Multiple-choice cloze — free worksheet

A text with gaps; choose the best word from four options.

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1. The Buzz About City Bees

Multiple-choice cloze · Urban beekeeping

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Urban beekeeping on city rooftops has become a popular hobby, as flats and offices increasingly host hives among planters and water tanks. Over the past decade, the hobby has (1) _____ on among city dwellers, as more people look for ways to reconnect with nature. Rooftop hives now spring (2) _____ everywhere from London to New York, tucked between air-conditioning units and solar panels. (3) _____, city bees often produce more honey than their rural counterparts, since urban gardens offer a wider variety of flowering plants throughout the year. However, beekeepers must (4) _____ several challenges, including pesticide exposure and the risk of swarms startling pedestrians. To (5) _____ these problems, many cities now require hobbyists to register their hives and complete a short training course. (6) _____, some residents still complain about the insects, fearing stings near playgrounds. Despite this, enthusiasts argue that the benefits (7) _____ the risks, pointing to improved pollination and stronger community ties. (8) _____, urban beekeeping shows no signs of slowing down.

(1) A) taken B) got C) caught D) grown

(2) A) over B) off C) up D) out

(3) A) Consequently B) Interestingly C) Admittedly D) Meanwhile

(4) A) face B) deal C) grapple D) cope

(5) A) address B) pose C) voice D) raise

(6) A) Therefore B) Similarly C) Nevertheless D) Furthermore

(7) A) outweigh B) overtake C) outlive D) overrule

(8) A) Alternatively B) Otherwise C) Likewise D) Overall

2. The Buzz About Urban Beekeeping

Multiple-choice cloze · Urban beekeeping as a growing city trend

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Urban beekeeping has become a hot topic in many cities, as more residents turn rooftops into miniature apiaries. Over the past decade, keeping bees on city rooftops has (1) _____ off among city dwellers around the world. What began as a niche hobby has (2) _____ into a genuine movement, with thousands of urban beekeepers now tending hives above busy streets. Enthusiasts argue that city bees enjoy pollen from gardens, parks and even window boxes, (3) _____ their rural cousins often have only one type of blossom for miles around. (4)

_____, rooftop hives are rarely exposed to the pesticides commonly sprayed on farmland. Still, experts warn that the trend must be kept (5) _____ check: overcrowding hives in one district can leave bees short (6) _____ food. Newcomers are strongly advised to (7) _____ local beekeeping associations before setting up a hive, since poor management can spread disease. If handled responsibly, however, urban beekeeping could (8) _____ a lasting contribution to biodiversity in our cities.

(1) A) broken B) taken C) picked D) set

(2) A) increased B) arisen C) grown D) raised

(3) A) as B) since C) unless D) whereas

(4) A) Therefore B) However C) Moreover D) Otherwise

(5) A) by B) on C) at D) in

(6) A) with B) for C) of D) from

(7) A) resort B) turn C) consult D) refer

(8) A) do B) have C) take D) make

3. The Smart Home Revolution

Multiple-choice cloze · technology

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Smart home technology has gained enormous popularity across the world. Over the past decade, niche gadgets have (1) _____ into everyday essentials that millions of households now rely on. Voice assistants can now (2) _____ the lights, lock the doors and even order groceries with a single command. (3) _____, this convenience comes at a price: many devices quietly pick (4) _____ personal data before sending it to remote servers for analysis. Manufacturers insist that this information is (5) _____ before it ever leaves the device, but security experts warn that no system is completely immune (6) _____ hackers. Meanwhile, appliances that once worked independently are increasingly reliant (7) _____ a stable internet connection, meaning a simple power cut can leave a household unable to switch on the heating. Despite these drawbacks, demand continues to grow as prices fall and new features appear. For many consumers, the benefits of automation clearly (8) _____ the risks, and smart homes show no sign of losing their appeal.

