

The Skeleton in the trunk

**Arbeitsblätter zum Umgang mit Texten
in heterogenen Lerngruppen**

Bijou Beberniß

The skeleton in the trunk

Bijou Beberniss

One day some new kids at school were helping the janitor to clean up down in the basement, where the huge steam heating system was located. There were also many old boxes and trunks, with loads of dust on them. These had been put there decades ago. The drama group of Mr. Smith had to stop their activities in 1964 after their latest play had ended in a disaster. During a scene showing a family barbeque the stage had caught fire.

On this sunny day in 2005 the kids went further and further back into the dark basement and found a dusty door that looked like it hadn't been opened in years. It was quite close to the heating system, which made lots of strange noises and thus they didn't really feel comfortable in this dark and windowless room.

Hoping to find an exit they took hold of the doorknob, which almost fell off in their hands. They pulled and pushed, but the door was stuck because the hinges had gotten rusty.

Finally, they pulled really hard and the door swung open at first but most hinges were broken and then it dropped with a loud bang. Dust poured out in a cloud. When the dust cleared, the kids saw an old trunk.

Suddenly their fear vanished and curiosity made them step forward. Through the thick dust they saw a piece of cloth sticking out of the right hand corner right below the heavy lid. With united strengths they managed to pull up the large lid. A horrible sight awaited them.

There, slumped on the bottom with bent knees and folded arms, was a skeleton. It didn't smell or anything. It just looked like the one in the biology lab, only dressed in some old fashioned rags.

Fear returned quickly, so they ran back, almost stumbling over the heating system which made the most horrible noises one can imagine in this situation and called the janitor, who called the police.

For a long time no one could figure out who the skeleton had been. No member of the drama group had been reported missing. Then finally, they were able to identify the rotten sneakers and the remains of the baseball cap, and knew who it was.

It was the 1974 school hide-and-seek champion.

The skeleton in the trunk

Cartoon

Draw 4 Scenes of the story
Write down a headline for each picture

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Conditional sentences

<p>Conditional Clauses</p> <p>What would you do if you were locked in a trunk?</p>	<p>Conditional Clauses</p> <p>What would you have done, if you had been in the janitor's place ?</p>
<p>Conditional Clauses</p> <p>Which tenses do you use for conditional II? Give an example</p>	<p>Conditional Clauses</p> <p>Translate : Wenn ich heute den Keller aufräume, werde ich sehr vorsichtig sein.</p>
<p>Conditional Clauses</p> <p>Put the verb into the right tense If I (miss) my friend during a hide-and -seek game, I (look for) him.</p>	<p>Conditional Clauses</p> <p>Translate : If it rains today, we can't play hide and seek outside.</p>

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Simple past

<p>Simple Past</p> <p>Which verb form do you use?</p>	<p>Simple past</p> <p>Name 3 signal words.</p>
<p>Simple past</p> <p>Change the sentence into the passive form: The children opened the door.</p>	<p>Simple past</p> <p>Change the sentence into the active form : The police was called by the janitor.</p>
<p>Simple past</p> <p>Put the verb into the right tense: The door (not, open), because the hinges (be) rotten.</p>	<p>Simple past</p> <p>Translate : When the door opened dust poured out in a cloud and the sight was horrible!</p>

