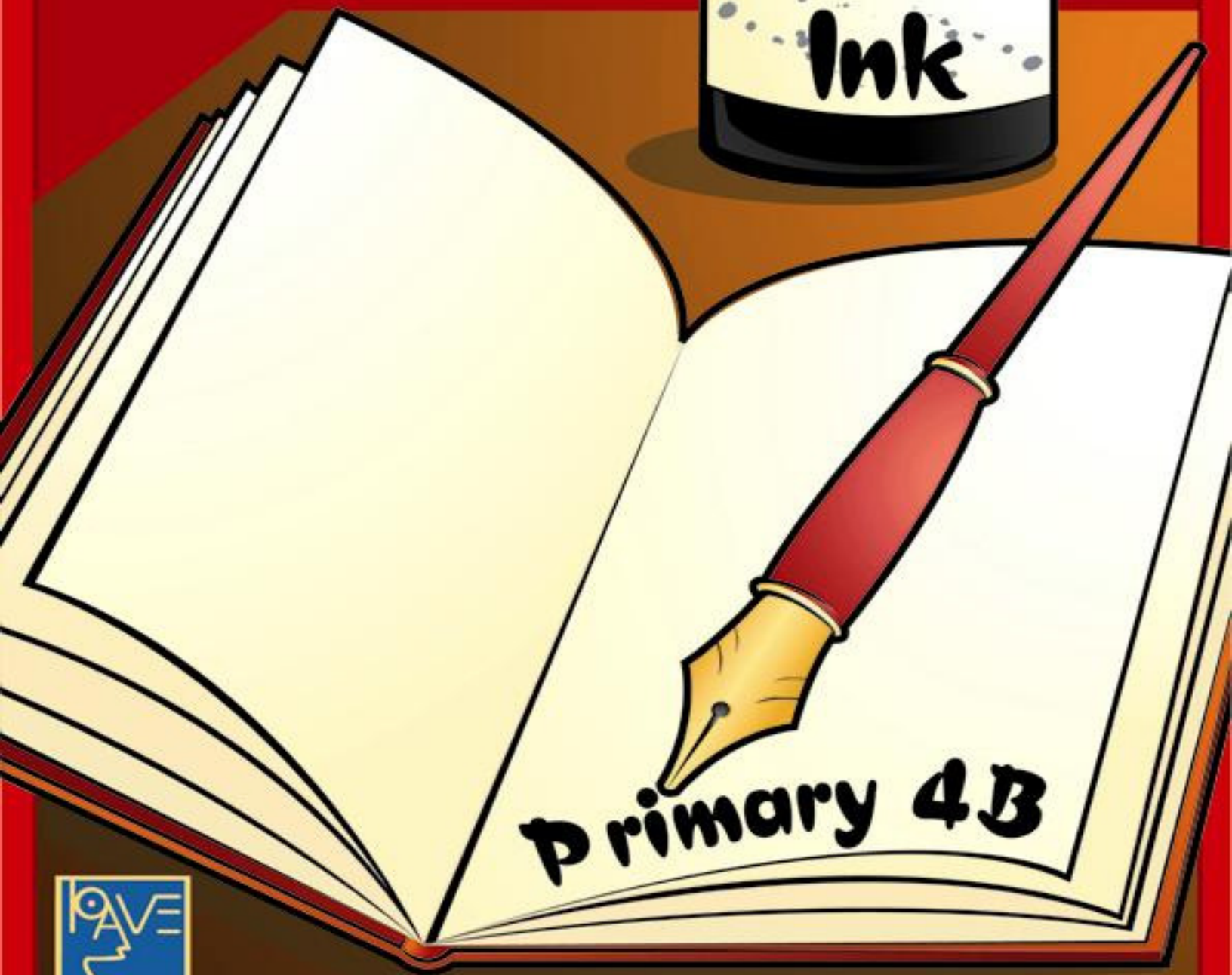


Foundation English

(Grammar)





