

## Geoffrey Chaucer

## The Canterbury Tales

## KEY TO THE EXERCISES

Geoffrey Chaucer:  
His Works and Times

## Page 10 — exercise 1

- 1 He is often called 'the father of the English poetry' because he was the first great English writer who wrote in the English language instead of Latin or French.
- 2 It began when he was a teenager and became a page, and lasted for the rest of his life.
- 3 He visited Italy, where he was sent on a diplomatic mission.
- 4 Chaucer's work is divided into a French, Italian and English period. The first period is associated with his translation into English of *The Romance of the Rose*, the second one with *Troilus and Criseyde* and the third one with *The Canterbury Tales*.
- 5 He completed 24 stories out of 120.
- 6 Its characters are taken from all levels of 14<sup>th</sup> century society and the stories they tell reflect their social rank and personalities.
- 7 He describes himself as rather fat and a little bit stupid.
- 8 a war between England and France (1337-1543) b a terrible disease that came to Europe in 1347 and arrived in England in 1348, killing

hundreds of thousands of people  
c an unprecedented violent protest by workers in the country (1381)

## Page 10 — exercise 2

- 1 Open response.
- 2 The distance from London to Canterbury is about 60 miles or 97 kilometres. Students should estimate how long it would take on horse.

## Before you read

## Page 10 — exercise 1

- 1 Doctor 2 Wife of Bath 3 Prioress  
4 Nun's Priest 5 Franklin 6 Monk  
7 Merchant 8 Friar 9 Squire  
10 Cook 11 Host 12 Summoner  
13 Sea Captain 14 Pardoner  
15 Scholar 16 Yeoman 17 Knight  
18 Parson 19 Miller

## Page 14 — exercise 2

See p. 111.

## Page 14 — exercise 3

N.B. In *The Canterbury Tales* there are twenty-nine pilgrims plus Chaucer and the host, making thirty-one people altogether. On page 11 we could only describe twenty, including Chaucer and the host; on pages 12-13 we could illustrate fifteen, with Chaucer and the host. However, in Chaucer's full, original version, there are still only two women.

1 Only 2 are women: the Prioress and the Wife of Bath. 2 Eight are connected with organised religion: the Prioress, the Wife of Bath, the Nun's Priest, the Monk, the Friar, the Parson, the Summoner, the Pardoner. 3 Open response. Allow students to discuss this.

Chapter 1  
*The Prologue*

## Page 22 — exercise 1

1 E 2 C E G I 3 C B 4 E 5 G K R 6 P J  
7 B O 8 M Q R S 9 C H Q S 10 C 11 D  
12 K T 13 O 14 R S J 15 N

## Page 23 — exercise 2

(To the teacher: You might want to do activity 3 simultaneously with this activity.)

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

## Tapescript

- 1 My name's Harry Bailey and I own the Tabard Inn in South London. It's a busy place and I get lots of people staying there, many of them pilgrims going to or coming from Canterbury. Everyone in my business has social skills — the work would be unbearable if you didn't! — but I actually like my customers! I'm not talking about liking my customers' money, although you have to earn a living. No, I enjoy all the tales they tell each other. I usually listen to them, and then I tell the stories to other customers. In fact, over the years, my inn has become famous for entertainment of this kind.
- 2 My clothes cost me a lot of money and they look good on me, and I know I'm good-looking — there's no point in false modesty. Everyone appreciates my poetry, and I've

worked hard at my singing and dancing. But it's not enough! There are times when she encourages me, but most of the time she seems... well, so distant. I thought that when I came back from the war her feelings for me would have changed. But no, I'm still not sure whether she'll be mine or not. People see me singing and smiling and they think I must be happy, but that's just how I look on the outside...

- 3 People always comment on my fashionable clothes and my expensive accessories — by the way, have you noticed this brooch? Lovely, isn't it? I know that I'm attractive, and I see no reason why I should be ashamed of that. I'm sure that a lot of people think I should be more modest, and that a woman in my position shouldn't dress so well, but I don't see any problem. I think that I can do what I do and still look attractive. And nobody could ever accuse me of having bad manners! Now, will you excuse me? My darling little dogs will be looking forward to their dinner...
- 4 A lot of people might think that begging isn't a particularly nice way of earning your living — undignified, risky and so on — and, of course, hard work! I admit that I felt like this myself at first, but now I wouldn't want to change what I do at all. Quite a lot of the people I ask money from are wealthy, and they're happy to give to me; they feel good about it. As for people with less money, with them I use my charm. Over the years I have become very good at being charming, I can tell you, so I have no problems getting something out of them. Everywhere I go I'm welcome!



- 5 Ever since I was a young boy, as long ago as I can remember, I've always been interested in learning. Apart from the bare necessities of food and accommodation, all my money goes on books and university fees. I couldn't care less about my appearance, the kind of horse I ride, where I live, and all the other things that people generally spend a lot of money on. People think that I look sad, but they're mistaking sadness for seriousness. I'm not sad at all; it's just that I don't see any reason to be smiling all the time.
- 6 How shall I describe myself? Well, the word that most people use about me is 'hospitable', and that's the word I would use about myself, too! If people turn up at my house unexpectedly I treat them just like guests I have invited personally; they get the very best food and wine I can offer, and nice rooms to stay in as well. Even when I'm on my own, I like to eat and drink well, and I think it is true to say that the busiest servant in my household is the cook! If you ever happen to be travelling near where I live, come and stay the night at my house!
- 7 I get really angry when people call me a 'pirate'. Pirates are different — they operate outside the law — but captains of ships don't. I'm certainly not a pirate, but people who don't have any experience of life at sea just don't understand what it's like. In a battle I've got to make decisions quickly — I haven't got the time to think about what's 'right' and 'wrong' — and if I win I haven't got the food or space on my ship to keep prisoners. So I throw them into the sea. I'm not proud of

what I do, but I have no choice. People should spend some time on board a ship before they judge me.

