

THE TRICK



English Short Story Lesson Plan

The Trick — Full Lesson Plan

*A Fantastic Tales short story and lesson plan,
courtesy of ManWrites.*

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Introductory Questions

1. Look at the title “The Trick.” What do you think the story might be about?
2. Have you ever seen a card trick performed live? What happened?
3. Do you think magic tricks are magic, skill, deception or a mixture of these?
4. Why might a struggling shop owner be especially vulnerable to a clever salesman?
5. What warning signs might suggest that somebody is trying to trick or scam you?

The Trick

It was a quiet day at Tom's Toy Shop.

Tom sat on a stool behind the counter. He was going through all the sales for the last month. Things were not looking good.

He had promised his wife that it would work out. Since being made redundant, he had put all of his time and their savings into the shop.

"It will work," he told his wife. "Please believe me."

And she did. She always believed him.

After the first few weeks, the number of customers dwindled down. Now he was lucky if anyone came in at all. He had no idea what to do.

Tom tapped at more keys on the computer. He took a sip of the near-cold coffee and let out a long sigh. This was hopeless.

Lost in deep thought, the bell above the door pinged and brought him back to the present.

A man came into the shop. He was dressed all in black, with a large felt hat on his head and a pair of tinted glasses.

The man raised his hat in an old-fashioned style, the way people would greet each other many years ago.

“Good day to you, sir,” said the man. “My name is Orloff. May I come in?”

Tom nodded. “Yeah, sure. Come in, take a look around.”

One look at this man and the way he had greeted Tom, and he knew he was not a customer.

The man approached Tom at the counter. He had a broad smile on his face.

“You seem like a very busy man,” he said. “I hope I am not troubling you.”

Tom shook his head. “No, no trouble.”

He closed the lid of his laptop and returned a smile to the man.

“Are you looking for anything in particular?” Tom asked the man.

The man raised a palm. “I am not looking. I am here to offer you something.”

Tom’s stomach tightened a little. A salesman. Just what he needed.

“I’m very sorry, Mr Orloff...”

The man smiled back at Tom and shook his head. “No, please don’t worry. I am not here to give you trouble.”

Tom shook his head. “It’s just that I’ve recently restocked and I’m not looking...”

The man put his hand inside his coat pocket and produced a pack of cards.

With one deft movement, he pulled the cards from the box and began to shuffle them. His hands moved with great speed.

The cards flew from one hand to another, a blur of flashing white and blue.

“I want to show you these cards,” said the man.

He had a heavy accent.

Tom could not place it. Eastern-European?

And his mannerisms and gestures — they were like something from long ago.

He continued shuffling the cards. He flicked them through his fingers and fanned them out before closing them again and flashing the cards from one hand to another.

“Tell me,” the man said. “May I know your name?”

Tom moved his mouth, unaccustomed to being asked who he was in such a respectful manner. “Tom. My name is Tom.”

“Tom,” said the man. “It is a good name. Tell me, Tom. Do you like card tricks?”

Without waiting for a reply, the man fanned the cards out.

“Pick one,” he whispered.

Tom took one.

The man raised a hand. "Don't tell me the card. Now put it back."

Tom did as he was told.

The man shuffled the cards again, this time at lightning speed.

Then he pulled out a card with a slight flourish and laid it on the counter in front of Tom.

"Is this your card?" he asked Tom.

Tom, slightly embarrassed, saw that it was not.

"No, that's not my card," he said and offered the man a tight-lipped smile.

The man raised his eyebrows in surprise.

"Oh. Then it must be this one."

He placed another card down.

Tom shook his head. "No. Not that one."

Tom tried to assess whether this was part of the trick or whether the man was just an oddball who had walked in off the street.

The man went through all the cards one by one, like a child, picking one off the top of the pack and then placing it on the counter.

"This one?" he said, turning a card face up. "Maybe this one?"

Tom shook his head again and again each time.

The man continued, and each time he was wrong. Finally, he stopped.

