



WORKING WITH WORDS

Q1. English is a language that contains words from many other languages. This inclusiveness is one of the reasons it is now a “world language”.

For example:

petite - French

kindergarten - German

capital - Latin

democracy - Greek

bazaar - Hindi

Find out the origins of the following words:

tycoon barbecue zero tulip veranda ski logo robot trek bandicoot

Ans:

tycoon – Japanese

tulip – French

logo – Greek

bandicoot – Telugu

barbecue – Spanish

veranda – Hindi

robot – Czech

zero – Italian

ski – Norwegian

trek – Dutch

2. Notice the underlined words in these sentences and tick the option that best explains their meanings.

(a) “What a thunderclap these words were to me!”

The words were _____

(i) loud and clear.

(ii) startling and unexpected.

(iii) pleasant and welcome.

(b) “When a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison.”

It is as if they have the key to the prison as long as they

(i) do not lose their language.

(ii) are attached to their language.

(iii) quickly learn the conqueror’s language.

(c) Don’t go so fast, you will get to your school in plenty of time.

You will get to your school _____

(i) very late.

(ii) too early.

(iii) early enough.

(d) I never saw him look so tall.

M. Hamel _____

(a) had grown physically taller

(b) seemed very confident.

(c) stood on the chair.

Ans:

(a) (ii) startling and unexpected.

(b) (ii) are attached to their language.

(c) (iii) early enough.

(d) (ii) seemed very confident.

NOTICING FORM

1. Read this sentence:

M. Hamel had said that he would question us on participles.

In the sentence above, the verb form “had said” in the first part is used to indicate an “earlier past”. The whole story is narrated in the past. M. Hamel’s “saying” happened earlier than the events in this story. This form of the verb is called the past perfect.

Pick out five sentences from the story with this form of the verb and say why this form has been used.

Ans:

(i) For the last two years all our bad news had come from there.

Reason: The ‘coming’ of bad news happened earlier than the bulletin in the story.

(ii) Hauser had brought an old primer.

Reason: The event of ‘bringing’ happened earlier than Franz noticed it.

(iii) That was what they had put up at the town-hall!

Reason: The ‘putting up’ of bulletin happened earlier. Now it is recalled.

(iv) they had not gone to school more.

Reason: The action of ‘not going’ happened much earlier.

(v) the hopvine that he had planted himself twined about the windows to the roof.

Reason: The ‘planting’ of hopvine happened earlier than its twining about the windows.

***** END *****