

## English Comprehension: Easy Practice Paper 1 Answers

| Q# | Answer | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| 1  | D      | The opening lines say Nell had lived on the headland and that the lighthouse had never failed, and later she climbs its ninety-eight steps to the lamp room. The fishing boat, the village and the river are all mentioned, but none of them is where Nell lives. |
| 2  | A      | 'Grey with tiredness' shows how much the night cost him, and 'but content' shows he was satisfied all the same. The word 'but' joins the two opposite ideas, so both must be true.                                                                                |
| 3  | E      | A lighthouse is a signal to ships. Calling it a promise means that everyone at sea trusts it to be burning, which is why it must never be allowed to go dark - and why Nell climbs the tower later in the passage.                                                |
| 4  | C      | Birds leaving the coast for the shelter of the land is a sign of rough weather. It sits between the slate-coloured sky and the heaving sea, so all three details build up to the storm that follows.                                                              |
| 5  | B      | 'Deliberate' means done on purpose and without haste. It fits 'slow' in the same phrase, which is why 'hurried' and 'unsteady' cannot be right, and it is the opposite of 'accidental'.                                                                           |
| 6  | E      | Line 13 says he 'set off down the track to fetch the doctor for old Mrs Pym'. He is fetching the doctor for someone else, not looking for a doctor who is lost.                                                                                                   |
| 7  | D      | 'Flung' and 'in handfuls' make the rain sound thrown rather than falling, so it arrives in sudden bursts. Nothing in the passage says the rain contained hail.                                                                                                    |
| 8  | C      | 'Calmly' tells us how Nell understood that nobody was coming, so it describes a verb. Words that describe verbs in this way are adverbs, and they very often end in -ly.                                                                                          |
| 9  | A      | A din is a loud, confused noise - here the wind and the rain outside. Nell is stepping out into the storm, so a 'sudden silence' would make no sense at all.                                                                                                      |

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| 10 | B | The adjectives are 'narrow', which describes the windows, and 'thin', which describes the whistles. 'Wind', 'windows' and 'whistles' are nouns and 'came' is a verb.                                       |
| 11 | D | The passage explains it directly: 'because counting was easier than thinking'. Counting gave her something to fill her mind with instead of the storm and the dark.                                        |
| 12 | B | Every one of them is an action that somebody or something does, written in the past tense. Words that name actions are verbs.                                                                              |
| 13 | E | The sea is said to be a ploughed field, rather than to be <i>like</i> one. Saying that one thing is another is a metaphor; a simile would need 'like' or 'as'.                                             |
| 14 | D | 'Three matches spluttered and died before the fourth caught.' The first three failed, so it was the fourth match that lit the damp wick.                                                                   |
| 15 | A | A crouching flame is one pressed down and barely alive, which is why 'Nell hardly dared to breathe on it'. The next sentence, where it steadies and climbs, only matters because it was so nearly lost.    |
| 16 | C | Waking is something a living creature does, and here it is given to the mirrors. Describing an object as though it were alive is personification.                                                          |
| 17 | B | Ribbons are long, narrow strips of cloth, so sails 'in ribbons' have been ripped to shreds. It shows how hard the boat was driven, which makes it all the more remarkable that every man aboard was alive. |
| 18 | E | Nell has spent the night keeping the lamp burning for ships at sea. A boat coming safely round the point at dawn, battered but with her whole crew alive, is the proof that her effort mattered.           |
| 19 | A | He says 'only' those few words, yet they repeat the promise he taught her about at the start, which is the highest praise he could give. Nell calls it the finest thing anyone had ever said to her.       |

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| 20 | B | The passage is about Nell keeping the lamp burning alone, and the promise her grandfather described in line 6 is what frames the whole story. The gulls are one small detail, the village is where her grandfather is stuck, and the Marigold is not wrecked. |
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