

CISD Grade 6 ELAR Unit 01

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A Magnificent Mistake

1

On August 11, 1628, a magnificent mistake lay at the bottom of Stockholm Harbor. One day earlier, the *Vasa*, laden with ornately painted sculptures and powerful guns, set sail toward the east. On the shore, citizens of Stockholm eagerly awaited the launch of its maiden voyage.

2

The *Vasa* was built by order of the King of Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus. His country was at war with Poland and he needed a powerful navy. He wanted to build a fleet of large ships. The *Vasa* would be the largest and grandest of all. The king's plan spared no expense to equip the *Vasa* with weapons to scare his enemies and to gain the respect of his allies. As was the custom, this warship would be decorated with numerous massive sculptures and heavy cannons. This raised concern among the workmen at the shipyard because the king ordered the measurements for the ship to be very long and very tall. His plan would result in a deck that would be too narrow to support the weight of the decorations. The tall masts of the ship would make the ship too top heavy and unbalanced. It could possibly topple over, but no one ever raised these concerns with the king. It was obvious that King Adolphus was not a talented ship designer.

3

During the next three years, more than 1,000 oak trees were used to construct the mighty ship. At first, the king visited the shipyards to check the ship's progress. After that, his authorities were charged with overseeing the success of the project, and the king never returned. When the ship was finished, the usual test was done to be sure that it was stable. Thirty men ran from one side of the ship to the other in order to test the boat's balance. For the *Vasa*, the test had to be stopped after only the third run because it came dangerously close to turning over. In spite of the test results, the king's authorities stood by the king's plan and stubbornly pronounced the ship seaworthy.

4

On the fateful day, the *Vasa* left the dock to the sound of the cheering crowd. The ship set sail and fired a farewell salute. Then it headed out toward the Baltic Sea.

5

A sudden squall soon caused the ship to tilt dangerously to one side. Then a second gust of wind caused the boat to lean farther. The open gunports sank below water level, and water poured through them into the ship. The *Vasa* sank after a 20-minute voyage. It had traveled less than a mile. Thirty people lost their lives, and the captain, who

survived the disaster, was immediately put in prison.

6

After the disaster, an investigation was launched. The captain was ultimately freed, and no one was ever held responsible for the tragedy. In the years that followed, many unsuccessful attempts were made to raise the *Vasa* from the bottom of the harbor. The ship was forgotten until the 1950s.

7

At that time, Anders Franzen began searching for the wreck. He had been successful in locating other boats that had been lost at sea. In August, 1956, Franzen found the *Vasa*. After 328 years below water, the *Vasa*'s recovery process was about to begin. The first step was to retrieve the loose objects from outside the ship. Thousands of artifacts such as clothing, weapons, cannons, tools, and coins were uncovered. In 1961, the ship was raised to the surface.

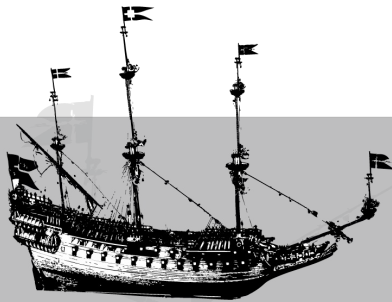
8

It was finally towed to its new home, the *Vasa* Museum, which was still under construction. Throughout the years, the restoration of the *Vasa* continued. In 1990, the museum was opened to the public. The ship that gained fame with a doomed first voyage has become one of Sweden's top tourist attractions.

← → http://www.the-vasa-museum.com

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The Vasa REBORN



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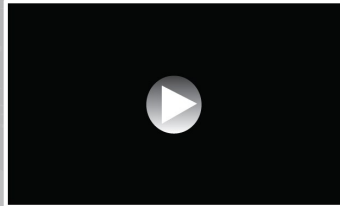
The Ship

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Saving the Vasa - a passion for
following the "resurrection" of
the Vasa

- 1** *One day earlier, the Vasa, laden with ornately painted sculptures and powerful guns, set sail toward the east.*

Which of the following is an appropriate paraphrase of this sentence from Paragraph 1?

