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ABOUT THE TASK

We know books

- In Reading and Use of English Part 1, you read a short text with eight gaps.
- There are four multiple-choice options for each gap.
- You choose the word or phrase that best fits each gap.
- The gaps can test your knowledge of differences in precise meaning between similar words, of collocations, or of words that occur in fixed phrases.
- They may also test your understanding of verb patterns, for example whether a verb is followed by an infinitive or a clause.
- The gaps may also test your understanding of complementation, for example which preposition certain words are followed by.
- Some gaps may test your knowledge of phrasal verbs and linking words.
- Each question is worth one mark.

Practice task

- 1 Read the first paragraph of a text about an animal called an octopus. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). There is an example at the beginning (0).

THE OCTOPUS: an extraordinarily talented animal

Octopuses are far from the one-hit wonders of the animal kingdom, having (0) _____ the world's oceans for the past 300 million years. They are especially well known for their astonishing intelligence and ability to change colour in order to blend in with their surroundings. The (1) _____ majority of species live in surface waters but a small number are found in the ocean depths. They have an amazing ability to squeeze into and through the smallest of holes and spaces, and live a largely (2) _____ existence, only meeting up with others of their species to breed. Octopuses are, for the most (3) _____, predatory animals. Their diet is largely (4) _____ up of small fish, crabs, shellfish and worms.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 0 | A existed | B resided | C inhabited | D dwelt |
| 1 | A vast | B enormous | C immense | D gigantic |
| 2 | A lone | B solitary | C lonely | D unsociable |
| 3 | A measure | B amount | C share | D part |
| 4 | A made | B taken | C built | D put |



How did you do?

- 2 Check your answers.
- 3 Read the five answers for Ex 1 again, including the example.
 - 1 Which answer tests your knowledge of a phrasal verb?
 - 2 Which answer tests your knowledge of the patterns of words that typically follow a vocabulary item?
 - 3 Which answer tests your knowledge of a fixed phrase?
 - 4 Which answer tests your knowledge of collocation?
 - 5 Which answer tests your knowledge of precise meaning?
- 4 Look at the four sets of words in context. What do you notice about how each one is used? Then look at the gaps in the text in Ex 1 again. Can you see why the answers are correct?
 - 1 The **vast majority** of the population agreed with the government's policy.
An **enormous number** of people came out to watch the fireworks.
The announcement attracted an **immense amount** of publicity.
A **gigantic statue** appeared in the empty square overnight.
 - 2 A **lone** figure appeared on the horizon, slowly moving nearer.
James liked the **solitary** life that living on the island necessitated.
Leanne felt **lonely** once the children had gone.
Fiona felt **unsociable** that evening so decided to stay in.
 - 3 The reviews **serve as a measure of** how good this film is.
No amount of persuasion could convince Martin to change his mind.
We've had our **fair share** of bad weather lately.
Good luck **had a part to play** in the team's success.
 - 4 The team is **made up of** both men and women.
No one has **taken up** my offer of a lift to work.
The new teacher really helped to **build up** her confidence.
A shopping centre is being **put up** where the old factory used to be.

Strategies and skills

Fixed phrases

Gaps in Reading and Use of English Part 1 texts are often filled by words that are found in fixed phrases.

- 1 Use the nouns in the box to complete the fixed phrases in the sentences below.

balance desire hesitation horizons
notice power room things

- All _____ considered, third place in the competition was perhaps a fitting result.
- I don't know why the concert was cancelled at such short _____.
- As an actor, it's not always possible to strike a _____ between work and home life.
- Max had a burning _____ to be famous from a young age.
- Kelly did everything in her _____ to get a deal with a publisher.
- There was definite _____ for improvement in Danny's performance.
- The judges had no _____ in awarding the prize to Olivia Hanrahan.
- Reece decided to expand her _____ by applying for work in other countries.

