

Chapter 5: Lessons for Success

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FEDERAL BOARD
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Model Textbook of English
9

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Question/Answers

What is the main theme of the article about Jeff Bezos?

Ans. The article's main theme is to highlight Jeff Bezos' journey, and his philosophies on risk-taking, decision-making, finding one's passion, embracing innovation, and maintaining individuality, contributing to his success as a leader and entrepreneur.

Which of Bezos' lessons do you find most compelling, and why?

Ans. The lesson about "taking risks" is particularly compelling. Bezos emphasizes the importance of pursuing one's dreams and not fearing failure. His decision to leave a stable job at a hedge fund to launch Amazon demonstrates the value of following one's passion and taking calculated risks. This resonates because it encourages courage and self-belief in pursuing ambitious goals.

Can you think of a personal or professional situation where one of Bezos' lessons might apply?

Ans. In a professional setting, Bezos's lesson on making quick decisions could apply. For example, in project management, delaying decisions can slow down progress. Multiple people depend on your decision, so you need to be quick. Following his advice, one could focus on making reversible decisions faster to maintain momentum and encourage experimentation.

How might Bezos' advice on decision-making and risk-taking benefit someone in their career?

Ans. Bezos' advice can help individuals embrace innovation and overcome the fear of failure, encouraging them to seize opportunities. By understanding that many decisions are reversible, professionals can experiment and adapt without fear of permanent consequences, leading to creativity and growth.

Do you agree with Bezos' perspective on embracing distinctiveness? Why or why not?

Ans. Yes, I agree with Bezos' perspective. Embracing distinctiveness fosters innovation and personal authenticity. While challenging, staying true to oneself can lead to unique contributions and long-term success in both personal and professional life. It can lead to self-satisfaction and you will not have the regret of not trying.

Q: Deduce and fill meanings of words/phrases:

- **tangential:** Deduced Meaning: Slightly related or peripheral. Dictionary Meaning: Relating to or along a tangent; diverging from a previous course or line; only superficially relevant.
- **high-velocity decisions:** Deduced Meaning: Quick and efficient decisions. Dictionary Meaning: Decisions made at high speed, often under pressure.
- **intuition:** Deduced Meaning: Instinctive knowledge or understanding without reasoning. Dictionary Meaning: The ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning.
- **distinctiveness:** Deduced Meaning: Uniqueness or individuality. Dictionary Meaning: The quality of being easily recognizable as different or unique.
- **suboptimal:** Deduced Meaning: Not the best or below an ideal standard. Dictionary Meaning: Less than the highest standard or quality.
- **transitioned:** Deduced Meaning: Moved or changed from one state to another. Dictionary Meaning: The process or period of changing from one state or condition to another.

Compound Prepositions

Prepositions are made by combining two or more prepositional words. Examples: About, across, according to, aside from, because of, in case of, due to, instead of, in addition to, etc.

Prepositional Phrases

Groups of words start with a preposition and act as modifiers (cannot stand alone as a sentence).

Types of Prepositional Phrases:

- **Adjectival Phrases:** Modify nouns or pronouns to describe "which" or "what kind." Example: The boy with the blue hat.
- **Adverbial Phrases:** Modify verbs, adjectives, or adverbs to describe "how," "where," "when," or "to what extent." Example: She ran with pride.

Exercise 1

- The cat jumped **onto** the table.
- I'm going **to** the park **with** my friends.

- The keys are hidden **under** the flowerpot.
- The cookies are **on** the plate.
- The restaurant is **beside** the street.
- The pen is **on** the notebook.
- She walked **through** the high street to reach the playground.
- The bookshelf is **against** the wall.
- The ball rolled **down** the stairs.
- They sat **by** the fire to keep warm.
- I can see the moon **above** the clouds.
- The dog ran **across** the street to chase the squirrel.
- She placed the vase **on** the shelf.
- The car swerved **through** the crowd of people.
- The bird built its nest **among** the tree branches.

Exercise 2

- The dog barked. The postman arrived. The dog barked at the arrival of the postman.
- Jenny laughed. Her brother told a joke. Jenny laughed at her brother's joke.
- We bought ice cream. We went to the beach. We bought ice cream on our way to the beach.
- She went to the store. She bought some groceries. She went to the store for some groceries.
- He studied all night. He passed the exam. He passed the exam after studying all night.
- They went to the beach. They played volleyball. They played volleyball at the beach.
- I woke up late. I missed the bus. I missed the bus because of waking up late.
- They went to the park. They had a picnic. They had a picnic at the park.

