

UNIT 17 HISTORY OF JEANS



**Target
Vocabulary**

Noun:	immigrant, search, miner, tent, cover, wear and tear, canvas, fabric, fluency, predicament, peers, issue, fortune, accent
Adjective:	convincing, mere
Adverb:	originally, regularly
Verb:	inform, stand, require, expose, fetch, lessen
Phrasal Verb:	come about, leave out, break up, catch on (1), catch on(2), sort out

Levi Strauss was a poor young **immigrant** who landed in New York in the 1840s in **search** of **fortune**. In 1850 he found himself caught up in the great Gold Rush in California. He had been **informed** in New York that canvas would **fetch** a good price from the gold miners, who needed it for **tents** and wagon **covers**. But on arrival in San Francisco, he met a **miner** who told them that he should have brought trousers instead, because none of the trousers could **stand** the **wear and tear** down the mines. So Levi decided to use the **canvas** to make trousers instead. The cloth he used was called 'serge de Nimes', which the American salesmen quickly shortened to 'denims'. They were also known as 'blue jeans' and legend says that this name **came about** because Levi's wife, Jean, took a hand in shaping and sewing the trousers in the early days of the business. Another origin of the word 'jeans' is from the Italian town of Geneva, where the **fabric** for producing jeans was **originally** made.

I. Read the passage carefully and circle the choice which is the closest in meaning to the word given.

1. "fortune" in line 2 means

- A. money
- B. luck
- C. food

3. "fetch" in line 3 means

- A. increase
- B. be sold for
- C. be made of

2. "informed" in line 3 means

- A. sent
- B. told
- C. settled

4. "fabric" in line 12 means

- A. idea
- B. factory
- C. material

5. "originally" in line 12 means

- A. first
- B. last
- C. easily

Hearing a second language day-to-day will not translate into (1) ___ but it may help children speak with a more **convincing** (2) ___, results of a study suggest. Researchers have found that college students who heard Spanish several times a week as children, developed more native-like accents than their **peers** who were not (3) ___ **exposed** to the language, when they took Spanish classes in school years later. While learning a second language (4) ___ more than **mere** exposure, hearing that language spoken regularly can help the process along, according to Dr. Terry Kit-fong Au. "Although waiting until adulthood to learn a language almost guarantees a bad accent, having overheard the target language during childhood seems to (5) ___ this **predicament** considerably" he writes in the May **issue** of Psychological Science.

II. Read the passage and circle the best choice.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. A. language
B. words
C. fluency
D. foreigners
E. reading</p> | <p>3. A. slowly
B. bodily
C. fortunately
D. regularly
E. carefully</p> |
| <p>2. A. gesture
B. accent
C. reason
D. behaviour
E. talent</p> | <p>4. A. acquires
B. requires
C. learns
D. gives
E. solve</p> |
5. A. lessen
B. increase
C. add to
D. worsen
E. speak

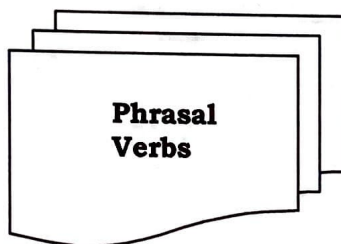
III. Match the following words with the definitions.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. ___ immigrant</p> | <p>a. making you believe that something is true or right</p> |
| <p>2. ___ canvas</p> | <p>b. a difficult or unpleasant situation in which you do not know what to do</p> |
| <p>3. ___ predicament</p> | <p>c. someone who enters another country to live there permanently</p> |
| <p>4. ___ convincing</p> | <p>d. damage caused by continuous use over a long period</p> |
| <p>5. ___ wear and tear</p> | <p>e. strong cloth used to make bags, tents, shoes</p> |

IV. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word from the list below making changes if necessary.

cover	peers	search	stand	mere
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1. Rescuers are continuing their _____ for survivors of the crash.
2. Since I am an impatient person I can't _____ people who move very slowly.
3. Admission to most museums costs \$5 for adults and a _____ \$1 for children
4. The shop advertises that they give the bed _____ free to those who buy the mattress.
5. Teenagers like spending more time with their _____ than with their parents.



leave out:	forget; omit
break up:	end; separate (of a marriage / a family / a relationship etc.)
catch on (1):	develop understanding or knowledge of something
catch on (2):	become popular
sort out:	find a solution

V. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word from the list above making changes if necessary.

1. My mother told me that my father would _____ my financial problems.
2. Jack had never used a computer until he took this class, but he has _____ very quickly and is now one of the best students.
3. Money trouble _____ my aunt's marriage.
4. I'm so sorry but when I made the list of those who attended the meeting, I _____ your name!
5. Bob's strange new hair-style is really _____; all the young boys in the neighbourhood are copying it.

MINI TEST

1. **Most plants ---- sunlight and water to grow.**
A) inform B) require
C) stand D) expose
 E) fetch
2. **People who are ---- to tear gas feel terrible pain in their eyes and have difficulty keeping them open.**
A) lessened B) alleviated
C) exposed D) informed
 E) accomplished
3. **In the 1960s Turkish ---- were welcomed to Germany with open arms to help fill the gap in the work force.**
A) peers B) clients
C) ministers D) issues
 E) immigrants
4. **He found himself in an awkward ---- when his boss found out that he had lied about his qualifications.**
A) predicament B) fortune
C) search D) fluency
 E) outcome
5. **The Internet was ---- developed as U.S. defense technology to maintain government communications in case of nuclear war.**
A) considerably B) typically
C) originally D) evenly
 E) regularly
6. **The police carried out a thorough ---- of the premises, but they failed to find any drugs.**
A) cover B) wear and tear
C) issue D) fabric
 E) search
7. **He put forward such a ---- argument that everyone took his side.**
A) convincing B) mere
C) communal D) confusing
 E) formal
8. **If you happen to see the suspect, you should ---- the police immediately.**
A) require B) inform
C) expose D) lessen
 E) announce
9. **Even the simplest sketch by Picasso is worth a(n) ---- today.**
A) cover B) fabric
C) issue D) predicament
 E) fortune
10. **Many critics were shocked when techno music ---- at the clubs.**
A) broke up B) sorted out
C) caught on D) left out
 E) put up