“Oh well,” he said. “I think I have forgotten how to do this trick.”

He pulled a handkerchief from his coat pocket and wiped his face. “I think I am getting too old.”

He nodded to the shelf behind Tom.

“May I know? What is that?”

Tom turned, and there, on the shelf, balanced between two action figures collecting dust, was Tom’s card. He snatched it from the shelf.

“How did you...”

The man smiled again and shook his head.

“Never ask a magician how he performs his tricks,” he said, wagging his finger.

Tom gazed at the card, then back at the man.

He had never seen such a thing before. On TV, of course. That was all the special effects.

But this had happened right under his nose.

“That’s incredible,” said Tom.

The man pulled a few packs of cards from his bag.

“I am selling some of these special cards,” said the man.
“Good price. If you want.”

“I don’t know,” said Tom. “I have some cards already in stock...”

“Just a little,” said the man. “I give you a good price.”

Tom stared back at him. He felt sorry for the old man, wandering from shop to shop. Performing tricks that could easily be explained.

There had to be a perfectly good reason why that card was on the shelf.

“How much are your cards?” Tom asked him.

The man told him a price. They were cheap. Next to nothing.

Tom thought about it. He could pay the man for two packs of cards, maybe three, then get rid of him. He needed to figure out what to do to get real customers in the shop.

“Hang on then,” he said. “I’ll take three packs of cards.”

He opened the till, pulled out some money and handed it to the man. The man passed three packs of cards to Tom.

“Tell your customers,” he said. “You met the Great Ordov.”

Then he tipped his hat at Tom and left.

Tom smiled to himself. A magician. Such nonsense.

No such thing.

He spent the rest of the day going through the sales, the things he had spent money on. All the incomings and outgoings. None of it added up to what he wanted.

Time drifted by and Tom's stomach complained to him. It was lunchtime. The sandwich shop down the road beckoned.

Tom grabbed his jacket and pulled it on. He opened the till to take some money for his lunch, but he could not believe his eyes.

The till was empty.

Every last note and coin gone.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the main character in the story?
2. Where does Tom work?
3. Why is Tom worried at the beginning of the story?
4. What has Tom invested in the shop?
5. How have customer numbers changed since the shop opened?
6. What brings Tom back from his thoughts?
7. How is the stranger dressed?
8. What name does the stranger give Tom?
9. Why does Tom assume that the man is not a customer?
10. What does the stranger say he wants to offer Tom?
11. What does the man take from his coat pocket?
12. What is unusual about the way he handles the cards?
13. What does the man ask Tom to do?
14. Does the man identify Tom's card immediately?
15. How does Tom react when the man repeatedly chooses the wrong card?
16. Where does Tom finally find his card?
17. Why is Tom impressed by the trick?

18. What does the man offer to sell Tom?
19. Why does Tom feel sorry for him?
20. What does Tom believe about the trick after thinking about it?
21. Why does Tom decide to buy three packs?
22. How much do the cards cost?
23. What name does the man tell Tom to mention to his customers?
24. What does Tom think about magic after the man leaves?
25. What does Tom do for the rest of the morning?
26. Why does Tom open the till at lunchtime?
27. What does he discover?
28. What has disappeared from the till?
29. Who has probably taken the money?
30. How has the card trick helped the thief carry out the real trick?

The Trick — Story and Reading Comprehension Questions

This is the story divided into clear sections with reading comprehension questions below each section. This format may be easier for some classes. The answers appear in the answer-key section.

Section 1

It was a quiet day at Tom's Toy Shop.

Tom sat on a stool behind the counter. He was going through all the sales for the last month. Things were not looking good. He had promised his wife that it would work out. Since being made redundant, he had put all of his time and their savings into the shop.

"It will work," he told his wife. "Please believe me."

And she did. She always believed him.

After the first few weeks, the number of customers dwindled down. Now he was lucky if anyone came in at all. He had no idea what to do.