Exercise 3

- The birds flew over the mountains. Prepositional phrase: **over the mountains**
- The dog ran after the ball. Prepositional phrase: **after the ball**
- The flowers bloomed between the trees. Prepositional phrase: **between the trees**

Questions and Answers (Story)

- **Which compound preposition describes the path they took through the forest?**
Ans. The compound preposition "through" describes the path they took through the forest.
- **Where did they decide to set up their campsite?**
Ans. They decided to set up their campsite beside a sparkling river.
- **What did Sarah use to light the campfire?**
Ans. Sarah used a matchbox to light the campfire.
- **What did they talk about around the campfire?**
Ans. They talked about their dreams and future plans around the campfire.
- **Which compound preposition is used to show the location of the campsite?**
Ans. The compound preposition is "beside a sparkling river".
- **Why does the sentence, "The raccoons vanished into the night," use the preposition "into"? What does it add to the description?**
Ans. The preposition "into" suggests the raccoons' quick and seamless retreat, highlighting their instinctive and mysterious behavior. It adds a sense of intrigue and uncertainty to the scene, enhancing the mood of the night and the wilderness.
- **In the sentence "They walked through the dense forest," what does the compound preposition "through" imply about the nature of the forest and the difficulty of the journey?**
Ans. The preposition "through" implies that the characters are moving from one side of the forest to the other, suggesting that the forest is a significant obstacle they must traverse. It emphasizes the density of the forest, indicating it is thick, challenging to navigate, and perhaps daunting. This word choice highlights the effort required to make the journey, creating a sense of persistence or determination in the characters. The word "through" conveys progression and struggle, which might symbolize overcoming obstacles or hardships. It suggests that the forest is not just a backdrop but a central element of the journey, adding depth to the story's setting and mood.
- **The phrase "above the treetops" is used to describe the sunrise. How does this compound preposition create a vivid mental image of the scene?**
Ans. The phrase "above the treetops" creates an expansive and uplifting mental image of the sunrise. It suggests a clear, wide view where the sun is prominent, symbolizing the dawn of a new, optimistic day and emphasizing the height and grandeur of the natural setting.
- **How does changing the preposition in "The sun rose above the treetops" to "The sun rose between the treetops" alter the atmosphere?**
Ans. Modified Sentence: "The sun rose between the treetops, casting a golden glow on the campsite." Changing "above the treetops" to "between the treetops" alters the imagery and atmosphere of the scene. The original phrase, "above the treetops," conveys an expansive and uplifting view, emphasizing the grandeur of nature and the dawn of a new day. In contrast, "between the treetops" creates a more confined and intimate image, suggesting the sun's rays are peeking through gaps in the trees. This change shifts the tone from one of vast openness to one of closeness and detail, possibly evoking a more secluded or tranquil mood at the campsite.

- **Analyze the role of prepositional phrases in setting the scene. How do phrases like “through the dense forest” and “beside a sparkling river” contribute to the reader’s mental imagery of the camping location?**

Ans. “Through the Dense Forest” evokes a vivid mental image of a secluded, natural setting, emphasizing the lush greenery and the effort required to navigate the wilderness. It sets the tone of adventure and exploration. “Beside a sparkling river” suggests an attractive and serene spot, enhancing the appeal of the campsite as calm and refreshing. These phrases are crucial for transforming a simple description into an immersive scene.

- **The phrase “around the campfire” is used to describe where the friends gathered. What sense of atmosphere does this prepositional phrase create?**

Ans. The phrase “around the campfire” suggests a central, shared space where the friends come together. It conveys a sense of unity, warmth, and intimacy as they sit close to each other. The campfire symbolizes comfort and light, contrasting with the surrounding darkness, which further emphasizes the cozy, communal atmosphere.

- **Consider the phrase “besides the raccoons” when Sarah places sandwiches. How does this prepositional phrase add a layer of meaning to the interaction between the friends and the raccoons?**

Ans. “Beside the raccoons” implies a close physical proximity, indicating Sarah’s willingness to approach and share food with the animals. This phrase reflects kindness and respect for nature. It also shows an unspoken interaction between humans and animals, blending curiosity and mutual trust. The phrase portrays Sarah as empathetic and reinforces the theme of harmony with the natural world. It adds depth to the narrative by showing how small actions can create meaningful connections.

- **In the sentence “They packed their gear and hiked back through the forest to return home,” the phrase “to return home” signifies the purpose of the action. How do such purpose-indicating prepositional phrases help in storytelling and character motivation?**

Ans. Phrases like “to return home” are purpose-indicating prepositional phrases that clearly articulate the goal or motivation behind the characters’ actions (packing and hiking). They provide a sense of closure to the adventure, frame the journey, and make the characters’ behavior logical and relatable to the reader. They help move the plot forward by directly linking actions to their ultimate goals.

