Sneak Preview

When you watch a movie preview, you form ideas about what the movie will be like. You can preview a story in the same way by examining the title and illustrations. In each frame below, write an impression that you receive from the title, illustrations, and opening quotation of “The Tell-Tale Heart.”

1. Write down two questions you’d like to have answered as you read the story.

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

2. After reading the story, answer your questions on the lines below.

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
**Spelling Worksheet**

The Tell-Tale Heart  
Edgar Allan Poe

**Spelling Words with Consonant Blends**

Consonant blends are combinations of letters that are sounded together. Most occur at the beginning of words or syllables, and many come from the Anglo-Saxon side of our linguistic heritage. Study these words with consonant blends from “The Tell-Tale Heart.”

blank crevice growing presently stifled  
blood dragged premises slight strides  
breathed fluently presence stalked trying

**Exercise A**

Write the spelling word from the list above by adding consonants to the vowels already in place in each item. Circle each consonant blend that occurs at the beginning of the word.

1. ___ ___ a ___ ___ e ___  
2. ___ ___ e ___ e ___ ___ ___ y  
3. ___ ___ i ___ ___ e ___  
4. ___ ___ e ___ i ___ e ___  
5. ___ ___ ue ___ ___ ___ y  
6. ___ ___ e ___ e ___ ___ __ e  
7. ___ ___ o ___ i ___ ___  
8. ___ ___ i ___ ___ ___  
9. ___ ___ ___ i ___ e ___  
10. ___ ___ ea ___ ___ ___ e ___

**Exercise B**

Write the spelling words that belong in each group below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>one-syllable words</th>
<th>two-syllable words</th>
<th>three-syllable words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ___________</td>
<td>8. ___________</td>
<td>13. ___________</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. ___________</td>
<td>9. ___________</td>
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<td>3. ___________</td>
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<td>7. ___________</td>
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</tbody>
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Related Meanings

For each group of words below, cross out the word whose meaning or part of speech is different than the Word to Own. The Word to Own is in boldface type.

**EXAMPLE:**  
**a. vexed**  
**b. uneasiness**  
**c. troubled**  
**d. bothered**

_Vexed, troubled, and bothered_ are all verbs meaning “disturbed.” _Uneasiness_ is a noun meaning “a state of being uncomfortable or disturbed.”

1. a. dull  
   b. acute  
   c. keen  
   d. sensitive

2. a. annoyed  
   b. irritated  
   c. **vexed**  
   d. soothing

3. a. sagacity  
   b. understand  
   c. wisdom  
   d. intelligence

4. a. standstill  
   b. abstained  
   c. **refrained**  
   d. delayed

5. a. cautious  
   b. wary  
   c. careful  
   d. slowly

6. a. polish  
   b. raw  
   c. grace  
   d. **suavity**

7. a. audacity  
   b. boldness  
   c. nerve  
   d. politeness

8. a. forcefully  
   b. coldly  
   c. **vehemently**  
   d. passionately

9. a. gestures  
   b. motion  
   c. wild  
   d. gesticulations

10. a. derision  
    b. contempt  
    c. mockery  
    d. silliness

Suffixes

Study the similarities between the Word to Own and the word to the right. Then circle the letter of the word that matches the meaning of the boldfaced suffix.

1. derision  
   depression  
   a. like  
   b. state of  
   c. person who does  
   d. study of

2. audacity  
   captivity  
   a. in  
   b. without  
   c. state of being  
   d. full of

3. vehemently  
   quietly  
   a. condition  
   b. one who does  
   c. full of  
   d. in a specified manner

4. vexed  
   granted  
   a. past tense  
   b. characterized by  
   c. caused to be  
   d. related to
Identify the type of error, if any, in each underlined passage, and circle the letter next to the correct answer.

A narrator is a character in whose voice stories are told. When we read a story, we rely on the narrator to let us know what is going on—but what if the narrator can’t be trusted? As you begin reading “The tell-tale heart,” decide whether the narrator who is unnamed seems like a reliable source of information.

1 A Spelling
B Capitalization
C Punctuation
D No error

2 F Spelling
G Capitalization
H Punctuation
J No error

3 A Spelling
B Capitalization
C Punctuation
D No error

4 F Spelling
G Capitalization
H Punctuation
J No error

ANSWER KEY: 1. A; 2. G; 3. C; 4. F
**Grammar Link**

The Tell-Tale Heart  
Edgar Allan Poe  

**Keeping Tense Consistent**

Compare the following sentences:

- When I saw that horrible eye, I know the old man is awake.  
- When I saw that horrible eye, I knew the old man was awake.

How are these sentences different from one another? The first sentence is confusing because it begins in the past tense (*saw*), then switches to the present tense (*know, is*). The reader can’t be sure whether the events happened in the past or are happening now. The second sentence clears up this problem because all of the action occurs in the past tense: *saw, knew, was*.

If you are writing about events that occurred in the past, use verbs in the past tense. If you are writing about events that take place in the present, use verbs in the present tense. Do not confuse your reader by changing needlessly from one tense to another.

**Exercise A  Revising to Make Tense Consistent**

Read each item and decide whether it should be written in the present or past tense. Then, rewrite the sentence or sentences to make the verb tense consistent.

**Example:**  
Clearly, you doubted my sanity. You think that I am mad.  

**OR**

Clearly, you doubt my sanity. You think that I am mad.

1. He liked the old man, but he decides to kill him anyway.

2. He carefully opened the door and pokes his head into the room. Then he held very still.

3. Did he hear the intruder? Does he gasp with terror? The intruder knew he is lying awake, listening.

4. He watched the old man for eight nights. He looks at the vulture eye.

5. He shines the light on the sleeping old man. He found the eye open!