

PLACEMENT TEST

A. Choose the correct phrase (A, B or C) to complete the sentences below.

1. I _____ for this company for five years and I don't think about changing the job.
A) have been working B) am working C) worked
2. This soup is great. It _____ really delicious.
A) is tasting B) tastes C) has been tasting
3. How fast _____ when the accident happened?
A) did you drive B) have you been driving C) were you driving
4. This time next year I _____ for a world corporation for a really competitive salary.
A) am working B) will be working C) will have worked
5. Look, the light is still on. I _____ to turn it off when I was leaving the house.
A) must have forgotten B) must forget C) had to forget
6. It's getting cold; you _____ to wear a coat and a scarf.
A) had better B) should C) ought
7. It's high time you _____ that she is lying.
A) realise B) realised C) had realised
8. _____ she earns a fortune, she drives a very old car.
A) Despite B) In spite of C) Although
9. She said she _____ the money in the street.
A) has found B) had found C) was found
10. Jenny asked her mother _____ her alone in the room.
A) didn't leave B) not leave C) not to leave
11. The new school _____ near the park.
A) is built B) is being built C) will build
12. The car _____ by this young man; the police arrested him yesterday.
A) might have been stolen B) might have stolen C) might be stolen
13. If she weren't such a passionate teacher, I _____ this course.
A) wouldn't attend B) won't attend C) don't attend
14. If I _____ the map, I wouldn't have got lost.
A) haven't forgotten B) didn't forget C) hadn't forgotten
15. "Why didn't Constance buy a dishwasher?" "She can't _____ because there isn't enough space in her kitchen."
A) have one installed B) has one installed C) installed one
16. "Why is everyone so busy?" "They are tidying the showroom in case the managing director _____ in."
A) drops B) will drop C) would drop
17. "I'm going out now." _____ you happen to pass a chemist's, would you get me some aspirins?"
A) Had B) Did C) Should
18. "How much time do I have to make my choice?" "It's imperative that you _____ a quick decision."
A) will make B) shall make C) make

B. Fill in the gaps with words formed from the words in brackets.

Example: Her behaviour during the filming attracted a lot of _____ **publicity** _____. (**public**)

1. Tom Brown is a driving _____. (**instruct**)
2. Surrey was a quiet _____ old village in the mountains. (**peace**)
3. His new neighbours were rather cold and _____ so he felt lonely (**friend**).
4. The door locks are controlled _____. (**centre**)
5. The _____ of your lecture should be at least fifteen minutes. (**long**)
6. She has always dreamt about living in a _____ mansion. (**luxury**)
7. You need to _____ your explanations for the students. (**simple**)
8. Most people find the idea of human cloning _____. (**object**)
9. The article contained many _____ (**accurate**), and that's why it was rejected by the editor-in-chief.
10. Appearances can be very _____. (**deceive**) – in other words, do not judge a book by its cover.

C. Read the text below and complete the spaces with appropriate phrases A- F. There is one extra phrase you do not need to choose.

IS TECH TRANSFORMING LANGUAGE?*

Many think texts and tweets are crimes against proper grammar, but linguist Ben Zimmer argues that this misses the point.

Texting and social media are often bemoaned as the downfall of the written word – the low standards of grammar and spelling, say many critics, are evidence that 1. _____. But is that true?

Ben Zimmer, a language columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*, argues that 2. _____.

For starters, 'proper' language has always been mangled and remixed by its users in daily life. The main difference now is that it's much more visible, because 3. _____.

What's more, new styles and genres of communication are developing thanks to 4. _____. For example, some people append their daily conversations with certain words, such as "awkward", or "random", emulating the use of the hashtag on Twitter, he says.

So, for a linguist like Zimmer, it's an "exhilarating time". Our language is changing – but 5. _____.

- A. the way we are connected digitally
- B. the number of people who rarely text
- C. English is going to pot
- D. most fears about digital discourse are exaggerated
- E. not necessarily for the worse
- F. so many people are publishing their discourse online

D. Read the beginning of the article and answer the questions below. Circle the correct answer: A, B or C.

BOOSTING YOUR BRAINPOWER**

For centuries, we've searched for a magic drug to improve memory and keep us from slipping into senility. A hundred years ago, salesmen peddled magic potions on the sidewalks, but today we have our own version of snake oil. On-line brain games boast of better memory with the help of the right puzzles, supplements promise to keep us sharp, and social media ads pop up daily with the latest cure for the intellectual sluggishness of advancing age. It seems we'd pay anything to boost our mental agility. But the startling truth is that we've had the secret inside us, all along, in the form of Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF)— a magic protein with the power to make our brains faster and enhance our memory.

How can you get your hands on this priceless elixir? Happily, it's well within your reach, but to understand how — and why — you first need to meet the remarkable athlete who showed us the way: Olga Kotelko.

Born in Canada in 1919 to Ukrainian immigrant farmers, Olga, a self-described "plain Jane", was the seventh of eleven children. She worked quietly as a teacher in a one-room school, divorced when she was pregnant with her second child, and eventually— much later in life—earned her college degree in night school. Then, at the age of 80, something remarkable happened: Olga,

who'd never even exercised regularly until she was 65, started winning track and field competitions—and she started to win big. And she kept winning until the age of 95. In fact, by the end of her career, she'd broken an astonishing 37 world records and won 750 track and field medals.

