

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) \_\_\_\_\_ 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?'



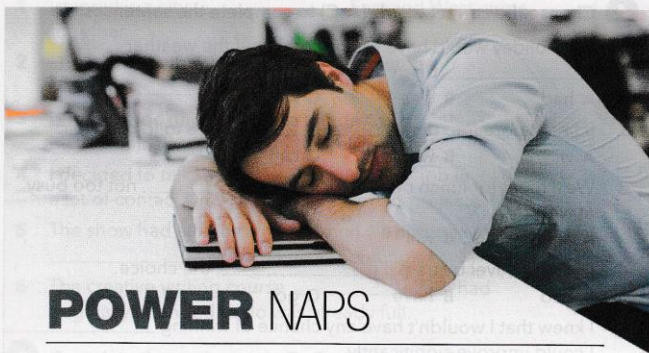
- |                     |               |                 |                 |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0 A get             | B have        | C make          | D take          |
| 1 A even if         | B in case     | C provided that | D whereas       |
| 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 |

ABOUT THE TASK

- In Reading and Use of English Part 2, you read a short text with eight gaps. 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**, but you can write the word **cannot**.
- The gaps test your understanding of different kinds of grammar, for example, parts of verbs, dependent prepositions and articles.
- They also test your knowledge of phrasal verbs, linking words and fixed phrases.
- The answer is always a single word.
- Occasionally, there is more than one correct answer.
- Each question is worth one mark.

Practice task

- 1 Read the first paragraph of a text about power naps. Think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

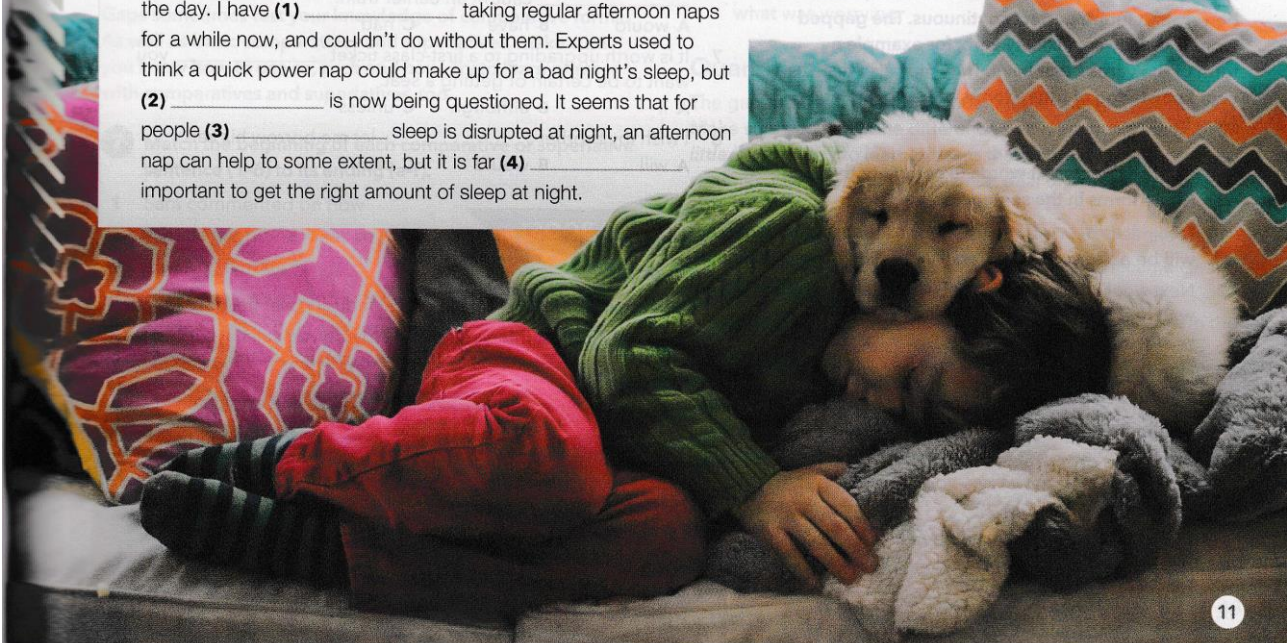


POWER NAPS

Short sleeps, or 'power naps', are regarded by many (0) AS a good way to recharge your batteries during the day. I have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ taking regular afternoon naps for a while now, and couldn't do without them. Experts used to think a quick power nap could make up for a bad night's sleep, but (2) \_\_\_\_\_ is now being questioned. It seems that for people (3) \_\_\_\_\_ sleep is disrupted at night, an afternoon nap can help to some extent, but it is far (4) \_\_\_\_\_ important to get the right amount of sleep at night.

