

The Quiet Seam

C1 Advanced · Work · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____

Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. The tailor did not look up when the bell above the shop door _____ in the wind.
2. A _____ had brought a coat with one sleeve torn cleanly from its lining.
3. Rather than reach for the _____, she turned the garment inside out and studied the seam.
4. Under the yellow task lamp, loose threads _____ tiny roots searching for somewhere to hold.
5. She eased each one free with a pin, _____ the cloth that impatient hands might have cut away.
6. Outside, a bus dragged _____ along the curb, its windows briefly bright with passing shop lights.
7. The _____ watched the careful work and stopped checking the time on a darkened phone.
8. What looked like damage from a _____ became, under her hands, a map of stress and motion.
9. She _____ along the old holes, letting the thread follow the coat's original path.
10. At last, she _____ the sleeve twice, not to test the repair but to settle its shape.
11. When the customer put it on, the seam _____, though the coat now remembered exactly where it had strained.
12. The bell _____ again as they left, and the shop returned to its patient argument with wear.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

2. _____

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. trembled 2. customer 3. machine 4. resembled 5. preserving 6. rainwater 7. customer 8. distance
9. stitched 10. tugged 11. disappeared 12. shivered

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. The tailor did not look up when the bell above the shop door trembled in the wind.
2. A customer had brought a coat with one sleeve torn cleanly from its lining.
3. Rather than reach for the machine, she turned the garment inside out and studied the seam.
4. Under the yellow task lamp, loose threads resembled tiny roots searching for somewhere to hold.
5. She eased each one free with a pin, preserving the cloth that impatient hands might have cut away.
6. Outside, a bus dragged rainwater along the curb, its windows briefly bright with passing shop lights.
7. The customer watched the careful work and stopped checking the time on a darkened phone.
8. What looked like damage from a distance became, under her hands, a map of stress and motion.
9. She stitched along the old holes, letting the thread follow the coat's original path.
10. At last, she tugged the sleeve twice, not to test the repair but to settle its shape.
11. When the customer put it on, the seam disappeared, though the coat now remembered exactly where it had strained.
12. The bell shivered again as they left, and the shop returned to its patient argument with wear.

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