1.5 Spelling Error-Spot: Test Pack

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 60 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Lock-Keeper's Cat

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). Fictional narrative created for 11+ comprehension and spelling practice.

Freya Adeyemi-Clarke had never lived on a boat before, and she was quite sure she never wanted to, not really, though she would not have admitted that to her grandmother for all the tea in Millbrook Quay.

Nana Iris had moved onto the narrowboat two summers ago, trading her terraced house for sixty feet of dark green paintwork and a chimney that always smoked slightly crooked. She met Freya at the towpath gate wearing a jumper three sizes too big and waved as though Freya's train might otherwise glide straight past the village and out towards the hills.

'You've grown at least an inch,' Nana Iris announced, which probably was not true, but Freya let her believe it anyway.

That evening, the boat rocked gently against its mooring ropes, and somewhere further along the canal a lock gate groaned open like an old door reluctant to be disturbed. Nana Iris explained that the gate had creaked in exactly that way for forty years, ever since Mr Kaczmarek had first taken over as lock-keeper. 'It isn't a graceful sound,' she said, 'but it has let every boat safely through this stretch of water since before your mother was born. Some things do not have to be elegant to be important.'

The next morning, Freya met Dev Chowdhury, who lived on the boat moored just behind Nana Iris's and could name every lock between Millbrook Quay and the next town without pausing for breath. Together they balanced along the towpath wall, hunting for the flat stones Dev swore were lucky, though he could never quite explain the rule that decided which ones counted. Mr Kaczmarek called down from the lock-keeper's cottage, his voice rough with age but warm all the same, and invited them in to see the winding gear, where a tabby cat named Rudder dozed on a stack of ropes and blinked at them without much interest.

By the time Freya had wound the great iron paddle high enough to let the water surge through, her arms were aching, but she felt strangely steady, determined not to be the one who asked to stop first. From the lock wall, the whole village opened out below her: the crooked chimneys, the boats tilted slightly where the water ran shallow, and far along the canal, the small dark shape of the next lock gate, waiting patiently for the water to find its level.

'It looks so ordinary from up here,' she murmured.

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'Most important things do,' said Mr Kaczmarek, and turned to grease the great iron paddle until it moved without a sound.

1 Choose the correctly spelled or correctly used word to complete each sentence.

(a) The lock gate has lost some of ____ (its / it's) paint over the years. **(1)**

(b) ____ (Whose / Who's) coming to help wind the paddles on Saturday? **(1)**

(c) Mr Kaczmarek ____ (lead / led) the visitors along the towpath yesterday. **(1)**

(d) Dev can balance along the towpath wall faster ____ (then / than) Freya. **(1)**

(e) The fresh green paint really ____ (complimented / complemented) the old lock gate. **(1)**

2 List four separate details the extract gives about Nana Iris or her narrowboat.

(4)

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3 Re-read the paragraph beginning 'That evening, the boat rocked gently...'. Explain how the writer shows that the lock gate is important to the village, even though it is not described as elegant or graceful.

(6)

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4 Give the meaning of each word as it is used in the extract.

(a) 'reluctant' (describing the door in the simile about the lock gate) **(1)**

(b) 'murmured' (describing how Freya speaks at the end of the extract) **(1)**

(c) 'dozed' (describing the cat Rudder) **(1)**

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5 Write a memorable sentence (a mnemonic) to help you remember the correct spelling of the word 'necessary'. Your sentence must use the word 'necessary', spelled correctly, and should highlight the tricky letters (one 'c', two 's's).

(2)

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6 One word in this sentence is spelled incorrectly. What is the correct spelling of that word?

"The author wrote a hummorous story about a talking goat."

- ☐ A) humourous
- ☐ B) humorous
- ☐ C) humoros
- ☐ D) hummorous
- ☐ E) humorus

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7 Complete each sentence with the correct word from the pair given in brackets.

(a) The lock-keeper's cat sat ____ (there / their / they're) on the towpath wall. **(1)**

(b) Freya and Dev left ____ (there / their / they're) bicycles by the lock gate. **(1)**

(c) ____ (Its / It's) almost time for the lock gate to open. **(1)**

(d) The narrowboat lost ____ (its / it's) mooring rope in the storm. **(1)**

(e) ____ (Whose / Who's) turn is it to grease the winding gear? **(1)**

(f) Freya wondered ____ (whose / who's) going to answer the cottage door. **(1)**

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8 For each word below, write the correct spelling and state the spelling rule that explains the correction.

