

Read the text. For each question 1-5, choose the correct answer.

The Ultimate Antagonist

'A protagonist and his/her story can only be as intellectually fascinating and emotionally compelling as the forces of antagonism make them'. That is one of the key points of Robert McKee's 'Story', often considered the best book about how to write a good screenplay. So what exactly makes a good antagonist?

Firstly, based on McKee's argument, the villain of the story should be powerful. The more powerful, the harder the struggle for the hero. And the harder the struggle, the more compelling the story. By creating an antagonist who is exceptionally good at attacking the protagonist's greatest weakness, the writer puts the hero of the story in various dire, life or death situations. For instance, if much of their power comes from their physical strength and their ways of intimidating, by putting the hero in a context where these traits are nullified, their own power becomes nothing more than a weakness.

Most heroes go by a moral code or have a certain reason for doing what they do. Either to protect a loved one or to save somebody or simply to maintain the order. Thus, the more chaos an antagonist produces, the more it upsets the established order and forces the hero to test his limits. When showing the world that the hero's own moral code may sometimes prove to be his own weakness, the antagonist gains the upper hand. A hero can only be as good as he chooses to be, whereas the villain is often characterised by how much the hero allows him to develop and elaborate his plans.

The ultimate antagonist pressures the protagonist into making difficult choices, often having to choose the lesser evil. Being evil just for the sake of being evil is the first sign of a poorly-written 'bad guy'. However, if he or she is intelligent enough to access the personal and often hidden parts of the hero in order to succeed into tricking them into making the wrong choice, it shows just how great a villain can be built.

In the end, how exactly do we know a certain antagonist is the right one for the hero? The answer is quite simple: you make them compete for the same goal. By doing so, the two come in direct conflict and have to face each other again and again throughout the story. For example, if the two characters envision the same thing in two very different ways that instantly makes them enemies, thus creating conflict.

Even though when we see a film or read a book we may not instantly realise why we find it so interesting and original, by looking into how the relationship between the hero and the villain is constructed we may find the answer. And ironically, that often starts from the antagonist himself.

1. According to Robert McKee, the protagonist

- A) has to be more intelligent than the antagonist.
- B) has to be the main focus of the story in order for it to be compelling.
- C) needs a balanced force of antagonism to make their story good.

2. An antagonist's power comes from

- A) their physical strength alone.
- B) their means of exploring the hero's weaknesses.
- C) putting the hero in a situation where they are stronger.

3. According to the writer, in order to gain the upper hand, the antagonist

- A) must find the protagonist's moral code and exploit it.
- B) must push their own limits.
- C) has to deal with a loved one's weakness.

4. To be able to write a convincing villain, one must
- A) make them force the hero into making tough decisions.
 - B) provide direct access to some of their hidden aspects.
 - C) dig deep into one's personal past.

5. In the fifth paragraph, the writer suggests that the hero and the villain
- A) should always fight throughout the story.
 - B) have to agree upon a certain thing.
 - C) must have a common objective.

Read the first sentence. For the second sentence, choose the best answer for each gap (6-10) so that the meaning stays the same.

6. The three kids didn't pay any attention to the warning sign.
The three kids the warning sign.

- A) didn't take no notice of
- B) took some notice of
- C) took no notice of

7. There was not enough food to feed everyone.
There was to feed everyone.

- A) too little food
- B) too few food
- C) too much food

- 8) Silvia wanted to be an actress, so she left her job as a TV host.
Silvia become an actress.

- A) gave up being a TV host with a view to
- B) gave up being a TV host so as to
- C) gave up being a TV host and to

9. "Can I use this printer, Max?" asked Pete.
Pete asked Max printer.

- A) if he can use that
- B) if he could use that
- C) if he can use this

10. The flying time to Dubai is about six hours.
It to Dubai.

- A) makes about six hours to fly
- B) is about six hours to fly
- C) takes about six hours to fly

For each question (11-15), read and choose the best answer.

11. Do you think he is a party animal?

- A) Doubt it! Sloths are quite quite.
- B) I guess so. Bats don't sleep at night!
- C) Oh, no! He is a very quiet person.

