B1 Preliminary · Reading Parts 5–6: lexical and open cloze

B1 Preliminary strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

The chess opening and the kitchen

Part 5 is a **chess opening** — many moves look natural, one is right. Part 6 is still the kitchen: cook the word yourself.

- Part 5: six gaps, four options each — vocabulary and collocation.
- Part 6: six gaps, no options — the small grammar words.

The near-synonym minefield

1. **The gap** She ____ me a story. A) say B) tell C) speak D) talk.
2. **The collocation** tell a story — the fixed pair.
3. **The others** say takes the words; speak takes languages; talk takes about.

Decision

Meaning alone is not enough; the company the word keeps decides.

Your turn: the party

Your turn

We ____ a lot of photos during the trip.

A. made
B. took
C. did
D. got

“say”, “tell”, “speak”, “talk”

She ___ me a story. the gap is followed by a person, then a thing

say	+ the words	*say hello, say that it's late*	✗
tell	+ a person + a thing	*tell me a story, tell her the news*	✓
speak	+ a language	*speak English, speak to the manager*	✗
talk	+ about	*talk about the film*	✗

> “She told me a story”

The open cloze, B1 edition

The gap's job	The B1 answers
articles / prepositions	a, an, the / in, on, at, by, for, with
pronouns / relatives	it, they, who, which, that, where
auxiliaries and modals	is, are, was, has, had, would, could
linkers	but, so, because, although, if, when
fixed phrases	there is/are, as soon as, used to

Use the evidence

The relative pronouns join the menu: the shop where I bought it.

Your turn: the helper gap

Your turn

I ____ never seen snow before that winter.

A. have
B. had
C. did
D. was

What the gap needs

articles, prepositions	a, the; in, at, by, for, with
pronouns, relatives	it, they; who, which, that, where
auxiliaries, modals	is, was, has, had, would, could
linkers	but, so, because, although, if
fixed phrases	there is, as soon as, used to

Fixed phrases

The fake friendliness

All four options look friendly at B1

At A2, two options were obviously wrong; at B1, all four smile at you.

Slow down and check the collocation and the after-word: she insisted ____ going — on.

Try it

1. **Part 5 style** We ____ a lot of photos during the trip. — took.
2. **Part 6 style** The film ____ we watched last night was amazing. — that/which.
3. **The lesson** The shelf and the kitchen are both open at B1.

Decision

Collocation for the shelf; the small grammar words for the kitchen.

Check yourself

- She told me a story — the collocation decides.
- listen to music — the gap owns its neighbour.
- The shop where I bought it — the relative joins the menu.
- I had never seen snow — the helper fills the gap.