Where People Hesitate

C1 Advanced · Places · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. Map a town by the places where people _____, and its blank spaces begin to look less innocent.
2. A visitor pauses beneath the station clock, not because it is _____, but because every exit seems equally plausible.
3. Across town, a delivery driver circles the old market twice, _____ for an entrance hidden behind cheerful signs.
4. These delays would become dark knots on the map, while familiar shortcuts scarcely _____ at all.
5. That pattern would expose a difference conventional plans conceal: a place can be physically accessible and still resist _____.
6. The _____ footpath, for instance, feels obvious to residents who know which iron gate sticks after rain.
7. _____ see only a locked barrier and a path that appears to end in nettles.
8. Even a generous plaza may bewilder visitors when its _____ repeat and its entrances face unmarked service roads.
9. _____ is not simply a failure of attention, since sometimes a setting withholds the clues attention needs.
10. _____ who traced these pauses might shift one sign until a doorway became legible from across the square.
11. Their map would record no new _____, yet it might show where a city quietly asks people to guess.

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. hesitate 2. beautiful 3. searching 4. registered 5. understanding 6. riverside 7. Newcomers 8. landmarks 9. Hesitation 10. Designers 11. streets

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. Map a town by the places where people hesitate, and its blank spaces begin to look less innocent.
2. A visitor pauses beneath the station clock, not because it is beautiful, but because every exit seems equally plausible.
3. Across town, a delivery driver circles the old market twice, searching for an entrance hidden behind cheerful signs.
4. These delays would become dark knots on the map, while familiar shortcuts scarcely registered at all.
5. That pattern would expose a difference conventional plans conceal: a place can be physically accessible and still resist understanding.
6. The riverside footpath, for instance, feels obvious to residents who know which iron gate sticks after rain.
7. Newcomers see only a locked barrier and a path that appears to end in nettles.
8. Even a generous plaza may bewilder visitors when its landmarks repeat and its entrances face unmarked service roads.
9. Hesitation is not simply a failure of attention, since sometimes a setting withholds the clues attention needs.
10. Designers who traced these pauses might shift one sign until a doorway became legible from across the square.
11. Their map would record no new streets, yet it might show where a city quietly asks people to guess.

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