8 People in my line of work have a pretty bad reputation, and frankly it's deserved most of the time. To tell you the truth, I'm not different. Most of the time I keep some of the corn for myself, and I generally charge the farmers too much, as well. It's not as if I actually need to do it — I'd make enough money anyway. I suppose it's because people expect it; they'd be surprised if I didn't behave like that. The fact that I cheat them doesn't stop me liking my customers; I get on well with them. And — funnily enough — they seem to like me!

#### Page 24 — exercise 3

(If students want a checklist to choose from, they can use the list of the pilgrims on page 14 or the list in activity 1 on page 22.)

- 1 the Host 2 the Squire 3 the Prioress  
4 the Friar 5 the Scholar 6 the Franklin  
7 the Sea Captain 8 the Miller

#### Page 24 — exercise 4

Open response.

#### Page 25 — exercise 5

1 In 1359 Chaucer fought in the war in France, where he was taken prisoner.  
2 He was released for a ransom, part of which was paid by Edward III, the English king.  
3 He was buried in Westminster Abbey, where many famous poets and writers were later buried.  
4 The pilgrims of *The Canterbury Tales* go on pilgrimage in April, which is the first month of spring.  
5 The Knight, whose son accompanied him, had just come back from a war.  
6 The Yeoman, most of

whose clothes were green, looked like a real man of the country.  
7 The Parson, who didn't have much money himself, always gave some money to the poor.  
8 The Prioress, whose clothes were very elegant, looked more like a fashionable noblewoman than a nun.  
9 The Merchant, whose business was doing very well, hardly ever stopped talking about money.  
10 The Cook, who looked rather unhealthy, prepared very tasty dishes.  
11 The plague, which killed hundreds of thousands of people, made the Doctor rich.  
12 The Summoner, who stank of garlic and onions, was so ugly that he frightened little children.  
13 The Pardoner, who also had an unpleasant appearance, was the travelling companion of the Summoner.  
14 After visiting Canterbury, the pilgrims were going to return to The Tabard Inn, where the best storyteller would get a free dinner.

#### Page 26 — exercise 6

Adjective	Noun
Chivalrous	chivalry
Brave	bravery
Hard-working	hard work
Modest	modesty
Well-mannered	good manners
Polite	politeness
Sensitive	sensitivity
Fashionable	fashion
Wealthy	wealth
Educated	education
Strong	strength
Tired	tiredness
Respectable	respect
Hospitable	hospitality
Elegant	elegance
Religious	religion
Patient	patience
Corrupt	corruption

#### Page 26 — exercise 7

- 1 Open response.  
Two reasons why Chaucer's pilgrims give us a good picture of 14<sup>th</sup> century English society but don't represent modern society are: many of Chaucer's pilgrims are connected with organised religion; only two of them are women.
- 2 Open response.  
(Students can work in groups first. You may want to remind students to make sure their groups of travellers include a mixture of people of different ages, sexes and ethnic backgrounds, with different jobs/positions in society.)

#### Page 27 — exercise 8

The Model was in her twenties (AGE). She was tall and slim — you might even say thin. She had her hair pulled back (PHYSICAL APPEARANCE) and she wore dark glasses (CLOTHES). Her clothes were simple but elegant, all of them with designer labels (CLOTHES). At meal times she only ordered salad, which she often didn't finish, and mineral water (FOOD AND DRINK). She took a small mirror out of her bag every ten minutes or so and nervously checked her makeup (THINGS WITH HER and PHYSICAL MOVEMENTS). She told us that her work was, in fact, very stressful (WHAT SHE SAYS).  
(You might ask students to try to include some non-defining relative clauses in their descriptions.)

#### Before you read

#### Page 27 — exercise 1

- 1 Open response.  
2 Open response.  
3 Open response.

## Chapter 2

### *The Knight's Tale*

#### Page 36 – exercise 1

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

#### Page 37 – exercise 2

- Open response.  
'The importance of fighting for something that you want' seems least likely. A romantic interpretation might lead to 'romantic love', while an anti-romantic interpretation might lead to 'the stupid things that lovers do'. However, the important thing is that students justify their interpretations.
- Open response.

#### Page 38 – exercise 3

1 of 2 for 3 For 4 from 5 by 6 in  
7 through 8 In 9 in 10 with 11 to  
12 to 13 to 14 in 15 from 16 with

#### Page 38 – exercise 4

- Arcite's suffering in the last paragraph on page 30. Both cousins seem to behave in a mad way in the second half of page 32.
- Open response.
- Open response.  
(‘Without You’ was written by two members of the British rock group Badfinger and first released on their 1970 album *No Dice*.)

#### Page 39 – exercise 5

Open response.  
Students need not respond to all of these moments. And, apart from speaking, students can also be asked to write down Emily's thoughts as short entries in her diary (25-50 words for each moment).

## Thomas Becket and the City of Canterbury

#### Page 43 – exercise 1

- After a good education, he began a career in the Church as administrator. He was later appointed Lord Chancellor. After his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury he became very ascetic and defended the rights of the Church against the King.
- The King reacted angrily and Becket escaped to France. When he returned to England, in 1170, the people of Canterbury welcomed him back as a hero.
- He was stabbed in Canterbury Cathedral by four knights who had heard the King complain about Becket's attacks on his power.
- The Christian world was shocked and in 1173 Becket became a saint.
- They were lost after Trinity Chapel was destroyed in 1538.
- He was a missionary and the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

#### Page 43 – exercise 2

Open response.

#### Page 43 – exercise 3

Open response.

