

Unit CC9-A [C] fail—[C + d] failed

Story

Listen to the story as your teacher reads it, or on tape, until you understand the main ideas.

I have always been a terrible (1) test taker. Typically, I fail nearly every test that I take. (2) I fail them because I get nervous and my mind goes blank. That unnerves me even more, and I panic. I turn into a mindless fool and can't answer any of the questions.

At least I'm better now than I used to be. Last year, (3) I failed every test that I took the first term. That really disturbed me. The next term, I studied twice as hard, but when I took my exams I still failed them. Then I was really perturbed. I knew the material. I deserved to pass. The only reason that I failed the exams was because I was so nervous.

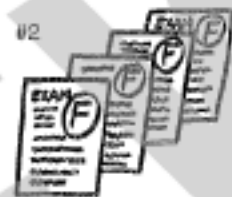
Those failures bugged me so much that I realized I needed special help. So I finally took a special course on test taking skills. It helped a little, but it solved my problem only partially. Now, I do much better on some tests, but I still fail those that are timed. The time pressure makes me nervous. I forget what I have studied, and I don't get the scores I deserve. I'll probably never do well on timed tests.

Contrasting Sentences

Listening: Write the appropriate key word in each blank. Later, as you hear each sentence, mark the box, point to the picture, make a gesture, and/or say the rejoinder. *Speaking:* Choose and say each sentence so that your listener(s) can respond correctly.

- I _____ them. (last year)
- I _____ them. (every time)

Explanations and diagrams for this unit's target sounds are on pages 350–51 in Section 10.



#3

LAST YEAR
F, F, F, F, F
NOW
B, A, F, A, B, F, B