



Thinking about Language

I. Here are some sentences from the story. Choose the word from the brackets which can be substituted for the italicised words in the sentences.

1. A few years later, the marriage *faltered*. (failed, broke, became weak)
2. Einstein was constantly at odds with people at the university. (on bad terms, in disagreement, unhappy)
3. The newspapers proclaimed his work as “a scientific revolution.” (declared, praised, showed)
4. Einstein got ever more involved in politics, *agitating* for an end to the arms buildup. (campaigning, fighting, supporting)
5. At the age of 15, Einstein felt so *stifled* that he left the school for good, (permanently, for his benefit, for a short time)
6. Five years later, the discovery of nuclear fission in Berlin had American physicists in an uproar. (in a state of commotion, full of criticism, in a desperate state)
7. Science wasn’t the only thing that appealed to the dashing young man with the walrus moustache. (interested, challenged, worried)

Answer:

1. became weak
2. in disagreement
3. declared
4. campaigning
5. permanently
6. in a state of commotion
7. interested

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II. Complete the sentences below by filling in the blanks with suitable participial clauses. The information that has to be used in the phrases is provided as a sentence in brackets.

1. _____, the firefighters finally put out the fire. (They worked round the clock.)
2. She watched the sunset above the mountain, _____ (She noticed the colours blending softly into one another.)
3. The excited horse pawed the ground rapidly, _____ (While it neighed continually.)
4. _____, I found myself in Bangalore, instead of Benaras. (I had taken the wrong train.)
5. _____, I was desperate to get to the bathroom. (I had not bathed for two days)
6. The stone steps, _____ needed to be replaced. (They were worn down).
7. The actor received hundreds of letters from his fans, _____ (They asked him to send them his photograph.)

Answer:

1. Working round the clock, the fire fighters finally put out the fire.
2. She watched the sunset above the mountain, noticing the colours blending softly into one another.
3. The excited horse pawed the ground rapidly, neighing continually.
4. Having taken the wrong train, I found myself in Bangalore,

instead of Benaras.

5. Having not bathed for two days, I was desperate to get to the bathroom.

6. The stone steps, being worn down, needed to be replaced.

7. The actor received hundreds of letters from his fans, asking him to send them his photograph.

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