

English: Choose the Best Word: Hard Practice Paper 1

The Clockmaker's Apprentice

In this passage you have to choose the best word, or group of words, to complete each numbered line so that it makes sense and is written in correct English. The ten numbered lines follow on from one another and make one short passage, so read them in order. Choose the **best** answer and mark its letter.

Q1. Old Mr Emberley had been mending clocks in the same narrow shop for forty years, _____ he had never once advertised.

- A. although
- B. despite
- C. however
- D. moreover
- E. nevertheless

Q2. Tom had hardly set down his broom _____ the bell above the shop door jangled.

- A. than
- B. as
- C. when
- D. then
- E. that

Q3. The customer spoke _____ the clock in her hands were made of glass rather than brass.

- A. like if
- B. as if
- C. as though that
- D. even if
- E. as

Q4. Mr Emberley could not decide _____ to repair the worn movement or to replace it altogether.

- A. if
- B. that
- C. how
- D. whether
- E. either

Q5. _____ he known how badly the mainspring was corroded, he would have refused the work outright.

- A. If
- B. Have
- C. Having
- D. Should
- E. Had

Q6. 'Neither the brass wheels nor the mainspring _____ ever been replaced,' he told her at last.

- A. have
- B. has
- C. had
- D. having
- E. was

Q7. The repair would take a fortnight, _____ meant that the clock would not be home for Christmas.

- A. that
- B. what
- C. this
- D. which
- E. it

Q8. Tom worked late every evening _____ the old man should think him idle.

- A. lest
- B. unless
- C. in case of
- D. so that
- E. because

Q9. Not only _____ the escapement, but he had polished every single wheel by hand.

- A. he had cleaned
- B. he cleaned
- C. had he cleaned
- D. did he clean
- E. he has cleaned

Q10. Mr Emberley taught him not only how to mend a clock _____ how to listen to one.

- A. and also
- B. but also
- C. but
- D. as well
- E. or