How did you do?

- 2 Check your answers.
- 3 Look at the answers to the four questions in Ex 1 again.
  - 1 Which answer is part of a verb tense? Which tense is it? Why is this tense correct here?
  - 2 Which answer is a relative pronoun? What noun does it refer back to? Why is this pronoun correct here?
  - 3 Which answer is part of a comparative structure? Which word before the gap helps you decide it should be a comparative structure? Why is *less* not correct?
  - 4 Which answer is a reference word, which refers to an earlier idea? What idea does it refer back to? Why is *these* not correct here?
- 4 Which gap can be filled by two possible words? Why?



**Strategies and skills**

**Present tenses**

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

**1 Complete the sentences with one word in each gap.**

- I have \_\_\_\_\_ training for a marathon recently.
- Nowadays, a good diet \_\_\_\_\_ believed to be extremely important for health.
- These days, people \_\_\_\_\_ beginning to realise that we need to take climate change seriously.
- Some people think that cooking is a chore, but I \_\_\_\_\_ not agree.
- The competition \_\_\_\_\_ been held in the town for the last 15 years.
- It's now six o'clock in the morning and the sun \_\_\_\_\_ just come up.

**SPEAKING BOOST**

Discuss or answer.

- Where's the funniest place you have fallen asleep?
- Describe a dream that you had recently.

**Future forms**

The gaps sometimes test your knowledge of future forms, such as the future continuous, future perfect and future perfect continuous. The gapped word is usually an auxiliary verb, for example a form of the verbs *be* or *have*. They may also test your knowledge of future forms of *be able to* and *have to*.

**2 Choose the correct words to complete the future forms in the sentences.**

- My knee is nearly better, so I hope I **be able / will be able** to go on my walking holiday.
- Next week's World Cup Final **will watch / be watched** by millions of people all over the world.
- Hurry up, or the train **will have left / will have been leaving** by the time we get to the station!
- In June we **will be travelling / going to travel** around India.
- It will be too far to walk, so you **have to / will have to** get a taxi.
- By next summer I **will have been living / be living** in Cádiz for five years.

**3 Complete the sentences with one word in each gap.**

- Tomorrow I will \_\_\_\_\_ flying to New York for my gap year.
- The festival will \_\_\_\_\_ started by the time we get back from our trip to Tuscany.
- I hope you will \_\_\_\_\_ able to join us for the meal.
- We will be tired when we get home because we will have \_\_\_\_\_ walking for ten days.
- The new sports centre will \_\_\_\_\_ opened by a TV celebrity next month.
- I think we will \_\_\_\_\_ to work harder if we want to get everything finished.

**Conditional forms**

The gaps sometimes test your knowledge of conditionals. Make sure you know the zero, first, second and third 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.**

- The holiday would have been more fun if the weather \_\_\_\_\_ been better.  
A had            B was            C would
- If I had more free time, I \_\_\_\_\_ love to join a choir.  
A will            B would            C can
- We'll meet for lunch next week if I \_\_\_\_\_ not too busy at work.  
A am            B will            C was
- I usually travel by tram if I \_\_\_\_\_ the choice.  
A had            B have            C got
- I knew that I wouldn't have any chance of winning \_\_\_\_\_ I could improve significantly.  
A if            B because            C unless
- It was getting late now, and I was starting to wish that we \_\_\_\_\_ caught an earlier train.  
A would            B have            C had
- It is worth upgrading to a first-class ticket \_\_\_\_\_ you want to be certain of getting a seat.  
A if            B although            C unless
- I wish my brother \_\_\_\_\_ let me borrow his car!  
A will            B would            C can

**SPEAKING BOOST**

Discuss or answer.

- What changes will there be in the car industry over the next 20 years?
- What's the oldest thing you own? Why do you still have it?

