

FCE Use of English Part Two practice of storytelling phrases

Put ONE WORD into each of the gaps below.

1. _____ little while later, he came back in and said he'd changed his mind.
2. _____ having completed his homework, he reached under his bed and...
3. It was already _____ dark when I left work and the streetlights were starting to come on.
4. It took _____ hour and a half to escape.
5. We looked at one _____, neither of us knowing what to do.
6. Without _____ warning, the jeep swerved off the road and headed into the woods.
7. He looked _____ if he'd seen a ghost.
8. _____ first he thought it was a person knocking on the door, but he soon realized...
9. They had last met 30 years _____.
10. _____ the time he arrived, the party had already finished.
11. He eventually _____ to the conclusion that...
12. _____ the smiles on their faces, I didn't feel at all welcome there.
13. _____ just a moment I thought that he was going to scream, but instead...
14. The noise was _____ quieter, so I assumed he had given up and was walking away.
15. No sooner _____ he suggested it when she grabbed his hand and...
16. To _____ complete surprise, he knelt and asked for her hand in marriage.
17. Despite _____ initial misgivings, he soon began to enjoy...
18. He had started working for that company _____ the early 1970s.
19. Three hours _____, they met again outside her house and...
20. Right in the middle _____ his speech, one of the students stood up and...
21. The court decided that he was guilty _____ fraud.
22. He said he hadn't done it _____ purpose, but I had my doubts.
23. He thought he heard gunshots, but they turned _____ to be just fireworks.
24. We had last seen each other just the _____ day.
25. He was _____ tired that he collapsed into her arms.
26. He was surprised to find _____ the front door was unlocked.
27. In order _____ lose him, I suddenly ran across the tracks just in front of a train.
28. _____ his relief, his mobile phone was still on the same seat. However,...
29. My car _____ being fixed, so I had to take the bus.
30. _____ he was exploring upstairs, I locked the doors and cut the phone lines.
31. _____ thinking about the consequences, he jumped through the window.

Hint: The sentences are in alphabetical order by the word that goes in the gap

Suggested answers

Other answers might be possible, so check with your teacher if you put other words in the gaps and think they might be possible.

1. _____A_____ little while later, he came back in and said he'd changed his mind.
2. _____AFTER_____ having completed his homework, he reached under his bed and...
3. It was already _____ALMOST/ NEARLY_____ dark when I left work and the streetlights were starting to come on.
4. It took ___AN_____ hour and a half to escape.
5. We looked at one _____ANOTHER_____, neither of us knowing what to do.
6. Without ___ANY___ warning, the jeep swerved off the road and headed into the woods.
7. He looked _____AS_____ if he'd seen a ghost.
8. ___AT___ first he thought it was a person knocking on the door, but he soon realized...
9. They had last met 30 years _____BEFORE/ EARLIER_____.
10. ___BY_____ the time he arrived, the party had already finished.
11. He eventually _____CAME_____ to the conclusion that...
12. _____DESPITE_____ the smiles on their faces, I didn't feel at all welcome there.
13. _____FOR_____ just a moment I thought that he was going to scream, but instead...
14. The noise was ___GETTING/ BECOMING_____ quieter, so I assumed he had given up and was walking away.
15. No sooner _____HAD_____ he suggested it when she grabbed his hand and...
16. To ___HER/ HIS/ OUR/ MY___ complete surprise, he knelt and asked for her hand in marriage.
17. Despite _____HIS/ SOME_____ initial misgivings, he soon began to enjoy...
18. He had started working for that company _____IN_____ the early 1970s.
19. Three hours ___LATER/ AFTER_____, they met again outside her house and...
20. Right in the middle _____OF_____ his speech, one of the students stood up and...
21. The court decided that he was guilty _____OF_____ fraud.
22. He said he hadn't done it _____ON_____ purpose, but I had my doubts.
23. He thought he heard gunshots, but they turned _____OUT_____ to be just fireworks.
24. We had last seen each other just the _____PREVIOUS_____ day.
25. He was _____SO_____ tired that he collapsed into her arms.
26. He was surprised to find _____THAT_____ the front door was unlocked.
27. In order _____TO_____ lose him, I suddenly ran across the tracks just in front of a train.
28. _____TO_____ his relief, his mobile phone was still on the same seat. However,...
29. My car _____WAS_____ being fixed, so I had to take the bus.
30. _____WHILE/ WHEN_____ he was exploring upstairs, I locked the doors and cut the phone lines.
31. _____WITHOUT_____ thinking about the consequences, he jumped through the window.