- **How would changing the prepositional phrase “through the dense forest” to “past the dense forest” alter the reader’s understanding of the setting and the characters’ experience?**

Ans. Changing “through the dense forest” to “past the dense forest” alters the reader’s understanding of the setting and the characters’ experience. The original phrase suggests the characters are deeply immersed in nature, creating a vivid sensory experience as they navigate the forest. The modified phrase, “past the dense forest,” implies the characters bypassed or skirted the forest, reducing the sense of adventure or engagement with their surroundings. This change makes the narrative less immersive and may affect the mood by diminishing the connection between the characters and nature.

Conjunctions and Transitional Devices

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that connect words, phrases, or clauses within a sentence. They help establish relationships between different parts of a sentence, making writing cohesive and logi-

cal. Examples: and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet, because, although, since, unless, while, if, though

Transitional Devices

Transitional devices are words or phrases used to connect ideas between sentences or paragraphs. They guide the reader by showing relationships such as cause and effect, comparison, contrast, sequence, or emphasis.

Types of Transitional Devices:

- **Addition:** To add information. Examples: moreover, furthermore, in addition, also Example Sentence: She is a talented singer; **moreover**, she writes her own songs.
- **Contrast:** To show difference or opposition. Examples: however, nevertheless, on the other hand, in contrast Example Sentence: I am too tired to go. **However**, I will try my best.
- **Cause and Effect:** To show reason or result. Examples: therefore, consequently, as a result, hence, since Example Sentence: It rained all night; **consequently**, the roads were flooded.
- **Sequence:** To indicate order or time. Examples: first, next, finally, subsequently Example Sentence: **First**, preheat the oven; **next**, mix the ingredients.

Conjunctions: Join words or phrases within a sentence. **Transitional Devices:** Link ideas across sentences or paragraphs to ensure smooth flow.

Exercise: Fill in the Blanks with Appropriate Conjunctions:

1. I wanted to go to the park, **but** it started raining heavily.
2. She studied hard for the exam, **so** she was determined to succeed.
3. He is allergic to peanuts, **so** he always checks food labels.
4. I was tired **because** I stayed up late to finish my assignment.
5. He wanted to buy the car, **but** he couldn't afford it.

Exercise: Combining Sentences Using Transitional Devices:

1. The weather was cold; **however**, we decided to go for a hike.
2. She forgot her umbrella; **therefore**, she got soaked in the rain.
3. He missed the bus; **as a result**, he was late for the meeting.

Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of words used together to link equal parts of a sentence. Examples: both...and, either...or, neither...nor, not only...but also, whether...or

Exercise: Fill in the Blanks with Correlative Conjunctions:

1. **Both** John **and** Adam showed up at the party.
2. **Either** the rain stopped **or** the sun came out.
3. Sarah can speak **both** English **and** Spanish.
4. I will **either** play video games **or** watch TV tonight.
5. **Neither** Sam **nor** Tom wants to be the team captain.
6. **Whether** you can join us for dinner **or** let us know in advance.
7. **Whether** we go hiking **or** swimming, I'll be happy.
8. Mary enjoys **both** reading novels **and** watching movies.
9. Tim will **either** eat pizza **or** have a burger for dinner.
10. **Either** my friend **or** my brother knows the answer to that question.
11. She is **both** beautiful **and** intelligent.
12. **Either** the concert **or** the movie was canceled due to bad weather.
13. The team won **not only** because the players played with determination **but also** because of teamwork.
14. I want to **either** go to the beach **or** stay at home and read a book.
15. **Both** eating fruits **and** drinking lots of water are essential for health.
16. She can't **either** play the piano **or** the guitar.
17. He is **not only** just an actor **but also** a talented singer as well.
18. I'm **both** running late **and** stuck in traffic.
19. The movie was **both** interesting **and** confusing.
20. **Either** my sister **or** my brother likes pizza.
21. We can **either** take the subway **or** a taxi to reach the station on time.
22. **Either** my parents **or** my teacher can attend the meeting.
23. **Both** Mary **and** John were able to solve the math problem.
24. I will **either** buy a new phone **or** get my old one repaired.
25. The dog is **neither** asleep **nor** awake.
26. **Whether** you like **or** you dislike, it's important to respect others' opinions.
27. We can go for a walk **or** watch a movie at home.

28. The weather is **neither** too hot **nor** too cold today.
29. **Both** exercise regularly **and** eat a balanced diet if you want to stay healthy.
30. She couldn't **either** swim **or** dance at the party.



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