- A** Later, the *Vasa*, loaded with ordinary art objects and small arms, left for the east.
 - B** Previously, the *Vasa*, built with extraordinary artwork and carrying large weapons, sailed to the east.
 - C** Immediately, the *Vasa*, decorated with fancy artwork and pictures of guns, went east.
 - D** Recently, the *Vasa*, packed with treasure in its cargo boxes, left Sweden.
- 2** What words from Paragraph 5 help the reader know what the word ***squall*** means?
- F** tilt dangerously
 - G** a second gust of wind
 - H** the *Vasa* sank
 - J** lean farther

- 3** The author likely used this passage as an example of nonfiction for what purpose?
- A** to give information about a real event
 - B** to provide enjoyment with a make-believe story
 - C** to assist the reader in performing tasks
 - D** to give information that will help in solving a problem
- 4** Which statement from the passage supports the inference that the King of Sweden did not want to take the blame for the sinking of the *Vasa*?
- F** *The king's plan spared no expense to equip the Vasa with weapons to scare his enemies and to gain the respect of his allies.*
 - G** *The test had to be stopped after only the third run.*
 - H** *Thirty people lost their lives and the captain, who survived the disaster, was immediately put in prison.*
 - J** *The ship was forgotten until the 1950s.*

5 If there were a preface to *A Magnificent Mistake*, it would be found prior to the beginning of the article. Which of the following explains the meaning of the word *preface*.

- A return of information
- B finally
- C information beforehand
- D telling often

6 **The story of the *Vasa* is an embarrassment to Sweden. It is Sweden's main tourist attraction.**

Which compound sentence below correctly combines the two sentences above and keeps their meaning?

- F The story of the *Vasa* is an embarrassment to Sweden, but it is Sweden's main tourist attraction.
- G The story of the *Vasa* is an embarrassment to Sweden and it is Sweden's main tourist attraction.
- H The story of the *Vasa* is an embarrassment to Sweden, it is Sweden's main tourist attraction.
- J The story of the *Vasa* is an embarrassment to Sweden, It is Sweden's main tourist attraction.

7 **The authorities refused to criticize the king. The ship was doomed to sink.**

What is the BEST way to combine the sentences above using a subordinating conjunction?

- A The authorities refused to criticize the king even though the ship was doomed to sink.
- B The authorities refused to criticize the king, if the ship was doomed to sink.
- C The authorities refused to criticize the king, so the ship was doomed to sink.
- D The authorities refused to criticize the king, while the ship was doomed to sink.

8 In which of the following compound sentences should the punctuation be corrected?

- F Everyone knew the ship was too narrow and tall, yet, they did not argue this point with the king.
- G The ship was magnificent, but few people believed it would sail.
- H Swedish ships were always ornately decorated, and the *Vasa* was no exception.
- J The ship was beautiful, but it was a failure.

- 9 For each sentence below, write the prepositional phrases in the chart. Tell whether the prepositional phrase tells when, where, or how, in the chart below.

During the next three years, more than 1,000 oak trees were used.

This warship would be decorated with numerous massive sculptures and heavy cannons.

A magnificent mistake lay at the bottom.

After the disaster, an investigation was launched.

Prepositional Phrase	Tells...

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Journeys in Your Mind

A dozen or so children, all sitting in rows,
So many dreaming of where they'd want to go.
"Back to attention!" their teacher exclaimed.
Even though she knew she was the one to be blamed.
She had painted them a picture that spoke of worlds far away,
Of long ago times and new, modern ways.
She had been just like them when she was their age
Soaking up like a sponge every place on the page.
She sighed, "Oh, well, I never got to go, but I'll make sure
my students have a love for the globe."