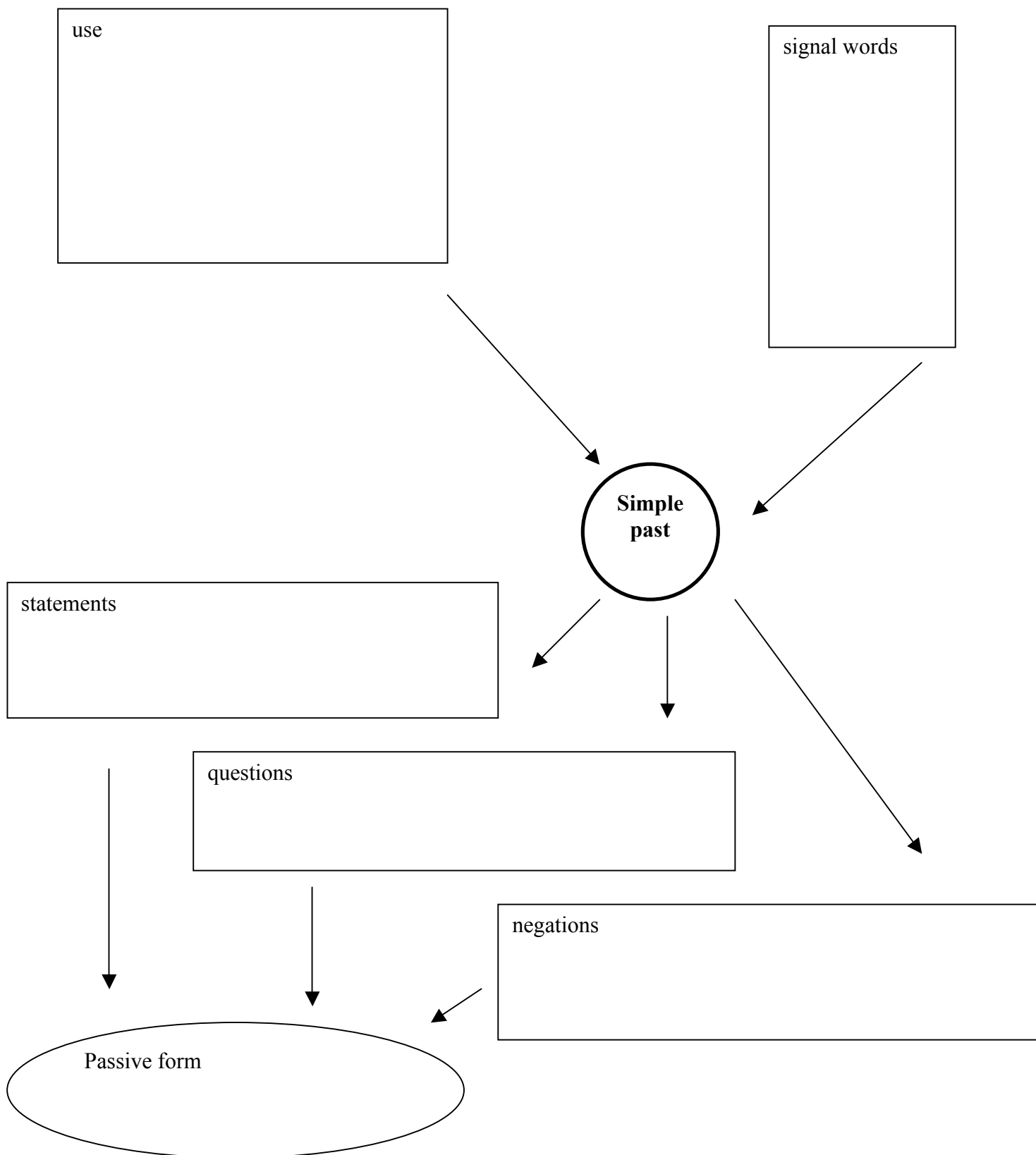
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Synonyms and Antonyms And Vocabulary practise

<p>Find a synonym for</p> <p>horrible</p>	<p>Find an Antonym For</p> <p>champion</p>
<p>collect Adjectives that express</p> <p>fear and surprise</p>	<p>Find an Antonym for</p> <p>clear</p>
<p>Collect words</p> <p>used to describe a skeleton.</p>	<p>Collect words</p> <p>used to describe dirt and old / rotten things .</p>

