Key word transformation — free worksheet

Rewrite the sentence using the key word, keeping the meaning.

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1. Key Word Transformations: Lighthouses and Their Keepers

Key word transformation · The decline of lighthouse keepers and the automation of coastal navigation

For questions 1–8, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using between two and five words, including the word given, which you must not change.

1. People say that the keeper rescued a ship's crew during the great storm of 1912.

Key word: SAID

During the great storm of 1912, the keeper _____ have rescued a ship's crew.

2. It's possible that engineers chose this clifftop because of the dangerous rocks below.

Key word: MAY

Because of the dangerous rocks below, engineers _____ this clifftop.

3. Although the winds were extremely strong, the keeper managed to light the lamp every evening.

Key word: SPITE

The keeper managed to light the lamp every evening _____ the extremely strong winds.

4. The old oil lamp was far less reliable than today's automated beacon.

Key word: NEAR

The old oil lamp wasn't _____ as reliable as today's automated beacon.

5. I regret that I never visited the lighthouse before it was decommissioned.

Key word: WISH

Looking back, _____ the lighthouse before it was decommissioned.

6. The keeper's family had to tolerate complete isolation on the remote island for years.

Key word: UP

The keeper's family had to _____ with complete isolation on the remote island for years.

7. The lighthouse used to have a live-in keeper, but it has been fully automated for the past ten years.

Key word: LONGER

The lighthouse _____ a live-in keeper, having been fully automated for the past ten years.

8. The council paid workers to restore the old lighthouse last year.

Key word: HAD

Last year, the council _____ by workers.

2. Key Word Transformations: Life on a Modern Ranch

Key word transformation · Yellowstone - western- Cowboy - cowgirl valued series

For questions 1–8, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using between two and five words, including the word given, which you must not change.

1. The snowstorm was so severe that the tour group visiting Yellowstone had to turn back.

Key word: SUCH

It was _____ snowstorm that the tour group visiting Yellowstone had to turn back.

2. Even though her grandmother disapproved, Lily decided to marry the rodeo rider she had met at the county fair.

Key word: DESPITE

Lily decided to marry the rodeo rider she had met at the county fair, _____ disapproval.

3. I regret that I have never ridden a horse across the Yellowstone plains.

Key word: WISH

I _____ ridden a horse across the Yellowstone plains.

4. The drone crashed into the cliff just seconds after it began filming the cowboy chase scene.

Key word: NO

During the shoot, _____ the drone begun filming the cowboy chase scene than it crashed into the cliff.

5. 'I rode my first bronco when I was sixteen,' Lucy, the head wrangler, told the documentary crew.

Key word: SAID

Lucy, the head wrangler, _____ ridden her first bronco when she was sixteen.

6. The investors agreed to fund the Daltons' dude ranch project only if the family repaid the loan within five years.

Key word: PROVIDED

The investors agreed to fund the Daltons' dude ranch project _____ repaid the loan within five years.

7. A doctor treated Noah's broken arm after the stunt accident on set.

Key word: HAD

After the stunt accident on set, Noah _____ broken arm treated by a doctor.

8. It was wrong of the location manager not to warn the film crew about the unstable cliff edge.

Key word: SHOULD

The location manager _____ the film crew about the unstable cliff edge.

3. Key Word Transformations: Urban Beekeeping

Key word transformation · Urban beekeeping and its impact on city ecosystems

For questions 1–8, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using between two and five words, including the word given, which you must not change.

1. The number of urban beehives in this city rose by 40% last year.

Key word: RISE

There was _____ the number of urban beehives in this city last year.

2. Even though the beekeeper wasn't insured, she sold honey at the local market.

Key word: DESPITE

She sold honey at the local market _____ insured.

3. Transporting the hives to the rooftop was so complicated a job that the company hired a specialist team.

Key word: SUCH

Transporting the hives to the rooftop was _____ that the company hired a specialist team.

4. Regulations state that inspectors must check every hive once a week.

Key word: SUPPOSED

According to regulations, every hive _____ by inspectors once a week.

5. A professional roofer replaced the storm-damaged hive stand for the beekeepers.

Key word: HAD

The beekeepers _____ by a professional roofer.

