

THE LEARNING ACADEMY

ENGLISH

Practice Test 1



Published by The Learning Academy. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be photocopied, reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher.

ENGLISH

Comprehension: Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Text adapted from 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea by Jules Verne, which is in the public domain.

In consequence of the storm, we had been thrown eastward once more. All hope of escape on the shores of New York or St. Lawrence had faded away; and poor Ned, in despair, had isolated himself like Captain Nemo. Conseil and I, however, never left each other. I said that the Nautilus had gone aside to the east. I should have said (to be more exact) the northeast. For some days it wandered, first on the surface and then beneath it, amid those fogs so dreaded by sailors. What accidents are due to these thick fogs! What shocks upon these reefs when the wind drowns the breaking of the waves! What collisions between vessels, in spite of their warning lights, whistles, and alarm-bells! And the bottoms of these seas look like a field of battle, where still lie all the conquered of the ocean; some old and already incrustated, others fresh and reflecting from their iron bands and copper plates the brilliancy of our lantern.

On the 15th of May we were at the extreme south of the Bank of Newfoundland. This bank consists of alluvia, or large heaps of organic matter, brought either from the equator by the Gulf Stream, or from the north pole by the counter-current of cold water which skirts the American coasts. There also are heaped up those erratic blocks which are carried along by the broken ice; and close by, a vast charnel-house of mollusks or zoophytes, which perish here by millions. The depth of the sea is not great at Newfoundland - not more than some hundreds of fathoms; but toward the south is a depression of 1,500 fathoms. There the Gulf Stream widens. It loses some of its speed and some of its temperature, but it becomes a sea.

It was on the 17th of May, about 500 miles from Heart's Content, at a depth of more than 1,400 fathoms, that I saw the electric cable lying on the bottom. Conseil, to whom I had not mentioned it, thought at first that it was a gigantic sea-serpent. But I undeceived the worthy fellow, and by way of consolation related several particulars in the laying of this cable. The first one was laid in the years 1857 and 1858; but after transmitting about 400 telegrams, would not act any longer. In 1863, the engineers constructed another one, measuring 2,000 miles in length, and weighing 4,500 tons, which was embarked on the Great Eastern. This attempt also failed.

On the 25th of May, the Nautilus, being at a depth of more than 1,918 fathoms, was on the precise spot where the rupture occurred which ruined the enterprise. It was within 638 miles of the coast of Ireland; and at half-past two in the afternoon they discovered that communication with Europe had ceased. The electricians on board resolved to cut the cable before fishing it up, and at eleven o'clock at night they had recovered the damaged part. They made another point and spliced it, and it was once more submerged. But some days after it broke again, and in the depths of the ocean could not be recaptured.

1. Why do you think the author uses exclamation marks to end three consecutive sentences in lines 7-9?

The author did this because...

- A in olden times, it was considered good luck to write this way.
- B to better illustrate the impact of what the narrator is saying.
- C to show that the narrator doesn't actually believe what he is saying.
- D they are short sentences and therefore should always end with exclamation marks.
- E the narrator is actually doing an impression of Ned.

2. Why do you think the "bottoms of these seas look like a field of battle"?

This is because...

- A like in a war, the seabed was full of sunken ships.
- B there were guns and ammunition on the seabed.
- C the bottoms of the seas were full of mud and trenches.
- D there were divers fighting desperately.
- E the beds had come together like two great armies.

3. From where does the alluvia come from on the Bank of Newfoundland?

It comes from....

- A the equator.
- B the north pole.
- C Newfoundland.
- D St. Lawrence.
- E either the equator or the north pole.

4. Approximately how deep was the sea at Newfoundland?

It was approximately...

- A 1,500 fathoms.
- B 60 miles.
- C not more than some hundreds of fathoms.
- D many hundreds of fathoms.
- E not more than tens of fathoms.