#### Before you read

#### Page 44 – exercise 1

1 it 2 like 3 by 4 they 5 this 6 as  
7 to 8 which 9 about 10 on 11 on  
12 with 13 Although/While 14 on

#### Page 44 – exercise 2

Open response. Note that films with talking animals have been popular ever since the first Mickey Mouse cartoon, *Steamboat Willie* (1928). Although cartoons with animals are

often comic, some can be quite serious too, such as *The Lion King* (1994). There have also been animal films that are not cartoons, such as *Babe* (1995) and its sequel *Babe – Pig in the City* (1998).

#### Page 44 – exercise 3

N.B. The comb is on the head of a chicken; it is coloured red.  
Open response.

## Chapter 3

### *The Nun's Priest's Tale*

#### Page 53 – exercise 1

1 K 2 G 3 A 4 N 5 E 6 M 7 F 8 H  
9 B 10 C 11 D 12 J 13 L 14 O 15 I

#### Page 54 – exercise 2

Open response.

#### Page 54 – exercise 3

N.B. The fable comes from the *Igbo* or *Ibo* language of south-eastern Nigeria. Eastern Nigeria tried unsuccessfully to become independent in 1970 under the name “Biafra”. Igbo fables have been retold in English by the eminent Nigerian novelist and essayist Chinua Achebe (1930-2013), author of *Things Fall Apart* (1958) and other major works, in order to prove that European culture does not have a monopoly on the animal fable genre.

1 B 2 A 3 D 4 A 5 C 6 B 7 D 8 A  
9 C 10 C 11 B 12 D

#### Page 55 – exercise 4

Open response. Probably most students will choose the fox for the part of the snake (clever, self-interested) and the cockerel for the part of the toad (proud, vain, self-important). Ask students how they would imagine the fox riding the

horse: to fit in with the story it should be in a way that seems inept.

#### Page 55 – exercise 5

Open response.

#### Page 56 – exercise 6

Open response.

#### Page 56 – exercise 7

- The Friar was never short of money, **even though he had to** earn his living by begging.
- The Host **suggested that they entertained themselves** by telling each other stories.
- Palamon **accused Arcite of being** in love with his lady.
- Palamon **admitted that he had escaped** from Theseus's prison the previous day.  
*OR* Palamon **admitted escaping** from Theseus's prison the previous day.
- Chanticleer **wondered what animal it was** in his dream.
- Pertelot said that dreams **were due to eating** too much at night.
- Chanticleer **had never seen a fox** before.
- The fox **promised not to hurt** Chanticleer if he came down from the tree.  
*OR* The fox **promised he wouldn't hurt (or would not hurt)** Chanticleer if he came down from the tree.
- The fox **regretted being** so proud.  
*OR* The fox **regretted having been** so proud.  
*OR* The fox **regretted that he had been** so proud.
- The Nun's Priest's said that everyone could learn a lesson from his story, **although it was only about** animals.

**Before you read****Page 57 — exercise 1**

Open response.

Do this activity briefly. Discourage students from looking at the text.

## Chapter 4 *The Pardoner's Tale*

**Page 66 — exercise 1**

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

**Page 67 — exercise 2**

'Greed is the root of all evil'. Open response for the students' rephrasing. (If students have trouble, you can allow them to use ten words.)

**Page 67 — exercise 3**

Open response.

Some critics think the old man is the Wandering Jew, some think that he is Death himself.

**Page 68 — exercise 4**

1 WISE wisdom 2 PARTICULAR particularly 3 BLOOD bloodless 4 TERROR terrified 5 FRIGHT frightened 6 HORROR horrible 7 DRESS dressed 8 DESPAIR desperately 9 SURE surely 10 FURY furiously 11 THREAT threatening 12 INTENT intention 13 EMOTION unemotional 14 EXPECT unexpected

**Page 69 — exercise 5**

Open response.

The story is activity 4 is often known as 'Appointment in Samarra'. The actor Boris Karloff often told this story. (You can see him telling it here in the 1968 film *Targets*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu9ZIRB79xk>)

**Page 70 — exercise 6**

(Indications are given for the use of 'might')

- 1 If Becket **hadn't become** a martyr, Canterbury **wouldn't have become** a destination for pilgrimages.
- 2 **Would** Chaucer **have written** a different collection of stories if he **hadn't been** able to write about a pilgrimage to Canterbury?
- 3 Palamon and Arcite **would have killed** each other if Theseus **hadn't arrived**.
- 4 If Arcite **hadn't been** thrown from his horse he **would have married** Emily.
- 5 If Arcite and Emily **had got married** and **lived** happily together, what **would** Palamon **have done**?
- 6 If Chanticleer **hadn't listened** to his wife, he **wouldn't/might not have flown** down into the farmyard and the fox **wouldn't have grabbed** him.
- 7 If the fox **hadn't listened** to Chanticleer's suggestion, Chanticleer **wouldn't have escaped**.
- 8 If the three young men **hadn't been** so rude to the old man he **wouldn't/might not have told** them to go to the oak tree.
- 9 If the youngest man **hadn't been** able to buy any poison, **would** he **have thought** of another way of killing his friends?
- 10 How **would** *The Pardoner's Tale* **have continued** if the three young men **hadn't met** the old man?

**Page 74 — exercise 1**

- 1 No, he took them from different traditions and retold them in a new way.

- 2 fable: a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral; myth: a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining a natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events; legend: a traditional story sometimes popularly regarded as historical but not authenticated; fairy tale: a story involving fantastic forces and beings, such as fairies, wizards, and goblins; frame story: overall unifying story within which one or more tales are related.
- 3 The traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth.
- 4 *The Decameron* is a collection stories by the 14th-century Italian author Giovanni Boccaccio (1313 — 1375).
- 5 She is one of the characters and the storyteller of *The Thousand and One Nights*.

**Page 74 — exercise 2**

Open response.