(a) Correct the spelling of 'recieve' and explain which spelling rule applies. **(2)**

(b) Correct the spelling of 'wieght' and explain why this word is an exception to the usual 'i before e' pattern. **(2)**

(c) Write the plural of 'berry' and explain the spelling rule you used. **(2)**

(d) Add the suffix '-ing' to 'swim' correctly and explain the spelling rule you used. **(2)**

9 Add the correct adjective suffix (-able, -ible, -ant or -ent) to each root and spell the new word correctly.

(a) comfort **(1)**

(b) horror (the adjective meaning 'causing horror') **(1)**

(c) respond (the adjective meaning 'able to be trusted with a duty') **(1)**

(d) excel (the adjective meaning 'outstandingly good') **(1)**

(e) reluct (the adjective meaning 'unwilling') **(1)**

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10 Below is part of a postcard Freya wrote home to her dad. Each of the eight sentences contains exactly one spelling mistake. For each sentence, write down the misspelled word and its correct spelling.

1. I have made a new freind here in Millbrook Quay called Dev.
2. He lives on a boat wich is moored just behind Nana Iris's.
3. Tommorow we are going to help Mr Kaczmarek open the lock gates.
4. We offered to help becuase he has promised to show us the winding gear.
5. I beleive he keeps a tabby cat called Rudder on the boat.
6. I definately want to learn how to wind the iron paddles myself.
7. The view along the canal is beautifull first thing in the morning.
8. There is a seperate towpath that leads all the way to the next village.

(a) Sentence 1 **(1)**

(b) Sentence 2 **(1)**

(c) Sentence 3 **(1)**

(d) Sentence 4 **(1)**

(e) Sentence 5 **(1)**

(f) Sentence 6 **(1)**

(g) Sentence 7 **(1)**

(h) Sentence 8 **(1)**

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11 Read the paragraph below, which describes Freya's last morning in Millbrook Quay. There are ten spelling mistakes in the passage (some words are used more than once). Find and correct all ten. Write each incorrect word and its correction.

'On her last morning in Millbrook Quay, Freya packed her clothes into a seperate bag from her books and woke earlier then usual. She could here the lock gate creaking faintly further along the towpath, its sound less strange now that she new what it meant. Nana Iris waited by the narrowboat door and told Freya that she was allowed to keep the lucky grey stone Dev had given her, even though it was definately not as special as Dev beleived. Mr Kaczmarek waved from the lock-keeper's cottage and shouted that he would except a postcard from London, if Freya ever remembered to send won. Freya promised she would, and meant it truely, though she new her grandmother would miss her most of all.'

(10)

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Mark scheme · 1.5 Spelling Error-Spot: Test Pack

Question 1

(a) its (cao) **B1**

(a) Answer: its

(b) Who's (cao) **B1**

(b) Answer: Who's

(c) led (cao) **B1**

(c) Answer: led

(d) than (cao) **B1**

(d) Answer: than

(e) complemented (cao) **B1**

(e) Answer: complemented

Question 2

she moved onto the narrowboat two summers ago **B1**

she used to live in a terraced house **B1**

the boat is sixty feet long and dark green, with a chimney that smokes slightly crooked **B1**

she wore a jumper three sizes too big / told Freya (probably untruthfully) that she had grown an inch **B1**

Answer: Any four of: moved onto the narrowboat two summers ago; used to live in a terraced house; the boat is sixty feet long and dark green; the chimney smokes slightly crooked; she wore an oversized jumper; she waved at the towpath gate; she told Freya she had grown an inch.

Question 3

Level 1 A simple, general comment that the gate is important, with little or no reference to the text. **1-2**

Level 2 A clear explanation supported by relevant reference to the text, showing some understanding of how language and detail build a sense of the gate's importance. **3-4**

Level 3 A detailed, well-supported explanation exploring more than one language feature, with precise embedded quotation and clear understanding of how the contrast between plainness and importance is built. **5-6**

Indicative content:

- The personification 'groaned open like an old door reluctant to be disturbed' makes the gate seem alive and long-suffering rather than graceful
- The direct statement that it 'has let every boat safely through this stretch of water since before your mother was born' emphasises its long, reliable service
- The quotation 'Some things do not have to be elegant to be important' directly states the theme of the paragraph
- The specific detail of 'forty years' gives a sense of history and dependability
- The plain, understated tone used to describe the gate contrasts with the significance of what it does, reinforcing the idea that usefulness matters more than appearance
- Answers may also link this to the closing lines of the extract, where Mr Kaczmarek repeats a similar idea about the view looking 'ordinary'