FOUNDATION ENGLISH (GRAMMAR)
Primary 4B

Name : _____

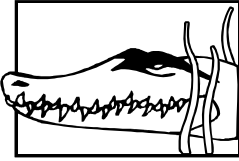
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1.1 Comprehension

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Sacred Crocodile



Have you ever seen a crocodile at the zoo? Was he lying perfectly still in brownish water? You probably had to look twice to see him. Perhaps all you could see was his nostrils, the bumps of his eyes, and part of his back sticking out of the water. He may have looked like a harmless floating log. But he is not harmless – he is dangerous. When an animal wanders too close to the crocodile, his strong jaws would snap hold of a leg and he would drag the careless animal under water.

Many years ago, some people in India thought the crocodile was sacred. They worshipped him as one of their gods. Before laws were made against it, mothers used to offer their children to the crocodiles in the river. They also thought it would please this river god.

One day, two missionaries walked along a certain river path. At the river's edge sat an Indian mother staring at the dark water. In her arms the mother cradled a sickly baby girl. And nearby, her healthy dark-skinned son laughed and played happily.

The missionaries looked sad. They guessed what the Indian mother meant to do. She was planning to give one of her children to the

crocodiles. The missionaries stopped and sat down to talk with her. They told her about their god.

“Don’t give your dear children to the river god, believe in our God. Our God will help you,” begged the missionaries.

“All my life I have worshipped the river god,” said the mother



“What you tell me is so new and strange. I just can’t believe it.”

At last the missionaries walked away sadly. A few days later they met the Indian mother again. This time only one child was with her – the sick baby girl. The missionaries sighed. They knew what must have happened. The mother’s healthy son had been given to the crocodiles.

“If you thought you had to give one of your children, why didn’t you give the poor, sick baby?” asked the missionaries.

The mother’s dark eyes flashed. “We give our best to our gods,” she answered proudly.

1. Which phrase in the first paragraph tells you that it is not easy to see the crocodile?

2. Give two reasons why the crocodile is compared to a floating log.

3. What does “it” in the second paragraph refer to?

4. Why did some Indian people offer their children to the crocodiles in the river?

5. Did the boy know that he would be offered to the crocodiles? How do you know?

6. How did the missionaries try to stop the Indian mother from offering her children to the crocodiles?

7. Why did the mother choose to offer the son instead of her daughter?

8. In the last paragraph, why do you think the Indian mother's eyes flashed?

1.2 Cloze Passage

Read the passage carefully and fill in each blank with the most suitable word in the box. Use each word only once.

protecting developed continue changes distract grabs



Lizards are reptiles, related to snakes, turtles, alligators and crocodiles. Like other reptiles, lizards are cold-blooded. This means their body temperature (1) _____ with that of their surroundings.

Like all animals, lizards have ways of (2) _____ themselves. Some types of lizards have (3) _____ a most unusual defense. If a hawk or other animal (4) _____ one of these lizards by its tail, the tail will break off. The tail will (5) _____ to wiggle around to (6) _____ the attacker while the lizard runs away. A month or two later, the lizard grows a new tail.

1.3 Editing for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. A missing punctuation mark is indicated by a circle at the place where it should be.

Put the correct punctuation or word (in terms of usage, spelling or form) in each of the boxes. For the apostrophe, write 's or s' instead of just '.

Monkeys that live on the fringes of the nature reserves have turned
agresive and are being culled to keep the over-population problem on

 check.

“People who feed the monkeys are contributed to their death,” said

 Mrs. Wade, an official from the Nesione! Park.

“When the feeding stops and becomes irregular, the monkeys then

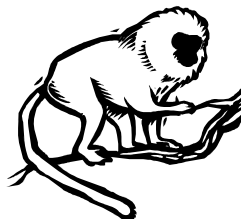
 start to enter homes close to the forest edge ○” said Mrs. Wade.

Although there is sufficient food in the nature reserves, monkeys

 will readily except food offurred to them.



Instead of foraging for fruit and leaf in the forest ○ the monkeys
 just wait to be fed.