12. Where can I park my car?

- A) Try the lot across the street.
- B) Maybe upstairs in the attic.
- C) In the cellar.

13. What kind of hours do you keep?

- A) The early bird gets the worm.
- B) Those which are handmade.
- C) The pricey kind.

14. Will that be cash or credit card?

- A) Let me dig by Visa out of my bag.
- B) Sure, let me just take out a loan
- C) It just might.

15. You could try going to a flea market.

- A) Fleas are difficult to get rid of.
- B) Used items are not my thing.
- C) Fleas cost an arm and a leg these days.

Read the text. For each space (16-25), choose the best answer.

The Incredible Story of Marcus Willis

There have been many examples in the last few years of total unknowns who manage to achieve overnight fame. However, in a sport like tennis, such examples are rare, as a result of the long, difficult practice it takes to make your name up the rankings. But what if I told you that there is one player who seemed to literally not exist one week, and then made it all to Center Court Wimbledon the next, to take **(16)** who else but the great Roger Federer?

Meet Marcus Willis, a British tennis player who **(17)** up the sport at the age of 9, winning various tournaments and managing to rank 15 in the juniors table worldwide. **(18)** his great talent, he had the reputation of slacking off and not taking his promising career too seriously. His rebellious nature and lack of effort eventually led to his **(19)** sent home from the juniors Australian Open tournament in 2008. He slowly started to play less and less and struggled with injuries and inconsistencies while approaching adulthood. Marcus also fell **(20)** of shape due to a lack of practice and gained quite a significant amount of weight in the process. After tearing his hamstring, he decided to fully give up tennis and accept a teaching position in Philadelphia. That is, until he met a girl...

Marcus met his future wife at a concert and the two fell in love immediately. She managed to **(21)** him out of giving up on his dream of becoming a professional tennis player and give it another go. And

so he did. Marcus started training more and more and taking part in minor tournaments across the UK, doing his best to **(22)** ends meet in the process.

In 2016, Marcus participated in an event called the 'LTA Wimbledon Wildcard Play Offs 2016'. In this tournament, two lucky British players out of sixteen would be given the chance to enter the Wimbledon Qualifying Round. No one could anticipate what would happen next.

Despite initially not even being able to play in the main draw, Marcus managed to win all three qualifying matches and **(23)** himself a trip to the Grand Slam. There, in the first round, he faced and defeated a player who was ranked 99 in the world, while he was ranked only 721. Just like that, an unknown British player's name was everywhere - news outlets worldwide wanted to know the story of this man who seemed to emerge out of nowhere straight **(24)** the great stage of tennis. With a bit of luck, he managed to win all his qualifying matches and went all the way to actually facing Roger Federer in the third round. The fairytale would end there, however, with Marcus losing in straight sets against the Swiss champion.

At the end of it all, Marcus had **(25)** a career-high ranking of 441 and still, to this day, holds the record for the best winning streak at Wimbledon. Not bad for someone who had wanted to give up tennis just a few months before, right?

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|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 16. A) by | B) at | C) on | D) against |
| 17. A) made | B) took | C) seized | D) got |
| 18. A) However | B) In spite | C) Despite | D) Although |
| 19. A) being | B) be | C) was | D) been |
| 20. A) off | B) down | C) out | D) kind |
| 21. A) speak | B) change | C) tell | D) talk |
| 22. A) make | B) take | C) do | D) have |
| 23. A) gained | B) earned | C) won | D) bought |
| 24. A) from | B) at | C) back | D) to |
| 25. A) achieved | B) arrived | C) completed | D) done |

For each sentence (26-30), choose the correctly-spelled word to complete each gap.

26. We actually meet up for a drink.

- A) ocasionaly B) occasionally C) ocasionaly D) occasionally

27. I do not do it for a living; I am an programmer.

- A) amateur B) amatuer C) amature D) ammatore

28. You will have to sweep the floors yourself. The cleaner needs mending.

- A) vaccum B) vacuum C) vacume D) vacuum

29. Good personal is important for maintaining both physical and mental health.

- A) hygiene B) hygene C) hygine D) higiene

30. He called for an end to against his department.

- A) aggression B) agression C) aggreition D) aggresion