**Before you read****Page 75 — exercise 1**

Students will find out the answers when they do activity 5 on page 86.

## Chapter 5 *The Wife of Bath's Tale*

**Page 84 — exercise 1**

1 T 2 F (The Queen and her ladies saved him.) 3 T 4 F (The knight never received the same answer from two people.) 5 F (The old woman in the wood only wanted the Knight to promise to do something for her.) 6 F (It was the Queen, not King Arthur, who summoned everyone.) 7 T 8 T 9 F (The old woman smiles and seems amused by what happens. It appears that she is playing with the Knight.) 10 T

**Page 84 — exercise 2**

Open response.

**Page 84 — exercise 3**

1 five 2 experience 3 old and rich 4 spoke nicely 5 angry 6 ill 7 (only) twenty 8 money 9 how to behave 10 bad wives 11 tore some pages 12 dying 13 gold 14 on/in the fire 15 complete control

### Tapescript (The Wife of Bath's Prologue)

My dear fellow pilgrims, the story I'm going to tell you is about marriage, and I can assure you that I'm very well qualified to talk about that subject. I first got married when I was twelve years old, and I've been married five times in total. Now, some people say you should only marry once but, as you can see, I don't agree with that way of thinking! To be quite frank with you, I'm an expert in life and love. You can read about things in books but real knowledge comes from experience, that's what I say. And I've got plenty of that. Now, back to those husbands of mine.



If you want to get an idea of what they were like in just a few words, three of them were good and two were bad.

The good ones were all old and rich. Poor things, I used to talk really badly to them, accusing them of looking at other women, not caring enough for me and so on, and the result was that when I did speak nicely to them they loved it!

My fourth husband was quite different. He liked drinking and dancing and he had a girlfriend even after we got married. That made me furious, but have no doubt about it — I got my revenge! I used to flirt with other men and, in the end, he used to get so angry and jealous that he made himself ill. He died when I got back from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and I had him buried in the local church.

My last husband was different from all the others. I was forty and he was half my age, only twenty. His name was Jankyn and he'd been a student at Oxford. I found him very attractive from when I first saw him, and we got married soon after my fourth husband's funeral. I married him for love, not money, and at first we were happy, but then he started to tell me how to behave. He had a big book he was always reading, which contained hundreds of stories from the Bible and Greek and Roman legends about bad wives, and which he loved to tell me! One night, Jankyn was reading his book by the fire, and it looked as if he was going to carry on reading all night! At last, I'd had enough, and I went over and tore some pages out of the book. At the same time, I hit him so hard that he fell backwards into the fire. Immediately, he jumped up and hit me on the head hard enough to

make me fall to the floor. If you're wondering, that's why I'm deaf in one ear.

Well, I knew what to do next. I lay still on the floor as if I were dying. He thought he'd killed me. Eventually, I opened my eyes and managed to whisper, 'Did you want to murder me for my gold? Never mind, my dear, I'll kiss you one last time before I die'. That got him worried! 'Dearest love,' he said, 'I'll never hit you again! Forgive me!' Then I sat up and hit him again — but then we kissed! Straightaway, I made him burn his book on the fire, and from that moment on he let me do exactly as I wanted, and he gave me complete control of the house our land. In return, I was a true, loving wife to him — and that's how marriage should be!

#### Page 85 — exercise 4

- Open response. Here are some ideas:  
An interpretation **against women**: Chaucer lets the Wife of Bath speak for a long time, so he lets her confirm all the worst things about women! She does this all through her prologue, where she says that she generally married for money and bullied her husbands, and in her tale, too; women (not just the old woman, but all of the Queen's court) want superiority, not equality. Chaucer does the same thing with the Pardoner (pages 58 and 64): he lets him condemn himself with his own words!  
A **feminist** interpretation: Chaucer must think the Wife of Bath is an important character because he gives her such a long prologue. In her story he lets her show us that men only want superficial things in

women: physical beauty and youth. In her prologue he lets her speak openly about her life, and with humour. If a man spoke like that people would say he was honest and amusing!

- Open response.
- Open response.

#### Page 86 — exercise 5

1 i 2 d 3 g 4 h 5 e 6 a 7 b 8 j 9 k  
10 c 11 f 12 l

#### Page 86 — exercise 6

1 TRADITION traditional 2 BEHAVE behavior 3 FREE freedom 4 ATTRACT unattractiveness 5 OPT option 6 DESIRE desirable 7 VARY variation 8 FAITH unfaithful 9 HESITATE hesitation 10 INTERPRET interpretation 11 ACCEPT unacceptable 12 APPEAR appearance 13 KNOW knowledge 14 TRANSFORM transformation or transformations 15 COLLECT collection 16 DESCEND descendant

#### Page 88 — exercise 7

- Open response.
- Open response.  
The important difference from *The Wife of Bath's Tale* is that Beauty says she will marry the Beast because she **really** has fallen in love with him.

#### Page 88 — exercise 8

Open response.

#### Before you read

#### Page 88 — exercise 1

Open response.

## Chapter 6 *The Franklin's Tale*

### Page 99 — exercise 1

1 C 2 A 3 D 4 B 5 B 6 A

### Page 100 — exercise 2

Open response.

### Page 100 — exercise 3

Open response.

### Page 101 — exercise 4

Open response.

### Page 102 — exercise 5

1 jealous of 2 stay in bed 3 a letter 4 feelings 5 blind 6 (beautiful) garden 7 sight 8 excuse 9 a (pear) tree 10 furious 11 a doctor 12 made a mistake

### Tapescrypt

Once, there was a rich old knight called January who married a beautiful young woman called May. There was a big difference in their ages, and January was extremely jealous of his young wife and watched her very carefully. January's servant, Damian, a handsome young man, fell in love with May and suffered so much from his secret love that he became physically ill and had to stay in bed. January was fond of Damian, and sent May and her friends to visit him. While they were there Damian secretly passed May a letter in which he confessed how much he loved her. May then sent Damian a letter saying that her feelings for him were the same. Then, one morning, January woke up completely blind! He became even more jealous now because he couldn't watch his wife, and wherever they went he held May's hand all the time.