Tom tapped at more keys on the computer. He took a sip of the near-cold coffee and let out a long sigh. This was hopeless.

Lost in deep thought, the bell above the door pinged and brought him back to the present.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the main character in the story?
2. Where does Tom work?
3. Why is Tom worried at the beginning of the story?

Section 2

A man came into the shop. He was dressed all in black, with a large felt hat on his head and a pair of tinted glasses.

The man raised his hat in an old-fashioned style, the way people would greet each other many years ago.

“Good day to you, sir,” said the man. “My name is Orloff. May I come in?”

Tom nodded. “Yeah, sure. Come in, take a look around.”

One look at this man and the way he had greeted Tom, and he knew he was not a customer.

The man approached Tom at the counter. He had a broad smile on his face.

“You seem like a very busy man,” he said. “I hope I am not troubling you.”

Tom shook his head. “No, no trouble.”

He closed the lid of his laptop and returned a smile to the man.

Reading Comprehension Questions

4. What has Tom invested in the shop?
5. How have customer numbers changed since the shop opened?
6. What brings Tom back from his thoughts?

Section 3

“Are you looking for anything in particular?” Tom asked the man.

The man raised a palm. “I am not looking. I am here to offer you something.”

Tom’s stomach tightened a little. A salesman. Just what he needed.

“I’m very sorry, Mr Orloff...”

The man smiled back at Tom and shook his head. “No, please don’t worry. I am not here to give you trouble.”

Tom shook his head. “It’s just that I’ve recently restocked and I’m not looking...”

The man put his hand inside his coat pocket and produced a pack of cards.

With one deft movement, he pulled the cards from the box and began to shuffle them. His hands moved with great speed.

The cards flew from one hand to another, a blur of flashing white and blue.

Reading Comprehension Questions

7. How is the stranger dressed?

8. What name does the stranger give Tom?

9. Why does Tom assume that the man is not a customer?

Section 4

“I want to show you these cards,” said the man.

He had a heavy accent.

Tom could not place it. Eastern-European?

And his mannerisms and gestures — they were like something from long ago.

He continued shuffling the cards. He flicked them through his fingers and fanned them out before closing them again and flashing the cards from one hand to another.

“Tell me,” the man said. “May I know your name?”

Tom moved his mouth, unaccustomed to being asked who he was in such a respectful manner. “Tom. My name is Tom.”

“Tom,” said the man. “It is a good name. Tell me, Tom. Do you like card tricks?”

Without waiting for a reply, the man fanned the cards out.

Reading Comprehension Questions

10. What does the stranger say he wants to offer Tom?

11. What does the man take from his coat pocket?

12. What is unusual about the way he handles the cards?

Section 5

“Pick one,” he whispered.

Tom took one.

The man raised a hand. “Don’t tell me the card. Now put it back.”

Tom did as he was told.

The man shuffled the cards again, this time at lightning speed.

Then he pulled out a card with a slight flourish and laid it on the counter in front of Tom.

“Is this your card?” he asked Tom.

Tom, slightly embarrassed, saw that it was not.

“No, that's not my card,” he said and offered the man a tight-lipped smile.

Reading Comprehension Questions

13. What does the man ask Tom to do?
14. Does the man identify Tom's card immediately?
15. How does Tom react when the man repeatedly chooses the wrong card?

Section 6

The man raised his eyebrows in surprise.

“Oh. Then it must be this one.”

He placed another card down.

Tom shook his head. “No. Not that one.”

Tom tried to assess whether this was part of the trick or whether the man was just an oddball who had walked in off the street.

The man went through all the cards one by one, like a child, picking one off the top of the pack and then placing it on the counter.

“This one?” he said, turning a card face up. “Maybe this one?”

Tom shook his head again and again each time.

The man continued, and each time he was wrong. Finally, he stopped.

Reading Comprehension Questions

16. Where does Tom finally find his card?
17. Why is Tom impressed by the trick?
18. What does the man offer to sell Tom?