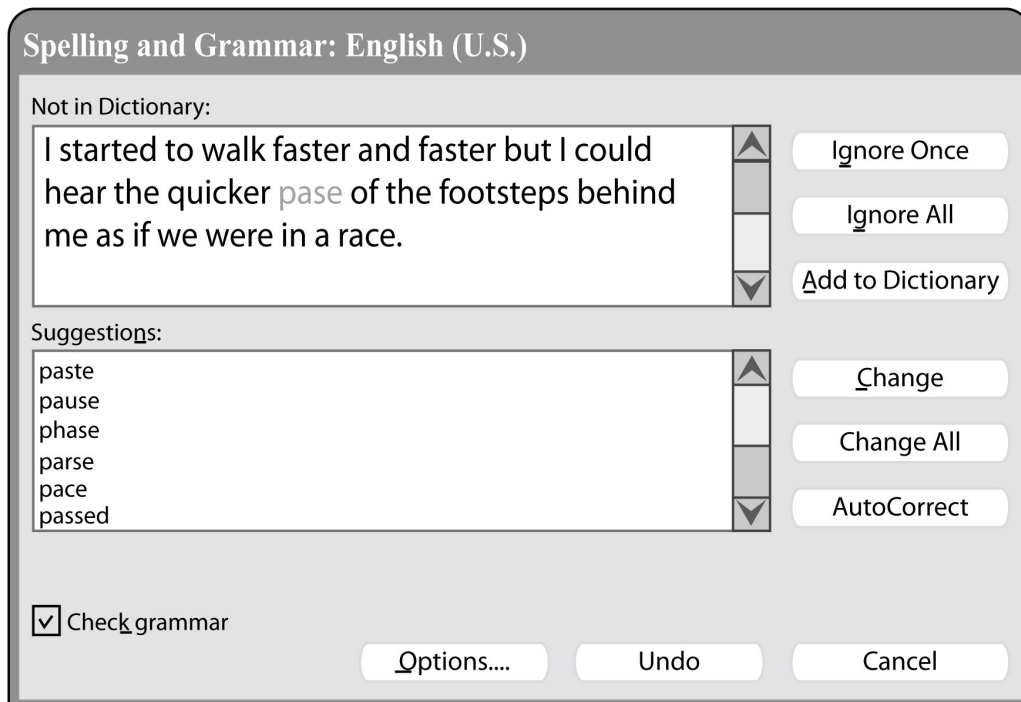
- unknown

- 10** Where does this poem likely take place?
- F** on a bus on a field trip to the zoo because the students are sitting in rows
 - G** in a social studies class because the teacher wants students to have a love for the globe
 - H** in a study group in a college because there were a dozen children
 - J** in a mathematics class in elementary school because the teacher talks about their age

- 11** What is a common theme between the story of the *Vasa* and the poem?
- A** sailing the high seas looking for adventure
 - B** things you dream about
 - C** mysterious events in history
 - D** interest in other places and times
- 12** Which example of figurative language in the poem supports the idea that the teacher loves her subject and has for most of her life?
- F** *Oh, well, I never got to go*
 - G** *She had painted them a picture*
 - H** *Soaking up like a sponge every place on the page*
 - J** *Back to attention!*

- 13** In the poem, the teacher explains that she *painted them a picture that spoke of worlds far away*. What did she mean by that?
- A** She explained everything with such description the students could almost see foreign places and hear the people there talking to them.
 - B** She painted pictures of other countries and hung them in her classroom, explaining each one.
 - C** She probably used a Powerpoint that had pictures of other countries, and you could hear people talking about the places in the background.
 - D** She explained the art in other parts of the world to the children and told stories about the people who created them.

As I was walking through the park, I realized that someone was following me. I started to walk faster and faster but I could hear the quicker pase of the footsteps behind me as if we were in a race.



Jill is typing her paper on the computer and gets a notification that a word is spelled incorrectly because it is underlined. See the screen shot above.

What would be Jill's next step in correcting the misspelled word?