

THEME 3 HARD TIMES VOCABULARY EXERCISES (SUNSHINE)

A. Choose the correct answer.

Kobe Bryant (1978 –)

Kobe Bryant, the famous basketball player, was born on August 23, 1978 in Philadelphia. He is the son of former NBA player Joe “Jellybean” Bryant. In 1984, after ending his NBA career, the older Bryant (1) _____ the family to Italy and he played on the Italian League there. (2) _____ he grew up in Italy alongside two athletic older sisters, Kobe was an enthusiastic player of both basketball and soccer. When the family returned to Philadelphia in 1991, Kobe (3) _____ the Lower Merion high school basketball team there, and he helped it become the state champion four years in a row. With an eye on the NBA, he wanted to be better than any basketball player in Philadelphia, so he worked very hard.

He got good grades and high SAT scores, but Bryant decided to go straight to the NBA from high school. In 1996, the Los Angeles Lakers picked him and his real story began. In his second season, while he (4) _____ as guard, at the age of 19, he became the youngest All-Star in NBA history. Bryant went on to help the team win three consecutive NBA championships and he played in first team all-NBA in 2002 and 2003. In the 2009 NBA finals, the Lakers (5) _____ the Orlando Magic to win the championship title. After this championship, he (6) _____ to stay with the Los Angeles Lakers for several more years.

Nowadays, he also (7) _____ advertisement agreements with famous companies. He is very popular and people still love him. Especially young teenagers dream that one day they (8) _____ a basketball hero like him in the future. In almost all his interviews, Kobe says that he believes that every teenager (9) _____ successful like him when they work continuously and enthusiastically. He adds that when he was a small kid, he (10) _____ very weak, but then, he tried hard and now, he is one of the strongest players in NBA, so people should trust themselves if they want the ultimate success.

1. a. used to take b. takes c. took d. was taking
2. a. Because b. So c. But d. Before
3. a. joins b. joined c. was joining d. used to join
4. a. used to play b. plays c. is playing d. was playing
5. a. beats b. was beating c. beat d. used to beat
6. a. decided b. was deciding c. used to decide d. stays
7. a. was having b. had c. is having d. has
8. a. become b. will become c. became d. are becoming
9. a. can be b. must be c. have to be d. should be
10. a. were b. can be c. is d. used to be