train the tiger _____ d _____ .
Ray: How will you bring the tiger?
Mr. Thorat: _____ e _____.
Ray: Yes. You may bring it in a lorry

Question 4

Ali: Uncle, you collect junk from the town every day, _____ a _____?
Junk collector: Yes, I do it every day.
Ali: _____ b _____?
Junk collector: Yes, I collected some things from Akbar's shop.
Ali: Was there a parcel of shoes in the junk? I lost my sister's shoes at Akbar's shop yesterday.
Junk collector: I don't know. I just dumped the entire junk in the processing area. If I get it,
_____ c _____.
Ali: _____ d _____?
Junk collector: The processing area is very near.
Ali: OK Uncle. Thank you. Bye.
Junk collector: Bye.

Question 5

Zahra: Where are my shoes?
Ali: _____ a _____.
Zahra: I'll tell dad about it.
Ali: If you tell dad, _____ b _____
Zahra: How can I go to school tomorrow?
Ali: You had better _____ c _____
Zahra: Will your shoes suit me?
Ali: _____ d _____.
Zahra: OK. I'll try to wear it.

Question 6

John: You remember me, _____ a _____?

Doctor: No, I do not recollect you.

John: _____ b _____?

Doctor: Yes, I was working as a junior doctor in London.

John: If you had not saved me, _____ c _____.

Doctor: You lived in an old house in London.

John: Do you remember me now?

Doctor: Yes, _____ d _____.

Question 7

John: Sir, You are a doctor, _____ a _____?

Doctor: Yes. _____ b _____?

John: I am John. You saved me from a suicide attempt.

Doctor: Oh! Now I remember you.

John: If you had not come on time that day _____ c _____.

Doctor: _____ d _____?

John: I went to New York to visit the juvenile homes there.

Doctor: _____ e _____?

John: Yes, I stay in London.

Doctor: I'm very happy to meet you.

Question 8

Landlady: Good evening Sergeant

Sergeant: Good evening. _____ a _____?

Landlady: The young man is dying, sir.

Sergeant: He tried to commit suicide, _____ b _____?

Landlady: Yes. He closed the doors and opened the valve of the gas cylinder.

Sergeant: _____ c _____?

Landlady: No, I don't know why he did it. You'd better _____ d _____.

Sergeant: If there is a doctor nearby _____ e _____.

Landlady: Please bring him quickly. It looks as if _____ f _____.

Sergeant: OK. I will go immediately.

Question 9

Friend: Martha, why are you so gloomy?

Martha: The principal just conveyed some bad news.

Friend: _____ a _____?

Martha: He told me that there was a change in policy of awarding the scholarship jacket this year.

Friend: You are going to get it this year, _____ b _____?

Martha: Yes. But... they say that I've to pay fifteen dollars for it.

Friend: _____ c _____?

Martha: No. I haven't informed my grandfather.

Friend: Don't worry, if you tell your grandfather _____ d _____.

Martha: I don't think so.

Friend: Then, you'd better _____ e _____.

Martha: Ok, let me ask my grandmother also.

Question 10

Father: Here is a new guest, a rabbit.

Mother: _____ a _____?

Father: I got it from the forest.

Mother: It will harm our children, _____ b _____?

Father: No. It won't. It is a tiny creature.

Mother: It seems very weak. You had better _____ c _____.

Father: Ok. I'll get some milk for it.

Mother: _____ d _____?

Father: Keep it indoors. If you _____ e _____.

Mother: Poor rabbit. You shouldn't have brought it home.

Question 11 (From Orukkam 2017)

Ali lost the shoes of Zahra in the vegetable store. He reaches home. Given below is the conversation between Ali and his sister Zahra. Complete it.

Ali: Oh! Sorry, I'm a bit late.

Zahra:-----a-----? Where are my shoes?

Ali: Sorry I couldn't bring it.

Zahra: Couldn't bring it? You're joking,b.....?

Ali: Sorry Zahra. I'll the truth. I lost them in the vegetable store.

Zahra: I shall tell it to papa.

Ali: Please don't tell him. If you tell him,.....c.....

Zahra: How will I go to school tomorrow without shoes?

Ali:.....d.....

Zahra: Thank you.

Question 12

Complete the conversation given below:

You: Good morning Doctor, would you mind.....a.....?

The Doctor: Sure, I'm not busy now.

You:b.....?

The Doctor: I didn't see the snake again after the incident.

You: What happened when you returned to your house?

The Doctor:.....c.....

You:.....d.....

The Doctor: I didn't lose anything valuable except my stethoscope.

You: You informed the police,.....e.....?

The Doctor: I did. They have registered a case.

Question 13

After the recovery, Mr John had a conversation with the young doctor.

Complete the conversation choosing the option from the brackets.

Doctor: Hello young man,.....a.....?

Mr. John: I feel better today. Doctor, could spare some time with me?

