Mixed grammar practice — free worksheet

Sentences with a gap; choose the right form from four options — a different grammar point each time.

Free printable English worksheet · https://bfc.puppy123.com

1. Mixed Grammar Challenge: Everyday Situations

Mixed grammar practice · Mixed grammar points across everyday life, work, study, travel, health, technology, relationships and money

For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) that best completes each sentence.

1. If I _____ more free time, I would learn to cook properly.

A) have B) would have C) will have D) had

2. By the time she retires next year, Elena _____ for this company for over twenty years.

A) will have worked B) worked C) will work D) works

3. At last week's meeting, the CEO promised that salaries _____ the following quarter.

A) would be increased B) will be increased C) are increased D) had been increased

4. The university _____ my sister studies is renowned for its medical research.

A) where B) whose C) that D) which

5. She looks exhausted; she _____ slept properly last night.

A) needn't have B) can't have C) must have D) shouldn't have

6. This secondhand laptop, which I've had for three years, is _____ more reliable than the brand-new one my colleague bought last month.

A) too B) much C) very D) so

7. When we were teenagers, we _____ in the same street, so we saw each other every day.

A) used to living B) would live C) used to live D) are used to living

8. I invited several friends on the climbing trip, but _____ of them had ever used a harness before, so we had to cancel for safety reasons.

A) a little B) a few C) few D) little

2. Mixed Grammar Practice: Everyday Situations

Mixed grammar practice · Mixed grammar across everyday life, work, study, travel, health, technology, relationships and the environment

For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) that best completes each sentence.

1. She _____ painfully shy as a teenager, but now she loves public speaking.

A) would be B) has been C) used to be D) was being

2. The new office policy _____ by senior management without consulting any of the staff.

A) introduced B) was introduced C) is introducing D) has introduced

3. By the time she finally called him back, he _____ three messages apologising for the delay.

A) sent B) was sending C) had sent D) has sent

4. The hotel _____ we stayed last summer has since been converted into luxury apartments.

A) when B) which C) where D) that

5. She looks absolutely shattered this morning, with her desk lamp still on and books scattered everywhere; there's no other explanation — she _____ studied all night instead of sleeping.

A) can't have B) should have C) might have D) must have

6. If the app _____ properly tested before launch, it wouldn't still be crashing every day.

A) were B) was C) had been D) has been

7. The more time we spent apart during the trip, _____ we seemed to grow.

A) the closest B) closer C) more close D) the closer

8. Plastic waste is rarely recycled properly in this region, _____?

A) isn't it B) does it C) is it D) doesn't it

Answer Key

1. Mixed Grammar Challenge: Everyday Situations

1. D) had

2. A) will have worked

3. A) would be increased

4. A) where

5. B) can't have

6. B) much

7. C) used to live

8. C) few

1. This describes an imaginary present situation, so the pattern if + past simple, + would + base verb is needed, giving 'had'. 'Have' suggests a real possibility, while 'would have' and 'will have' wrongly repeat a modal in the if-clause.

2. The deadline 'by the time she retires next year' marks a future point by which a duration that began in the past must already be complete, so the future perfect 'will have worked' is needed. 'Will work' wrongly implies the job has not started yet, which contradicts the idea that she is about to retire; 'works' is present simple and 'worked' is simple past, so neither links a past start to a future endpoint.

3. Because the time phrase has already shifted from 'next' to 'the following', the whole report is anchored in the past, so the future verb must also shift back to 'would be increased'. 'Will be increased' keeps the original direct-speech form, which clashes with 'the following quarter'; 'are increased' is present and 'had been increased' wrongly implies the rise had already taken place before the promise.

4. The gap describes a place, and 'where' works as a relative adverb meaning 'in which', so it can stand alone before 'my sister studies'. 'Which' would only fit as 'in which', not as it stands without a preposition; 'that' can never follow a preposition, so a form like 'in that' is impossible; and 'whose' must introduce a possessive noun, which is not needed here.

5. 'Can't have' expresses strong negative certainty based on clear evidence, which fits how exhausted she looks. 'Must have' would wrongly suggest she did sleep well, contradicting her tired appearance; 'shouldn't have' criticises a past action, and 'needn't have' means an action was unnecessary.

6. 'Much' is the correct intensifier for a comparative adjective such as 'more reliable'. 'Very', 'so' and 'too' can intensify a plain adjective, but none of them can directly modify a comparative form, so 'very more reliable', 'so more reliable' and 'too more reliable' are all ungrammatical.

7. 'Used to' can describe past states as well as habits, including where someone lived, so 'used to live' is correct. 'Would' cannot describe a lasting state like living somewhere, and 'are used to living' describes present familiarity rather than a past situation.

8. The outcome 'we had to cancel for safety reasons' shows that almost none of the friends had relevant experience, which is exactly the negative meaning carried by 'few'. 'A few' would suggest that some friends did have experience, undermining the reason for cancelling, while 'little' and 'a little' are used with uncountable nouns, not with the countable 'friends'.

2. Mixed Grammar Practice: Everyday Situations

1. C) used to be
2. B) was introduced
3. C) had sent
4. C) where
5. D) must have
6. C) had been
7. D) the closer
8. C) is it

1. 'Used to be' describes a past state that no longer applies, matching the contrast with 'but now'. 'Would be' cannot describe states like shyness, only repeated actions, so it breaks here.

2. The policy is the receiver of the action and 'by senior management' names the agent, so a passive form is needed: 'was introduced'. The other options are active forms that would need the policy to be the one doing the introducing.

3. 'By the time she finally called him back' fixes a point in the past, and the messages were already finished before that point, so the earlier action needs the past perfect 'had sent'. 'Has sent' wrongly ties the sending to the present moment of speaking rather than to that earlier past point, 'sent' suggests the sending happened at the same time as the call, and 'was sending' wrongly presents the sending as still in progress at that moment.

4. 'Stayed' needs a place link, and 'where' already contains that missing preposition, giving 'the hotel where we stayed'. 'Which' or 'that' alone would leave the sentence missing a preposition, and 'when' wrongly treats the hotel as a point in time rather than a place.

5. The clause 'there's no other explanation' states complete certainty about what happened, matching the strong deduction 'must have studied'; 'might have' would wrongly suggest this was only one of several possible explanations, contradicting that certainty. 'Can't have' draws the opposite conclusion, and 'should have' criticises a missed obligation, neither of which fits a certain deduction from the evidence here.

6. The condition refers to the past launch while the result ('wouldn't still be crashing') is in the present, so the mixed conditional needs the past perfect passive 'had been tested'. 'Was' or 'were' describe a simple past condition, not one finished before the present result.

7. This correlative pattern pairs two comparisons, so the second half also needs 'the + comparative': 'the closer'. 'Closer' alone breaks the pairing, and 'more close' is wrong because a short adjective like 'close' takes '-er', not 'more'.

8. 'Rarely' already makes the statement negative in meaning, so the tag must be positive: 'is it'. 'Isn't it' wrongly doubles the negative, and 'does it/doesn't it' use the wrong auxiliary for the passive verb 'is recycled'.

“EnglishPrepository” is an independent educational tool. It is not supported by, endorsed by, sponsored by, licensed by, or in any way associated or affiliated with ANY examination, examination board, test provider or certification body — including, but not limited to, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, the University of Cambridge, ETS, the British Council, IDP, Pearson, Trinity College London, and the Council of Europe. No examination or test has endorsed this service and this service does not represent any of them. It prepares learners for English at the levels labelled on each exercise in general and does not guarantee admission to, or any result in, any official examination.

More free practice, audio & quizzes at https://bfc.puppy123.com — © 2026 EnglishPrepository