Section 7

“Oh well,” he said. “I think I have forgotten how to do this trick.”

He pulled a handkerchief from his coat pocket and wiped his face. “I think I am getting too old.”

He nodded to the shelf behind Tom.

“May I know? What is that?”

Tom turned, and there, on the shelf, balanced between two action figures collecting dust, was Tom’s card. He snatched it from the shelf.

“How did you...”

The man smiled again and shook his head.

“Never ask a magician how he performs his tricks,” he said, wagging his finger.

Tom gazed at the card, then back at the man.

Reading Comprehension Questions

19. Why does Tom feel sorry for him?

20. What does Tom believe about the trick after thinking about it?

21. Why does Tom decide to buy three packs?

Section 8

He had never seen such a thing before. On TV, of course. That was all the special effects.

But this had happened right under his nose.

“That’s incredible,” said Tom.

The man pulled a few packs of cards from his bag.

“I am selling some of these special cards,” said the man.

“Good price. If you want.”

“I don’t know,” said Tom. “I have some cards already in stock...”

“Just a little,” said the man. “I give you a good price.”

Tom stared back at him. He felt sorry for the old man, wandering from shop to shop. Performing tricks that could easily be explained.

Reading Comprehension Questions

22. How much do the cards cost?

23. What name does the man tell Tom to mention to his customers?

24. What does Tom think about magic after the man leaves?

Section 9

There had to be a perfectly good reason why that card was on the shelf.

“How much are your cards?” Tom asked him.

The man told him a price. They were cheap. Next to nothing.

Tom thought about it. He could pay the man for two packs of cards, maybe three, then get rid of him. He needed to figure out what to do to get real customers in the shop.

“Hang on then,” he said. “I’ll take three packs of cards.”

He opened the till, pulled out some money and handed it to the man. The man passed three packs of cards to Tom.

“Tell your customers,” he said. “You met the Great Ordov.”

Then he tipped his hat at Tom and left.

Reading Comprehension Questions

25. What does Tom do for the rest of the morning?

26. Why does Tom open the till at lunchtime?

27. What does he discover?

Section 10

Tom smiled to himself. A magician. Such nonsense.

No such thing.

He spent the rest of the day going through the sales, the things he had spent money on. All the incomings and outgoings. None of it added up to what he wanted.

Time drifted by and Tom's stomach complained to him. It was lunchtime. The sandwich shop down the road beckoned.

Tom grabbed his jacket and pulled it on. He opened the till to take some money for his lunch, but he could not believe his eyes.

The till was empty.

Every last note and coin gone.

Reading Comprehension Questions

28. What has disappeared from the till?

29. Who has probably taken the money?

30. How has the card trick helped the thief carry out the real trick?

Essential Vocabulary

The following words and phrases appear in the story. Use a dictionary to check any item you do not know, then write your own example sentences.

counter	sales	made redundant
savings	dwindle	stool
hopeless	lost in thought	tinted
old-fashioned	approach	in particular
restock	deft	shuffle
a blur	accent	mannerism
gesture	fan out	unaccustomed
respectful	at lightning speed	flourish
tight-lipped smile	assess	oddball
handkerchief	balanced	snatch
wag	gaze	right under his nose
incredible	in stock	next to nothing
get rid of	till	tip his hat
nonsense	incomings	outgoings
add up	beckon	could not believe

		his eyes
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Vocabulary Practice

Follow the steps below to help you learn and remember new words and phrases more effectively:

1. Write each new word or phrase in your vocabulary notebook.
2. Look up the meaning of each word in your dictionary. Write a clear and simple definition next to the word.
3. Create your own sentence using the word or phrase correctly. Try to make the sentence meaningful and connected to your own life or experiences.

Examples

Dwindle — to become gradually fewer or smaller.

Example sentence: Without new customers, the shop's sales began to dwindle.

Deft — skilful, quick and controlled.

Example sentence: The magician opened the pack with one deft movement.

