

The Seaman's Chest - Listening Worksheet

Quick Check: True or false

1. The chest was very unusual.
2. It was in excellent condition.
3. The lock opened easily.
4. The suit was old and in poor condition.
5. Everything in the chest was valuable.



Listen again and fill the gaps with the words below

It was like any other seaman's chest on the (1)----. The initial "B" was burned on the top of it with a hot iron. The (2)---- were smashed and broken by long, rough usage.

Though the (3) was very stiff, my mother managed to turn the key. She forced open the (4) ---.

A strong smell of tobacco rose from the (5)--- of the chest. At the top there was a suit of very good (6)---, carefully brushed and folded.

"These have never been (7)---," my mother said.

Under the suit there was a collection of the captain's (8)---. These included four very handsome (9)---, a silver bar, an old Spanish watch and some other trinkets of little (10)---.

pistols * inside * lock * possession * value * worn * clothes * outside * corners * lid

Comprehension

1. What does the boy's mother find at the bottom of the chest
2. Why do you think these items are hidden?
3. "Hidden away was a bundle tied up in oilcloth"
 - a) Why do you think the 'bundle' is 'hidden away'?
 - b) Why do you think that it is tied up in oilcloth? Oil cloth is the shiny material often used for tablecloths.



Writing/Vocabulary

Trinkets are small items of jewellery that are not valuable.

1. What trinkets do think were in the seaman's chest?
2. What trinkets do you have?
3. Write a paragraph about a trinket. Did you buy it? Did someone give you it? Write the story behind it (25-100 words)