6. I'm sorry that I don't know much about queen rearing.

Key word: WISH

I _____ more about queen rearing.

7. People say that three new rooftop apiaries have opened in the city centre this month.

Key word: REPORTED

Three new rooftop apiaries _____ in the city centre this month.

8. A rooftop hive costs half as much as a traditional garden to maintain.

Key word: EXPENSIVE

A traditional garden is _____ a rooftop hive to maintain.

4. Key Word Transformations: The Corpse Flower

Key word transformation · The corpse flower (Rafflesia/Amorphophallus titanum) – the world's largest and smelliest bloom

For questions 1–8, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using between two and five words, including the word given, which you must not change.

1. 'The flower will open within 24 hours,' said the botanist to the visitors.

Key word: TOLD

The botanist _____ the flower would open within 24 hours.

2. Maria is responsible for recording when the corpse flower blooms at the botanical garden.

Key word: JOB

It _____ to record when the corpse flower blooms at the botanical garden.

3. It's a bad idea to visit the corpse flower exhibit without covering your nose because of the smell.

Key word: OUGHT

Because of the smell, you _____ visit the corpse flower exhibit without covering your nose.

4. People call the plant 'titan arum' because of its enormous flower.

Key word: KNOWN

Because of its enormous flower, the plant _____ 'titan arum'.

5. If there aren't at least ten visitors interested, the garden won't open the corpse flower exhibit on weekends.

Key word: UNLESS

The garden won't open the corpse flower exhibit on weekends _____ at least ten visitors interested.

6. The corpse flower is the heaviest flower in the world.

Key word: THAN

The corpse flower weighs _____ any other flower in the world.

7. Although the smell was overpowering, journalists stayed to film the corpse flower blooming for the evening news.

Key word: SPITE

Journalists stayed to film the corpse flower blooming for the evening news, _____ the overpowering smell.

8. The corpse flower probably won't bloom again for another ten years.

Key word: UNLIKELY

In the next ten years, the corpse flower _____ bloom again.

5. Key Word Transformations: Ghost Nets of the Ocean

Key word transformation · Ghost nets – abandoned fishing gear that drifts through the ocean, entangling marine life for decades

For questions 1–8, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using between two and five words, including the word given, which you must not change.

1. As soon as satellites detected the drifting net field, rescue teams were dispatched to the area.

Key word: SOONER

In this case, _____ had satellites detected the drifting net field than rescue teams were dispatched to the area.

2. Last month, a specialist company removed the ghost net from the reef for the marine park authority.

Key word: HAD

Last month, the marine park authority _____ removed from the reef by a specialist company.

3. The captain and crew regret not acting sooner when the ghost net first got tangled in the propeller.

Key word: WISH

The captain and crew _____ sooner when the ghost net first got tangled in the propeller.

4. People widely say that drifting ghost nets kill hundreds of thousands of marine mammals every year.

Key word: SAID

Drifting ghost nets _____ kill hundreds of thousands of marine mammals every year.

5. Ghost nets are so neglected as a topic in school curricula nationwide that most students have never heard of the issue.

Key word: SUCH

Across the country, _____ the neglect of ghost nets as a topic in school curricula that most students have never heard of the issue.

6. It was a mistake for the fishing industry not to introduce biodegradable nets years ago.

Key word: SHOULD

Looking back, the fishing industry _____ biodegradable nets years ago.

7. Lack of funding forced the organisation to abandon the ghost-net clean-up project halfway through its first season.

Key word: PLUG

Owing to a lack of funding, the organisation was forced to _____ the ghost-net clean-up project halfway through its first season.

8. There are so many ghost nets drifting in the Pacific that conservation groups cannot track them all.

Key word: MANY

There _____ ghost nets drifting in the Pacific for conservation groups to track.

6. Key Word Transformations: Community Gardens

Key word transformation · Community gardens and neighbourhood life

For questions 1–8, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using between two and five words, including the word given, which you must not change.

1. "I'll water the plants tomorrow," said Maria.

Key word: WOULD

Maria said _____ water the plants the following day.

