

Grade 8 English Home Language Worksheet

Grammar in context: parts of speech, prepositions

ACTIVITY 1

Identify the parts of speech of the underlined words.

Yesterday, we went to the zoo. I enjoyed being there again after so much time. The monkeys looked just as charming, the camels just as bored. We watched the seals being fed – oh, what grace and speed, and they seem to enjoy themselves so much. The pygmy hippo was not to be found, but the jackals were fighting over their lunch and the wild dogs lay panting in the heat.

(25)

ACTIVITY 2

Carefully explain how the differences in the verbs change the meaning of each of the sentences below:

1. We **could study** tonight.
 2. We **must study** tonight.
 3. We **shall study** tonight.
 4. We **would study** tonight.
 5. We **ought to study** tonight.
- (10)

ACTIVITY 3

Fill suitable prepositions and conjunctions into the following sentences:

1. we decide to go ...a movie, will you come ... us?
2. I have read the story ... my little sister ... she is now tired ... wants to go ... bed.
3. The teachers congratulated the learners ... their top achievements in the exam. ... was written nationally.
4. the formula 1 driver crashed his car ... the barrier, he was taken the scene ... the accident.
5. The plane flew ... the sea ... its journey ... the Far East.
6. Please excuse me ... class ... I am not feeling at all well.
7. The learner arrived in class ... the skin of her teeth ... the teacher was about to start the lesson.
8. The children sat side ... side, listening to the story read ... the teacher.
9. He asked me to fetch the parcel ... his behalf ... he has been kept late ... school.
10. I was filled ... fear ... I heard the police siren.
11. My mother is annoyed me ... I cannot cope ... my schoolwork.

(30)

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ACTIVITY 4

Read the article entitled “Crab escorts, walk this way...” published in the *Cape Argus* on July 18 2009. Ten of the prepositions have been left out. Decide on the correct preposition and number your answers 1-10.

A Taiwanese park is seeking for 30 volunteers ...1 help escort land crabs ...2 the journey ...3 the sea ...4 the breeding season.

Land crabs ...5 the Kenting National Park, ...6 the southern tip ...7 Taiwan, live away ...8 shore ...9 most of the year. During the breeding season, however, female crabs carry their fertilised eggs and migrate to the sea to release them.

Volunteers will remove any discarded fishing nets blocking the crabs’ access ...10 the sea.

(10)

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Suggested Solutions

ACTIVITY 1

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	WORD	PART OF SPEECH
yesterday	adverb (of time)	speed	abstract noun
went	finite verb	and	(co-ordinating) conjunction
to	preposition	they	(personal) pronoun
zoo	common noun	to enjoy	infinitive
enjoyed	finite verb	themselves	(reflexive) pronoun
there	adverb (of place)	pygmy	(descriptive) adjective
monkeys	common noun	was	finite verb
charming	(descriptive) adjective	were fighting	finite verb
camels	common noun	over	preposition
bored	(descriptive) adjective	their	(possessive) adjective
we	(personal) pronoun	wild	(descriptive) adjective
watched	finite verb	the	definite article
oh	interjection		

[25]

ACTIVITY 2

1. We **could study** tonight: implies that there are alternatives; this is only one of them; the suggestion is that the speaker is about to suggest something else – probably more exciting and amusing.
2. We **must study** tonight: this is a duty; they have to study; there is some compulsion, such as a time constraint; there is no choice.
3. We **shall study** tonight: this is future tense; this is a statement of something that is definitely going to happen.
4. We **would study** tonight: the implication is that they are not going to; the next word is “but”.
5. We **ought to study** tonight.: this suggests that there might be another alternative; the speaker is aware of a duty or an obligation but is reluctant to fulfil it.

[10]

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ACTIVITY 3

1. If we decide to go **to** a movie, will you come **with** us?
 2. I have read the story **to** my little sister **but** she is now tired **and** wants to go **to** bed.
 3. The teachers congratulated the learners **on** their top achievements in the exam. **which/that** was written nationally.
 4. **After** the formula 1 driver crashed his car **into** the barrier, he was taken **from** the scene **of** the accident.
 5. The plane flew **over** the sea **on** its journey **to/from** the Far East.
 6. Please excuse me **from** class **because/but** I am not feeling at all well.
 7. The learner arrived in class **by** the skin of her teeth **as** the teacher was about to start the lesson.
 8. The children sat side **by** side, listening to the story read **by** the teacher.
 9. He asked me to fetch the parcel **on** his behalf **because** he has been kept late **at** school.
 10. I was filled **with** fear **when** I heard the police siren.
 11. My mother is annoyed **with** me **because** I cannot cope **with** my schoolwork.
- [30]

ACTIVITY 4

1. to
2. on
3. to
4. during
5. in
6. at
7. of Taiwan
8. from
9. for
10. to

[10]