

My Favourite Childhood Memory

Reading Passage, Comprehension & Practice Questions

My Favourite Childhood Memory

Do you have a special memory from when you were young? Sometimes, a single moment stays with us forever — a smell, a sound, or a face we can never forget. Before you read, think about these questions: **What places do you remember most from your childhood?** And **who was the most important person in your life when you were a child?**

Reading Passage: The Smell of Warm Bread

Every time I smell fresh bread baking, I think of my grandmother's kitchen in Porto. I was about seven years old, and I was spending the summer holidays with her in Portugal. Her kitchen was small and always warm, with yellow walls and old wooden shelves full of jars and colourful tins. She called that room the heart of the house.

Every morning, my grandmother got up before sunrise to make bread. I usually woke up because of the amazing smell coming through the whole house. I ran downstairs in my pyjamas and sat on a small wooden stool near the oven, watching her work. Her hands moved quickly and confidently, pressing and folding the dough. She never used a recipe book because she knew everything by heart. Sometimes she let me put flour on the dough, and I felt so proud and important.

When the bread was finally ready, we ate it together at the kitchen table with butter and honey. It was always the best breakfast I ever had. My grandmother talked to me about her life when she was young, and I listened carefully to every word. Those quiet summer mornings in Porto are my happiest memories. I still bake bread sometimes now, and I always think of her when I do.

Key Vocabulary in Context

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech	Definition	Example Sentence
memory	noun	something you remember from the past	My favourite memory is a holiday by the sea when I was six.
sunrise	noun	the time early in the morning when the sun first appears in the sky	The farmer got up before sunrise to start work.
confidently	adverb	in a way that shows you feel sure and capable	She answered the teacher's questions confidently.

dough	noun	a soft, thick mixture of flour and water used to make bread or pastry	He pressed the dough flat before putting it in the oven.
recipe book	noun phrase	a book with instructions for making different foods	My mother has an old recipe book from her grandmother.
by heart	phrase	from memory, without needing to look at notes or a book	She knew the song so well that she could sing it by heart.
flour	noun	a fine white powder made from grain, used for baking bread and cakes	You need flour, eggs, and butter to make a simple cake.
proud	adjective	feeling very pleased and happy about something you did	He felt proud when he finished his first painting.

Reading Strategies & Comprehension Tips

Skimming for the Main Idea

Read the passage quickly — do not stop at every word. Ask yourself: *What is this text mainly about?* After skimming, you should see that it is a personal story about a childhood memory connected to a specific place and person.

Scanning for Specific Information

When a question asks about a specific detail — for example, *What did they eat with the bread?* — do not re-read everything. Scan by looking for the key word in the question (like "bread" or "eat") and read only the sentence around it.

Using Context to Understand New Words

If you do not know the word **dough**, look at the words around it: *"pressing and folding the dough"* and *"put flour on the dough."* These clues tell you it is a soft substance used in baking. Always read the full sentence before deciding you do not understand a word.

Understanding Sequence

This passage follows a sequence of events in the morning. Words like **every morning**, **usually**, **sometimes**, and **finally** show the order of what happened. Notice these time words carefully when answering questions about the sequence of events.

Common Reading Pitfalls & Traps

- **Confusing the grandmother's location with where the writer lives:** The writer spent the summer in Porto with her grandmother, but the text does not say that the writer lives in Portugal. Do not assume they have the same home.
- **Misreading "by heart":** This phrase does not mean the grandmother loved cooking. It means she knew the recipe from memory, without a book. Watch out for this kind of expression — it is not literal.

- **Assuming the writer is a child now:** The writer uses the past simple ("I was about seven years old") and also the present simple ("I still bake bread sometimes now"). This means the writer is an adult looking back at a childhood memory — not a child writing today.
- **"Heart of the house":** The grandmother called the kitchen "the heart of the house." This does not mean it was the largest room. It means it was the most important and central room — the place where family life happened. Do not take this expression literally.

Quick Summary

In this passage, a writer describes her favourite childhood memory: spending summer mornings in her grandmother's kitchen in Porto, Portugal. Every morning, her grandmother baked bread before sunrise, and the writer helped by putting flour on the dough. They ate fresh bread together with butter and honey, and the grandmother told stories about her own life. The writer still bakes bread today and always thinks of those special mornings.