2. A professional repaired the garden fence for the committee last week.

Key word: HAD

Last week, _____ the garden fence repaired by a professional.

3. I regret not joining the gardening club sooner.

Key word: WISH

Looking back, I _____ the gardening club sooner.

4. The garden was so popular that the council decided to expand it.

Key word: SUCH

It was _____ that the council decided to expand it.

5. I'm sure someone picked the ripe tomatoes while we were on holiday.

Key word: MUST

While we were on holiday, someone _____ the ripe tomatoes.

6. The volunteer runs the garden. Her enthusiasm inspired everyone.

Key word: WHOSE

The volunteer _____ inspired everyone runs the garden.

7. This site was a car park years ago, but now it's a community garden.

Key word: USED

This site _____ a car park before it became a community garden.

8. The council postponed the summer fair because of a scheduling conflict.

Key word: OFF

Because of a scheduling conflict, the council _____ the summer fair.

Answer Key

1. Key Word Transformations: Lighthouses and Their Keepers

1. is said to

2. may have chosen

3. in spite of

4. anywhere near

5. I wish I had visited (also: I wish I'd visited)

6. put up

7. no longer has

8. had the old lighthouse restored (also: had it restored, had the lighthouse restored)

1. The passive reporting structure 'is said to have + past participle' reports exactly what people generally say about a past event, matching 'People say that the keeper rescued...' in both meaning and certainty, without adding or removing any sense of doubt.

2. 'May have + past participle' expresses a present guess about a past decision, matching 'It's possible that engineers chose...' without turning the guess into certainty; 'must have chosen' would wrongly suggest strong certainty rather than mere possibility.

3. The clause 'Although the winds were extremely strong' is turned into the prepositional phrase 'in spite of the extremely strong winds'; 'in spite of' must be followed directly by a noun phrase, not a clause with a verb, which is why no other wording built from the keyword fits here.

4. 'Wasn't anywhere near as + adjective + as' makes a strong negative comparison showing the oil lamp fell far short of the beacon's reliability, matching 'far less reliable than' in the first sentence. 'Nowhere near' cannot follow the contracted negative 'wasn't' here, since the two negatives would clash rather than combine naturally.

5. 'Wish + past perfect' expresses regret about something that did not happen in the past, matching 'I regret that I never visited...' exactly in time and meaning.

6. The fixed phrasal verb 'put up with' means to tolerate something unpleasant; only 'put up' slots naturally before the preposition 'with' already in the sentence, matching 'tolerate complete isolation' in meaning and register. A verb like 'faced up' would need 'to', not 'with', so it cannot fit this slot.

7. 'No longer' placed before the present-simple verb 'has' shows that a situation which used to be true has now ended, matching 'used to have... but... has been automated', while keeping the same subject and verb as the original.

8. 'Have something done' describes arranging for someone else to do a job; 'had the old lighthouse restored' replaces 'paid workers to restore the old lighthouse', keeping the same agent introduced by 'by workers'.

2. Key Word Transformations: Life on a Modern Ranch

1. such a severe

2. despite her grandmother's (also: despite Lily's grandmother's)

3. wish I had (also: wish I'd, wish that I had, wish that I'd)

4. no sooner had

5. said she had (also: said she'd, said that she had, said that she'd)

6. provided they (also: provided that they, provided the Daltons, provided that the Daltons, provided the family, provided that the family)

7. had his (also: had the)

8. should have warned

1. The 'so + adjective + that' pattern becomes 'such a/an + adjective + noun + that' when rewritten with 'such', keeping the same idea that the snowstorm's severity directly caused the group to turn back.

2. 'Despite' is followed by a noun phrase rather than a finite clause, so 'her grandmother disapproved' becomes 'her grandmother's disapproval'; this keeps the meaning that Lily married the rider even though her grandmother was against it.

3. 'Wish + subject + past perfect' expresses regret about something that never happened, matching the idea of never having ridden across the plains.

4. 'No sooner had + subject + past participle ... than' shows one event following another almost immediately, matching the idea that the drone crashed only seconds after it started filming.