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Mind map: Simple past



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Jumbled sentences

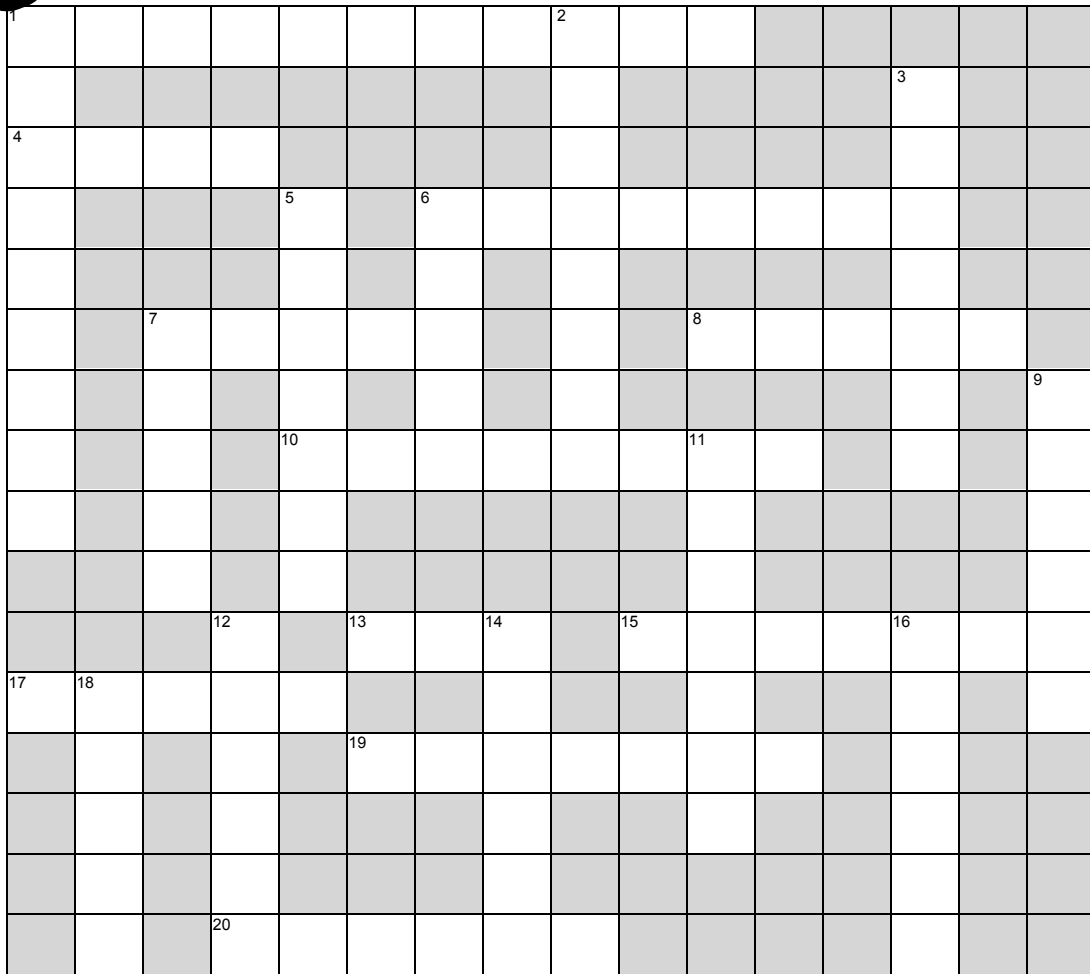
One day some new kids at school were helping the janitor to clean up down in the basement, where the huge steam heating system was located.

- 1) It was the 1974 school hide-and-seeK champion.
- 2) Through the thick dust they saw a piece of cloth sticking out of the right hand corner right below the heavy lid.
- 3) Dust poured out in a cloud.
- 4) Finally, they pulled really hard and the door swung open at first but most hinges were broken and then it dropped with a loud bang.
- 5) It was quite close to the heating system, which made lots of strange noises and thus they didn't really feel comfortable in this dark and windowless room.
- 6) No member of the drama group had been reported missing.
- 7) Fear returned quickly, so they ran back, almost stumbling over the heating system which made the most horrible noises one can imagine in this situation and called the janitor, who called the police.
- 8) It didn't smell or anything.
- 9) Suddenly their fear vanished and curiosity made them step forward.
- 10) For a long time no one could figure out who the skeleton had been.
- 11) There, slumped on the bottom with bent knees and folded arms, was a skeleton.
- 12) A horrible sight awaited them.
- 13) Then finally, they were able to identify the rotten sneakers and the remains of the baseball cap, and knew who it was.
- 14) It just looked like the one in the biology lab, only dressed in some old fashioned rags.
- 15) With united strengths they managed to pull up the large lid.
- 16) When the dust cleared, the kids saw an old trunk.
- 17) They pulled and pushed, but the door was stuck because the hinges had gotten rusty.
- 18) Hoping to find an exit they took hold of the doorknob, which almost fell off in their hands.
- 19) On this sunny day in 2005 the kids went further and further back into the dark basement and found a dusty door that looked like it hadn't been opened in years.
- 20) During a scene showing a family barbeque the stage had caught fire.
- 21) Smith had to stop their activities in 1964 after their latest play had ended in a disaster.
- 22) The drama group of Mr.
- 23) These had been put there decades ago.
- 24) There were also many old boxes and trunks, with loads of dust on them.