(1) A) expanded B) converted C) evolved D) multiplied

(2) A) shade B) mute C) dim D) darken

(3) A) However B) Therefore C) Moreover D) Similarly

(4) A) on B) off C) out D) up

(5) A) compressed B) archived C) formatted D) encrypted

(6) A) at B) to C) with D) in

(7) A) for B) at C) on D) in

(8) A) outweigh B) underestimate C) overtake D) overcome

4. Yellowstone: The Rise of a Modern Western

Multiple-choice cloze · Yellowstone - western- Cowboy - cowgirl valued series

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Few critics expected a modern western — complete with horses, lassoes and six-shooters — to dominate the ratings the way Yellowstone has. The show has quickly (1) _____ into one of the most talked-about dramas on television, drawing millions of viewers who can't (2) _____ enough of its rugged ranch drama. Set against the sweeping plains of Montana, the series follows the Dutton family as they fight to (3) _____ onto their land against developers and rival ranchers. What makes the show stand (4) _____ from other westerns is its blend of modern politics and old-fashioned cowboy grit. The cowgirls and cowboys who work the ranch aren't just decorative extras; they (5) _____ their own when it comes to riding and roping cattle, and the writers take care to (6) _____ their real-life talent. Fans often point (7) _____ the authentic dialogue and stunning cinematography as reasons the series has built such a loyal following. (8) _____, critics argue that the storylines occasionally veer into melodrama, yet even they admit the show's popularity shows no sign of fading.

(1) A) grown B) lifted C) raised D) arisen

(2) A) get B) take C) have D) make

(3) A) have B) keep C) hold D) own

(4) A) out B) down C) back D) aside

(5) A) keep B) hold C) take D) have

(6) A) showcase B) parade C) flaunt D) expose

(7) A) in B) for C) on D) to

(8) A) Therefore B) Similarly C) However D) Moreover

5. That Strange Feeling: The Science of Déjà Vu

Multiple-choice cloze · Déjà vu and the science of memory glitches

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Almost everyone has felt that eerie sensation of living through a moment before, even though they know it's impossible. This phenomenon, known as déjà vu, has intrigued scientists for decades, who are only now beginning to piece together the (1) _____ behind it. One theory suggests the brain occasionally picks (2) _____ on a mismatch between perception and memory, creating a false sense of familiarity. Researchers have found that déjà vu tends to crop (3) _____ more frequently in younger adults than in older ones. (4) _____, its frequency appears to decline sharply after the age of twenty-five, according to several large surveys. Scientists have even managed to (5) _____ a state of déjà vu in volunteers under tightly controlled laboratory conditions, using carefully designed word-association tasks. Although unsettling, most researchers

agree the sensation simply (6) _____ a brain constantly checking its own accuracy. Far from being a paranormal warning sign, déjà vu may come (7) _____ as evidence of a mind working exactly as it should, quietly (8) _____ for errors in real time.

(1) A) puzzle B) challenge C) question D) problem

(2) A) out B) in C) up D) through

(3) A) over B) out C) up D) round

(4) A) Therefore B) However C) Moreover D) Alternatively

(5) A) awaken B) arouse C) induce D) evoke

(6) A) stems B) results C) arises D) reflects

(7) A) across B) up C) about D) along

(8) A) glancing B) peering C) scanning D) gazing

6. All Aboard: The Return of Night Trains

Multiple-choice cloze · The revival of night trains in Europe

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Night trains are becoming popular again across Europe. For many years, cheap flights meant that fewer people (1) _____ night trains, and some routes closed completely. But things are changing. More travellers now want to cut down (2) _____ short flights, so they are choosing trains instead of planes for long journeys. Several countries have brought (3) _____ brand-new night services between major cities, offering comfortable beds and restaurant cars. Before boarding, passengers must check (4) _____ at the station at least twenty minutes early, then relax as the train carries them overnight toward their destination. Environmental groups say this shift could (5) _____ a big difference to air pollution levels. However, night trains still (6) _____ to compete with the low prices of budget airlines. Governments will need to invest more money (7) _____ the network can grow. If ticket prices (8) _____ further, more people will choose the train over the plane for their next trip.