5. Reported speech requires backshifting a past simple verb ('rode') to the past perfect ('had ridden') when the reporting verb itself is in the past tense, showing the action happened before Lucy spoke; 'said she had' carries out this shift while matching the pronoun to Lucy.

6. 'Provided (that)' introduces a necessary condition, equivalent to 'only if'; 'they' refers back to the Daltons, keeping the meaning that the funding depended on the family repaying the loan in time.

7. The phrase 'had his broken arm treated by a doctor' shows that the treatment was carried out for Noah by someone else rather than by Noah himself, so the possessive 'his' (or 'the') must come straight after the key word to complete this meaning.

8. 'Should have + past participle' expresses a past obligation that was not fulfilled, matching the idea that it was wrong of the location manager to fail to warn the crew.

3. Key Word Transformations: Urban Beekeeping

1. a 40% rise in (also: a 40 percent rise in, a forty percent rise in, a rise of 40% in)

2. despite not being (also: despite her not being)

3. such a complicated job

4. is supposed to be checked

5. had the stand replaced (also: had the hive stand replaced, had their stand replaced, had their hive stand replaced, had it replaced, had the storm-damaged stand replaced, had their storm-damaged stand replaced)

6. wish I knew (also: wish that I knew)

7. are reported to have opened

8. twice as expensive as (also: two times as expensive as, 2 times as expensive as)

1. An increase is often expressed with 'there was + a [figure] rise in + noun phrase'; since the first sentence gives an exact figure (40%), that same figure must appear unchanged to keep the facts identical.

2. DESPITE is followed by a gerund; since 'wasn't insured' describes a state at the time of selling, the negative state survives as 'not being insured', giving 'despite not being insured' — the same concessive link as 'Even though she wasn't insured'.

3. With SUCH, the pattern 'so + adjective + a + noun' becomes 'such + a + adjective + noun', so 'so complicated a job' is rewritten as 'such a complicated job', keeping the identical meaning and degree of difficulty.

4. 'Be supposed to' expresses an official duty or expectation, matching 'must' in the original; turning the active 'inspectors must check' into the passive keeps the hive as the one being checked while 'by inspectors' still names who carries the duty out.

5. The causative pattern with this keyword (subject + had + object + past participle) shows that someone else performed the action; since a roofer did the work, 'had the stand replaced' reports that the beekeepers got it done rather than doing it themselves.

6. WISH followed by a past simple verb expresses regret about a present state, so 'don't know' becomes 'wish I knew' to show the same lack of knowledge now, not something already finished.

7. The pattern 'be reported to have + past participle' replaces an impersonal 'people say that + present perfect', shifting the apiaries into subject position while the perfect infinitive keeps the same sense that the opening already happened before now.

8. If a rooftop hive costs half as much, the garden must cost exactly twice as much, so the multiplier pattern 'twice as expensive as' with this keyword keeps the same precise cost relationship as 'half as much as'.

4. Key Word Transformations: The Corpse Flower

1. told the visitors (also: told them, told the visitors that, told them that)
2. is Maria's job (also: is her job)
3. ought not to
4. is known as (also: 's known as)
5. unless there are
6. more than
7. in spite of
8. is unlikely to (also: 's unlikely to)

1. TOLD is a reporting verb that needs an object showing who heard the statement, so 'the visitors' or the pronoun 'them' follows it directly; because the reporting verb is past, the original 'will' backshifts to 'would' in the reported clause.

2. The fixed structure 'it is someone's job to do something' expresses the same ongoing responsibility as 'is responsible for'; JOB must follow a possessive form (Maria's or her) and the whole phrase comes right after 'It is', before the infinitive 'to record'.

3. 'It's a bad idea to do something' gives negative advice, rephrased with the modal phrase 'ought not to' before the base verb 'visit'; unlike 'should', 'ought' always takes 'to' before the main verb, and the key word must stay exactly as given, so no contracted form is possible here.

4. 'People call something X' becomes 'something is known as X', dropping the general subject 'people'; 'known' always takes the preposition 'as' before a name, never 'by' or 'for'.

5. 'Unless' means 'if not', so the negative condition 'if there aren't' becomes 'unless there are', keeping the same existential structure and the plural verb agreeing with 'ten visitors'.

