



Activity: Stop Me If I'm Wrong!

Materials needed: A brief story with errors in determiner use. (A story has been provided.) Student copies of the same story with cloze.

Description: In groups, students complete the cloze activity with the correct determiner (including Ø determiner) or unit of measure. When they are finished, the instructor reads his or her copy of the story, complete with errors. When students think they have heard an error, they shout “stop!” and give the instructor the correct answer.



Instructor Copy (no errors):

I had an interesting experience a few days ago. I was on the bus to work when I saw a woman. The woman looked just like a friend of mine, Patty. She had the same long black hair. I hadn't seen Patty for several years, but we talk to each other on the phone sometimes.

I got off the bus and crossed the street to my office building. There is a wonderful glass elevator on the outside of the building. I got in the elevator and pushed the button for the 12th floor. Music was softly playing. I enjoyed the scenery of the city skyline and looked down at some cars stuck in the traffic below. The sky was clear, and there was only a little smog.

There were a lot of people in the elevator. We stopped on the 4th floor; an elderly woman got off. We stopped on the 5th floor, and a few men got off. By the 10th floor, there were only a few people on the elevator.

I listened to the music coming over the loudspeakers. Suddenly I heard a song from long ago. It was a song that was very popular when Patty and I were in high school together. We had so much fun then. It was nice to hear that song after so many years.

I was so involved in the music, that I accidentally stepped off the elevator on the 11th floor. I was confused for a moment when, instead of my office, I saw a door with a sign on it that said “Law Office of Patricia O’Connor.” Patricia! Another reminder of my friend Patty.

On the 12th floor, I grabbed a cup of coffee and a bag of pretzels from the vending machine and went into my office. I quickly checked my email. I didn’t have much time before my first meeting. There was an email from Patty.

She said “Hey friend, I hope you are doing well. Can you give me some advice about what to wear in Seattle in April? You see, I’ll be there next week to visit you! Bye for now, Patty.”



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Instructor Copy (with errors): (Errors are in bold. Underlined words are blanks in the student version.)

I had some interesting experience a few days ago. I was on the bus to work when I saw a woman. A woman looked just like a friend of mine, Patty. She had a lot of same long black hair. I hadn't seen Patty for several years, but we talk to each other on the phone sometimes.

I got off a bus and crossed the street to my office building. There is a wonderful glass elevator on the outside of the building. I got in the elevator and pushed a button for the 12th floor. Music was softly playing. I enjoyed a scenery of the city skyline and looked down at some cars stuck in the traffic below. The sky was clear and there was only a few smog.

There were a lot of people in the elevator. We stopped on the 4th floor; an elderly woman got off. We stopped on the 5th floor, and a few men got off. By the 10th floor, there were only a little people on the elevator.

I listened to the music coming over the loudspeakers. Suddenly I heard the song from long ago. It was a song that was very popular when Patty and I were in high school together. We had so many fun then. It was nice to hear that song after so many years.

I was so involved in a music, that I accidentally stepped off the elevator on the 11th floor. I was confused for several moment when, instead of my office, I saw a door with a sign on it that said "Law Office of Patricia O'Connor." Patricia! Another reminder of my friend Patty.

On the 12th floor, I grabbed a jar of coffee and a can of pretzels from the vending machine and went into my office. I quickly checked my email. I didn't have many time before my first meeting. There was an email from Patty.

She said "Hey friend, I hope you are doing well. Can you give me a few advice about what to wear in the Seattle in April? You see, I'll be there next week to visit you! Bye for now, Patty"



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Student Copy

I had _____ interesting experience a few days ago. I was on the bus to work when I saw _____ woman. _____ woman looked just like a friend of mine, Patty. She had _____ same long black hair. I hadn't seen Patty for _____ years, but we talk to each other on _____ phone sometimes.

I got off _____ bus and crossed the street to my office building. There is a wonderful glass elevator on _____ outside of _____ building. I got in _____ elevator and pushed _____ button for the 12th floor. Music was softly playing. I enjoyed _____ scenery of the city skyline and looked down at some cars stuck in _____ traffic below. The sky was clear and there was only a _____ smog.

There were _____ of people in the elevator. We stopped on _____ 4th floor; _____ elderly woman got off. We stopped on the 5th floor, and a _____ men got off. By the 10th floor, there were only a _____ people on the elevator.

I listened to the music coming over the loudspeakers. Suddenly I heard _____ song from long ago. It was a song that was very popular when Patty and I were in high school together. We had so _____ fun then. It was nice to hear that song after so _____ years.

I was so involved in _____ music, that I accidentally stepped off _____ elevator on _____ 11th floor. I was confused for _____ moment when, instead of my office, I saw _____ door with a sign on it that said "Law Office of Patricia O'Connor". Patricia! Another reminder of my friend Patty.

On the 12th floor, I grabbed a _____ of coffee and a _____ of pretzels from the vending machine and went into my office. I quickly checked my email. I didn't have _____ time before my first meeting. There was _____ email from Patty.

She said "Hey friend, I hope you are doing well. Can you give me _____ advice about what to wear in _____ Seattle in April? You see, I'll be there next week to visit you! Bye for now, Patty."