Why do this?

Doing this regularly will help you improve all areas of your English — reading, writing, speaking and listening. By writing definitions and making your own examples, you are actively using the language, which helps it stick in your memory.

Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Match each word with the correct definition. Write the letter in the answer column.

Word	Write letter here →
1. dwindle	
2. tinted	
3. approach	
4. restock	
5. deft	
6. shuffle	
7. mannerism	
8. unaccustomed	
9. flourish	
10. assess	
11. snatch	
12. in stock	
13. next to nothing	
14. till	
15. beckon	

Definitions:

- a. to take something quickly or suddenly
- b. to move towards someone or something
- c. a drawer or machine that holds a shop's money
- d. to become gradually fewer or smaller
- e. an impressive movement added for effect
- f. to mix playing cards into a new order
- g. to seem inviting or attractive
- h. skilful and quick in movement
- i. available for sale
- j. coloured slightly to reduce brightness
- k. extremely cheap or almost nothing
- l. a habitual gesture or way of behaving
- m. to fill a shop with goods again
- n. to judge or evaluate something
- o. not familiar with an experience

True or False

Read each statement and decide whether it is True or False.
If a statement is false, correct it and rewrite it so that it is true.

1. Tom's toy shop is doing very well. True / False
2. Tom used his family's savings to open the shop. True / False
3. The stranger is dressed in bright colours. True / False
4. The stranger introduces himself as Orloff. True / False
5. Tom immediately believes that the man is a genuine magician. True / False
6. The man finds Tom's card on his first attempt. True / False
7. Tom's card appears between two action figures. True / False
8. The packs of cards are very expensive. True / False
9. Tom buys three packs of cards. True / False
10. At lunchtime, Tom discovers that the till is empty.
True / False

What is the Correct Synonym?

A synonym is a word of similar meaning. Match each word from the story with its synonym from the box below.

Word Box: *decrease, skilful, evaluate, grab, amazing, refill, unfamiliar, dramatic gesture, invite, rubbish*

1. dwindle → _____
2. deft → _____
3. assess → _____
4. snatch → _____
5. incredible → _____
6. restock → _____
7. unaccustomed → _____
8. flourish → _____
9. beckon → _____
10. nonsense → _____

What is the Correct Antonym?

An antonym is a word of opposite meaning. Match each word from the story with its antonym from the box below.

Word Box: *grow, clumsy, promising, modern, open and expressive, ordinary, full, rude, retreat, forget*

1. dwindle → _____
2. deft → _____
3. hopeless → _____
4. old-fashioned → _____
5. tight-lipped → _____
6. incredible → _____
7. empty → _____
8. respectful → _____
9. approach → _____
10. remember → _____

Words and Meanings

Match each expression from the story with its meaning.

1. things were not looking good
2. lost in deep thought
3. in particular
4. a blur
5. place an accent
6. at lightning speed
7. right under his nose
8. in stock
9. next to nothing
10. could not believe his eyes

Meanings

- a. very close to someone without that person noticing
- b. the situation appeared likely to fail or become worse
- c. a very small amount of money
- d. something seen unclearly because it is moving very quickly

- e. was extremely surprised by what he saw
- f. thinking so deeply that you do not notice what is happening around you
- g. available in a shop to buy
- h. especially or specifically
- i. extremely quickly
- j. recognise where an accent comes from

Gap Fill Exercise

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Use each word once.