(1) A) decided B) wished C) chose D) hoped

(2) A) at B) on C) with D) in

(3) A) in B) round C) forward D) down

(4) A) out B) in C) up D) over

(5) A) take B) make C) get D) do

(6) A) can B) must C) have D) should

(7) A) unless B) although C) because D) so

(8) A) falls B) fell C) falling D) fall

7. When Senses Collide: The Puzzle of Synesthesia

Multiple-choice cloze · Synesthesia – the neurological blending of the senses

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Synesthesia is a rare neurological condition in which stimulation of one sense (1) _____ an involuntary experience in another. For instance, some synesthetes report that numbers appear intrinsically coloured, while others insist that certain words (2) _____ a distinct taste on the tongue. The condition has increasingly (3) _____ the imagination of neuroscientists eager to understand how the brain's sensory pathways interact. Researchers once dismissed such accounts as fanciful, but brain-imaging studies have since (4) _____ that synesthetic perceptions are genuine, not merely metaphorical. (5) _____, imaging shows unusual cross-activation between regions that are normally quite separate. It is often assumed that synesthesia is a disorder to be corrected; (6) _____, many synesthetes regard their heightened perception as a gift rather than a burden, one that is often said to (7) _____ up strikingly vivid imagery when they create. Indeed, several celebrated composers and painters are believed to have (8) _____ synesthetic associations when producing their most original works.

(1) A) sustains B) replicates C) incites D) triggers

(2) A) instil B) arouse C) provoke D) evoke

(3) A) captured B) clutched C) snatched D) grasped

(4) A) theorized B) confirmed C) contested D) suspected

(5) A) Meanwhile B) Otherwise C) Specifically D) Nevertheless

(6) A) moreover B) however C) meanwhile D) therefore

(7) A) cook B) conjure C) make D) dream

(8) A) harnessed B) entertained C) fostered D) indulged

8. Masters of Memory

Multiple-choice cloze · Memory athletes and the technique of competitive memorisation

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Every year, hundreds of so-called 'memory athletes' sign (1) _____ for international championships, competing to memorise packs of playing cards, long strings of numbers and even entire poems within minutes. Their secret rarely lies in natural talent; instead, most champions swear (2) _____ a technique called the 'memory palace', in which facts are attached to an imaginary journey through a familiar building. Critics once dismissed this approach as a mere party trick, but neuroscientists have since come (3) _____ with a convincing explanation for why it works. Training sessions are gruelling: competitors clock (4) _____ hours of practice every day, steadily cutting their times from minutes to mere seconds. What makes the sport so compelling is that almost anyone can take (5) _____ memory sport as a new hobby, provided they are willing to put (6) _____ the practice. (7) _____, researchers warn that the skills rarely transfer automatically to everyday forgetfulness, so a champion might still misplace their keys. (8) _____, memory sport is less about raw genius than about patient, methodical training.

(1) A) over B) in C) off D) up

(2) A) by B) to C) on D) at

(3) A) into B) across C) about D) up

(4) A) up B) off C) out D) down

(5) A) on B) over C) up D) in

(6) A) in B) up C) down D) forward

(7) A) However B) Moreover C) Therefore D) Meanwhile

(8) A) Ultimately B) Alternatively C) Additionally D) Consequently

9. Never Too Late: Learning to Cycle as an Adult

Multiple-choice cloze · An adult learning to ride a bicycle for the first time

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Last year, my sister Anna decided to learn how to ride a bicycle. She was thirty-two years old. She (1) _____ very nervous about trying something new, but nobody could tell because she smiled the whole time. Her friend Tom offered to help her. Every Saturday morning, they (2) _____ to the park together. Tom held the back of the bike while Anna tried to keep her balance. "Don't look (3) _____ your feet," he told her. "Look straight ahead." Although she never practised for long, she could handle the bike much (4) _____ than before. One sunny afternoon, she decided to cycle all the (5) _____ to the river, which was five kilometres away. It was hard work, but she was so proud when she arrived. "I'm going to (6) _____ on a longer bike ride next month," she said, smiling. Now Anna cycles to work twice a week (7) _____ of taking the bus. She says it's cheaper, healthier, and much more fun (8) _____ sitting in traffic.

(1) A) sounded B) seemed C) felt D) looked

(2) A) reached B) went C) entered D) arrived

(3) A) to B) at C) on D) in

(4) A) better B) further C) faster D) longer

(5) A) distance B) road C) path D) way

(6) A) go B) get C) have D) do

(7) A) apart B) instead C) because D) rather

(8) A) then B) that C) than D) as

10. Treasure in the Mud: The World of Thames Mudlarking

Multiple-choice cloze · Mudlarking: searching the River Thames foreshore for historical objects

For questions 1–8, read the text and choose the word (A, B, C or D) that best fits each gap.

