

総合英語 読解問題演習

Read the passage below and choose the best word or phrase from among the four choices for each blank.

The Fate of the Mayflower

For generations, historians and ship enthusiasts have been trying to learn more about the brave ship which brought the pilgrims to America. The task has been a difficult one, because the Mayflower was (1) name for ships back in early 17th-century England that there were at least 20 Mayflowers when the pilgrims left for the New World.

An exact duplicate of the Mayflower has been built in England and given to the people of the United States as a symbol of the good will and common (2) Britons and Americans. The pilgrims' Mayflower apparently was built originally as a fishing vessel. It seems to have been 90 feet long by 22 feet wide, displacing 180 tons of water. The duplicate measures 90 feet by 26 feet, displaces 183 tons, and has a crew of 21, as did the original vessel. The new Mayflower has no motor, but travels faster than the old ship.

What happened to the historic ship? As far as can be told, the Mayflower went back to less illustrious jobs and, not too many years later, was scrapped. What happened to the beams, masts, and planking is not known for sure. In the English city of Abingdon, there is a Congregational church which contains two heavy wooden pillars. Some say these pillars (3) the Mayflower. A barn in the English town of Jordans seemed to be built of old ship timbers. Marine experts say these timbers were impregnated with salt and, if put together, would form a vessel of 90 feet by 22 feet. The man who owned the farm when the peculiar barn was built was a relative of the man who appraised the Mayflower when it was scrapped.

So the original Mayflower may still be doing service ashore while her duplicate sails the seas.

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| (1) | 1 a too great | 2 a very famous |
| | 3 such a common | 4 quite a fanciful |
| (2) | 1 descendants linked | 2 knowledge linked |
| | 3 property linking | 4 ancestry linking |
| (3) | 1 must be beams on | 2 were masts of |
| | 3 were oars for | 4 would be planking to |