The Counter Between Systems

C1 Advanced · Work · about 2 min of audio

Play the audio: https://englishdictations.com/dictation/c1/the-counter-between-systems/

Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. When letters thinned, the village post office did not disappear but acquired a second life as a place for unfinished _____.
2. Ruth Calder, who had sorted _____ for decades, now spends mornings helping customers retrieve codes from phones they barely trust.
3. She keeps a _____ glass beside the stamp drawer, not for fine print alone but for screens with faint lettering.
4. One Tuesday, a retired mechanic arrived to renew his parking permit, carrying a paper form whose online _____ had vanished.
5. Ruth traced the council's new portal through three menus, while the queue _____ with the solemn patience of a railway platform.
6. Rather than take the man's phone, she _____ each choice until he found the button himself.
7. That distinction matters in a job _____ measured by completed forms, though trust cannot be entered in the daily tally.
8. By noon, Ruth had stamped two parcels, reset a password, and explained why a _____ email was not a receipt.
9. Her counter remains a postal one, but its busiest traffic now travels _____ between an anxious hand and a remote server.
10. At closing, she slides the _____ glass back beside the stamps, ready for whatever the next system makes difficult to see.

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. transactions 2. envelopes 3. magnifying 4. counterpart 5. lengthened 6. described 7. increasingly 8. confirmation 9. invisibly 10. magnifying

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. When letters thinned, the village post office did not disappear but acquired a second life as a place for unfinished transactions.
2. Ruth Calder, who had sorted envelopes for decades, now spends mornings helping customers retrieve codes from phones they barely trust.
3. She keeps a magnifying glass beside the stamp drawer, not for fine print alone but for screens with faint lettering.
4. One Tuesday, a retired mechanic arrived to renew his parking permit, carrying a paper form whose online counterpart had vanished.
5. Ruth traced the council's new portal through three menus, while the queue lengthened with the solemn patience of a railway platform.
6. Rather than take the man's phone, she described each choice until he found the button himself.
7. That distinction matters in a job increasingly measured by completed forms, though trust cannot be entered in the daily tally.
8. By noon, Ruth had stamped two parcels, reset a password, and explained why a confirmation email was not a receipt.
9. Her counter remains a postal one, but its busiest traffic now travels invisibly between an anxious hand and a remote server.
10. At closing, she slides the magnifying glass back beside the stamps, ready for whatever the next system makes difficult to see.

More free dictations at every level, A1 to C1, with a new one every day:
https://englishdictations.com