Every day, when the tide goes out, mudlarks walk down to the muddy banks of the River Thames to search for objects the river has left behind. In the past, poor Londoners searched the riverside to

earn a living, picking up rope, coal and metal to sell. Mudlarking might look like a simple walk along the river, (1) _____ it is in fact a licensed activity with strict rules and real dangers. Many objects that date (2) _____ to Roman or medieval times must be reported to the Museum of London. With careful digging, a mudlark can turn (3) _____ a Roman coin or a medieval shoe buckle hidden in the mud for centuries. Beginners should join an experienced mudlark at first, since inexperienced walkers can easily get (4) _____ off by the fast-rising water. Keen collectors often track (5) _____ rare items using old maps and museum records. Mudlarks say the river keeps (6) _____ up its secrets, no matter how often the same stretch is searched. For many, the pleasure lies in the sense of (7) _____ with people from the past. (8) _____ hobbies, if any, let you hold history so directly in your hands.

(1) A) because B) but C) and D) so

(2) A) over B) down C) away D) back

(3) A) out B) up C) over D) down

(4) A) cut B) sent C) left D) kept

(5) A) down B) through C) back D) over

(6) A) giving B) sending C) handing D) backing

(7) A) bond B) relation C) link D) connection

(8) A) Several B) Many C) Some D) Few

Answer Key

1. The Buzz About City Bees

1. C) caught

2. C) up

3. B) Interestingly

4. A) face

5. A) address

6. C) Nevertheless

7. A) outweigh

8. D) Overall

1. 'Catch on' is a phrasal verb meaning to become popular, fitting the hobby's rising appeal among city dwellers. 'Taken on' means to acquire a new character or responsibility, 'got on' is not an established phrase for popularity, and 'grown on' needs a direct object (something grows on a person) so cannot combine with 'among'.

2. 'Spring up' means to appear suddenly, fitting hives appearing on rooftops. 'Spring out', 'spring off' and 'spring over' are not established phrasal verbs with this meaning.

3. 'Interestingly' introduces a fact that is surprising given expectations — that bees living on city rooftops could out-produce bees living in the countryside, despite having less open land around them. 'Consequently' would wrongly imply this follows logically from the previous sentence about hives spreading across cities, 'Meanwhile' would wrongly suggest the two sentences describe events happening at the same time rather than an unexpected fact, and 'Admittedly' would wrongly concede a point against the writer's own argument, which is not happening here.

4. 'Face challenges' is the correct collocation, taking a direct object with no preposition. 'Deal', 'cope' and 'grapple' all require the preposition 'with' before an object, so they cannot stand alone directly before 'challenges'.

5. 'Address a problem' is a fixed collocation meaning to take action to solve it, matching the registration and training requirements described next. 'Raise', 'pose' and 'voice' a problem all mean to bring it to attention or create it rather than resolve it, so they clash with a sentence about solutions being put in place.

6. 'Nevertheless' signals the contrast between the new regulations and continued complaints. 'Furthermore' adds information, 'Therefore' shows result, and 'Similarly' shows comparison — none express the needed contrast.

7. 'Outweigh' means to be more significant or important than something else, exactly fitting the comparison between benefits and risks. 'Overtake' means to pass while moving or exceed a target, 'outlive' means to live longer than someone, and 'overrule' means to reject an official decision — none express comparative importance.

8. 'Overall' is used to introduce a summarising conclusion, which fits the final sentence. 'Likewise' would wrongly suggest this sentence repeats a similar situation to the one just described, but the previous sentence contrasts benefits and risks rather than offering a parallel case; 'Otherwise' implies a different condition, and 'Alternatively' implies another option — none suit a general concluding summary.

2. The Buzz About Urban Beekeeping

1. B) taken
2. C) grown
3. D) whereas
4. C) Moreover
5. D) in
6. C) of
7. C) consult
8. D) make

1. The phrasal verb 'take off' means to become suddenly popular or successful. 'Pick off' means to shoot one by one, 'set off' means to trigger or depart, and 'break off' means to stop abruptly — none fit the meaning of growing popularity.

2. 'Grow into' means to develop gradually into something larger or more established. 'Raise' is transitive and needs a direct object, 'arise' collocates with 'from' rather than 'into', and 'increase' typically pairs with 'to' before an end-state noun.

