

A Place for the Cork

C1 Advanced · Daily life · about 2 min of audio

Play the audio: <https://englishdictations.com/dictation/c1/a-place-for-the-cork/>

Name _____

Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. The first spill at supper came not from a _____ hand, but from the table tilting toward the window.
2. _____ someone reached for bread, the serving spoon slid across the cloth and the soup gave a faint shiver.
3. The carpenter had refused to trim the legs because the _____ had sunk unevenly and were still shifting.
4. A guest folded a paper napkin beneath the _____ foot, then nudged the pot toward the center of the table.
5. The bowls stopped _____, but the chair nearest the window now sat at a slight angle.
6. _____ resumed, punctuated by the scrape of serving spoons and the careful passage of bread from hand to hand.
7. When the napkin began to creep outward, a child found a cork in the sideboard and wedged it _____.
8. The table _____ at once, and nobody needed to keep a hand on the pot.
9. After dessert, the cork _____ beneath the leg while the stained napkin waited beside the empty plates.
10. At breakfast, somebody checked that the cork still held before pouring coffee, and nobody paused the _____.

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. careless 2. Whenever 3. floorboards 4. shortest 5. trembling 6. Conversation 7. underneath 8. steadied 9. remained 10. conversation

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. The first spill at supper came not from a careless hand, but from the table tilting toward the window.
2. Whenever someone reached for bread, the serving spoon slid across the cloth and the soup gave a faint shiver.
3. The carpenter had refused to trim the legs because the floorboards had sunk unevenly and were still shifting.
4. A guest folded a paper napkin beneath the shortest foot, then nudged the pot toward the center of the table.
5. The bowls stopped trembling, but the chair nearest the window now sat at a slight angle.
6. Conversation resumed, punctuated by the scrape of serving spoons and the careful passage of bread from hand to hand.
7. When the napkin began to creep outward, a child found a cork in the sideboard and wedged it underneath.
8. The table steadied at once, and nobody needed to keep a hand on the pot.
9. After dessert, the cork remained beneath the leg while the stained napkin waited beside the empty plates.
10. At breakfast, somebody checked that the cork still held before pouring coffee, and nobody paused the conversation.

More free dictations at every level, A1 to C1, with a new one every day:

<https://englishdictations.com>