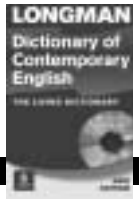


17 The Baker who Burned Down London



A. Read the text below. How many days did it take before the fire was under control?

For a (1) _____ tradesman, John Farynor had (2) _____ a special position. He was baker to King Charles II.

One evening, after another long and (3) _____ day, he climbed the stairs to bed. He (4) _____ his candle and settled down to sleep. But, as he slept, a flame still (5) _____ in the bakery beneath. The flame grew. And, at two o'clock that morning, on Sunday September 2nd, 1666, the fire in the bakery (6) _____ off one of the worst conflagrations in history, the Great Fire of London.

Sparks rising from Farynor's establishment set fire to a (7) _____ of hay in the courtyard of the nearby Star Inn. Thousands of the (8) _____ inhabitants were soon out in the streets watching the blaze. Fires were quite common in the city but previously they had (9) _____ out, and there was no reason to think that this one would be any different.

News of the fire reached the king shortly before midday. No one had (10) _____ to tell the king before then. It was Sunday, after all.

But any idea that the fire would die down was soon (11) _____. On Sunday afternoon the blaze reached the River Thames, and warehouses loaded with timber, oil, brandy, and coal exploded like bombs. The inferno swept on (12) _____ from Sunday to Wednesday. The greatest conflagration was at St. Paul's Cathedral, where the cathedral's roof (13) _____ and molten lead flooded down the neighbouring streets.

Remarkably, only eight people died. Most citizens had plenty of time to (14) _____, the surrounding countryside becoming one vast refugee camp. By Wednesday night, the fire had been virtually contained, (15) _____ due to the personal intervention of the king, who organized the fire-fighters.

Baker Farynor's blunder did result in some good, however. The shameful slums of central London were (16) _____ out in a single week.

B. For each gap in exercise A there is a choice of four words below. Look up the different options in your **Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English** and decide on the most appropriate word.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. a) low | b) humble | c) unassuming | d) self-effacing |
| 2. a) grasped | b) realized | c) accomplished | d) attained |
| 3. a) weary | b) exhaustive | c) lethargic | d) drained |
| 4. a) quenched | b) stamped out | c) put out | d) suffocated |
| 5. a) sparkled | b) flared | c) flickered | d) smouldered |
| 6. a) made | b) burned | c) fired | d) sparked |
| 7. a) pile | b) bunch | c) heap | d) collection |
| 8. a) close | b) local | c) neighbourhood | d) next |
| 9. a) bubbled | b) sparkled | c) splashed | d) fizzled |
| 10. a) bothered | b) disturbed | c) occurred | d) wondered |
| 11. a) chased | b) expelled | c) sent | d) dispelled |
| 12. a) unabated | b) unassailable | c) unabridged | d) unabashed |
| 13. a) boiled | b) defrosted | c) roasted | d) melted |
| 14. a) exit | b) retreat | c) flee | d) rush |
| 15. a) largely | b) fully | c) utterly | d) heavily |
| 16. a) cleaned | b) wiped | c) polished | d) scrubbed |

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Longman Dictionary of Contemporary
English Teacher's Resource Pack
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Teacher's Notes

17 The Baker who Burned Down London

Time: 25 minutes

Aims:

- To increase students' awareness of the fine distinction of meaning of some advanced vocabulary.
 - To encourage students to use more sophisticated vocabulary in their writing.
 - To prepare students for the CAE.
1. Give students a time limit to read the text and answer the question in exercise A.
 2. For exercise B, encourage students to work together to decide which is the most appropriate option, based on what their dictionaries tell them about the meanings.
 3. Then ask for the correct answers.

Answers:

A. 4 days (Sunday to Wednesday)

B. 1. b; 2. d; 3. a; 4. c; 5. c; 6. d; 7. a; 8. b; 9. d; 10. a; 11. d; 12. a; 13. d; 14. c; 15. a; 16. b