Richtige Reihenfolge:

25 - 24 - 23 - 22 - 21 - 20 - 19 - 5 - 18 - 17 - 4 - 3 - 16 - 9 - 2 - 15 - 12 - 11 - 8 - 14 - 7 - 10 - 6
- 13 - 1

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Across:

- 1 wohl fühlen
- 4 Lumpen
- 6 Skelett
- 7 Theater
- 8 rostig
- 10 identifizieren
- 13 Deckel
- 15 stolpern
- 17 Dampf (Heizungssystem)
- 19 untergebracht, platziert
- 20 Scharniere

Down:

- 1 Neugierde
- 2 Keller, Untergeschoss
- 3 Hausmeister
- 5 Heizsystem
- 6 Bühne
- 7 Staubig
- 9 Anlage, System
- 11 weiter
- 12 verschwinden, nachlassen
- 14 Jahrzehnt
- 16 Boden ; unteres Ende
- 18 Truhe

The skeleton in the trunk

¹ C	O	M	F	O	R	T	A	² B	L	E					
U								A					³ J		
⁴ R	A	G	S					S					A		
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O				E		T		M					I		
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Concept Map

The chronology of the story . Finish the sentences and put them into the right order

1974 ...

Many decades later...

2005 While cleaning the basement...

Suddenly they ...

They went and told ...

The Janitor ...

For a long time ...

Then finally ...

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Questions and Answers

Read the answers and write down the correct questions

1. _____ ?

They were cleaning the basement and found a locked door.

2. _____ ?

They saw a terrible sight. A rotten skeleton was there.

3. _____ ?

After a long time the skeleton was identified as the 1974 hide-and-seek champion.

More questions

Write down three questions about the text.

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Find a partner and exchange your questions and answer them

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Past tenses: Active and passive

One day some new kids at school were helping the janitor to clean up down in the basement, where the huge steam heating system (locate). There (be) also many old boxes and trunks, with loads of dust on them. These (put) there decades ago. The drama group of Mr. Smith had to stop their activities in 1964 after their latest play (end) in a disaster. During a scene showing a family barbeque the stage (catch) fire.

On this sunny day in 2005 the kids (go) further and further back into the dark basement and (find) a dusty door that looked like it (not, open) in years. It was quite close to the heating system, which (make) lots of strange noises and thus they really (not, feel comfortable in this dark and windowless room.

Hoping to find an exit they took hold of the doorknob, which almost (fall off) in their hands. They (pull) and (push), but the door (be stuck) because the hinges had gotten rusty.

Finally, they pulled really hard and the door (swing) open at first but most hinges (break) and then it (drop) with a loud bang. Dust (pour) out in a cloud. When the dust cleared, the kids (see) an old trunk.

Suddenly their fear (vanish) and curiosity made them step forward. Through the thick dust they saw a piece of cloth sticking out of the right hand corner right below the heavy lid. With united strengths they (manage) to pull up the large lid. A horrible sight awaited them.

There, slumped on the bottom with bent knees and folded arms, was a skeleton. It (not, smell) or anything. It just looked like the one in the biology lab, only dressed in some old fashioned rags.

Fear returned quickly, so they (run) back, almost stumbling over the heating system which made the most horrible noises one can imagine in this situation and (call) the janitor, who called the police.

For a long time no one could figure out who the skeleton had been. No member of the drama group (report) missing. Then finally, they (be able) to identify the rotten sneakers and the remains of the baseball cap, and knew who it was.

It was the 1974 school hide-and-seek champion.

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The skeleton in the trunk

Missing words –cloze test

One day some new kids at school were helping the jan _____ to clean u _____ down in t _____ basement, where t _____ huge steam hea _____ system was loc _____. There were al _____ many old bo _____ and trunks, wi _____ loads of du _____ on them. Th _____ had been p _____ there decades a _____. The drama gr _____ of Mr. Sm _____ had to st _____ their activities i _____ 1964 after their lat _____ play had en _____ in a disa _____. During a sc _____ showing a fam _____ barbeque the st _____ had caught fi _____.

On this su _____ day in 2005 t _____ kids went fur _____ and further ba _____ into the da _____ basement and fo _____ a dusty do _____ that looked li _____ it hadn't be _____ opened in ye _____. It was qu _____ close to t _____ heating system, wh _____ made lots o _____ strange noises a _____ thus they di _____ 't really feel comfo _____ in this da _____ and windowless ro _____.