But May managed to send Damian a key to the beautiful garden that January had made for May and himself.

Two gods were following the lives of January, May and Damian with great interest: Pluto and his wife Proserpina.

Pluto said to his wife: 'Look at them! You can't trust a woman! I'm going to give poor January his sight back. I'm not going to tell you when — but it will be at the right moment!'

Proserpina replied straightaway: 'Men are so jealous! When January can see again, I'll give May a good excuse for what he sees her doing!'

Soon after, January and May were walking in the garden. Damian had got in and had climbed a tree, where he was sitting in the branches waiting for May.

'My darling husband,' said May, 'help me to climb up into this tree. There are some delicious pears up there, and I really must have one!'

So May stood on January's back and climbed into the tree, where she and Damian soon put their arms around each other and kissed. At this moment, Pluto gave January back his sight. He looked up into the tree and was furious at what he saw.

'Wife!' he shouted angrily. 'What are you doing?'

As she had promised, Pluto's wife, Proserpina, put the words into May's mouth: 'My dear husband, a doctor told me that the only way to help you to see again was to fight with a young man in a tree. I did it to help you, darling.'

'But you weren't fighting,' shouted January, 'he had his arms around you and you were kissing!'

'Of course I wasn't kissing him! You can't see very well yet. You made a mistake; it's only natural. You've been blind for some time; it's as if you're waking up from a deep sleep and your eyes aren't back to normal!'

January asked May to forgive him for his suspicions, and she came down from the tree and kissed him tenderly, while Damian escaped. And, smiling, happily January put his arm around his wife and led her back to the palace.

**Page 102 — exercise 6**

Open response.

**Page 103 — exercise 7**

1 without 2 about 3 even 4 from  
5 when 6 much 7 whatever  
8 though 9 When 10 so 11 much  
12 only 13 for 14 by 15 because  
16 in 17 with 18 for

**Page 103 — exercise 8**

Open response.

**Page 107 — exercise 1**

Open response.

**Page 107 — exercise 2**

Open response.

**Page 107 — exercise 3**

Open response.

**Page 108 — exercise 1**

A 9 B 3 C 2 D 1 E 7 F 5 G 6 H 8  
I 4

**Page 109 — exercise 2**

- 1 *The Knight's Tale*: love, friendship, bravery, role of fate.
- 2 *The Nun's Priest's Tale*: dreams, love, pride, deception, relationship between husband and wife.
- 3 *The Pardoner's Tale*: greed, friendship, deception, death.

4 *The Wife of Bath's Tale*: generosity, love, misogyny, relationship between husband and wife.

5 *The Franklin's Tale*: generosity, love, chivalry, relationship between husband and wife, magic. Love and the relationship between husband and wife seem common themes.

**Page 109 — exercise 3**

Open response.

**Page 109 — exercise 4**

Open response.

**Page 110 — exercise 5**

Open response.

**Page 110 — exercise 6**

Open response.

**Page 110 — exercise 7**

Open response.

**Page 111 — exercise 8**

1 April 2 March 3 go 4 flowers  
5 angel 6 thief 7 heart

**PART ONE: COMPREHENSION CHECK**

**1** Answer the following questions. Usually a short phrase will be enough. Occasionally a longer phrase is required.

*The Prologue*

- 1 Where did Chaucer meet the Pilgrims?
- 2 Where were they all going, and why?
- 3 Two of the pilgrims were father and son: who were they?
- 4 How many women were there among the pilgrims, and who were they?
- 5 Who suggested the storytelling competition?

*The Knight's Tale*

- 1 Where did Theseus put Palamon and Arcite?
- 2 Why did Palamon and Arcite quarrel?
- 3 Why did Arcite return to Athens?
- 4 What were Palamon and Arcite doing when Theseus found them?
- 5 Who won the battle that Theseus suggested?
- 6 Who married Emily?

*The Nun's Priest's Tale*

- 1 Who owned the farm where Chanticleer and Pertelot lived?
- 2 What did Chanticleer dream about?
- 3 Was Pertelot sympathetic when she heard about Chanticleer's dream?
- 4 How did the fox flatter Chanticleer?
- 5 How did Chanticleer persuade the fox to open his mouth?

*The Pardoner's Tale*

- 1 Why was the bell ringing in the street?
- 2 What did the three young men decide to do?
- 3 How did they treat the old man?
- 4 Where did the old man say they could find Death?
- 5 What did they find under the tree?
- 6 Why did the youngest man go to the town?
- 7 How did the three men die?

*The Wife of Bath's Tale*

- 1 What was the question that the Queen wanted the knight to answer?
- 2 Could the knight get a satisfactory answer to this question?
- 3 What did the knight see in the wood?
- 4 What did he promise the old lady?
- 5 What did she ask him to do?
- 6 What choice did she give him on their wedding night?
- 7 What did the knight choose?
- 8 How did the old lady react to his choice?

*The Franklin's Tale*

- 1 What did both Arveragus and Dorigen agree to be in their marriage?
- 2 What did Dorigen keep looking at in the sea?
- 3 Dorigen said she would become Aurelius's lover on what condition? Did she think this would happen?
- 4 Why did Aurelius's brother take him to Orléans?
- 5 What did Arveragus tell Dorigen to do?
- 6 What did Aurelius think of Arveragus and Dorigen, and what did he do?
- 7 Why didn't the magician want his payment?