Word Box: *dwindle, tinted, restock, deft, shuffle, mannerism, flourish, assess, snatch, till*

1. Without new customers, the shop's sales began to _____.
2. The stranger hid his eyes behind _____ glasses.
3. Tom had recently paid to _____ the shelves.
4. With one _____ movement, the man removed the cards.
5. A magician must learn how to _____ a pack smoothly.
6. His formal bow was an unusual _____.
7. He placed the card down with a dramatic _____.
8. Tom tried to _____ whether the mistakes were deliberate.
9. Tom reached out to _____ the card from the shelf.
10. At lunchtime, every coin had vanished from the _____.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe Tom's situation at the beginning of the story?
2. What makes Tom vulnerable to the stranger's trick?
3. Which details make Orloff seem mysterious or theatrical?
4. Do you think Orloff is a magician, a con man or both? Explain your answer.
5. How might he have placed Tom's card on the shelf?
6. At what moment might he have taken the money?
7. Why does Tom buy the cards even though he does not want them?
8. What warning signs does Tom ignore?
9. Why are people often more easily deceived when they are distracted or under pressure?
10. Is it ever acceptable to deceive people for entertainment? Where should the limit be?
11. How should shop owners protect themselves from distraction theft?
12. What do you think Tom tells his wife?
13. How might the police identify the man?

14. Would the same trick work as easily in a modern cashless shop?

15. What do you think happens to Tom and his shop after the story ends?

Role Play: The Distraction Theft Investigation

Work in groups of three. One student is Tom, one is a police officer and one is a witness from a nearby shop.

Situation

The police arrive shortly after Tom discovers the empty till. They need to establish what happened, identify the suspect and decide what evidence to collect.

Your task

- Tom explains the visitor's appearance, behaviour and card trick.
- The police officer asks precise follow-up questions and records a timeline.
- The witness describes seeing the man before or after he entered the toy shop.
- Together, decide which evidence—CCTV, fingerprints, receipts or witness statements—would be most useful.

Perform the interview for the class. Then explain which clue is most likely to help the investigation.

Debate: Is Deception Ever Acceptable Entertainment?

The Motion

“This house believes that deception is acceptable when its purpose is entertainment.”

Option A — Full Two-Team Debate

Divide the class into two teams.

Team A — For the Motion

You must argue that audiences expect magicians and performers to mislead them, that the deception creates surprise and enjoyment, and that nobody is harmed when people knowingly agree to take part in entertainment.

Team B — Against the Motion

You must argue that deception can damage trust, that performers may manipulate or embarrass people, and that the boundary between entertainment and dishonest exploitation is not always clear.

Preparation (10 minutes)

Each team should prepare its arguments. Think about:

- Does an audience truly consent to every kind of deception used in a performance?
- At what point does a harmless trick become manipulation or a scam?
- Does the performer have a responsibility to prevent financial or emotional harm?
- Would revealing the method make the entertainment less enjoyable—or more honest?

The Debate

1. Team A gives an opening statement (2 minutes).
2. Team B gives an opening statement (2 minutes).
3. Rebuttal round — each team responds to the other side's points (2 minutes each).
4. Closing statements — each team summarises its strongest argument (1 minute each).

The Vote

After the debate, the rest of the class votes on which side made the more convincing argument. The teacher can act as moderator and timekeeper throughout.

Option B — Simplified Class Discussion

If a full debate does not suit the class, the teacher can run an open discussion instead. Present the motion to the whole class and ask individual students whether they agree or disagree and why. Encourage students to respond to different opinions without assigning fixed sides.

Writing

Choose ONE of the following tasks.

Option 1: Police Report

Write a formal police report about the theft. Include the time and place, Tom's account, a description of the suspect, the method used to distract Tom, the missing property and possible evidence. Use the past tense and a clear, factual style.

Option 2: Tom Identifies the Suspect

Write a scene in which Tom visits a police station to identify a suspect. Describe what he sees, how certain he feels and what he remembers about the stranger. You may write a narrative or a dialogue.

Option 3: The Trick from Orloff's Point of View

Retell the shop scene from the stranger's point of view without explaining every secret. Show how he plans the distraction, watches Tom and escapes. Keep the ending tense and believable.

Suggested length: 250–400 words.