Question 4

(a) accept: unwilling / hesitant / not wanting to do something (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: unwilling or hesitant

(b) accept: said quietly / spoke in a low, soft voice (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: said quietly or softly

(c) accept: slept lightly / had a light, brief sleep (oe) **B1**

(c) Answer: slept lightly

Question 5

the word 'necessary' is spelled correctly within the sentence (cao) **B1**

the sentence is a genuine, sensible memory device that draws attention to the tricky letters (one c, two s's), for example by referencing a shirt with one collar and two sleeves, or similar **B1**

Answer: It is only necessary to wear one Coat and two Socks in winter (one c, two s's).

Question 6

B) humorous - 'hummorous' is a misspelling; the correct spelling is 'humorous' **B1**

Answer: B) humorous

Question 7

(a) there (cao) **B1**

(a) Answer: there

(b) their (cao) **B1**

(b) Answer: their

(c) It's (cao) **B1**

(c) Answer: It's

(d) its (cao) **B1**

(d) Answer: its

(e) Whose (cao) **B1**

(e) Answer: Whose

(f) who's (cao) **B1**

(f) Answer: who's

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Question 8

(a) gives the correct spelling 'receive' (cao) **B1**

(a) states the rule 'i before e except after c' and correctly applies it, since the sound is /ee/ and follows a 'c' **B1**

(a) Answer: receive; rule: 'i before e except after c' (the /ee/ sound follows 'c', so 'e' comes before 'i').

(b) gives the correct spelling 'weight' (cao) **B1**

(b) explains that the word is an exception because it does not have an /ee/ sound (it sounds like /ay/), so the rule about 'c' does not decide it **B1**

(b) Answer: weight; it is an exception because the sound is /ay/, not /ee/, so the usual rule does not straightforwardly apply.

(c) gives the correct plural 'berries' (cao) **B1**

(c) states the rule that when a word ends in a consonant plus 'y', the 'y' changes to 'i' before adding 'es' **B1**

(c) Answer: berries; rule: consonant + y changes to 'ies' in the plural.

(d) gives the correct spelling 'swimming' (cao) **B1**

(d) states the rule that a single final consonant after a short, stressed vowel is doubled before adding a suffix starting with a vowel **B1**

(d) Answer: swimming; rule: double the final consonant after a short vowel before adding a vowel suffix.

Question 9

(a) comfortable (cao) **B1**

(a) Answer: comfortable

(b) horrible (cao) **B1**

(b) Answer: horrible

(c) responsible (cao) **B1**

(c) Answer: responsible

(d) excellent (cao) **B1**

(d) Answer: excellent

(e) reluctant (cao) **B1**

(e) Answer: reluctant

Question 10

(a) identifies 'freind' and gives the correct spelling 'friend' (cao) **B1**

(a) Answer: freind -> friend

(b) identifies 'wich' and gives the correct spelling 'which' (cao) **B1**

(b) Answer: wich -> which

(c) identifies 'Tommorow' and gives the correct spelling 'Tomorrow' (cao) **B1**

(c) Answer: Tommorow -> Tomorrow

(d) identifies 'becuase' and gives the correct spelling 'because' (cao) **B1**

(d) Answer: becuase -> because

(e) identifies 'beleive' and gives the correct spelling 'believe' (cao) **B1**

(e) Answer: beleive -> believe

(f) identifies 'definately' and gives the correct spelling 'definitely' (cao) **B1**

(f) Answer: definately -> definitely

(g) identifies 'beautifull' and gives the correct spelling 'beautiful' (cao) **B1**

(g) Answer: beautifull -> beautiful

(h) identifies 'seperate' and gives the correct spelling 'separate' (cao) **B1**

(h) Answer: seperate -> separate

Question 11

seperate -> separate **B1**

then -> than (woke earlier than usual) **B1**

here -> hear (could hear the lock gate) **B1**

new -> knew (now that she knew what it meant) **B1**

definately -> definitely **B1**

beleived -> believed **B1**

except -> accept (he would accept a postcard) **B1**

won -> one (to send one) **B1**

truely -> truly **B1**

new -> knew (second occurrence: she knew her grandmother would miss her) **B1**

Answer: seperate->separate; then->than; here->hear; new->knew (first use); definately->definitely; beleived->believed; except->accept; won->one; truely->truly; new->knew (second use).

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