- 2 Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

- It was sometimes difficult to **hold** / **grab** / **seize** / **grasp** the complexities of the plot.
- Seven shows in one week really **had** / **took** / **put** / **made** their toll on Gina's health.
- The singer even **broke** / **smashed** / **cracked** / **split** a few jokes between songs.
- What **drove** / **sent** / **pressed** / **steered** her to give up acting remains a mystery.
- I had no idea he **believed** / **maintained** / **held** / **felt** such strong opinions on the issue.
- The newspaper headline really **activated** / **caught** / **motivated** / **encouraged** her attention.
- The test didn't really **present** / **award** / **donate** / **raise** any great difficulties to Diana.
- These technical flaws **create** / **cause** / **offer** / **pose** very real threats to the film's success.

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- If there's one goal you'd want to achieve, what would it be? What would you do to achieve it?
- What do you think the phrase '15 minutes of fame' means? What's your opinion of celebrity culture?



Collocations

Gaps often test knowledge of collocations: words that naturally go together. Many of the collocations are formed with verbs. It is important to learn as many of these as you can.

- 3 Choose the verb which best completes each sentence.

- She told her daughter to close her eyes and _____ a wish.
A get B make C do D have
- The teacher asked the students to _____ note of the new lesson times.
A take B use C put D write
- Fiona _____ Max making the dinner and went swimming.
A left B allowed C let D sent
- Playing the piano really _____ naturally to some people.
A appears B develops C arrives D comes
- I can't always _____ the difference between a true masterpiece and a fake.
A state B reveal C tell D say
- Appearing on TV allowed Nathan to _____ a lifelong ambition.
A fulfil B complete C conclude D finalise

- 4 Choose the correct word to complete the collocations in the sentences.

- The film is being shot on **site** / **location** / **position** / **set** at the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.
- There's a need for trained mechanics in the country's **work** / **job** / **labour** / **occupation** market.
- There's nowhere **near** / **close** / **like** / **approaching** enough news on TV these days.
- Ecotourism is a real growth **trade** / **business** / **industry** / **corporation** these days.
- He promised me he'd come, so I hope he keeps his **truth** / **fact** / **talk** / **word**.
- The receptionist spoke only **broken** / **damaged** / **spoiled** / **injured** English so I couldn't understand him.

Phrasal verbs

Some questions test your knowledge of phrasal verbs. Sometimes the whole phrasal verb is missing, or sometimes just the verb or the particle.

TIP: Make sure you learn as many phrasal verbs as you can.

5 Choose the option which best completes each sentence.

- Madeleine _____ into an old school friend while she was visiting the city.
A bounced B knocked C bumped D collided
- After reading the article, Rick decided to _____ red meat from his diet.
A cut out B take away C give up D keep off
- Ruth found it hard to work out what the writer was _____ at in the poem.
A intending B trying C pushing D getting
- It took a while before the effects of the medication started to _____ in.
A shoot B kick C jump D hit
- The management put _____ several proposals for staff to discuss and vote on.
A forward B out C through D over
- Andy's uncertainty about what to do _____ from a lack of experience.
A appeared B approached C created D stemmed

Easily confused words

Sometimes you need to choose between words with similar meanings.

TIP: Think carefully about the particular meaning each word has, and also think about the prepositions, collocations and patterns each word is used with.

6 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- The president condemned the shocking response as an act of **violence** / **force** / **aggression** / **fighting**.
- The **acclaimed** / **commended** / **admired** / **applauded** violinist played some of her most popular pieces.
- Despite being favourites, the team were **systematically** / **comprehensively** / **broadly** / **exhaustively** beaten in the final.
- He was alarmed to discover that \$4,000 had been **subtracted** / **detached** / **extracted** / **withdrawn** from his account without his consent.
- There was a lot of **assumption** / **speculation** / **deduction** / **supposition** about who would be the next party leader.
- Temperatures at the research station **plunged** / **dived** / **crashed** / **collapsed** as soon as night fell.

Prepositions

The correct choice for a gap sometimes depends on correctly matching the option with the preposition after the gap.

7 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences, paying attention to the preposition in bold that follows. What prepositions are the other words followed by? Which words are not usually followed by a preposition?