1.4 Present Continuous Tense

Now learn these well.



We use the **Present Continuous Tense**:

- to show an action is still going on at the time of speaking.
Example: The boys **are singing** on the stage.
- to show a temporary action.
Example: Mr Osako **is staying** at Hotel Central.
- to show activities that are planned for the future.
Example: We **are painting** the ceiling next month.
- to form negative sentences by adding 'not'.
Example: Shuyi **is not going** to her art class today.
- to form questions by placing the verb "to be" before the subject.
Examples: **Is** Safira still **writing** her letter?
Are you **inviting** DeXin to your birthday party?



Fill in the blanks with the Present Continuous Tense of the verbs in brackets.

e.g. Be quiet. The principal _____ (speak).
Be quiet. The principal **is speaking**.

1. The soldiers _____ (tread) carefully through the marsh.

2. The coffee _____ (brew) in the coffee-maker.

3. The party-goers _____ (dance) in the middle of the hall.

4. All the streetlights _____ (light) up at this moment.

5. The maid _____(mop) the floor now.
6. All except Tim _____ (come) to help us this afternoon.
7. The students like their Science teacher. They _____
(make) her a card.
8. Before you leave, take an umbrella with you as it
_____ (go) to rain soon.
9. The teachers believe in _____ (stimulate) a
_____ (grow) child's mind.
10. I usually have a clear loud voice but since I _____ (have)
a sore throat, I can only speak quietly.

1.5 Past Continuous Tense

Now learn these well.



We use the **Past Continuous Tense**:

- to show that something happened while an action was going on in the past.
Example: Mom **was reading** when the doorbell rang.
- to show habitual or repeated actions in the past.
Example: Ryan and his brother **were always fighting** when they were young.
- to show two actions were going on simultaneously in the past.
Example: While dad **was driving**, I **was sleeping**.
- to form negative sentences by using 'was not' or 'were not'.
Examples: The girls **were not skating**.
Mike **was not sleeping**.
- to form a question by placing 'was' or 'were' before the subject.
Example: **Were** the boys **singing** last night?



Fill in the blanks with the Past Continuous Tense of the verbs in brackets.

e.g. She fell down while she _____ (try) to clean the windows.
She fell down while she **was trying** to clean the windows.

1. My sister _____ (play) with a balloon when her friend came.
2. Susan said that her mother _____ (cook) in the kitchen when the fire started.
3. May _____ (pare) an apple when she cut herself.
4. Mum _____ (do) her laundry when the neighbour called at the door.

5. The mermaid _____ (sing) so sweetly that the prince stopped to listen to her.
6. The gallant knight _____ (ride) past the tower when he heard someone singing.
7. The children _____ (run) around the room when the teacher came back.
8. All the students _____ (listen) attentively to their teacher when the principal walked in.
9. She _____ (look) very pale before she fainted.
10. The boys _____ (explore) the cave when they heard bats making a lot of noise.
11. I _____ (sleep) when someone rang the doorbell and woke me up.
12. At ten o'clock last night, I _____ (watch) an interesting programme on television when the lights suddenly went out.

1.6 Idioms

An idiom is a phrase that says one thing but actually means something quite different.

Example: **The apple of one's eyes**
means **a favoured person.**



behind his back	did away with	in a flash	called off
lift a finger	eat humble pie	face to face	
like hot cakes	out of order	burned to a cinder	
worn out	clear away		

Complete the sentences with the correct idioms given in the above box. The first one has been done for you.

- The rich lady **turned her nose up** at the simple meal of rice and vegetables.
- Jennifer did not _____ to help us with the work.
- You should not talk about a person _____.
- Mother Green's cookies sold _____. They were sold out after a short time.
- The company _____ this practice many years ago.
- This machine is _____. We should get someone to repair it.

7. These books are _____ from years of use.
8. The rabbit escaped _____ when the door of the cage was opened.
9. His beloved furniture was _____ during the fire.
10. In order to clinch the deal for his company, he had to _____ in front of the other company's director.