

Exercise 1

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

Traffic 1. _____ in large towns has become a very worrying problem. Vehicles in most major European cities are moving on 2. _____ more slowly than they did in the nineteen thirties, and in some cases, on certain days, urban transport was 3. _____ faster at the beginning of the twentieth century than it is now. From an economic point of view, this is obviously very 4. _____, but we are beginning to realize that constructing or 5. _____ roads is not the answer to the problem. The vast increase in the volume of urban traffic has brought with it a massive rise in levels of pollution, 6. _____ the quality of life of the inhabitants of these cities. More and more people are suffering from the effects of 7. _____ traffic fumes. However, city councils are starting to react to the situation, and it is possible that we will soon see large city centres which are free 8. _____ cars. But they cannot just be 9. _____. To make new transport policies a success people have to be convinced that public transport provides a convenient and cheap 10. _____ to the motor car.

1. a) rise b) jam c) running d) congestion
2. a) total b) average c) part d) ways
3. a) quite b) actually c) ever d) real
4. a) inefficient b) incapable c) boring d) useless
5. a) using b) doing c) improving d) driving
6. a) reduction b) reduce c) reduces d) reducing
7. a) living b) having c) breathing d) feeling
8. a) for b) of c) to d) with
9. a) banned b) allowed c) taken d) moved
10. a) change b) difference c) alternative d) opposite

Exercise 2

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

In western Japan, 1. _____ Kyoto and Osaka, there are restaurants which serve a delicacy containing 2. _____ poison to kill an entire restaurant if it is not properly prepared. It is a fish, called 'fugu', and if restaurants want to offer it they have to get special permission, and employ only 3. _____ who have had the necessary 4. _____ in how to prepare it. Despite being very expensive, 'fugu' has 5. _____ taste. It is usually served partly raw. Thin, white slices of its flesh are arranged 6. _____ a plate to look like a flower, and the remainder is cooked with vegetables. There is no doubt that part of its popularity is 7. _____ to the fact that it is so dangerous. Consumed in small amounts, the poison produces a pleasant feeling, perhaps like the 8. _____ of taking cocaine, but in larger quantities it produces death. The worst year for 'fugu' poisoning 9. _____ records began was 1958, when 176 deaths occurred. Most fatalities happen in private homes, when people without expert knowledge of the fish cook it themselves. More recently the figures have gone 10. _____, and now only four or five people die each year.

1. a) next b) around c) beside d) far
2. a) much b) a lot of c) all d) enough
3. a) cookers b) chefs c) waiters d) customers
4. a) qualities b) formation c) skill d) training
5. a) few b) little c) a few d) a little
6. a) on b) into c) in d) for
7. a) according b) reported c) known d) due
8. a) effect b) means c) way d) consequence
9. a) until b) since c) while d) before
10. a) back b) away c) down d) up

Exercise 3

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

Is it possible to believe that in the future someone will run a hundred metres in three seconds?

1. _____ experts think that athletes are rapidly approaching perfection. We may one day live in a world 2. _____ new records are practically unknown. Since performances began to 3. _____ recorded, men and women have run faster and faster, but in recent times the 4. _____ of improvement has slowed down. Advances in diet, equipment and training cannot continue for 5. _____. In fact, the records of the last hundred years may give us a false picture. In the early days only the rich European countries, which could 6. _____ to give people time off from work, were setting what they 7. _____ world records, without the participation of the rest of the world. The competitors were usually middle-class, 8. _____ they were not used to physical exercise, and their performances were not very good. There is also some surprising evidence that before that, in the eighteenth century, 9. _____ paid professional athletes existed, who were capable of running a marathon as fast 10. _____ anyone today.

1. a) lots b) a lot c) many d) any
2. a) with b) which c) where d) that
3. a) being b) have c) was d) be
4. a) rhythm b) rate c) step d) stage
5. a) ever b) never c) always d) even
6. a) let b) permit c) afford d) arrive
7. a) spoke b) said c) told d) called
8. a) so b) but c) although d) also
9. a) highly b) largely c) very d) importantly
10. a) than b) as c) that d) what

Exercise 4

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

Clarence Birdseye was an eccentric American who invented 1. _____ 250 products and processes in his lifetime. But he is known for only one thing. In 1910, he went with his family 2. _____ live in the north of Canada, where he discovered that if he froze green vegetables, they 3. _____ last through the winter without 4. _____ their flavour. When he moved back to America, in 1925, he started a little company, experimenting with fish and 5. _____ food. People 6. _____ about preserving fish in ice for a long time, but it was Birdseye who solved the problem of preventing the ice from melting and producing bacteria. The animal which 7. _____ his fortune was a goose. The daughter of the 8. _____ of a big food company came to the town where he was working, and was served a delicious goose. She later found out that it 9. _____ been frozen by the local eccentric, Clarence Birdseye. She met him, and learned more about his company, which her father then bought for twenty two million dollars. The company was renamed General Foods, and it became a giant in 10. _____ industry.