- The prices were _____ **to** those on the internet.
A consistent B matching C comparable D alike
- _____ **to** popular belief, bread is not the best food for birds.
A Contrary B Opposing C Contrasting D Distinctive
- The company was fined because its actions were not in _____ **with** the law.
A contract B accordance C duty D assurance
- He decided to write to the manager in _____ **of** the staff member's behaviour.
A concern B regard C connection D respect
- The videos are _____ **for** anyone who wants to learn to play the guitar.
A aimed B intended C directed D focused
- There's no need for you to be _____ **with** the arrangements for the meeting.
A disturbed B troubled C worried D concerned

8 Complete the sentences with the prepositions in the box.

about in of on to with

- I realised I was completely dependent _____ Alice to translate everything for me.
- Professor Atkins had dedicated her life _____ the study of these fascinating creatures.
- Please leave the building by the nearest exit in the event _____ a fire.
- There's certainly no harm _____ applying for the talent show.
- I'm in two minds _____ learning to dive.
- I couldn't keep pace _____ the fastest runner, so ended up coming second.

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- What is the greatest challenge sport has faced recently in your opinion?
- Apart from physical fitness, what do you think the benefits of exercise are?



Verb patterns

Sometimes you need to think about what kind of pattern follows a verb, e.g. an infinitive, a noun, an *-ing* form or a *that* clause.

- 9 Choose the correct verb pattern to complete each sentence.
- It's anticipated **that prices will rise / prices rising** as a result of the decision.
 - Consumers should beware **to spend / of spending** beyond what they earn.
 - The bank's policy just seems to complicate **matters further / further matters**.
 - He couldn't envision **to make / making** so much money in a single deal.
 - Staff were instructed **to avoid / avoiding** talking to the media about the issue.
 - The director was invited **to give / for giving** a presentation at the event.

Linking words

Some questions test your knowledge of linking words and phrases.

- 10 Complete the sentences with the linking words in the box.

consequently interestingly nonetheless
or owing to whereas

- Healthcare has improved dramatically although, _____, life expectancy has remained about the same.
- The outward journey took three hours _____ the return was more than double this.
- He must have enjoyed the performance _____ he wouldn't have stayed for the whole thing.
- He'd spent all his money by the end of the first week and _____ had nothing left for the rest of the holiday.
- Four extra concert dates have been announced _____ high demand for tickets.
- The water temperature was only 6°C, but she went swimming _____.

EXAM TASK

For questions 1-8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

IS THE 10,000 HOUR RULE A MYTH?

For a number of years, there has been a widely-(0) _____ belief that practising a particular skill for 10,000 hours will turn anyone into a world-class expert. Perhaps unsurprisingly, few have been sufficiently (1) _____ to put this theory to the test. The (2) _____ originally appeared in a popular psychology title, *Outliers*, by Malcolm Gladwell. A key stipulation of the concept was that the practice in (3) _____ had to be 'deliberate' practice. A casual half hour a day strumming a guitar would not (4) _____ this requirement.

However, recent research into deliberate practice has (5) _____ to some intriguing conclusions. The study (6) _____ that even in something as traditionally practice-based as learning a musical instrument, deliberate practice (7) _____ for just 21 percent of the observed improvement. When it comes to professions such as business, in which the skills are (8) _____ less tangible and more difficult to define, the figure falls to a tiny one percent. So, if practice is responsible for such a small proportion of the improvement, what is causing the rest?