**PART TWO: LANGUAGE EXERCISES**

**Chapter 1: *The Prologue***

**2** **Vocabulary – adjectives and nouns**

Chaucer uses many adjectives to describe the pilgrims. Write the forms of the nouns next to the adjectives. The first is done as an example.

- |               |                    |               |       |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| 0 chivalrous  | .....chivalry..... |               |       |
| 1 brave       | .....              | 7 educated    | ..... |
| 2 modest      | .....              | 8 respectable | ..... |
| 3 polite      | .....              | 9 hospitable  | ..... |
| 4 sensitive   | .....              | 10 religious  | ..... |
| 5 fashionable | .....              | 11 patient    | ..... |
| 6 wealthy     | .....              | 12 corrupt    | ..... |

## Chapter 2: *The Knight's Tale*

**FIRST 3 Gap filling**

Read the summary of *The Knight's Tale* below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Palamon and Arcite were two cousins (0) .....<sup>who</sup>..... lived in the Greek city of Thebes. When Theseus, (1) ..... Duke of Athens, attacked their city, Palamon and Arcite fought bravely but in the (2) ..... they were taken prisoner, taken back to Athens and locked in a tower.

One day Emily, the sister of Hippolyta, Theseus's wife, (3) ..... walking in the garden near the tower. She was very beautiful and when Palamon and Arcite saw her they (4) ..... fell in love with her and began arguing (5) ..... who should marry her.

Soon after, Arcite was freed (6) ..... condition that he left Athens. However, he came (7) ..... secretly to Athens and found a job in Emily's house. After seven years Palamon escaped (8) ..... the tower and arrived in the countryside. There he met Arcite, who was out riding. The two cousins began fighting for Emily until Theseus arrived (9) ..... Hippolyta and Emily.

(10) ..... first Theseus was very angry but then he told Palamon and Arcite to go away and collect 100 knights (11) ..... and then return to Athens to fight. The winner would then marry Emily. Arcite won the (12) ..... but, as he approached Emily, he was thrown from (13) ..... horse. As he lay dying he told Palamon and Emily to (14) ..... married. They (15) ..... very sad, but after the funeral they got married and lived happily together for the rest of their lives.

## Chapter 3: *The Nun's Priest's Tale*

**4 Past simple and past perfect simple**

Complete the following sentences. In each of the gaps use one verb from the box in the Past Simple and one verb in the Past Perfect Simple. The first is done as an example.

be	come	fly	have	love	open	finish	reach	recover
steal	stop	try	tell (x2)	thank	walk			

- a After he had recovered from the shock of the dream, he walked around the farmyard.
- b The fox ..... running when he ..... the forest.
- c Pertelot ..... Chanticleer since she ..... a young chick.
- d One morning, Chanticleer ..... his wife that he ..... a terrible dream.
- e Chanticleer ..... up into the trees after the fox ..... his mouth.
- f The fox ..... Chanticleer that he ..... to the farmyard to hear him sing.
- g After the priest ..... his tale, the Host ..... him.
- h Everyone ..... to catch the fox who ..... Chanticleer.

**5 Summary**

Put the sentences in exercise 4 above in the order they happen in the story. Write the letters a-h in the boxes.

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8

**6 A Nigerian fable**

In activity 3 of Chapter 3 you read a fable about a snake and a toad. Here is another fable which comes from the Igbo language of south-east Nigeria. Read the fable and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Once upon a time, all the animals were (0) .....<sup>invited</sup>..... to an important meeting. As they arrived (1) ..... the square early in the morning, one of (2) ....., the cockerel, was seen by his neighbours going (3) ..... the opposite direction. "Why are you going (4) ..... from the square? Didn't you get the invitation?" they said.



“Yes, I (5) .....,” said the cock, “and I certainly (6) ..... come to the meeting if I didn’t have (7) ..... important to do at home. Please (8) ..... my apologies to everyone at the meeting, and say that even (9) ..... I won’t be there in body, I’ll be there (10) ..... spirit! Whatever you decide, you can count (11) ..... my complete support.”

The reason why the animals (12) ..... been invited to the meeting was to discuss the problem of man’s frequent sacrifice of animals to his gods. In the noisy but short meeting (13) ..... was decided that they would offer man just one sacrificial animal if he (14) ..... leave all the others in peace. It was decided (15) ..... everyone that the cockerel should be the animal permanently offered to man.

Now write a moral to this fable in no more than 12 words. Add a title.

### Chapter 4: *The Pardoner’s Tale*

**FIRST 7** In activity 4 of Chapter 4 you read a traditional tale about Death and a servant who tried to escape by going to Samarra. Here is the same story, but told in slightly different words. Read the story and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

There was once a rich merchant in Baghdad who was very (0) ... of his servant. One morning, as (1) ....., the merchant sent his servant to the market to buy food, but not (2) ..... after he came back, his face completely (3) ..... He had obviously been (4) ..... by something. The merchant asked him what the (5) ..... was. “I was in the market,” said the servant “when I had a strange (6) ..... . It was as if someone was (7) ..... me. I turned around, and saw a person (8) ..... at me, with his mouth open wide. He was (9) ..... black. ‘Who are you?’ I said, terribly afraid. ‘I am Death,’ he said. Master, please (10) ..... me leave Baghdad now, immediately! I can go to my (11) ..... town, Samarra, and stay with my family. I’ll be (12) ..... there: Death won’t find me there.’ The merchant was a very (13) ..... man, and gave his servant his horse so that he could get to Samarra the evening of the same day. The merchant then went to the market to (14) ..... Death. He found him and said angrily, “Why did you frighten my servant this morning?” “I didn’t

(15) ..... frighten him,” Death replied. “It was just that I was surprised to see him here in Baghdad this morning, because I have an appointment with him tonight – in Samarra.”