Now read the passage carefully and complete Exercise 1 (Multiple Choice) and Exercise 2 (Fill-in-the-gap dropdown) below.

My Favourite Childhood Memory – Practice Test

A2 | Reading Comprehension Exercises: Multiple Choice & Fill-in-the-Gap Dropdown (20 Questions)

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 What is the main topic of this passage?

- A** Learning how to bake bread at school
- B** A happy childhood memory of spending time with a grandmother
- C** A trip to Portugal with the whole family
- D** How to make breakfast with butter and honey

2 Where did the writer spend the summer holidays as a child?

- A** At her grandmother's house in Porto
- B** At a bakery in Lisbon
- C** At her parents' house in Portugal
- D** At a school in the countryside

3 How old was the writer when she stayed with her grandmother?

- A** About five years old
- B** About ten years old
- C** About seven years old
- D** About twelve years old

4 What did the grandmother's kitchen look like?

- A** It was large and bright with white walls and metal shelves
- B** It was small and warm with yellow walls and old wooden shelves
- C** It was dark and cold with brown walls and glass shelves
- D** It was big and modern with blue walls and plastic shelves

5 Why did the writer usually wake up early in the morning?

- A** Because her grandmother called her name loudly
- B** Because the sun was shining into her bedroom
- C** Because of the amazing smell of baking bread
- D** Because she heard music playing in the kitchen

6 What did the writer do after she woke up and went downstairs?

- A** She helped her grandmother mix flour into the dough
- B** She sat on a small wooden stool near the oven and watched her grandmother work
- C** She set the kitchen table with plates and cups
- D** She read a recipe book with her grandmother

7 Why did the grandmother never use a recipe book?

- A** Because she did not have any recipe books at home
- B** Because she knew everything by heart
- C** Because the writer always read the recipe for her
- D** Because she learned to bake bread at school

8 What did the writer and her grandmother eat together after the bread was ready?

- A** Bread with jam and orange juice
- B** Bread with cheese and eggs
- C** Bread with butter and honey
- D** Bread with olive oil and tomatoes

9 What did the grandmother talk about at the kitchen table?

- A** Her plans for the afternoon
- B** The recipe for the bread
- C** Her life when she was young
- D** The weather in Porto

10 What does the writer still do sometimes now, and what does it remind her of?

- A** She visits Porto and thinks of her childhood friends
- B** She bakes bread and thinks of her grandmother
- C** She eats honey and thinks of the summer holidays
- D** She smells flowers and thinks of the yellow kitchen walls

Part 2: Fill in the Gap Dropdown (Questions 11–20)