1. a) above b) up c) over d) more
2. a) for b) to c) and d) in order
3. a) must b) would c) will d) could have
4. a) losing b) loss c) lose d) lost
5. a) others b) another c) otherwise d) other
6. a) know b) knew c) had known d) were knowing
7. a) made b) did c) was d) had
8. a) chief b) owner c) employer d) staff
9. a) was b) has c) had d) must
10. a) the food's b) food c) food's d) the food

Exercise 5

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

A surprising true 1. _____ from the American West sounds 2. _____ a work of fiction. In 1820, a mysterious stranger, Mr Beale, was staying in a hotel in Lynchburg, Virginia. He became friendly with the owner, and, before leaving, he gave him a 3. _____ iron box to look after. He said the box contained 4. _____ papers, and that the hotel owner 5. _____ open it after ten years if he did not receive any further news from him. Beale was never heard of again, but the owner waited 6. _____ 1845 before opening the box. It contained a note 7. _____ that Beale had buried a vast quantity of gold near Lynchburg when he had first come to the town. The gold was from a mine in the Far West, 8. _____ Beale had discovered with 29 other men. They had wanted to put the gold in a secure place until they made a decision about it. Also in the box, there were three pages 9. _____ in code. The first explained where the treasure was, the second gave its contents, and the third was a list of relatives to be contacted if the men did not survive. Only the second message was ever decoded, and the gold's 10. _____ has remained a mystery until this day.

1. a) history b) novel c) fact d) story
2. a) as b) like c) as if d) as though
3. a) shut b) closed c) locked d) sealed
4. a) valueless b) valued c) value d) valuable
5. a) can b) should c) has to d) would
6. a) until b) for c) to d) in
7. a) telling b) saying c) speaking d) talking
8. a) who b) that c) which d) whose
9. a) written b) writing c) wrote d) write
10. a) place b) location c) situation d) space

Exercise 6

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

Many managers, as well as other employees, are suffering from 1. _____ stress at work. The level of stress that we are now seeing among managers has 2. _____ causes. The most important one is the rapid change in working practices. We are moving towards a culture of short-term contracts and 3. _____ workers. The next generation might get used to that, but the problem is for 4. _____ who are now between 35 and 55. Job insecurity, even among 5. _____ managers, is quite common. Many companies are restructuring, so they are reducing the size of their 6. _____. In addition, stress can 7. _____ at home, because in 8. _____ couples nowadays the partners both have full-time jobs. In a recent survey, 65 per cent of managers said that they were under constant time pressure, 9. _____ a similar percentage stated that they felt guilty for staying in bed because of illness. New technology poses another problem, as many older managers have 10. _____ in adapting to it. Despite the technology revolution, only about five per cent of managers work from home.

1. a) raising b) increasing c) rise d) grown up
2. a) few b) a lot c) several d) any
3. a) unmanned b) freelance c) partial d) independent
4. a) these b) this c) those d) that
5. a) senior b) chief c) highest d) bosses
6. a) workers b) employees c) workforce d) employment
7. a) grow up b) wake up c) arise d) get up
8. a) as many b) so much c) too much d) so many
9. a) while b) than c) like d) that
10. a) problem b) difficulty c) gaps d) hardness

Exercise 7

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

About three quarters of job vacancies are never advertised. Some positions are 1. _____ through job centres, employment agencies and consultants; 2. _____ newly qualified 3. _____ continue to be recruited through university campus visits and careers fairs; and a few posts are occupied through personal introductions and recommendations. 4. _____, a significant minority of jobs are the result of speculative applications. In surveys, about one in six people claim to have 5. _____ their present job by 6. _____ directly to their employer. Clearly, the direct approach pays. Speculative applications 7. _____ be made in writing or by telephone. However, they rarely succeed if they are made at 8. _____. If a direct approach is to achieve results, it must be accurately targeted to meeting a precise need in an organisation. It must also demonstrate how the applicant meets that need. To do this, one must anticipate the employer's future recruitment requirements and 9. _____ an application before he has had an opportunity to advertise the post. Fortunately, this is not as difficult 10. _____ it sounds.

1. a) full b) filed c) filled d) failed
2. a) any b) much c) several d) some
3. a) graduates b) diplomas c) degrees d) students
4. a) So b) More c) Although d) However
5. a) been b) got c) become d) done
6. a) asking b) phoning c) applying d) saying
7. a) must b) may c) would d) are able to
8. a) random b) disorder c) variety d) chance
9. a) give b) bring c) submit d) turn down
10. a) than b) that c) as d) when

