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C1 MULTIPLE CHOICE:
ABLAUT REDUPLICATION

Fill in the gaps in the text with the correct option (A-D). Only one answer may be possible.

Ablaut Reduplication

This little known term is an almost _____ (1) rule in the English language. Have you ever asked yourself why we say flip-flop rather than flop-flip, or even Hip-hop _____ (2) on Hop-hip? The reason is Ablaut, and it basically dictates the order in which we put words so that they sound more _____ (3) on the ear. So, just what is Ablaut and where did it originate?

Ablaut is what linguists generally call a type of repetition used in language to make it sound more poetic or even rhythmic. It is when you take two similar sounding words and change the internal vowel sound; examples being wishy washy, hanky panky and zig zag. This use of placing two similar sounds in a sentence is a form of reduplication which is often used in _____ (4) language or when trying to place emphasis on something. Truth be _____ (5), it is not really of any importance to learn the term Ablaut to be able to start using it in language, but it could _____ (6) in handy when trying to impress your English teacher or if you happen to _____ (7) into a conversation with a language enthusiast.

When it comes to using Ablaut correctly, the fundamental rule behind this concept is that an I or E sound will always proceed and A, O or U sound. This is why we are used to hearing crisscross and not crosscriss. So, no matter what you do, you had better take _____ (8) of this rule if you want to stand any chance of sounding like a native speaker.

Choose the best word from the following options:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. A. meaningless | B. unused | C. unwritten | D. misunderstood |
| 2. A. bar | B. except | C. rather | D. instead |
| 3. A. nice | B. satisfying | C. worthwhile | D. pleasing |
| 4. A. infancy | B. youthful | C. childish | D. teenaged |
| 5. A. told | B. stated | C. suggested | D. claimed |
| 6. A. arrive | B. come | C. reach | D. get |
| 7. A. trip | B. stumble | C. stagger | D. slide |
| 8. A. heed | B. case | C. awareness | D. regard |

Answers:

1. C
2. D
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. A