3. 'Whereas' introduces a direct contrast between two parallel facts about city bees and rural bees, which fits here. 'Since' would wrongly suggest that the rural bees' narrow diet causes the city bees' variety; 'unless' wrongly introduces a condition; and 'as' would wrongly suggest a reason or a time relationship rather than a contrast between the two groups.

4. 'Moreover' adds an extra supporting point, matching the logic here, since the pesticide-free point reinforces the earlier claim about pollen variety. 'However' wrongly signals contrast, 'Therefore' wrongly signals a conclusion drawn from the previous sentence, and 'Otherwise' wrongly signals a conditional alternative.

5. 'Keep something in check' is a fixed idiom meaning to control or limit it. 'On', 'at' and 'by' cannot combine with 'check' in this idiomatic sense, so they are impossible here.

6. 'Short of' is the fixed collocation meaning lacking something, as in 'short of food' or 'short of money'. The other prepositions cannot follow 'short' with this meaning.

7. 'Consult' takes a direct object (consult a doctor, consult an association). 'Refer', 'turn' and 'resort' all require the preposition 'to' before an object, so none can directly precede 'local beekeeping associations'.

8. 'Make a contribution' is the standard fixed collocation in English. 'Do', 'take' and 'have' do not combine naturally with 'contribution' in this expression.

3. The Smart Home Revolution

1. C) evolved
2. C) dim
3. A) However
4. D) up
5. D) encrypted
6. B) to
7. C) on

8. A) outweigh

1. 'Evolve into' describes something gradually turning into a different kind of thing, matching the shift from niche gadgets to everyday essentials. 'Expanded into' suggests growing in scope rather than changing identity, 'converted into' normally needs a passive form with an agent doing the converting, and 'multiplied into' is not idiomatic because 'multiply' refers to increasing in number, not changing category.

2. 'Dim the lights' is the fixed verb-noun collocation used for voice-controlled lighting. 'Darken' is normally used with rooms or skies rather than the lights themselves, 'shade' means to block light with a cover, and 'mute' collocates with sound, not lights.

3. The sentence shifts from praising convenience to warning about a drawback, so the contrastive linker 'However' is needed. 'Moreover' adds a point, 'Therefore' shows a result, and 'Similarly' shows comparison — none introduces a contrast.

4. 'Pick up' means to acquire or collect something, often without deliberate effort, exactly how devices gather personal data in the background. 'Pick out' means to select from a group, 'pick off' means to eliminate targets one by one, and 'pick on' means to target someone unfairly — none describes collecting information.

5. 'Encrypted' means scrambled so that only authorised parties can read it, which fits the privacy and security theme of the passage. 'Compressed' reduces file size, 'archived' means stored for future reference, and 'formatted' changes layout or structure — none of these stop hackers reading the information.

6. 'Immune to' is the correct preposition when describing protection against a threat such as hacking. 'In', 'at' and 'with' never follow the adjective 'immune' in standard English.

7. 'Reliant on' is the only correct preposition after this adjective; 'reliant in/at/for' are all ungrammatical combinations.

8. 'Outweigh' means one thing is more important or significant than another, fitting the comparison between benefits and risks. 'Overtake' means to pass while moving, 'overcome' means to defeat a problem, and 'underestimate' means to judge something as less significant than it really is — the opposite of the intended meaning.

4. Yellowstone: The Rise of a Modern Western

1. A) grown
2. A) get
3. C) hold
4. A) out
5. B) hold
6. A) showcase
7. D) to
8. C) However

1. 'Grow into' means to develop gradually into something bigger or more important; 'raise', 'arise' and 'lift' cannot combine with 'into' in this sense of becoming successful.

2. The fixed idiom 'can't get enough of something' means you always want more of it; 'have/take/make enough of' are not established collocations with this meaning.

3. 'Hold onto' is a phrasal verb meaning to keep possession of something despite pressure to give it up; 'own', 'have' and 'keep' do not combine with the particle 'onto'.

4. 'Stand out from' means to be noticeably different or superior; 'stand down/aside/back from' carry unrelated meanings (resigning, stepping away, retreating) that don't fit here.

5. 'Hold one's own' is a fixed idiom meaning to perform as well as others despite difficult conditions; 'keep/have/take their own' are not recognised forms of this idiom.