- |    |                        |                       |                     |                         |
|----|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 0  | <b>A</b> fond          | <b>B</b> affectionate | <b>C</b> friendly   | <b>D</b> kind           |
| 1  | <b>A</b> custom        | <b>B</b> habit        | <b>C</b> usual      | <b>D</b> daily          |
| 2  | <b>A</b> long          | <b>B</b> much time    | <b>C</b> long time  | <b>D</b> very           |
| 3  | <b>A</b> without blood | <b>B</b> white        | <b>C</b> green      | <b>D</b> without colour |
| 4  | <b>A</b> awed          | <b>B</b> afraid       | <b>C</b> shocked    | <b>D</b> terrified      |
| 5  | <b>A</b> story         | <b>B</b> matter       | <b>C</b> problem    | <b>D</b> issue          |
| 6  | <b>A</b> sentiment     | <b>B</b> thought      | <b>C</b> idea       | <b>D</b> feeling        |
| 7  | <b>A</b> watching at   | <b>B</b> staring at   | <b>C</b> fixing     | <b>D</b> looking to     |
| 8  | <b>A</b> fingering     | <b>B</b> showing      | <b>C</b> indicating | <b>D</b> pointing       |
| 9  | <b>A</b> wearing in    | <b>B</b> dressed in   | <b>C</b> clothed in | <b>D</b> appalled in    |
| 10 | <b>A</b> let           | <b>B</b> consent      | <b>C</b> permit     | <b>D</b> allow          |
| 11 | <b>A</b> home          | <b>B</b> family       | <b>C</b> birth      | <b>D</b> original       |
| 12 | <b>A</b> careful       | <b>B</b> certain      | <b>C</b> secure     | <b>D</b> safe           |
| 13 | <b>A</b> gentle        | <b>B</b> friendly     | <b>C</b> kind       | <b>D</b> sympathetic    |
| 14 | <b>A</b> search        | <b>B</b> look for     | <b>C</b> locate     | <b>D</b> find out       |
| 15 | <b>A</b> mean to       | <b>B</b> purpose to   | <b>C</b> plan for   | <b>D</b> intend on      |

### Chapter 5: *The Wife of Bath’s Tale*

#### 8 Vocabulary – adjectives and nouns

The question ‘What is it that women most desire?’ can be answered using either adjectives or nouns, e.g. Most women want their partners to be generous. Most women want generosity from their partners. Write the forms of the nouns next to the adjectives. When you have finished, write some more relevant adjectives and nouns.

- |   |              |       |    |             |       |
|---|--------------|-------|----|-------------|-------|
| 1 | affectionate | ..... | 7  | independent | ..... |
| 2 | famous       | ..... | 8  | successful  | ..... |
| 3 | healthy      | ..... | 9  | comfortable | ..... |
| 4 | respectful   | ..... | 10 | happy       | ..... |
| 5 | beautiful    | ..... | 11 | luxurious   | ..... |
| 6 | free         | ..... | 12 | wealthy     | ..... |

## Chapter 6: *The Franklin's Tale*

### FIRST 9 Summary

Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Arveragus, a knight, married a beautiful young woman, Dorigen, and they promised (0) ..... they would always respect (1) ..... other and that neither of them would try to dominate the other in (2) ..... way. But when Arveragus was away fighting, Dorigen was extremely sad and became obsessed (3) ..... black rocks in the sea. One day, Dorigen agreed to join friends at a party in a garden. (4) ..... she was alone a handsome young squire called Aurelius came (5) ..... to her and confessed he had been in love with her (6) ..... two years and more. Dorigen was shocked and sent him away, but so (7) ..... not to be cruel she said she would be his if he (8) ..... remove the black rocks. In despair, Aurelius returned home, (9) ..... his brother cared for him. Aurelius was (10) ..... ill that he stayed in bed for over two years. Finally, his brother remembered a friend of (11) ..... from Orléans university. This friend was an expert (12) ..... white magic. Aurelius and his brother went to Orléans and promised the magician 1,000 pounds if he could (13) ..... the black rocks disappear. The magician agreed, and the rocks disappeared. Aurelius then hurried to Dorigen and asked her to (14) ..... her promise. Horrified, Dorigen went home and thought (15) ..... committing suicide. Arveragus returned home and found his wife desperate. Dorigen told him the story of her bargain, and Arveragus said she must keep her promise, (16) ..... though it hurt him. Dorigen and Aurelius met, but when Aurelius heard of Arveragus' nobility and sacrifice, he felt (17) ..... for Dorigen and her husband, and sent her (18) ..... home. He realized that he could pay only half of (19) ..... he owed the magician. When he told the magician that he hadn't insisted (20) ..... Dorigen keeping her promise, the magician cancelled Aurelius' entire debt.

### FIRST 10 Gap filling

Read the story below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

#### The Princess and the Frog

One morning a princess was (0) ..... font esempio with her favourite thing, a golden ball, when she (1) ..... it into a deep pool. 'If only I could get my ball again, I would give (2) ..... I have,' she said. A frog put his head

out of the water and said, 'I don't want your jewels, but if you (3) ..... me live with you and sleep on your bed, I will get your ball.' 'This horrible frog can never (4) ..... to the palace,' thought the princess, 'but he may be able to get my ball.' So she said, 'Well, if you get my ball, I'll do as you ask.' The frog (5) ..... under the water, came up with the ball in his mouth, and put it down by the edge of the pool. The princess (6) ..... it up happily and ran back to the palace. That evening there was a gentle (7) ..... at the door of the royal dining room. The princess opened the door and, frightened, quickly closed it again. 'What's the matter?' asked the king, her father. 'There's a horrible frog outside,' said the princess, and (8) ..... what had happened. 'You have made a promise, so you must (9) ..... it,' said the king. 'Let him in.' The frog (10) ..... into the room, ate from the princess's plate and asked to be taken to her bedroom. (11) ....., the princess put him on her pillow. In the morning he jumped up and hopped out of the palace. 'Now I'm free!' thought the princess, unable to (12) ..... her luck. But the next evening the same thing happened, and the third. But the following morning the princess (13) ..... to see a handsome prince standing by her bed. He told her he had been (14) ..... a spell, and had had to wait until a princess would let him sleep on her bed for three nights. 'You have (15) ..... the cruel spell,' said the prince, 'and now, marry me!'

