The Missing Stair

C1 Advanced · Places · about 2 min of audio

Play the audio: https://englishdictations.com/dictation/c1/the-missing-stair/

Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. A map can be _____ and still conceal the effort required to use it.
2. In a _____ town, visitors followed a blue route toward the harbor, trusting its clean line more than their tired legs.
3. It led them to a _____ whose first landing looked ordinary, until the steps narrowed beside a retaining wall.
4. Locals took the longer road, not from _____, but because they knew where the handrail ended.
5. That small _____ exposed what the map had flattened: distance is measured in exertion as well as metres.
6. At the next corner, a grocer had pinned a _____ notice showing the gentler route past the school.
7. Her sketch _____ no scale, yet it marked a shaded bench and a gate that stayed open after noon.
8. Those details mattered more than _____ precision to anyone carrying a suitcase or guiding a child.
9. The official map _____ where movement was possible, while the grocer described what movement would cost.
10. Good _____ do more than shorten a journey because they help travelers decide which difficulty they can bear.

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. accurate 2. hillside 3. staircase 4. ignorance 5. distinction 6. hand-drawn 7. included 8. geometric 9. described 10. directions

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. A map can be accurate and still conceal the effort required to use it.
2. In a hillside town, visitors followed a blue route toward the harbor, trusting its clean line more than their tired legs.
3. It led them to a staircase whose first landing looked ordinary, until the steps narrowed beside a retaining wall.
4. Locals took the longer road, not from ignorance, but because they knew where the handrail ended.
5. That small distinction exposed what the map had flattened: distance is measured in exertion as well as metres.
6. At the next corner, a grocer had pinned a hand-drawn notice showing the gentler route past the school.
7. Her sketch included no scale, yet it marked a shaded bench and a gate that stayed open after noon.
8. Those details mattered more than geometric precision to anyone carrying a suitcase or guiding a child.
9. The official map described where movement was possible, while the grocer described what movement would cost.
10. Good directions do more than shorten a journey because they help travelers decide which difficulty they can bear.

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