6. 'Showcase' means to present something, especially someone's talents, in the best and most respectful light, matching the writers' careful intent; 'flaunt' and 'parade' suggest boastful, ostentatious display, and 'expose' means to reveal something hidden or negative, so none fit here.

7. The phrasal verb 'point to something (as a reason)' means to identify it as evidence or a cause; 'point in/for/on' are not valid forms of this expression.

8. 'However' signals the contrast between fans' praise and critics' complaints; 'Moreover' adds, 'Therefore' shows cause-effect, and 'Similarly' shows comparison, none of which fit the shift in viewpoint.

5. That Strange Feeling: The Science of Déjà Vu

1. A) puzzle
2. C) up
3. C) up
4. C) Moreover
5. C) induce
6. D) reflects
7. A) across
8. C) scanning

1. 'Piece together the puzzle' is a fixed expression meaning to solve something gradually by fitting pieces of information together; 'problem', 'question', and 'challenge' do not combine naturally with 'piece together' in this idiomatic sense.

2. 'Pick up on something' is a fixed phrasal verb meaning to notice or react to a subtle detail; 'pick out on', 'pick in on', and 'pick through on' are not established combinations in English.

3. 'Crop up' is a phrasal verb meaning to happen or appear unexpectedly; 'crop round', 'crop over', and 'crop out' are not used with this meaning in English.

4. 'Moreover' adds a further supporting fact that reinforces the previous statement about frequency; 'However' would wrongly suggest the following fact contradicts the first, 'Therefore' wrongly implies it is a result of it, and 'Alternatively' wrongly presents it as a different option rather than additional evidence.

5. 'Induce a state of' is the standard scientific collocation for deliberately producing a psychological condition under experimental conditions, as in 'induce a state of hypnosis'; 'evoke', 'arouse', and 'awaken' normally collocate with feelings, memories, or the senses directly, not with 'a state of' produced through controlled experimental methods.

6. 'Reflects' can take a direct object, allowing it to show that the sensation is evidence of something; 'arises', 'stems', and 'results' are normally followed by 'from' and cannot take a direct object the way they are used here.

7. 'Come across as' is a fixed phrasal verb meaning to give a particular impression; 'come about as', 'come up as', and 'come along as' are not standard combinations in English.

8. 'Scan for' is the correct collocation meaning to search systematically for something; 'glance', 'peer', and 'gaze' are verbs of looking that pair with 'at' or 'into', not with 'for', so they do not fit before 'errors'.

6. All Aboard: The Return of Night Trains

1. C) chose
2. B) on
3. A) in
4. B) in
5. B) make
6. C) have
7. D) so
8. D) fall

1. 'Choose' takes a direct object (chose night trains), while 'decided', 'hoped' and 'wished' need 'to' + infinitive or 'that', so they cannot be followed directly by a noun here.

2. This expression combines a verb and a preposition meaning to reduce how much of something you do; only 'on' completes it correctly, while 'in', 'at' and 'with' do not form a real combination with this verb.

3. 'Bring in' means to introduce something for the first time, which fits 'brand-new'; 'bring down' means to reduce or defeat something, 'bring forward' means to move something to an earlier time, and 'bring round' means to persuade or revive someone — none describe launching a new service.

4. 'Check in' means to officially register before a journey, which fits arriving at a station to travel; 'check out' means to leave or settle a bill before departing, 'check over' means to examine something carefully, and 'check up' needs 'on' to mean investigate someone — none fit registering for travel here.

5. 'Make a difference' is a fixed collocation meaning to have an effect; 'do', 'take' and 'get' cannot combine with 'a difference' in this way.

6. Only 'have' can be followed by 'to compete'; 'must', 'should' and 'can' are modal verbs that take the bare infinitive, not 'to + verb'.

7. 'So' here introduces the purpose of the investment (for the network to grow); 'because' gives a reason, 'although' shows contrast, and 'unless' introduces a condition — none fit the purpose meaning needed here.

8. In a first conditional, the if-clause uses the present simple with a plural subject, so 'prices fall' is correct; 'fell' is past simple, 'falling' is a non-finite form, and 'falls' wrongly adds the singular -s ending to a plural subject.

