

ABOUT THE TASK

- 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 understanding of differences in meaning between similar words, for example, **found**, **invent** and **discover**. They can also test your knowledge of words that collocate with particular prepositions, or words that occur in fixed phrases.
- They also test your knowledge of verb patterns, for example whether a verb is followed by an infinitive or a clause.
- Some gaps 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 micro homes and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Micro homes

Most people (0) _____ B _____ of owning their own home, but for many young people this is not a realistic possibility. House prices are (1) _____, and renting is also expensive, which (2) _____ that saving enough money for a deposit is often out of reach. In recent years, (3) _____, the micro house movement has started to grow. Micro homes are small, compact homes that are cheap to build and need very little space. If the idea (4) _____ off, it could offer an alternative to more traditional homes.



- | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 0 | A hope | B dream | C intend | D wish |
| 1 | A great | B big | C severe | D high |
| 2 | A causes | B demands | C means | D allows |
| 3 | A although | B however | C despite | D instead |
| 4 | A takes | B gets | C puts | D makes |

How did you do?

- 2 Check your answers.
- 3 Look at the four answers again.
 - 1 Which answer needs you to use linking words correctly?
 - 2 Which answer needs you to understand typical collocations?
 - 3 Which answer needs you to know the meaning of a phrasal verb?
 - 4 Which answer needs you to understand differences in meaning between words with similar meanings?
- 4 Look at the four sets of words from the options (1-4) in Ex 1 in context. What do you notice about how each one is used? Then look at the gaps in the Ex 1 text again. Can you see why the answers are correct?
 - 1 The film was a **great success**.
The new TV arrived in a **big box**.
We were delayed by the **severe weather**.
They charge very **high prices**.
 - 2 Pollution in cities **causes** a lot of health problems.
Working with children **demands** a lot of patience.
He has no job, and this **means** that he has very little money.
Living in a micro home would **allow** us to save more money.
 - 3 **Although** he's only young, he's a brilliant player. / He's a brilliant player, **although** he's only young.
Her sister, **however**, isn't interested in sport at all. / **However**, her sister isn't interested in sport at all.
Despite her young age, she is determined to go to the USA.
You should study more **instead of** chatting to friends online.
 - 4 I'm sure the idea will **take off**.
I can't **get the lid off**.
You can't **put off** the decision any longer.
A thief **made off** with the money.

Strategies and skills

Phrases with prepositions

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

- 1a** Read the sentences and look at the highlighted prepositions. Choose the word that is followed by each preposition and fits the context.
- I'm very **interested / curious / keen / attracted in** music.
 - I wasn't sure how to **arrive / find / reach / get to** the restaurant.
 - I'm not **informed / interested / familiar / knowledgeable with** his books.
 - James is still **mending / recovering / improving / gaining from** his operation.
 - I felt very **pleased / satisfied / proud / content of** myself.
 - It wasn't clear whether she **approved / liked / agreed / accepted of** what we had done.
 - The wet weather had a very damaging **result / solution / effect / end on** tourism.
 - I hadn't **recognised / noticed / realised / heard of** this artist before.

- 1b** What prepositions are the other words followed by? Which words are not usually followed by a preposition?

Prepositions are also used before nouns, in fixed phrases or collocations. It is important to learn and recognise these. Sometimes the preposition may be the gap.

- 2** Look at the prepositions and nouns (A-D) carefully. Then choose the ones which form fixed phrases or collocations to complete the sentences.
- It was really exciting to finally meet her in _____.
A end B life C person D face
 - She was a doctor by _____.
A job B profession C work D employment
 - We soon found that we had a lot _____ common.
A as B for C between D in
 - _____ my surprise, they offered me the job as a photographer.
A For B In C To D Against
 - The police soon arrived on the _____.
A location B place C situation D scene
 - He could play the whole piece of music by _____.
A memory B mind C heart D feeling

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- Describe your perfect home.
- What are the challenges when you move to a new home/location?

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. It's important to remember which need an object, which can be separated and which have three rather than two parts.

- 3** Choose the correct words or phrases to complete the sentences.
- The book was popular and quickly sold **in / off / out / after**.
 - There were fears that robots would **take / give / get / make** over our lives.
 - Other members of the group **made up for / got through to / went over to / came up with** some good ideas.
 - I decided to **take / get / make / put** up his offer of a job with the company.
 - I hoped I might pick **off / up / out / over** some useful tips.
 - I always **shut down / put off / take off / shut up** my computer before I go home from work.
- 4** Choose the correct verb (A-D) to complete the sentences.
- We've decided to _____ ahead with our plans for a new office.
A take B go C put D bring
 - They've _____ the meeting off until next week.
A got B stopped C put D taken
 - Food prices have _____ up a lot recently.
A changed B got C taken D gone
 - Do you think we should _____ together for a meeting?
A get B bring C take D make
 - All the lights suddenly _____ off.
A moved B got C put D went
 - I was ill last week, so I _____ a bit behind with my work.
A went B came C got D turned
 - We don't like the temporary office location but we will have to _____ up with it until June.
A live B put C take D turn
 - Everyone says I _____ after my father because we look alike and both love jazz.
A look B go C take D do

Verb patterns

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

5 Choose the correct verb pattern to complete the sentences.

- 1 Finally, I managed **reserving / to reserve** a table at the popular new bistro.
- 2 It was very hard to accept **to lose / that we had lost** the game.
- 3 I had never considered **moving / that I move** to another country before.
- 4 I urged **Sam to be / Sam that he should be** careful.
- 5 Some of my friends agreed **helping / to help** us.
- 6 I couldn't imagine **working / me to work** in a busy restaurant kitchen all day.