Exercise 8

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

When we look back on the twentieth century, we can see that 1. _____ were some remarkable developments. Many people, especially in rich countries, began to enjoy a standard of 2. _____ that their grandparents could not 3. _____ dreamed of. After the Second World War, more and more families owned cars, refrigerators, 4. _____ machines and other products which had been 5. _____ before the war. Radio and television came into 6. _____ everybody's home, offering news and entertainment to millions. Vinyl records, tapes and CDs allowed people of all generations 7. _____ to music in their own home at prices they could afford. Most families had telephones, and they started to go 8. _____ for their summer holidays, which also became longer, as they worked 9. _____ hours. A better diet and medical care helped the population to live longer than ever before. But these advances brought problems with them. The gap between the rich and the poor grew larger. The bigger number of old people had to be supported by the working population. And the industries which had created all this 10. _____ produced an enormous increase in pollution.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. | a) these | b) there | c) their | d) they |
| 2. | a) life | b) alive | c) live | d) living |
| 3. | a) had | b) be | c) have | d) were |
| 4. | a) wash | b) washing | c) washer | d) washes |
| 5. | a) luxuries | b) luxury | c) luxurious | d) luxuriant |
| 6. | a) quite | b) rather | c) quiet | d) almost |
| 7. | a) listening | b) to listen | c) listen | d) to listening |
| 8. | a) broad | b) aboard | c) abroad | d) board |
| 9. | a) least | b) a few | c) little | d) fewer |
| 10. | a) wealth | b) healthy | c) health | d) wealthy |

Exercise 9

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

The highlands of Scandinavia are the home of the lemming, a small brown animal 1. _____ a tiny rat. Lemmings have a strange characteristic which is one of Nature's great mysteries. Normally, 2. _____ lead quiet lives, digging nests and raising a family among the roots. But every few years, a strange urge affects them and then these quiet animals come together 3. _____ themselves. No-one can say when this urge happens; it occurs at irregular intervals of from five to twenty years. However, it 4. _____ most of the lemmings, and the strangest part of 5. _____ is that they lose their natural 6. _____ of water and actually head for the sea. By the tens of thousands they march, 7. _____ nothing stop them on the way. Finally, when they 8. _____ the shore, they jump into the sea and continue swimming 9. _____ they are all drowned! Scientists still cannot explain the mysterious force that makes the lemmings 10. _____ suicide, although they have several theories. One theory is that the little creatures are instinctively trying to return to an ancient homeland which has now sunk beneath the sea.

1. a) as b) such as c) like d) as if
2. a) each b) they c) these d) those
3. a) for killing b) kill c) to kill d) killing
4. a) affects b) effects c) touches d) achieves
5. a) which b) why c) all d) everything
6. a) scare b) afraid c) frighten d) fear
7. a) letting b) allowing c) leaving d) permitting
8. a) get b) reach c) obtain d) become
9. a) whereas b) for c) although d) until
10. a) do b) perform c) act d) commit

Exercise 10

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

In 1950, the mathematician Alan Turing published his famous test 1. _____ deciding whether or not a computer could be said to be ‘thinking’. You simply ask the computer as many questions 2. _____ you like. If, by the end of the interrogation, you are unable 3. _____ if the responses were different from what you would 4. _____ from a human, then, argued Turing, you would have to say that the computer was ‘thinking’. If the interrogation stuck to questions about mathematics or logic, even today’s computers 5. _____ pass the Turing test. But how many would be able to satisfy a request like “Draw me a picture”, or “Come up with a joke”? Are there any programs capable 6. _____ fooling a human interrogator with their responses to such requests? In these cases, perhaps there are, but in general computers can still only perform routine tasks, 7. _____ the fact that the routines can be extraordinarily complicated. As soon as an unforeseen problem 8. _____ up, the best they can do is to stop and signal for human assistance. If an ‘intelligent’ computer, were 9. _____ developed, it would be able to improvise a solution to problems just as easily as 10. _____ human operator.

1. a) to b) for c) by d) in order to
2. a) when b) as c) that d) than
3. a) telling b) of telling c) to tell d) tell
4. a) wait b) expect c) wait for d) research
5. a) will b) had to c) could have d) might
6. a) of b) to c) in d) at
7. a) although b) despite c) in spite d) however
8. a) brings b) raises c) comes d) gets
9. a) ever b) still c) yet d) never
10. a) all b) no c) any d) an

Exercise 11

Fill the gaps in the text with the correct words.

Almost 150 species of animals 1. _____ disappeared in the last three centuries. The reasons why animals vanish from the earth are various. In some cases, their natural environment has been altered by Man, while other species suffer 2. _____ diseases introduced by settlers, and still others are 3 _____ to extinction. If it is too late to do anything about these 150 vanished species, we can do something about the 240 further ones which are currently threatened with extinction. Not only animals 4. _____ many plants are in danger. The situation is most serious in islands where plants found 5. _____ else in the world exist. In the Hawaiian Islands, for instance, 95 per cent of the native plants are 6. _____, and many are on the point of dying out. It is now possible to 7. _____ a vacation in Hawaii without 8. _____ seeing a native plant. Does it matter that Man is wiping out 9. _____ species from the planet? Plants often turn out to have medical properties, while animals still have much to 10. _____ us. Who knows what future peoples will want? It is wrong to destroy the genetic variation built up so painfully over millions of years.

1. a) were b) would have c) had d) have
2. a) of b) by c) from d) with
3. a) chased b) hunted c) followed d) led
4. a) but b) and c) also d) as well
5. a) nowhere b) anywhere c) somewhere d) everywhere
6. a) single b) alone c) unique d) lonely
7. a) pass b) make c) spend d) do
8. a) ever b) never c) still d) forever
9. a) hole b) whole c) all d) any
10. a) learn b) instruct c) train d) teach