

## English Lesson 2

For as long as I can remember, it is true that I have wanted to play the harmonica. My father played a few tunes marginally well. I often asked him <sup>16</sup> to teach me to play, but I quickly grew impatient, with the wheezing, tinny notes that I produced. After two weeks' effort, which I would always set the harmonica aside and had <sup>17</sup> went <sup>18</sup> back to the baseball field. <sup>19</sup>

My father was able to teach me a few things about the harmonica. For instance, he told me that it originated in southern China around 1100 B.C., this early version, the sheng, consisted of long reeds placed in water in a wooden bowl. At one time the harmonica, which has its origins in ancient China, was often confused with the *armonica*, a musical instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin that consisted of glasses played by rubbing the rims with a wet finger. <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> While the harmonica was marketed originally as a child's toy, <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> it eventually became a valued portable instrument for folk and blues musicians. <sup>24</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Then, at age fifteen, I decided to enroll in a blues harmonica class. On the first night, the instructor, whom had performed in local rock bands for years, guided the class through a tortured version of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." <sup>26</sup>

[1] Then he played the same melody, but with such a pure, sad wail that, the entire class sat in stunned silence when he'd finished. [2] When we had finished, he said, "That was 'Mary Had a Little Lamb.'" [3] He picked up his own harmonica. [4] "This, however, is 'Mary Had the Blues.'" [5] He lifted the instrument to his lips. <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup>

I returned home determined to learn to play well. I worked to find the right mouth holes and if I could bend the right notes. All week I wheezed through versions of "Jingle Bells" and "Oh, Susanna." Finally, on the night before our next class, which I believe was a Wednesday, in the middle of an attempt at "Old Folks at Home," I pursed my lips and blew sweet, <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> piercing note that filled the room with lovely sound. I had finally played a proper note on the harmonica, and maybe I'll someday play the blues.

16. F. NO CHANGE  
G. it is a fact that  
H. it has always been the case that  
J. OMIT the underlined portion
17. A. NO CHANGE  
B. impatient with the wheezing, tinny, notes  
C. impatient with the wheezing, tinny notes  
D. impatient, with the wheezing tinny notes,
18. F. NO CHANGE  
G. then  
H. in which  
J. OMIT the underlined portion
19. A. NO CHANGE  
B. would of gone  
C. go  
D. would of went
20. F. NO CHANGE  
G. B.C. This early version, the *sheng*, consisted  
H. B.C. An early version, the *sheng*, consisting  
J. B.C., the early version, the *sheng*, consisted

21. A. NO CHANGE  
B. instrument I have been unable to play, which is called the harmonica,  
C. harmonica  
D. harmonica, which my father has repeatedly tried to teach me to play,
22. Given that all of the following sentences are true, which one should be added at this point to best continue the historical sketch of the harmonica?  
A. The harmonica as we know it was not introduced until 1828 in London.  
B. London, where the harmonica was introduced, is a foggy city frequented by tourists who enjoy visiting Big Ben and Buckingham Palace  
C. The most difficult thing about playing the harmonica is pulling air in through the holes; blowing out is easy.  
D. Some of Benjamin Franklin's more famous inventions include the Franklin stove and the lightning rod.
23. Which of the following placements for the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?  
A. Where it is now  
B. After the word *harmonica*  
C. After the word *was*  
D. After the word *as*
24. F. NO CHANGE  
G. toy;  
H. toy  
J. toy, that
25. Which of the following sentences would best provide a logical transition from the preceding paragraph to the new subject in this paragraph?  
A. Despite this accumulation of harmonica lore, I still couldn't play  
B. There you have some of the history of the harmonica.  
C. As can be seen, I had always been interested in the harmonica.  
D. As the reader can see, the harmonica isn't the simple children's toy we so often think it is.
26. F. NO CHANGE  
G. whom once  
H. who had  
J. who did
27. A. NO CHANGE  
B. melody, but with such a pure, sad wail that  
C. melody, but with such a pure sad wail that,  
D. melody but, with such a pure sad wail, that
28. For the sake of the unity and coherence of this paragraph, Sentence 1 should be placed:  
F. where it is now  
G. after sentence 2.  
H. after sentence 3.  
J. after sentence 5.
29. A. NO CHANGE  
B. and  
C. to see if I were to  
D. and if I can
30. A. NO CHANGE  
B. which as I recall was a Wednesday,  
C. on a Wednesday,  
D. OMIT the underlined portion.