

The Lane That Drained

B2 Upper-intermediate · Places · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____

Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. Each _____ left the market square underwater, except for a narrow lane behind the bakery.
2. For years, residents credited its raised stones, which barely rose above the _____ pavement.
3. During a _____ survey, Leila found a shallow groove crossing the bakery cellar floor.
4. Beside it, an old ledger paired dates with one terse note about _____ the channel.
5. Before each storm, the baker lifted two paving stones and _____ leaves from below.
6. Nobody noticed water _____ through the brick channel, because the lane stayed passable.
7. After the bakery closed, concrete sealed the cellar, and the channel _____ vanished from local maps.
8. Leila persuaded drainage crews to _____, although their expensive pump proposal had already been approved.
9. Beneath a planter, they _____ the outlet, which led into a forgotten stone cistern.
10. The pump was cancelled, and the cistern now stores _____ that once threatened every shop.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. cloudburst 2. surrounding 3. building 4. clearing 5. cleared 6. disappearing 7. gradually 8. investigate 9. uncovered 10. stormwater

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. Each cloudburst left the market square underwater, except for a narrow lane behind the bakery.
2. For years, residents credited its raised stones, which barely rose above the surrounding pavement.
3. During a building survey, Leila found a shallow groove crossing the bakery cellar floor.
4. Beside it, an old ledger paired dates with one terse note about clearing the channel.
5. Before each storm, the baker lifted two paving stones and cleared leaves from below.
6. Nobody noticed water disappearing through the brick channel, because the lane stayed passable.
7. After the bakery closed, concrete sealed the cellar, and the channel gradually vanished from local maps.
8. Leila persuaded drainage crews to investigate, although their expensive pump proposal had already been approved.
9. Beneath a planter, they uncovered the outlet, which led into a forgotten stone cistern.
10. The pump was cancelled, and the cistern now stores stormwater that once threatened every shop.

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