Hoping to fi _____ an exit th _____ took hold o _____ the doorknob, wh _____ almost fell o _____ in their ha _____. They pulled a _____ pushed, but t _____ door was st _____ because the hin _____ had gotten ru _____.

Finally, they pul _____ really hard a _____ the door sw _____ open at fi _____ but most hin _____ were broken a _____ then it dro _____ with a lo _____ bang. Dust pou _____ out in _____ cloud. When t _____ dust cleared, t _____ kids saw a _____ old trunk.

Sudd _____ their fear vani _____ and curiosity ma _____ them step for _____. Through the th _____ dust they s _____ a piece o _____ cloth sticking o _____ of the ri _____ hand corner ri _____ below the he _____ lid. With uni _____ strengths they man _____ to pull u _____ the large l _____. A horrible si _____ awaited them.

Th _____, slumped on t _____ bottom with be _____ knees and fol _____ arms, was _____ skeleton. It di _____ 't smell or anyt _____. It just loo _____ like the o _____ in the bio _____ lab, only dre _____ in some o _____ fashioned rags.

Fe _____ returned quickly, s _____ they ran ba _____, almost stumbling ov _____ the heating sys _____ which made t _____ most horrible noi _____ one can ima _____ in this situ _____ and called t _____ janitor, who cal _____ the police.

F _____ a long ti _____ no one co _____ figure out w _____ the skeleton h _____ been. No mem _____ of the dr _____ group had be _____ reported missing. Th _____ finally, they we _____ able to iden _____ the rotten snea _____ and the rem _____ of the base _____ cap, and kn _____ who it w _____.

It was t _____ 1974 school hide-a _____-seek champion.

Ersetzte Wörter in alphabetischer Reihenfolge:

a - a - ago - also - an - and - and - and - and - and - anything - back - back - baseball - been -
been - bent - biology - boxes - called - comfortable - could - dark - dark - didn't - didn't -
disaster - door - drama - dressed - dropped - dust - ended - family - fear - find - fire - first -
folded - for - forward - found - further - group - had - hands - heating - heavy - hinges - hinges
- identify - imagine - in - janitor - knew - latest - lid - like - located - looked - loud - made -
managed - member - noises - of - of - of - off - old - one - out - over - poured - pulled - put -
quite - remains - right - right - room - rusty - saw - scene - sight - situation - smith - sneakers -
so - stage - stop - stuck - suddenly - sunny - swung - system - the - the - the - the - the - the -
the - the - the - the - the - then - there - these - they - thick - time - united - up - up - vanished -
was - were - which - which

The skeleton in the trunk

Missing words –cloze test

One day some new kids at school were helping the janitor to clean up down in the basement, where the huge steam heating system was located. There were all many old boxes and trunks, with loads of dust on them. They had been put there decades ago. The drama group of Mr. Smith had to stop their activities in 1964 after their last play had ended in a disaster. During a scene showing a family barbecue the student had caught fire.

On this Sunday in 2005 the kids went further and further back into the basement and found a dusty door that looked like it hadn't been opened in years. It was quite close to the heating system, which made lots of strange noises and thus they didn't really feel comfortable in this dark and windowless room.

Hoping to find an exit they took hold of the doorknob, which almost fell off in their hands. They pulled and pushed, but the door was stuck because the hinge had gotten rusty.

Finally, they pulled really hard and the door swung open at first but most hinges were broken and then it dropped with a loud bang. Dust poured out in a cloud. When the dust cleared, the kids saw an old trunk.

Suddenly their fear vanished and curiosity made them step forward. Through the thick dust they saw a piece of cloth sticking out of the right hand corner right below the head lid. With united strengths they managed to pull up the large lid. A horrible sight awaited them.

They slumped on the bottom with bent knees and folded arms, was a skeleton. It didn't smell or anything. It just looked like the one in the biology lab, only dressed in some old fashioned rags.

Feeling returned quickly, so they ran back, almost stumbling over the heating system which made the most horrible noise one can imagine in this situation and called the janitor, who called the police.

For a long time no one could figure out where the skeleton had been. No member of the drama group had been reported missing. They finally, they were able to identify the rotten sneaker and the remains of the baseball cap, and knew who it was.

