Learning Vocabulary - Phrases with first

Ten phrases with first

Here are 10 phrases. Read the phrases and the descriptions and then fill in the gaps in the sentences at the bottom of the page.

first - discourse markers
First off - firstly - first and foremost - at first - first thing's first
discourse markers to introduce or say what you are going to do first

first floor
Floors are used to describe levels of buildings. In the UK, you have to go up to the first floor of a building, then the second floor and the third floor and so on.

firsthand
This is usually used to describe things that you experience or information that you got yourself and didn't hear through someone else.

love at first sight
It basically means to fall in love with someone the first time you see them.

first class
If something is first class, it's of the highest standard and quality. In the UK, you get first class and second class stamps for letters and parcels.
First class is also used for travel on trains and planes.

Fill in the gaps with the correct word or phrase.

1. If there's an accident at work, I have to help because I know _____ ___.
2. My bedroom is on the _____ _____ so I have to go upstairs to bed.
3. I am trying to learn French but I'm struggling. I can't seem to ___ ___ __ _____ ___.
4. Rob's bringing pizza tomorrow, but you have to get there early as it's _____ _____ _____ _____.
5. My sister studied French at university and got a _____.
6. The whistleblower has ________ knowledge of the criminal activity.
7. My wife's ________ isn't English, but she speaks so fluently, you wouldn't know it.
8. _____ _____ _____, we need to do the most important thing.
9. When Jamie first met becky, it was ____ __ _____.
10. I went to London on the train. I got a _____ _____ ticket because I wanted to have more space and a comfortable journey.

a first (class degree)
A first is the best mark or award you can receive at a UK university. The best is a first or a first class degree then a two-one then a two-two and then a third or a third class degree.

first language
Your first language is your native language or your mother tongue. The one you spoke first.

first aid
First aid is basic medical treatment. Someone in a school or at work is usually trained in first aid.

to get out of first gear
A car usually has five gears. The expression is normally used in the negative and it means not to have got going or not to be very active.

first come first served
The expression is quite literal, it basically means the first people to arrive somewhere will be the first people to get what is offered.

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