

READING COMPREHENSION

The Spirit Soars

(1) In 1995, French journalist Jean-Dominique Bauby had every reason to view life with *complacency*. As the editor of a popular magazine, he was known for his wit and style. Then one day, while driving with his son, he began to feel sick. Within minutes, he was paralyzed by a stroke.

(2) Although his body remained almost totally *static*, his mind continued to create. Using only his left eyelid, Bauby was able to dictate a 137-page book, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, a tale of what it is like to be locked in a body that cannot move.

How did Bauby get the idea? Before his illness, he had been commissioned to write an updated version of Alexander Dumas's classic *The Count of Monte Cristo*. In this book, a paralyzed character uses blinks to communicate. (3) When tragedy struck Bauby, he decided to combat the *monotony* of his life by using the same method.

(4) At first, Bauby's eye movements must have seemed like random, *chaotic* blinks to those around him. Soon, however, his assistant realized that they had meaning. Each set of blinks was an attempt to communicate. Bauby and his assistant worked out a system that allowed him to dictate his memoir to her: The assistant would recite the alphabet, and Bauby would blink once for "yes," when she came to the correct letter. (5) This took great *steadfastness* of purpose, for writing the book required hundreds of thousands of blinks.

(6) Even writers who use word processors find that their thoughts move at a greater *velocity* than their fingers can type. Using this code, it took Bauby two minutes to blink out an average word! He could not work from notes or revise his writing. Instead, he had to compose passages entirely in his head.



(7) Bauby's book described the experiences of a mind made *restive* by the inability to move the body that contained it. He wrote that his body was confined in a "diving bell," but his mind escaped like a "butterfly." (8) He dreamt about *dynamic* activities, such as climbing mountains or driving on a racecourse. (9) He remembered sensations: eating delicious meals, *boisterous* shouting. (10) He recalled the *tranquility* of family life, stroking the hair of his children and helping his elderly father.

Just two days after the publication of his book, Bauby died. Yet *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* remains an inspiring example of the power of the human mind.

Many medical advances have been made since Bauby's death in 1997. People paralyzed by such diseases as ALS (or Lou Gehrig's disease) now use computerized devices to communicate. Neuroscientists have developed machines that can be triggered with the slightest movements. One instrument, the Thought-Translation Device, is operated by brain waves, giving even those who are completely paralyzed the ability to communicate with the outside world.

Most of us take for granted the ability to walk and talk, to taste our food, and hug our loved ones. Bauby's story reminds us that even when we lose these things, the human spirit can soar.

Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- _____ 1. Jean-Dominique Bauby had every reason to view life with _____.
a. happy expectations b. self-satisfaction c. great confusion d. great longing
- _____ 2. Although his body remained almost totally _____, his mind continued to create.
a. helpless b. still c. active d. uneasy
- _____ 3. He decided to combat the _____ of his life by using the same method.
a. boredom b. hopelessness c. stillness d. confusion

NAME _____

DATE _____

- _____ 4. At first, Bauby's eye movements must have seemed like random, _____ blinks.
a. swift b. impatient c. confused d. meaningless
- _____ 5. This took great _____ of purpose.
a. peace b. stillness c. effort d. steadiness
- _____ 6. Even writers who use word processors find that their thoughts move at a greater _____ than their fingers can type.
a. awareness b. noise c. speed d. force
- _____ 7. Bauby's book described the experiences of a mind made _____ by the inability to move the body that contained it.
a. still b. impatient c. uncertain d. calm
- _____ 8. He dreamt about _____ activities.
a. swift b. outdoor c. energetic d. ambitious
- _____ 9. He remembered sensations: eating delicious meals, _____ shouting.
a. constant b. tiring c. bitter d. noisy
- _____ 10. He recalled the _____ of family life.
a. calm b. happiness c. confusion d. loyalty

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- _____ 1. Bauby was paralyzed by ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease.
- _____ 2. Bauby's assistant helped him write his memoir, using an eye-blinking code.
- _____ 3. Using this code, it took Bauby two minutes to blink out an average word:

WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- _____ 1. People who become _____ about their health and do not get checkups put themselves at risk. (*complacency*)
- _____ 2. The hockey players _____ protested their team's disqualification from the tournament. (*boisterousness*)
- _____ 3. Alicia is such a _____ that she was able to produce, direct, and star in the same school play. (*dynamic*)
- _____ 4. Brandon could not identify a reason for his _____. (*restive*)
- _____ 5. The sudden snowstorm threw the region into _____. (*chaotic*)
- _____ 6. Sophia amused herself on the long, _____ bus ride by reading a book. (*monotony*)
- _____ 7. For a rocket to escape the earth's gravity, it must travel at a very high _____. (*velocity*)
- _____ 8. English artists of the 1800s painted _____ landscapes as well as violent scenes of sea storms and battles. (*tranquility*)
- _____ 9. Terrified of the growling dog, Ella remained in a _____ position. (*static*)
- _____ 10. _____ is an admirable quality in a friend. (*steadfast*)