It was the 1974 school hide-a-go-seek champion.

Ersetzte Wörter in alphabetischer Reihenfolge:

a - a - ago - also - an - and - and - and - and - and - anything - back - back - baseball - been -
been - bent - biology - boxes - called - comfortable - could - dark - dark - didn't - didn't -
disaster - door - drama - dressed - dropped - dust - ended - family - fear - find - fire - first -
folded - for - forward - found - further - group - had - hands - heating - heavy - hinges - hinges
- identify - imagine - in - janitor - knew - latest - lid - like - located - looked - loud - made -
managed - member - noises - of - of - of - off - old - one - out - over - poured - pulled - put -
quite - remains - right - right - room - rusty - saw - scene - sight - situation - smith - sneakers -
so - stage - stop - stuck - suddenly - sunny - swung - system - the - the - the - the - the - the -
the - the - the - the - the - then - there - these - they - thick - time - united - up - up - vanished -
was - were - which - which

The skeleton in the trunk

Missing words –cloze test

One day some new kids at school were helping the jan _____ to clean up down in the base _____, where the huge steam heating system w _____ located. There were also many old bo _____ and trunks, with loads of dust o _____ them. These had been put there dec _____ ago. The drama group of Mr. Sm _____ had to stop their activities in 1964 af _____ their latest play had ended in _____ disaster. During a scene showing a fam _____ barbeque the stage had caught fire.

O _____ this sunny day in 2005 the kids we _____ further and further back into the da _____ basement and found a dusty door th _____ looked like it hadn't been opened i _____ years. It was quite close to t _____ heating system, which made lots of str _____ noises and thus they didn't really fe _____ comfortable in this dark and windowless ro _____.

Hoping to find an exit they to _____ hold of the doorknob, which almost fe _____ off in their hands. They pulled a _____ pushed, but the door was stuck bec _____ the hinges had gotten rusty.

Finally, th _____ pulled really hard and the door sw _____ open at first but most hinges we _____ broken and then it dropped with _____ loud bang. Dust poured out in _____ cloud. When the dust cleared, the ki _____ saw _____ an old trunk.

Suddenly their fe _____ vanished and curiosity made them step for _____ . Through the thick dust they saw _____ piece of cloth sticking out of t _____ right hand corner right below the he _____ lid. With united strengths they managed t _____ pull up the large lid. A horr _____ sight awaited them.

There, slumped on t _____ bottom with bent knees and folded ar _____, was a skeleton. It didn't smell o _____ anything. It just looked like the o _____ in the biology lab, only dressed i _____ some old fashioned rags.

Fear returned qui _____, so they ran back, almost stumbling ov _____ the heating system which made the mo _____ horrible noises one can imagine in th _____ situation and called the janitor, who cal _____ the police.

For a long time n _____ one could figure out who the skel _____ had been. No member of the dr _____ group had been reported missing. Then fin _____, they were able to identify the rot _____ sneakers and the remains of the base _____ cap, and knew who it was.

I _____ was the 1974 school hide-and-peek cham _____.

Ersetzte Wörter in alphabetischer Reihenfolge:

a - a - a - a - after - and - arms - baseball - basement - because - boxes - called - champion -
dark - decades - drama - family - fear - feel - fell - finally - forward - heavy - horrible - in - in
- it - janitor - kids - most - no - on - on - one - or - over - quickly - room - rotten - skeleton -
smith - strange - swung - that - the - the - the - they - this - to - took - was - went - were

The Skeleton in the trunk

One day some new kids at school were **h|pnigle** _____ the janitor to clean up down in the basement, **w|heer** _____ the huge steam heating system was located. There were **a|los** _____ many old boxes and trunks, with loads of dust on **t|neh** _____. These had been put there decades ago. The drama **g|orpu** _____ of Mr. Smith had to stop their activities in 1964 **a|etfr** _____ their latest play had ended in a disaster. During a **s|neec** _____ showing a family barbeque the stage had caught fire.

On **t|hsi** _____ sunny day in 2005 the kids went further and further **b|akc** _____ into the dark basement and found a dusty door **t|tah** _____ looked like it hadn't been opened in years. It was **q|tiue** _____ close to the heating system, which made lots of **s|rgneat** _____ noises and thus they didn't really feel comfortable in **t|hsi** _____ dark and windowless room.