7. When Senses Collide: The Puzzle of Synesthesia

1. D) triggers
2. D) evoke
3. A) captured
4. B) confirmed

5. C) Specifically

6. B) however

7. B) conjure

8. A) harnessed

1. "Trigger an experience" is the standard collocation for one stimulus causing an entirely new, involuntary reaction in another sense; "replicates" would mean copying a sensation that already exists, "sustains" would mean prolonging one already present, and "incites" collocates with provoking people to action (inciting a riot), not with causing a sensory experience.

2. "Evoke" means to call forth a specific sensory or mental impression, which precisely captures how a word can bring a taste sensation to mind in synesthesia; "instil" is normally used with lasting qualities or values and takes the preposition "in" (instil confidence in someone), not a momentary sensory impression; "arouse" collocates with feelings such as curiosity, suspicion or desire rather than with calling forth a concrete sensation; "provoke" collocates with a reaction, argument or response, implying an adversarial cause rather than a sensory association.

3. "Capture someone's imagination" is a fixed idiom meaning to fascinate people deeply; "snatch the imagination" misapplies a verb that means to grab something quickly and often forcibly, not to fascinate minds; "grasp the imagination" confuses this idiom with "grasp a concept" (to understand something); "clutch the imagination" misapplies a verb normally used for holding a physical object tightly in one's hands.

4. "Confirmed that" is correct because the sentence states the studies proved synesthetic perceptions are genuine; "suspected that" would leave the claim uncertain, "contested that" would mean the studies argued against it, and "theorized that" would present the idea as still unproven speculation, all of which contradict the following clause that the perceptions are genuine, not merely metaphorical.

5. "Specifically" is right because the following sentence gives a precise, concrete illustration (unusual cross-activation shown by imaging) of the general claim just made; "meanwhile" would wrongly suggest two events happening at the same time, "otherwise" would wrongly introduce an alternative circumstance, and "nevertheless" would wrongly signal a contrast with the previous sentence.

6. "However" is the conjunctive adverb needed to set the widespread assumption that synesthesia is a disorder against the opposing view that many synesthetes hold; "moreover" would wrongly add a further point in the same direction, "therefore" would wrongly present the second clause as a logical result of the first, and "meanwhile" would wrongly imply the two views coexist in time rather than oppose each other.

7. "Conjure up vivid imagery" is a natural collocation meaning to produce striking mental pictures as if from nowhere, fitting the idea of genuine creative output; "dream up" usually describes inventing something fanciful or impractical rather than producing imagery through perception; "cook up" suggests devising a scheme, often deceptively; "make up" means to fabricate something false, which would wrongly suggest the imagery is invented rather than genuinely experienced.

8. "Harnessed synesthetic associations" is correct because it means putting these associations to active, productive use, matching "producing their most original works"; "fostered" would mean encouraging the associations to grow rather than using them, "indulged" would mean giving in to them for pleasure rather than for creative output, and "entertained" would mean merely holding them in mind without using them to create anything.

8. Masters of Memory

1. D) up

2. A) by

3. D) up

4. A) up

5. C) up

6. A) in

7. A) However

8. A) Ultimately

1. 'Sign up for' is the standard phrasal verb for registering to take part in a competition; 'sign off' means to end a letter, broadcast or message, or to formally approve something, not to register; 'sign over' means to transfer ownership; 'sign in' means to record that you have arrived somewhere.

2. 'Swear by' is an idiom meaning to trust something completely because it works well for you; 'swear at' means to insult someone rudely, 'swear to' is used before a promise you make, and 'swear on' is used when taking an oath on something sacred.

3. 'Come up with' means to think of or produce something such as an idea or explanation; 'come about' is intransitive and does not combine with 'with' to take an object; 'come into' collocates with money, contact or an inheritance, not with a produced idea; 'come across' means to find something by chance or to give an impression, not to produce an explanation deliberately.

4. 'Clock up' means to accumulate or record an amount such as hours, miles or points through steady effort, which fits building up daily practice time; 'clock down' is not a standard phrasal verb; 'clock off' and 'clock out' both mean to officially finish a work shift, the opposite of building up practice.

5. 'Take up' a hobby means to start doing it regularly for enjoyment, which fits taking up memory sport as a new pastime; 'take on' collocates with a challenge, responsibility or employee rather than a hobby; 'take in' means to absorb information or to deceive someone; 'take over' means to assume control of something, not to begin it as a leisure activity.