6 Choose the correct verbs (A-D) to complete the sentences.

- 1 We _____ to go ahead with the event despite the concerns.
A considered B thought C decided D insisted
- 2 I had always _____ studying very difficult.
A found B experienced C believed D realised
- 3 Our manager _____ that we should postpone the show for a few weeks.
A urged B suggested C told D persuaded
- 4 Natalie _____ to think of herself as an artist.
A insists B imagines C likes D stresses
- 5 I really _____ what everyone did for me.
A benefited B approved C agreed D appreciated
- 6 Some friends _____ me to apply to a TV baking show.
A suggested B proposed C said D encouraged

SPEAKING BOOST

Discuss or answer.

- 1 Talk about what drinks you have in a typical day and where you have them.
- 2 What do you think of fair trade products?



Easily confused words

Some words have very similar meanings and are easy to confuse. Think carefully about the particular meaning each word has, and also think about the prepositions, collocations and patterns each word is used with.

7 Choose the correct words (A-D) to complete the sentences.

- 1 I've always taken loads of photos and _____ them online.
A sent B posted C mailed D delivered
- 2 She _____ her first album in 2016.
A brought B displayed C released D presented
- 3 The pack _____ posters and leaflets for the environmental campaign.
A contains B combines C composes D consists
- 4 You can see the _____ of the sun reflected on the solar panels.
A bars B rays C lights D flashes
- 5 Prague is an extremely popular _____ for tourists.
A visit B intention C aim D destination
- 6 From the hill, you can get a wonderful _____ of the whole city.
A scene B sight C view D glance

Verb collocations

A lot of common verbs such as *get, have, make, put, take, etc.* are used in collocations or fixed phrases. It is important to learn as many of these as you can.

8 Complete the sentences with the verbs from the box.

come do go get have keep
make play spend take

- 1 I knew I needed to _____ this secret from everyone.
- 2 I wondered how I could _____ advantage of the situation.
- 3 A bit of string should _____ the job and hold everything together.
- 4 What he said didn't _____ sense to me.
- 5 I took Ewa to one side to _____ a quiet word with her.
- 6 I hope your dreams will _____ true.
- 7 I don't _____ a lot of time watching TV.
- 8 We decided to _____ a trick on Jack.
- 9 You should _____ rid of those old trainers - they are disgusting!
- 10 I don't think anything will _____ wrong because you have prepared so carefully.

Linking words

Some questions test your knowledge of linking words and phrases.

- 9 Look at the bold linking words in the sentences (1-6). Match them to the synonyms (a-f).
- We had the party at home **rather than** hiring a hall.
 - We'll go ahead, **as long as** you're happy with that.
 - The plane was late **owing to** the bad weather.
 - Everyone was early, **apart from** Leon.
 - He is still a formidable opponent, **despite** his age.
 - I turned the music down **so as to** hear him better.
- a because of, due to, thanks to
 b in spite of
 c instead of
 d in order to
 e except
 f if, provided that

- 10 Choose the correct linking words (A-D) to complete the sentences.

TIP: Make sure the word you choose fits with the words that come after the gap as well as those that come before.

- We decided to take our own picnic, _____ than eating out.
 A instead B whereas
 C rather D by contrast
- We needed to hurry up, _____ we would be late.
 A otherwise B however
 C although D except
- The product was a success _____ its problems.
 A except B in spite of
 C however D although
- I won't call you _____ there's a problem.
 A unless B provided that
 C except D owing to
- The shop sold cards and magazines _____ books.
 A in addition B in particular
 C as well as D what's more
- _____ the first experiments failed, she never thought about giving up.
 A However B Nevertheless
 C In spite of D Although

EXAM TASK

Read the text about preparing for a possible emergency and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Preparing for the worst

We all depend on supermarkets for food and we (0) _____ D _____ it for granted that the shelves will always be full. But some people believe it's best to be prepared (1) _____ there's an emergency and normal life is disrupted for a while. They say there is a risk from extreme weather or an outbreak of flu, (2) _____ more serious natural disasters. People who prepare in this way are informally (3) _____ as 'preppers', and more and more people are now listening to their (4) _____. Alison Jones from Cambridge, UK, is a typical example. She keeps a month's (5) _____ of food in a cupboard, along with bottled water and medicines that her family needs. She is aware that some people would (6) _____ her to be slightly odd, but says that, for her, it makes perfect (7) _____ to be prepared. 'We keep just enough to see us through a few weeks, so we can then (8) _____ our normal lives. Why would anyone not do that?'



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|---|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0 | A get | B have | C make | D take |
| 1 | A even if | B in case | C provided that | D whereas |
| 2 | A although | B as well as | C in spite of | D in contrast |
| 3 | A known | B called | C named | D entitled |
| 4 | A views | B wishes | C requests | D decisions |
| 5 | A donation | B number | C supply | D delivery |
| 6 | A decide | B accept | C realise | D consider |
| 7 | A sense | B reason | C idea | D judgement |
| 8 | A go through with | B put up with | C get on with | D get away with |