

X-Word/Verb matchups
From “On Attitude and Self-Esteem” By Edgar Bledsoe
Chicken Soup for the Woman’s Soul

Directions: Mark the X-Words then change the VXS form of the verb in parentheses () to the correct form.

It was 1933. I had (is) 1 _____ laid off my part-time job and could no longer (makes) 2 _____ my contribution to the family **larder**. (place to store food) Our only income was what Mother could (makes) 3 _____ by (does) 4 _____ dressmaking for others.

Then Mother got sick for a few weeks and was unable to (works) 5 _____. The electric company came out and cut off the power when we couldn’t (pays) 6 _____ the bill. Then the gas company cut off the gas. Then the water company. But the Health Department made them (turns) 7 _____ the water back on for reasons of sanitation. The cupboard (gets) 8 _____ very bare. Fortunately, we (has) 9 _____ a vegetable garden and were able to (cooks) 10 _____ some of its produce in a campfire in the backyard.

Then one day my younger sister came tripping home from school with, “We’re supposed to (brings) 11 _____ something to school tomorrow to (gives) 12 _____ to the poor.”

Mother started to (**blurts**) 13 _____ **out**. (speaks suddenly), “I don’t (knows) 14 _____ of anyone who is any poorer than we are,” when her mother, who was (lives) _____ with us at the time, **shushed** (silenced) her with a hand on her arm and a frown. 15 _____ Eva,” she said, “if you give that child the idea that she is ‘poor **folks** (people) at her age, she will (is) 16 _____ ’poor folks’ for the rest of her life. There is one jar of that homemade jelly left. She can (takes) 17 _____ that.”

Grandmother found some tissue paper and a little bit of pink ribbon with which she wrapped our last jar of jelly, and Sis **tripped off** (ran off) to school the next day proudly carrying her “gift to the poor.”

And ever after, if there was a problem in the community, Sis just naturally assumed that she was (supposes) 18 _____ to (is) 19 _____ part of the solution.