Hoping to find an exit **t|hye** _____ took hold of the doorknob, which almost fell off in **t|erih** _____ hands. They pulled and pushed, but the door was **s|kcut** _____ because the hinges had gotten rusty.

Finally, they pulled **r|aylle** _____ hard and the door swung open at first but **m|ots** _____ hinges were broken and then it dropped with a **l|duo** _____ bang. Dust poured out in a cloud. When the **d|stu** _____ cleared, the kids saw an old trunk. Suddenly their **f|rae** _____ vanished and curiosity made them step forward. Through the **t|kich** _____ dust they saw a piece of cloth sticking out of the **r|giht** _____ hand corner right below the heavy lid. With united **s|thgnerts** _____ they managed to pull up the large lid. A **h|lbirero** _____ sight awaited them. There, slumped on the bottom with **b|etn** _____ knees and folded arms, was a skeleton. It didn't **s|lelm** _____ or anything. It just looked like the one in the **b|ygoioi** _____ lab, only dressed in some old fashioned rags.

Fear **r|dnreute** _____ quickly, so they ran back, almost stumbling over the **h|agitne** _____ system which made the most horrible noises one can **i|maineg** _____ in this situation and called the janitor, who called the **p|oiecl** _____.

For a long time no one could figure out who the **s|elenotk** _____ had been. No member of the drama group had **b|nee** _____ reported missing. Then finally, they were able to identify the **r|tnteo** _____ sneakers and the remains of the baseball cap, and **k|wen** _____ who it was.

It was the 1974 school hide-and-s|eke _____ champio

Ersetzte Wörter in alphabetischer Reihenfolge:

after - also - back - been - bent - biology - dust - fear - group - heating - helping - horrible -
imagine - knew - loud - most - police - quite - really - returned - right - rotten - scene - seek -
skeleton - smell - strange - strengths - stuck - that - their - them - they - thick - this - this -
where

The Skeleton in the trunk

One day some new kids at school were **h|pnigle** _____ the janitor to clean up down in the basement, **w|heer** _____ the huge steam heating system was located. There were **a|los** _____ many old boxes and trunks, with loads of dust on **t|neh** _____. These had been put there decades ago. The drama **g|orpu** _____ of Mr. Smith had to stop their activities in 1964 **a|etfr** _____ their latest play had ended in a disaster. During a **s|neec** _____ showing a family barbeque the stage had caught fire.

On **t|hsi** _____ sunny day in 2005 the kids went further and further **b|akc** _____ into the dark basement and found a dusty door **t|tah** _____ looked like it hadn't been opened in years. It was **q|tiue** _____ close to the heating system, which made lots of **s|rgneat** _____ noises and thus they didn't really feel comfortable in **t|hsi** _____ dark and windowless room.

Hoping to find an exit **t|hye** _____ took hold of the doorknob, which almost fell off in **t|erih** _____ hands. They pulled and pushed, but the door was **s|kcut** _____ because the hinges had gotten rusty.

Finally, they pulled **r|aylle** _____ hard and the door swung open at first but **m|ots** _____ hinges were broken and then it dropped with a **l|duo** _____ bang. Dust poured out in a cloud. When the **d|stu** _____ cleared, the kids saw an old trunk. Suddenly their **f|rae** _____ vanished and curiosity made them step forward. Through the **t|kich** _____ dust they saw a piece of cloth sticking out of the **r|giht** _____ hand corner right below the heavy lid. With united **s|thgnerts** _____ they managed to pull up the large lid. A **h|lbirero** _____ sight awaited them. There, slumped on the bottom with **b|etn** _____ knees and folded arms, was a skeleton. It didn't **s|lelm** _____ or anything. It just looked like the one in the **b|ygoioi** _____ lab, only dressed in some old fashioned rags.

Fear **r|dnreute** _____ quickly, so they ran back, almost stumbling over the **h|agitne** _____ system which made the most horrible noises one can **i|maineg** _____ in this situation and called the janitor, who called the **p|oiecl** _____.

For a long time no one could figure out who the **s|elenotk** _____ had been. No member of the drama group had **b|nee** _____ reported missing. Then finally, they were able to identify the **r|tnteo** _____ sneakers and the remains of the baseball cap, and **k|wen** _____ who it was.

It was the 1974 school hide-and-s|eke _____ champio

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skeleton - smell - strange - strengths - stuck - that - their - them - they - thick - this - this -
where