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0 | A kept | B said | C thought | D held |
| 1 | A disciplined | B controlled | C restricted | D ordered |
| 2 | A deduction | B principle | C value | D regulation |
| 3 | A request | B demand | C subject | D question |
| 4 | A complete | B succeed | C meet | D reach |
| 5 | A pointed | B finished | C decided | D achieved |
| 6 | A uncovers | B reveals | C exposes | D releases |
| 7 | A amounts | B accounts | C generates | D justifies |
| 8 | A cautiously | B uncertainly | C doubtfully | D arguably |

ABOUT THE TASK

We know
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- In Reading and Use of English Part 2, you read a short text which has eight gaps in it. You have to think of the word that best fits each gap.
- There are no options to choose from.
- You have to think about the **structure of the language** in the text and the **meaning of the text**.
- The word you write must be **spelled correctly**, and must fit the gap grammatically.
- You cannot write contractions such as *don't* or *won't*.
- The gaps test your understanding of different kinds of grammar, e.g. auxiliary and modal verbs, dependent prepositions, relative pronouns, articles, etc.
- They also test your knowledge of phrasal verbs, linking words and expressions and fixed phrases.
- The answer is always a single word.
- Occasionally, there is more than one possible correct answer.
- Each question is worth one mark.

Practice task

- 1 Read the first paragraph of a text about a project monitoring animals called humpback whales. Think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

THE WHALE TAIL DATABASE

Each human face is unique, making it easy for us to differentiate (0) BETWEEN people we know and those we have never previously met. When (1) _____ comes to attempting to identify a humpback whale, however, we have to turn (2) _____ an alternative means of recognition.

Research teams worldwide have long used the whales' tails to identify whether individuals they encounter are new to the area or are whales that they are already familiar (3) _____. An increasing number of teams are now contributing to an international database, in (4) _____ the main resource is photos of humpback whales' tails. This is done so (5) _____ to monitor population size, migratory routes and the distribution of individuals in resting, calving and feeding areas around the world.

How did you do?

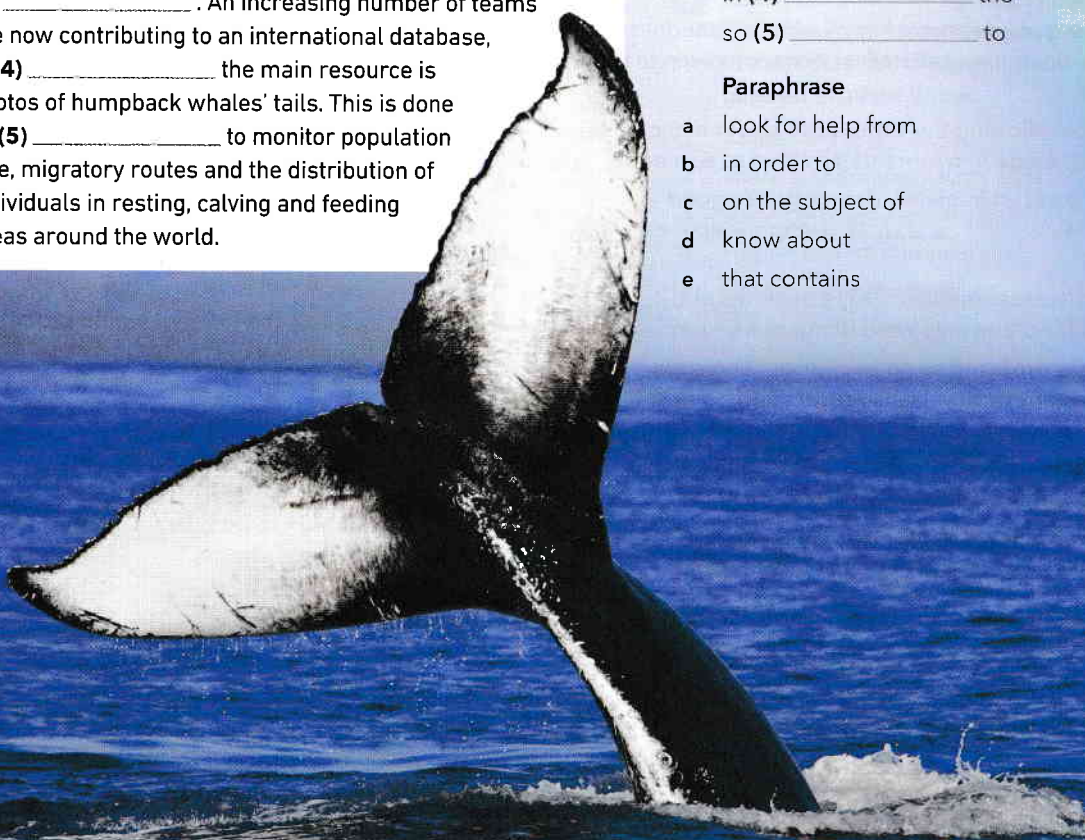
- 2 Check your answers.
- 3 Read the answers to the five questions in Ex 1 again. Which answer
 - a is a dependent preposition that's used with an adjective?
 - b is a relative pronoun?
 - c is a pronoun in a fixed phrase?
 - d is a phrasal verb particle?
 - e is an adverb used in a fixed expression?
- 4 Match the sections of the text with their paraphrases a-e.