Reading Comprehension Questions — Answers

1. Tom is the main character.
2. He works in his toy shop, Tom's Toy Shop.
3. He is worried because the shop is not doing well and he has very few customers.
4. He has invested all his time and his family's savings in it.
5. The number of customers has dwindled since the first few weeks.
6. The bell above the shop door brings him back from his thoughts.
7. He is dressed all in black, with a large felt hat and tinted glasses.
8. He says his name is Orloff.
9. His unusual greeting and manner make Tom think he has come to sell something.
10. He says he wants to offer Tom something.
11. He takes out a pack of cards.
12. He shuffles and moves the cards with great speed and skill.

13. He asks Tom to choose a card, remember it and put it back.
14. No. He turns over many incorrect cards first.
15. Tom wonders whether the failures are part of the trick or whether the man is simply an oddball.
16. He finds it on a dusty shelf behind the counter, between two action figures.
17. The card appears somewhere unexpected even though the trick happens directly in front of him.
18. He offers to sell Tom packs of special cards.
19. Tom imagines him wandering from shop to shop and feels sorry for him.
20. He decides there must be a perfectly ordinary explanation.
21. The packs are very cheap, and buying three seems like an easy way to get rid of the man.
22. They cost next to nothing.
23. He tells Tom to say that he met the Great Ordov.
24. He dismisses magic as nonsense and says there is no such thing.
25. He continues checking his sales, expenses and accounts.
26. He wants to take out money to buy lunch.

27. He discovers that the till is empty.
28. Every note and coin has disappeared.
29. The mysterious card seller has probably taken it.
30. The performance distracts Tom and controls where he looks, giving the thief an opportunity to steal the money.

True or False — Answers

1. False. In fact, tom's toy shop is struggling and has very few customers.
2. True.
3. False. In fact, the stranger is dressed all in black.
4. True.
5. False. In fact, tom remains doubtful and looks for an ordinary explanation.
6. False. In fact, he turns over many incorrect cards before Tom finds his card on a shelf.
7. True.
8. False. In fact, they are very cheap—next to nothing.
9. True.
10. True.

What is the Correct Synonym? — Answers

1. dwindle = decrease
2. deft = skilful
3. assess = evaluate
4. snatch = grab
5. incredible = amazing
6. restock = refill
7. unaccustomed = unfamiliar
8. flourish = dramatic gesture
9. beckon = invite
10. nonsense = rubbish

What is the Correct Antonym? — Answers

1. dwindle ↔ grow
2. deft ↔ clumsy
3. hopeless ↔ promising
4. old-fashioned ↔ modern
5. tight-lipped ↔ open and expressive
6. incredible ↔ ordinary
7. empty ↔ full
8. respectful ↔ rude
9. approach ↔ retreat
10. remember ↔ forget

Words and Meanings — Answers

1. things were not looking good = the situation appeared likely to fail or become worse
2. lost in deep thought = thinking so deeply that you do not notice what is happening around you
3. in particular = especially or specifically
4. a blur = something seen unclearly because it is moving very quickly
5. place an accent = recognise where an accent comes from
6. at lightning speed = extremely quickly
7. right under his nose = very close to someone without that person noticing
8. in stock = available in a shop to buy
9. next to nothing = a very small amount of money
10. could not believe his eyes = was extremely surprised by what he saw

Gap Fill Exercise — Answers

1. dwindle
2. tinted
3. restock
4. deft
5. shuffle
6. mannerism
7. flourish
8. assess
9. snatch
10. till

Vocabulary Practice Exercise — Answers

1. d (to become gradually fewer or smaller)
2. j (coloured slightly to reduce brightness)
3. b (to move towards someone or something)
4. m (to fill a shop with goods again)
5. h (skilful and quick in movement)
6. f (to mix playing cards into a new order)
7. l (a habitual gesture or way of behaving)
8. o (not familiar with an experience)
9. e (an impressive movement added for effect)
10. n (to judge or evaluate something)
11. a (to take something quickly or suddenly)
12. i (available for sale)
13. k (extremely cheap or almost nothing)
14. c (a drawer or machine that holds a shop's money)
15. g (to seem inviting or attractive)

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