

Phrases and passages for practice

Harvard sentences:

- The birch canoe slid on the smooth plank.
- Kick the ball straight and follow through.
- The beauty of the view stunned the young boy.
- Take the winding path to reach the lake.
- The clock struck to mark the third period.
- Weave the carpet on the right hand side.
- We find joy in the simplest things.
- He said the same phrase thirty times.
- Mud was splattered on the front of his white shirt.
- The sky that morning was clear and bright and blue.

Reading passages

The Rainbow:

When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air, they act like a prism and form a rainbow. A rainbow is the division of white light into many beautiful colors. These take the shape of a large, round arch, with its path high above and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon.

There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end. People look but no one ever finds it. When someone looks for something beyond their reach, their friends say they are looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

My grandfather:

You wish to know all about my grandfather. Well, he is nearly 93 years old, yet he still thinks as swiftly as ever. He dresses himself in an ancient, black frock coat, usually minus several buttons.

A long, flowing beard clings to his chin, giving those who observe him a pronounced feeling of the utmost respect. When he speaks his voice is just a bit cracked and quivers a trifle. Twice each day he plays skillfully and with zest upon a small organ.

Except in the winter when the snow or ice prevents, he slowly takes a short walk in the open air each day. We have often urged him to walk more and smoke less but he always answers "banana oil!" Grandfather likes to be modern in his language.

Song (from *Song*, by Carol Kimball):

Music is often praised for its poetic expression, and poetry for its musical sound. Music without words has its own sense, its own causes, meanings, and aesthetics, which we can study and explore. Poetry also has its own sensibilities--and they are different from those of music, although some of the terms are similar. But in an art song, a composer blends music and poetry in such a way that it is impossible to think of them apart. We do not hear poetry set to music--we hear a song...

Practice Phrases and "Reset" Words

- Mmhmmm
- Ummmmm
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
- (Recite the months in the year)
- (Count from 1 to 10)
- How are you?
- What are you up to?
- Where are we going?
- How was the movie?
- I love this place!
- What time is it?
- I'm not sure
- When is the meeting?
- Oh I don't know yet
- Maybe now, maybe later
- Maybe now I'll go
- I think I'll wait until later
- What would you like to do?
- What is your name, again?
- Could I use the phone?
- Don't you think it's a beautiful day?
- Will you meet at 5 by the train station?
- I saw you playing piano very well!
- I'm not that hungry just yet.
- I'd like a small coffee and some toast, please.