Doctor:b.....(Why not?/ What not?)

Mr. John: Doctor, I don't want to live. -----c------(I don't have anything to live on./ I doesn't have anything to live on)

Doctor: What happened to you? You-----d----- (had better convey your worries. / had better conveyed your worries)

Mr. John: I am an orphan. I lost everything I had.

Doctor:e.....(Why do you worry about your past? / How do you worry about your past)

Mr. John: But I don't have any income to live.

Doctor: Don't worry, If you make up your mind,.....f..... (I will try to find a job for you. / I would find a job for you)

John: Thank you very much doctor.

Answers

Question 1

- What can I do for you? / Do you want any help? / How can I help you?
- It is a little far from her. / It's in the next street. / It's opposite the railway station.
- How far should I walk? / Can I walk or should I get a taxi?

d) When will it reach the destination? / When will it reach the addressee? / When will it reach my grandfather?

e) won't it?

(**Note:** When we want to add a question tag to a complex sentence (a sentence having a main clause and a subordinate clause) the tag should normally be created in accordance with the main clause. But when the subject of the main clause is the pronoun 'I' with verbs like 'think', 'hope', 'mean', 'suppose' etc, the tag is created as per the subordinate clause. Though the rules are so, exceptions can be taken especially when the proximity rule (the condition in which the distance between the main clause and the tag is too far and the sentence becomes clumsy) or the prominence of subject matter of the subordinate clause is to be considered. Then, the tag can be created according to the subordinate clause. Here, in this question, as per the rule, the tag should have been, 'don't you? But prominence has been given to the idea conveyed through the subordinate clause and the tag has been created as per the subordinate clause)

f) ask the postmaster.

Questions 2

a) don't you?

b) What did you do?

c) you would have died. / you would have been in trouble.

d) Did you kill it? / Did you drive it out of your room?

e) kill it / drive it out.

(**Note:** "We use *had better* to refer to the present or the future, to talk about actions we think people should do or which are desirable in a specific situation". It has no past meaning even though 'had' is there in the structure. So, *had better* in this question is wrongly placed in the sense of '*you should have done something*'.)

Question 3

a) aren't you?

b) What can I do for you?

c) How long will you need it for?

d) it will act the scene. / it will definitely act the scene.

e) I will bring it a lorry.

Question 4

- a) don't you?
- b) Did you collect anything from Akbar's shop?
- c) I will return it to Akbar. / I will give it to you. / I will inform you.
- d) Where is the processing area?

Question 5

- a) I have lost them. They are missing from where I have kept in the vegetable shop.
- b) he will beat me. / he will punish me. /he will scold me.
- c) use my shoes. / wear my shoes.
- d) Yes, they will. / Yes, I think so. / Yes, you can try.

Question 6

- a) don't you?
- b) Weren't you working as a doctor in London? (*Note:* A negative question like this is used for the confirmation of something the questioner believes to be true.)
- c) I would not have been here now. / I would have died many years ago.
- d) I do. / I remember now.

Question 7

- a) aren't you?
- b) But I don't know you, you are? / Who are you? / I'm afraid, I don't remember you, would you introduce yourself?
- c) I would have died. / it would have been my death day.
- d) Why did you go to New York?
- e) Do you stay in London?

Question 8

- a) What happened? / Why did you call me this time?

- b) didn't he?
- c) Do you know why he did it? / Do you know the reason?
- d) call a doctor. / try to get a doctor.
- e) I will bring him.
- f) he is going to die soon.

Question 9

- a) What did he tell you? / What is the bad news he conveyed?
- b) aren't you?
- c) Have you informed your grandfather?
- d) he will give you the money./ he will pay for you.
- e) ask your grandmother.

Question 10

- a) Where did you get it from?
- b) won't it?
- c) feed it something./ give it some milk.
- d) Where are you going to keep it?
- e) keep it outside, cats or dogs will attack it./ do not take care of it, it will die.

Question 11

- a) Where were you? / What happened to you?
- b) aren't you?
- c) he will beat me. / he will scold me.
- d) You can use/wear my shoes.

Question 12

- a) spending a few minutes with me? / sparing me some time?

{**Note:** ‘Sure’ is the reply given in the dialogue for the request beginning with the construction ‘Would you mind.....?. Though semantically it is correct, grammatically it means ‘Yes I do mind’. To avoid this kind of confusion, it is better to reply as ‘Not at all’ or ‘It’s OK, go ahead’ etc.}

- b) Did you see the snake again after the incident?
- c) All my things were stolen. / Some thieves stole all my things.
- d) Did you lose anything valuable?
- e) didn't you?

Question 13

- a) How do you feel today? / How are you today?
- b) Why not?
- c) I don't have anything to live on.
- d) You had better convey your worries.
- e) Why do you worry about your past?
- f) I will try to find a job for you.

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