6. 'Put in' effort or practice means to invest time and work into something; 'put down' means to write something or to criticise someone, 'put forward' means to propose an idea, and 'put up' usually appears in 'put up with', meaning to tolerate something.

7. 'However' introduces a contrast between the claim that anyone can learn the technique with enough practice and the following limitation about everyday forgetfulness; 'moreover' adds extra information, 'meanwhile' refers to something happening at the same time, and 'therefore' signals a result rather than a contrast.

8. 'Ultimately' is used to introduce a final, overall statement that follows from the training details described throughout the passage; 'additionally' adds a new point, 'consequently' shows a direct result, and 'alternatively' offers another option, none of which suit this closing statement.

9. Never Too Late: Learning to Cycle as an Adult

1. C) felt

2. B) went

3. B) at

4. A) better

5. D) way

6. A) go

7. B) instead

8. C) than

1. Felt describes Anna's own internal feeling, which fits because the next clause says nobody could tell; looked and seemed describe how something appears to other people, and sounded refers to how a voice or words come across, all of which would make her nervousness visible or audible, contradicting the clue.

2. We say 'go to a place', so 'went' correctly takes 'to' before 'the park'; 'arrived' would need 'at' instead of 'to', while 'reached' and 'entered' are transitive verbs that take the place directly as an object, with no preposition at all.

3. The verb 'look' combines with 'at' when we talk about directing our eyes towards something, as in 'look at your feet'.

4. The verb 'handle' describes how skilfully someone controls a bike, and this sense pairs with 'better', the comparative of 'well'; 'faster', 'further' and 'longer' describe speed, distance and duration, which don't fit the idea of skilful control itself.

5. The fixed expression 'all the way to' means travelling the whole distance to a place; 'road', 'path' and 'distance' do not fit this set phrase.

6. The phrasal verb 'go on' is used with 'ride' to mean taking part in a cycling trip; 'do', 'have' and 'get' do not combine with 'on a ride' in this way.

7. 'Instead of' shows that one thing replaces another; 'rather' needs 'than', 'because' gives a reason, and 'apart' needs 'from', so none of them fit here.

8. Comparative phrases like 'more fun' are completed with 'than'; 'that', 'then' and 'as' cannot follow a comparative adjective in this way.

10. Treasure in the Mud: The World of Thames Mudlarking

1. B) but

2. D) back

3. B) up

4. A) cut

5. A) down

6. A) giving

7. D) connection

8. D) Few

1. But is the only conjunction that can join the idea of mudlarking looking like a simple walk with the idea that it is actually a licensed activity with strict rules; and would wrongly join the two ideas as if they agreed, so would wrongly present the second idea as a result, and because would wrongly present it as a reason.

2. 'Date back to' is the fixed phrase used with 'date' before periods such as Roman or medieval times; 'date down to', 'date over to' and 'date away to' are not natural combinations with 'date'.

3. Turn up is a phrasal verb meaning to be found or to appear after being lost, matching the idea of discovering a coin hidden in the mud for centuries; turn down means to refuse, turn over means to flip something or hand it in, and turn out means to result in

a particular way, none of which fit finding a hidden object.

4. 'Get cut off' is the phrasal verb meaning to become trapped or isolated by rising water, matching the danger described; 'get sent off', 'get left off' and 'get kept off' are not natural combinations with this meaning.

5. 'Track down' is the fixed phrasal verb meaning to find something after searching hard for it, which fits 'using old maps and museum records'; 'track back', 'track over' and 'track through' are not standard English phrasal verbs.

6. 'Give up its secrets' is the fixed idiom meaning information is finally revealed, matching the river revealing hidden objects; 'back up' means to support something or make a copy, 'send up' means to mock, and 'hand up' is not a standard idiom in this sense.

7. 'A sense of connection with' is the natural collocation for feeling emotionally close to someone; English does not normally say 'a sense of link', 'a sense of relation' or 'a sense of bond' with this meaning.

8. The fixed pattern 'X, if any' means almost none exist, so 'Few hobbies, if any' fits; 'some', 'several' and 'many' do not naturally combine with 'if any', since that phrase is used to emphasise scarcity, not a normal or large quantity.

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