

GRAMMAR

a Complete the sentences with the right word or phrase.

- 1 It's 2:30 now—what time do you think we'll get _____ Miami?
- 2 Unfortunately, Allie got _____ cheating on her final exam.
- 3 The windows are filthy. Let's get someone _____ them.
- 4 I don't think Omar will ever get _____ doing his own laundry—his mother always did it.
- 5 My passport expires in two months, so I need to get it _____.

b Right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct any mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

- 1 **Basic**, I think she still hasn't gotten over the breakup of her marriage.
- 2 We've finished the interviews and **all of all** we think Maria Ramirez is the most suitable candidate.
- 3 Dave's really late, isn't he? I think **he might get lost**.
- 4 **The waiter didn't probably notice** that they had left without paying.
- 5 I think **it's unlikely that I'll be given** a work permit.
- 6 What a wonderful smell! **Somebody must bake** some bread.
- 7 **You definitely won't pass** your driver's test if you drive that fast!
- 8 I called you yesterday. **You should have gotten** a message on your voicemail.
- 9 **Not only we saw the sights**, we managed to do some shopping as well.
- 10 **Only when the main character dies** does her husband realize how much he loved her.

c Complete the sentences with the right form of the verb in parentheses.

- 1 The traffic is really bad—she's unlikely _____ before 7:00. (arrive)
- 2 Monica is bound _____ the news—everybody was talking about it yesterday. (hear)
- 3 My neighbor can't _____ very long hours. He's always home by early afternoon. (work)
- 4 No sooner _____ married than Yiming lost his job. (they / get)
- 5 Never _____ such a wonderful view. It completely took my breath away. (I / see)

VOCABULARY

a Complete the missing words.

- 1 She's very shy, but you'll soon get to _____ her.
- 2 Let's get _____ for a coffee this weekend.
- 3 I've been trying to get _____ of Alan, but he's not answering his phone.
- 4 She's always calling me at work—it really gets on my _____.
- 5 I hope I get _____ this cold by the weekend; I'm supposed to be going to a wedding.
- 6 His parents let him do whatever he wants, so he's used to getting his own _____.
- 7 When I was a student, I had to get _____ on less than \$75 a week.
- 8 I hope I get the _____ to talk to her before she goes home.

b Circle the right word.

- 1 The English archers used their bows to fire thousands of *arrows* / *spears* into the air.
- 2 After days of fighting, both sides agreed to a *retreat* / *ceasefire*.
- 3 The city finally fell after a three-month *siege* / *coup*.
- 4 During the civil war, thousands of *refugees* / *allies* crossed the border to safety.
- 5 It was a fierce battle and *civilians* / *casualties* were heavy on both sides.
- 6 The rebels *broke out* / *blew up* the railroad tracks.
- 7 Even though they were surrounded, the troops refused to *surrender* / *defeat*.
- 8 The army *shelled* / *looted* the capital with long-range weapons.

c Complete the sentences with verbs in the simple past.

buzz creak rattle screech
sigh slam whisper whistle

- 1 Leila _____ the door and walked off angrily.
- 2 "Thanks, dear," she _____ softly in his ear.
- 3 He _____ a happy tune as he walked down the street.
- 4 "I wish he was here—I really miss him," she _____.
- 5 The wind was so strong that the windows _____.
- 6 The car's brakes _____ as it came to a stop.
- 7 A bee flew in through the window and _____ around the room.
- 8 The door of the old library _____ open slowly, but there was nobody there!

d Write the adjectives for the definitions.