- |    |              |             |               |                |
|----|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 0  | A playing    | B amusing   | C joking      | D entertaining |
| 1  | A threw      | B let fall  | C dropped     | D hit          |
| 2  | A everything | B all       | C most        | D anything     |
| 3  | A allow      | B let       | C permit      | D concede      |
| 4  | A make       | B reach     | C arrive      | D get          |
| 5  | A jumped     | B leaped    | C dived       | D ran          |
| 6  | A grabbed    | B picked    | C seized      | D took         |
| 7  | A knock      | B sound     | C shout       | D noise        |
| 8  | A explained  | B said      | C explicated  | D told         |
| 9  | A do         | B maintain  | C keep        | D respect      |
| 10 | A ran        | B rushed    | C hopped      | D walked       |
| 11 | A Quickly    | B Carefully | C Hopefully   | D Reluctantly  |
| 12 | A trust      | B believe   | C thank       | D feel         |
| 13 | A hoped      | B believed  | C surprised   | D woke         |
| 14 | A put under  | B put with  | C cursed with | D cursed by    |
| 15 | A cured      | B stopped   | C broken      | D interrupted  |

**PART ONE: COMPREHENSION CHECK****1 The Prologue**

- 1 (At the Tabard Inn) in London.
- 2 To Canterbury, to visit the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket.
- 3 The Knight and the Squire.
- 4 Two: the Prioress and the Wife of Bath.
- 5 Who suggested the storytelling competition? The Host (of the Tabard Inn).

**The Knight's Tale**

- 1 In a tower (in Athens).
- 2 Because they fell in love with the same girl/with Emily.
- 3 To be near Emily.
- 4 Fighting
- 5 Arcite
- 6 Palamon

**The Nun's Priest's Tale**

- 1 A (poor) widow (and her two daughters).
- 2 A horrible animal (that was going to kill him).
- 3 No (She didn't believe in dreams.)
- 4 By praising his singing.
- 5 He suggested that he shouted at the people who were following them (to say he was cleverer than them).

**The Pardoner's Tale**

- 1 For the funeral of a friend of theirs.
- 2 To (find and) kill Death.
- 3 Rudely
- 4 Under an oak tree (in a wood).
- 5 What did they find under the tree? A pile of (new) gold coins.
- 6 To get bread and wine/food and drink.
- 7 Two of the men stabbed the youngest and then drank the poisoned wine that the youngest had brought.

**The Wife of Bath's Tale**

- 1 What is it that women most desire?
- 2 No
- 3 A group of ladies (dancing in a circle).
- 4 To do the first thing that she asked him (to do).
- 5 Marry her.
- 6 To be old and ugly but faithful (and obedient and loving) or to be young and beautiful but attractive to other men (and, she implies, not faithful).
- 7 To leave the decision to his wife/the old lady.
- 8 She was happy/pleased, and changed into a beautiful young woman; she promised to be faithful, too.

**The Franklin's Tale**

- 1 Equal partners
- 2 Black rocks
- 3 If he removed the black rocks. No (she didn't think he could ever remove the rocks)
- 4 To meet a magician who could remove the rocks.
- 5 Become Aurelius's lover (but not say a word about it to anybody).
- 6 He felt sorry for and admired Arveragus and Dorigen; he released Dorigen from her promise.
- 7 He wanted to show he could behave as well as a knight or a squire (be as honourable and generous as a knight or a squire).

**PART TWO: LANGUAGE EXERCISES****2 Vocabulary – adjectives and nouns**

- 1 bravery 2 modesty 3 politeness
- 4 sensitivity 5 fashion 6 wealth
- 7 education 8 respect 9 hospitality
- 10 religious 11 patience 12 corruption

**3 Gap filling**

0 who 1 the 2 end 3 was 4 both  
5 about 6 on 7 back 8 from  
9 with 10 At 11 each 12 battle/  
fight 13 his 14 get 15 were/felt

**4 Past simple and past perfect simple**

a had recovered/walked  
b stopped/had reached  
c had loved/was  
d told/had had  
e flew/had opened  
f told/had come  
g had told/thanked  
h wanted/had stolen

**5 Summary**

1 c 2 d 3 a 4 f 5 h 6 b 7 e 8 g

**6 A Nigerian fable**

1 in 2 them 3 in 4 away 5 did  
6 would 7 something 8 give 9 if  
10 in 11 on 12 had 13 it 14 would  
15 by

**7 Gap filling**

1 C 2 A 3 B 4 C 5 B 6 D 7 B  
8 D 9 B 10 A 11 A 12 D 13 C  
14 B 15 A

**8 Vocabulary – adjectives and nouns**

1 affection 2 fame 3 health  
4 respect 5 beauty 6 freedom  
7 independence 8 success  
9 comfort 10 happiness  
11 luxury 12 wealth

**9 Summary**

1 each 2 any 3 with/by  
4 While/When 5 up 6 for 7 as  
8 would/could 9 where 10 so  
11 his 12 in 13 make 14 keep  
15 of/about 16 even 17 sorry  
18 back 19 what 20 on

**10 Gap filling**

1 C 2 A 3 B 4 D 5 C 6 B 7 A  
8 A 9 C 10 C 11 D 12 B 13 D  
14 A 15 C