

Build Your Word Bank: 21-Day Challenge (Day 1)

Kind Stranger In The Rain

Part 1: Reading Passage

The rain had started without warning. Amara stood under the bookshop doorway, her school bag pressed against her chest, watching the street empty in seconds as people ran to find shelter. Amara was **grateful** she found a shelter before the rain started becoming heavy. Amara pulled her jacket tighter and decided to wait, while watching other people **murmur** their bad luck and getting **drenched** in the rain.

Amara had been standing there for five minutes when an elderly woman **paused** beside her. She held a large umbrella in her hands, and without a word, without even making eye contact, she simply opened the umbrella and held it out to one side so that it covered them both.

"Thank you," Amara said quietly.

The woman gave a small nod. Under the wide umbrella, they walked together in a kind of **respite** from the heavy rain. The woman's coat was old and slightly **tattered** around her wrists, but she held the umbrella high without complaint.

When the rain stopped, the woman folded her umbrella, offered Amara one last nod, and walked away **briskly** without looking back. Although Amara did not know the woman's name, Amara stood on that **cobblestone** street for some time after, feeling a warmth that comes not from receiving something grand, but from being seen by someone who did not have to stop.

Part 2: Vocabulary in Context

Choose the correct answer based on how the word is used in the passage.

1. "Amara was **grateful** she found a shelter..." Amara was feeling _____.
 - (1) relieved that the worst was over
 - (2) pleased with her own quick thinking
 - (3) surprised by what happened
 - (4) thankful for something received or experienced

2. "...while watching other people **murmur** their bad luck..." Murmur means _____.
 - (1) to complain or talk in a low quiet voice
 - (2) to shout across a distance
 - (3) to call out in surprise
 - (4) to hum a familiar tune

3. "...and getting **drenched** in the rain." Getting drenched means _____.
 - (1) slightly damp from the rain
 - (2) cold and shivering from the wind
 - (3) completely soaked through with water
 - (4) covered in mud from the street

4. "Amara had been standing there for five minutes when an elderly woman **paused** beside her." This means that the elderly woman _____.
 - (1) walked quickly past without stopping
 - (2) stopped briefly before continuing
 - (3) turned around and came back
 - (4) slowed down but did not stop

5. "...they walked together in a kind of **respite** from the heavy rain." Respite means _____.
 - (1) a long and permanent solution to a problem
 - (2) a feeling of warmth shared between two people
 - (3) a short period of rest from something difficult
 - (4) a temporary pause in a rainstorm

6. "The woman's coat was old and slightly **tattered** around her wrists..." Tattered means _____.
(1) neatly pressed and well-maintained
(2) old and worn with frayed or torn edges
(3) too large and hanging loosely
(4) dark in colour from the rain
7. "...and walked away **briskly** without looking back" Briskly means she walked _____.
(1) in a quick and energetic manner
(2) quietly so as not to be noticed
(3) slowly and with great care
(4) with a slight limp from tiredness
8. "Amara stood on that **cobblestone** street for some time after." What is cobblestone?
(1) a type of smooth modern pavement
(2) a rounded stone used for streets and roads
(3) a cracked and broken section of road
(4) a wet and slippery surface caused by rain

Part 3: Word Twins

Match each word on the left to its closest synonym on the right. Each synonym is used once only. Use a dictionary or the internet to help you and even learn new words!

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 1 Grateful | • | • | A Whisper |
| 2 Pause | • | • | B Soaked |
| 3 Drenched | • | • | C Relief |
| 4 Cobblestone | • | • | D Ragged |
| 5 Respite | • | • | E Thankful |
| 6 Tattered | • | • | F Paving
stone |
| 7 Briskly | • | • | G Halt |
| 8 Murmur | • | • | H Swiftly |



Part 4: Sentence Upgrade

*Rewrite each sentence using one of the 8 vocabulary words to make it more vivid and precise.
The word to replace is underlined.*

1. She felt very thankful when her neighbour helped carry her groceries upstairs.

2. He came home completely soaked after cycling through the storm without a raincoat.

3. The old town square was paved with rounded stones that glistened in the rain.

4. The old teddy bear was worn and torn but she refused to throw it away.

5. She walked quickly through the corridor so as not to be late for class.

Part 5: Word Application

Choose the most suitable word from the box to complete each sentence. Each word may be used once only.

Grateful · Pause · Drenched · Cobblestone · Respite · Tattered · Briskly · Murmur

1. The narrow _____ streets of the old town were slippery after the evening rain.
2. She was _____ to everyone who had supported her through such a difficult time. .
3. The old flag hanging outside the building was _____ and faded from years in the sun.
4. He walked _____ through the market, weaving between the stalls without slowing down.
5. She heard him _____ something under his breath but could not make out the words.
6. The children came inside _____ after playing in the rain for too long.
7. She took a few seconds to _____ and breathe before walking onto the stage.
8. The school holidays offered a _____ from the pressure of examinations.

Part 6: Creative Writing

Use at least 4 of the 8 words from this worksheet in a paragraph of 6–8 sentences.

Prompt:

You were facing some difficulty. Someone does something kind that you will never forget. Describe what happens, how you feel in the moment, and what you think about afterwards.

 *Feel free to email it to us at **theopenvillageproject@gmail.com** if you'd like us to have a read and give you feedback on your paragraph!*



Answer Key

Part 2

Question	Answer
1	4
2	1
3	3
4	2
5	3
6	2
7	1
8	2

Part 3

Word	Synonym
1: Grateful	E: Thankful
2: Pause	G: Halt
3: Drenched	B: Soaked
4: Cobblestone	F: Paving stone
5: Respite	C: Relief
6: Tattered	D: Ragged
7: Briskly	H: Swiftly
8: Murmur	A: Whisper

Part 5

Question	Answer
1	Cobblestone
2	Grateful
3	Tattered
4	Briskly
5	Murmur
6	Drenched
7	Pause
8	Respite

Part 4

	Suggested Answer
1	She felt grateful when her neighbour helped carry her groceries upstairs.
2	He came home completely drenched after cycling through the storm without a raincoat.
3	The old town square was paved with cobblestone that glistened in the rain.
4	The old teddy bear was tattered but she refused to throw it away.
5	She walked briskly through the corridor so as not to be late for class.