The Photograph Tax

C1 Advanced · Food · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. A _____ promises to preserve a moment, but the promise quietly changes what the moment is allowed to contain.
2. At a crowded _____ café, a woman arranged her lunch beneath the striped awning, then shifted it twice for better light.
3. By the time she raised her fork, the _____ fish had cooled and the table beside her had emptied.
4. This was not simply vanity, since the image _____ proof to absent friends and a neat record for later.
5. Yet proof is a peculiar _____ for attention, especially when the smallest details are what memory keeps.
6. She might have _____ the salt drying on her wrist, or the cook humming as he carried plates past.
7. Instead, she checked the screen for glare, cropping a _____ elbow from the evidence of her afternoon.
8. Photographs are useful precisely because they select, but habitual selection can make an experience resemble its own _____.
9. A single picture may sharpen _____, while a dozen can turn the meal into an assignment with no natural end.
10. The camera does not steal a moment outright, because it asks us to decide _____ which parts deserve to exist.
11. _____ the most faithful record is not an image, but the detail we noticed before trying to keep it.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

_____

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. photograph 2. courtyard 3. grilled 4. offered 5. substitute 6. remembered 7. stranger's 8. advertisement 9. recollection 10. repeatedly 11. Sometimes

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. A photograph promises to preserve a moment, but the promise quietly changes what the moment is allowed to contain.
2. At a crowded courtyard café, a woman arranged her lunch beneath the striped awning, then shifted it twice for better light.
3. By the time she raised her fork, the grilled fish had cooled and the table beside her had emptied.
4. This was not simply vanity, since the image offered proof to absent friends and a neat record for later.
5. Yet proof is a peculiar substitute for attention, especially when the smallest details are what memory keeps.
6. She might have remembered the salt drying on her wrist, or the cook humming as he carried plates past.
7. Instead, she checked the screen for glare, cropping a stranger's elbow from the evidence of her afternoon.
8. Photographs are useful precisely because they select, but habitual selection can make an experience resemble its own advertisement.
9. A single picture may sharpen recollection, while a dozen can turn the meal into an assignment with no natural end.
10. The camera does not steal a moment outright, because it asks us to decide repeatedly which parts deserve to exist.
11. Sometimes the most faithful record is not an image, but the detail we noticed before trying to keep it.

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