Section of text

When (1) _____ comes to
to turn (2) _____
familiar (3) _____
in (4) _____ the
so (5) _____ to

Paraphrase

- a look for help from
- b in order to
- c on the subject of
- d know about
- e that contains



Strategies and skills

Perfect and continuous tenses

The gaps sometimes test your knowledge of present verb tenses. The gapped word is often an auxiliary verb, for example a form of the verbs *be*, *do* or *have*. The verb may use the perfect aspect and/or be in the active or passive form.

1 Complete the sentences with one word in each gap.

- The team has _____ monitoring the group of whales for several years.
- The waters there _____ believed to be where female whales give birth to their young.
- The extent to which the whales' habits _____ been altered by human activity is unclear.
- So what reason _____ researchers give for the whales returning to the area each year?
- After _____ photographed, the whale's tail is uploaded to the database.
- The database _____ been added to by research teams from all around the world.

Conjunctions

Some gaps test your knowledge of linking words.

TIP: Think about what the linking word is doing in the sentence: is it adding similar information or ideas, giving a reason, contrasting ideas, etc.?

2 Look at the gaps in the sentences (1-7) and think about what is missing. Answer the questions (a-d).

- _____ many residents are happy with the standard of maintenance in the complex, others feel it is poor, given the high service charges.
- _____ from allowing the experience to put him off kite surfing, it actually made him more determined to succeed.
- Expanding on answers at an interview demonstrates good subject knowledge in _____ to giving the speaker confidence.
- The participants in the experiment actually put on weight, _____ the fact that they were doing more exercise.
- The new electric car is expected to go into production soon, _____ that any design faults are rectified quickly.
- Being able to hold down a demanding full-time job _____ also studying is a combination that few achieve without some difficulty.
- She did extremely well in her first professional game, especially _____ how nervous she had been beforehand.

- Which ones need a word to express contrast?
- Which one needs a word to introduce a similar idea or information?
- Which ones introduce a reason or explanation?
- Which one needs a time expression?

3 Choose the correct words in the box to complete the sentences (1-7) in Ex 2. Add capital letters where necessary.

addition although considering
despite far provided whilst

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- Does art imitate life, or life imitate art?
- 'Writing is the most important human invention of all time.' To what extent do you agree with this argument?

Conditional forms

The gaps sometimes test your knowledge of conditionals. Make sure you know the more complex conditional forms, and learn the difference between *if* and *unless*. The gaps may also test your knowledge of structures with *wish*.

4 Choose the correct words (A-C) to complete the sentences.

- If I hadn't gone back to sleep, I _____ be really tired now.
A could B will C would
- You _____ have avoided all the traffic if you'd set off an hour earlier.
A will B should C could
- I might have passed my driving test _____ I not made one silly mistake.
A had B would C if
- I wonder where I would _____ ended up if I'd continued driving along that little road.
A had B have C be
- You'll lose your job _____ you stop browsing the internet at work.
A if B because C unless
- If I _____ the lottery, I would probably give a lot of the money to charity.
A won B win C winning
- You really should set off now _____ you want to be home before 11 p.m.
A unless B although C if
- I would have chosen to go by train if I had _____ the choice.
A got B had C have