6. The superlative 'the heaviest' can be rewritten with the verb 'weighs' plus a comparative phrase, since 'weighs' cannot take an adjective like 'heavier' directly before a noun phrase.

7. 'Although' introduces a full clause ('the smell was overpowering'), but the given word's fixed expression must be followed directly by a noun phrase ('the overpowering smell'); this is the standard way to turn an although-clause into this shorter concession phrase.

8. 'Probably won't' expresses a confident negative prediction, rephrased with 'is unlikely to' before the main verb 'bloom'; because 'unlikely' already carries the negative meaning, no additional 'not' is needed or correct.

5. Key Word Transformations: Ghost Nets of the Ocean

1. no sooner
2. had the net (also: had the ghost net, had it)
3. wish they had acted (also: wish they'd acted, wish that they had acted, wish that they'd acted)
4. are widely said to
5. such is
6. should have introduced (also: should've introduced)
7. pull the plug on
8. are too many

1. 'No sooner... than' expresses that one event followed another almost instantly, and fronting it forces subject-auxiliary inversion ('had satellites detected'); this reproduces the immediacy of 'as soon as' in the original without adding any new source or qualification.

2. 'have something done' shows that another party carried out an action for the subject; 'had the net removed' reproduces 'a specialist company removed the net for the authority' without naming the authority as the one who physically acted.

3. 'wish + past perfect' expresses regret about a past failure to act; 'wish they had acted sooner' reproduces 'regret not acting sooner' from the original, keeping the same plural subject and the same past time frame without changing the form of the keyword.

4. The reporting passive 'be said to + infinitive' turns an impersonal 'people say that' claim into a report with no named source; keeping 'widely' right after 'are' preserves the same scale of the claim as 'people widely say' in the first sentence, and the plural subject 'ghost nets' requires 'are'.

5. 'Such is + noun + that' is a fixed emphatic structure highlighting degree; 'such is the neglect' reproduces 'so neglected... that' from the original, and only 'such' fronted with 'is' can introduce the noun phrase 'the neglect' before the later 'that' clause.

6. 'should have + past participle' criticises a past failure to act; 'should have introduced' conveys the same judgement, now framed as hindsight, as 'it was a mistake not to introduce' in the original.

7. The idiom 'pull the plug on' means to stop supporting or terminate something already under way, especially because of money problems; it reproduces 'forced... to abandon' from the original and takes 'the project' as its object after 'on'.

8. The pattern 'too + quantifier + noun + for + agent + to-infinitive' expresses an amount so excessive that an action becomes impossible, with the object left unexpressed after 'track'; 'there are too many ghost nets... for conservation groups to track' reproduces the same impossibility as 'so many... that conservation groups cannot track them all' in the original.

6. Key Word Transformations: Community Gardens

1. she would (also: that she would)

2. the committee had (also: they had, it had)

3. wish I had joined (also: wish that I had joined, wish I'd joined, wish that I'd joined)

4. such a popular garden (also: such a popular one)

5. must have picked

6. whose enthusiasm

7. used to be

8. put off

1. Reporting a promise made with 'will' requires backshifting to 'would', and the pronoun 'she' replaces Maria's own 'I'; this gives 'she would'.

2. Causative 'had' shows that the committee arranged for someone else to do the repair rather than doing it themselves, so 'the committee had' fits before the past participle 'repaired'.

3. 'Wish' followed by a past perfect verb expresses regret about something that did not happen earlier, matching the idea of regretting not joining sooner.

4. 'Such a + adjective + noun' expresses the same intensifying idea as 'so + adjective', so 'such a popular garden' keeps the original meaning of the sentence.

5. The modal perfect 'must have' expresses confident deduction about a completed past action, matching the certainty shown by 'I'm sure' in the original sentence.

6. 'Whose' introduces a relative clause that shows possession, linking the volunteer directly to the quality that inspired everyone in one sentence.

7. 'Used to be' describes a past state that no longer exists, matching the idea that the site was a car park before it changed into a garden.

8. The phrasal verb 'put off' means to postpone, and keeping 'the council' as the subject preserves who made the decision, exactly as in the original sentence.

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