11 Every time I smell fresh bread baking, I think of my grandmother's kitchen in ____.

- A** Porto
- B** Lisbon
- C** Madrid

12 Her kitchen was small and always warm, with ____ walls and old wooden shelves.

- A** yellow
- B** white
- C** blue

13 Every morning, my grandmother got up before ____ to make bread.

- A** sunrise
- B** midnight
- C** breakfast

14 I usually woke up because of the amazing ____ coming through the whole house.

- A** smell
- B** noise
- C** light

15 I ran downstairs in my pyjamas and sat on a small wooden ____ near the oven.

- A** stool
- B** chair
- C** bench

16 Her hands moved quickly and confidently, pressing and folding the ____.

- A** dough
- B** flour
- C** butter

17 She never used a recipe book because she knew everything by ____.

- A** heart
- B** memory
- C** hand

18 When the bread was finally ready, we ate it together with butter and ____.

- A** honey
- B** jam
- C** sugar

19 My grandmother talked to me about her life when she was young, and I listened ____ to every word.

- A** carefully
- B** quickly
- C** quietly

20 Those quiet summer mornings in Porto are my ____ memories.

- A** happiest
- B** oldest
- C** strangest

Answer Key & Explanations

My Favourite Childhood Memory | A2

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** **Correct Answer: A happy childhood memory of spending time with a grandmother**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage describes the writer's **favourite childhood memory** of staying with her grandmother in Porto. She talks about **baking bread, eating breakfast together, and listening to her grandmother's stories**. These details all show it is a personal, happy memory.
2. **A** **Correct Answer: At her grandmother's house in Porto**
✓ **Explanation:** The text clearly says, '*I was spending the summer holidays with her in Portugal*' and mentions the city of **Porto**. The writer stayed at her **grandmother's house**, not at a bakery or school.
3. **C** **Correct Answer: About seven years old**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage states, '*I was about seven years old*' when she was spending the summer with her grandmother. The word '**about**' means it is not exactly seven, but close to seven.
4. **B** **Correct Answer: It was small and warm with yellow walls and old wooden shelves**
✓ **Explanation:** The text describes the kitchen as '**small and always warm**' with '**yellow walls**' and '**old wooden shelves full of jars and colourful tins**'. This matches option 2 exactly.
5. **C** **Correct Answer: Because of the amazing smell of baking bread**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says, '*I usually woke up because of the amazing smell coming through the whole house.*' The **smell** of the bread baking was the reason she got up early, not a sound or the sunlight.
6. **B** **Correct Answer: She sat on a small wooden stool near the oven and watched her grandmother work**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says, '*I ran downstairs in my pyjamas and sat on a small wooden stool near the oven, watching her work.*' The writer **watched** her grandmother — she did not set the table or read a recipe book.
7. **B** **Correct Answer: Because she knew everything by heart**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage states, '*She never used a recipe book because she knew everything by heart.*' The phrase '**by heart**' means she remembered all the steps **from memory**, without needing to read them.
8. **C** **Correct Answer: Bread with butter and honey**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says, '*we ate it together at the kitchen table with butter and honey.*' The writer clearly states they had **butter** and **honey** with the bread, not jam, cheese, or olive oil.
9. **C** **Correct Answer: Her life when she was young**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says, '*My grandmother talked to me about her life when she was young, and I listened carefully to every word.*' She talked about her **past life**, not about plans or the recipe.

10. **B** Correct Answer: She bakes bread and thinks of her grandmother
✓ Explanation: The last sentence of the passage says, '*I still bake bread sometimes now, and I always think of her when I do.*' The writer **bakes bread** as an adult, and it always makes her **think of her grandmother**.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** Correct Answer: Porto
✓ Explanation: The passage says the writer thinks of their grandmother's kitchen in **Porto**, a city in Portugal. *I think of my grandmother's kitchen in Porto.*
12. **A** Correct Answer: yellow
✓ Explanation: The passage describes the kitchen walls as **yellow**, which helps us picture the warm and cosy room. *The kitchen had yellow walls and old wooden shelves.*
13. **A** Correct Answer: sunrise
✓ Explanation: The passage says the grandmother got up **before sunrise**, meaning she woke up very early in the morning. *She got up before sunrise every day.*
14. **A** Correct Answer: smell
✓ Explanation: The writer says the **smell** of baking bread woke them up every morning. *The amazing smell of bread came through the whole house.*
15. **A** Correct Answer: stool
✓ Explanation: The passage says the writer sat on a small wooden **stool** near the oven while watching the grandmother work. *I sat on a small wooden stool near the oven.*
16. **A** Correct Answer: dough
✓ Explanation: The passage describes the grandmother pressing and folding the **dough**, which is the soft mixture used to make bread. *She pressed and folded the dough with her hands.*
17. **A** Correct Answer: heart
✓ Explanation: The expression **by heart** means you know something perfectly without needing to read it. *She knew every recipe by heart.*
18. **A** Correct Answer: honey
✓ Explanation: The passage says they ate the fresh bread with butter and **honey** at the kitchen table. *We ate the bread with butter and honey.*
19. **A** Correct Answer: carefully
✓ Explanation: The passage says the writer listened **carefully** to every word, showing they paid close attention to the grandmother's stories. *I listened carefully to every word she said.*
20. **A** Correct Answer: happiest
✓ Explanation: The passage uses the superlative form **happiest** to describe how special those summer mornings were. *Those mornings are my happiest memories.*

Score Guide

18–20 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
15–17 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
12–14 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–11 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.