- 1 **th** _____ **-pr** _____ = making you think seriously about a particular subject or issue
- 2 **de** _____ = making you feel very sad and without enthusiasm
- 3 **in** _____ = very interesting because of being unusual or not having an obvious answer or ending
- 4 **gr** _____ = exciting or interesting in a way that keeps your attention
- 5 **mo** _____ = causing you to have deep feelings of sadness or sympathy
- 6 **im** _____ = not seeming reasonable or likely to be true

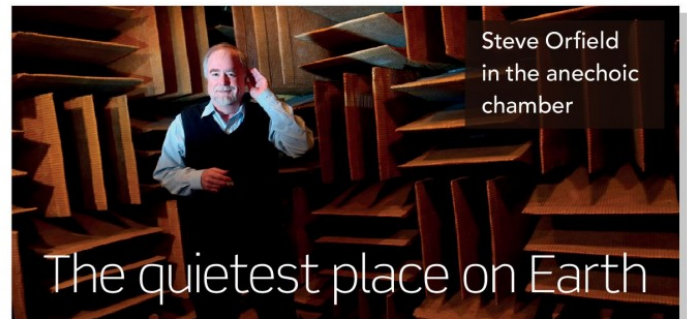
CAN YOU understand this text?

- a Read the article once. How do you think you would feel in "the quietest place on Earth"?
- b Read the article again and complete it with phrases A–G. There is one phrase you do not need.
 - A Then, after a minute or two
 - B The kids were whining
 - C I booked a 45-minute session
 - D My experience in the anechoic chamber changed my life
 - E In an attempt to recapture some peace
 - F Despite my dislike of loud sounds
 - G Ironically, far from finding it peaceful
- c Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases and work out their meaning. Check with your teacher or with a dictionary.

CAN YOU understand this movie?

Watch or listen to a short movie about a comic book writer. Answer the questions.

- 1 Where is Midtown Comics located?
- 2 What kind of people does it attract?
- 3 How long does Chris have to finish his comic book?
- 4 How does Chris' father help?
- 5 What is the name of Chris' superhero?
- 6 How does Midtown Comics get people excited for new comic books?
- 7 How does Chris describe the superhero he created?
- 8 How many pages is Chris' final book?
- 9 Does the book get selected for the young artists' event?
- 10 According to Chris' father, why do people like superheroes?



My quest started when I was in the New York subway with my kids. ¹ _____, four trains came screaming into the station at once, and I put my hands over my ears and **cowered**—the noise was deafening. In cities, the ever-present, dull background roar of planes, cars, machinery, and voices is **a fact of life**. There is no escape from it and I was beginning to be driven mad by it.

² _____, I decided to go on a mission to find the quietest place on Earth; to discover whether absolute silence exists. The place I was most excited about visiting was the anechoic chamber at Orfield Laboratories in Minnesota. This is a small room, massively insulated with layers of concrete and steel to block out exterior sources of noise. It is the quietest place on Earth—99.9% sound-absorbent.

³ _____, most people find its perfect quiet **upsetting**. The presence of sound around you means things are working; it's **business as usual**. When sound is absent, that signals malfunction. I had heard that being in an anechoic chamber for longer than 15 minutes can cause extreme symptoms, from claustrophobia and nausea to panic attacks. A violinist tried it and hammered on the door after a few seconds, demanding to be let out because he was so disturbed by the silence.

⁴ _____—no one had managed to stay in for that long before. When the heavy door shut behind me, I was **plunged into darkness** (lights can make a noise). For the first few seconds, being in such a quiet place felt like nirvana, **a balm** for my jangled nerves. I strained to hear something and heard...nothing.

⁵ _____, I became aware of the sound of my breathing, so I held my breath. The dull thump of my heartbeat became apparent—nothing I could do about that. As the minutes ticked by, I started to hear the blood rushing in my veins. The feeling of peace was spoiled by **a tinge of disappointment**—this place wasn't quiet at all. You'd have to be dead for absolute silence. Then I stopped obsessing about what bodily functions I could hear and began to enjoy it. I didn't feel afraid anymore and came out only because my time was up. Everyone was impressed that I'd beaten the record, but having spent so long searching for quiet, I was comfortable with the feeling of absolute stillness. Afterwards, I felt wonderfully rested and calm.

⁶ _____. I found that making space for moments of quiet in my day is the key to happiness—they give you a chance to think about what you want in life. If you can occasionally become master of your own sound environment—from turning off the TV to moving to the country, as I did—you become a lot more accepting of the noises of everyday life.

By George Michelson Foy in The Guardian

Glossary

driven mad (NAme driven crazy) made someone very angry