Fascinated by Olga's superpowers, scientists at the University of Illinois decided to study her brain when she was 93; they examined her memory and other mental skills with extensive brain imaging and neuropsychological assessment—and what they found, in the end, was shocking. Her brain appeared similar to women decades younger. In particular, her white-matter tracts—the rapid transit lines that shuttle information between brain regions – looked especially young. So did her corpus callosum—the superhighway connecting the right and left sides of the brain. Even more remarkable, her hippocampus – a core memory area that shrinks with age – was larger than expected.

1. In the first paragraph, the writer argues that:
 - A) research on inventing new drugs should be continued.
 - B) online brain games and supplements work better than snake oil.
 - C) we do not need man-made drugs to improve our cognitive processes.
2. 'Slipping into senility' means:
 - A) becoming forgetful because of old age.
 - B) becoming forgotten by everybody.
 - C) becoming obsessed with the past.
3. 'Boost our mental agility' means:
 - A) improve the way your brain works.
 - B) forget about mental problems.
 - C) stay mentally healthy.
4. Which information about Olga Kotelko is true?
 - A) She considered herself as an unusually clever child.
 - B) She was much better than her competitors.
 - C) She started exercising regularly at age 80.
5. After examining Olga's brain, researchers were amazed because:
 - A) the area of her brain responsible for memory was larger than in younger women's brains.
 - B) her right and left hemispheres of the brain were less tightly connected.
 - C) certain parts of her brain seemed younger than expected.

E. Read the extract from the article and complete the gaps 1-7 with the appropriate sentences A-G. There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

WHY WE TRAVEL***

It has long been said that travel "broadens the mind". Now new evidence proves that jumping on a plane will not only make you smarter, but more open-minded and creative.

Travel is a basic human desire. 1____ But here's my question: is this collective urge to travel – to put some distance between ourselves and everything we know – still a worthwhile compulsion? Or is it like the taste for saturated fat: one of those instincts we should have left behind in the Pleistocene epoch? Because if travel is just about fun, then I think the new security measures at airports have killed it.

THE GOOD NEWS, at least for those of you reading this while stuck on a tarmac, is that pleasure is not the only consolation of travel. 2____ It's not about a holiday, or relaxation, or sipping daiquiris on an unspoiled tropical beach: it's about the tedious act itself, putting some miles between home and wherever you happen to spend the night.

Let's begin with the most literal aspect of travel, which is that it's a verb of movement. 3____ The average walker moves at 3mph, which is 200 times slower than the cruising speed of a Boeing 737. There's something inherently useful about such speedy movement, which allows us to switch our physical locations with surreal ease. 4____

The reason such travels are mentally useful involves a quirk of cognition, in which problems that feel "close" – and the closeness can be physical, temporal or even emotional – get contemplated in a more concrete manner. As a result, when we think about things that are nearby, our thoughts are constricted, bound by a more limited set of associations. 5 ____ Consider a field of corn. When you're standing in the middle of the field, surrounded by the tall cellulose stalks and fraying husks, the air smelling faintly of fertiliser and popcorn, your mind is automatically drawn to thoughts that revolve around the primary meaning of corn, which is that it's a plant, a cereal, a staple of farming.

But now imagine that same field of corn from a different perspective. Instead of standing on a farm, you're now in the midst of a crowded city street, dense with taxis and pedestrians. (And yet, for some peculiar reason, you're still thinking about corn.) 6 ____ You'll think about glucose-fructose syrup, obesity and Michael Pollan, author of *In Defense of Food*; ethanol made from corn stalks, popcorn at the cinema and creamy polenta simmering on a wood stove in Emilia Romagna. The noun is now a web of tangents, a loom of remote connections.

What does this have to do with travel? When we escape from the place we spend most of our time, the mind is suddenly made aware of all those errant ideas we'd suppressed. 7 ____ . Furthermore, this more relaxed sort of cognition comes with practical advantages, especially when we're trying to solve difficult problems.

- A. While this habit can be helpful – it allows us to focus on the facts at hand – it also inhibits our imagination.
- B. We start thinking about obscure possibilities – corn can fuel cars – that never would have occurred to us if we'd stayed back on the farm.
- C. In fact, several new science papers suggest that getting away – and it doesn't even matter where you're going – is an essential habit of effective thinking.
- D. We're a migratory species, even if our migrations are powered by jet fuel and Chicken McNuggets.
- E. For the first time in human history, we can outrun the sun and segue from one climate to another in a single day.
- F. The plant will no longer just be a plant: instead, your vast neural network will pump out all sorts of associations.
- G. Thanks to modern engine technology, we can now move through space at an inhuman speed.
- H. No matter how costly or perilous, they should be accomplished.

F. Complete the gaps in the text below, using the words from the list. There are three words you do NOT need to use.

There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| A. alter | F. fundamental | K. relevant |
| B. average | G. hesitation | L. root |
| C. branch | H. hook | M. tackle |
| D. common | I. significant | N. vocational |
| E. connect | J. normal | |

**BOREDOM IS THE MOST ...COMMON(0) CAUSE_OF PUPILS LOSING
INTEREST IN SCHOOL, SAYS THE EDUCATION MINISTER******

A large minority of young people, especially boys, get turned off in secondary school soon after they arrive. If I had to pick out a ____ (1) reason why this minority get turned off, I would have no ____ (2): boredom.

Speaking at a conference, the minister said that boredom was at the ____ (3) of many discipline problems. He said that it was essential for schools to ____ (4) their approach to teaching and to make the curriculum more ____ (5) to the everyday lives of ordinary young people.

“It is vital that we connect with ordinary young people and teach them the skills that they believe will be important to them in their adult lives. We need to ____ (6) into what motivates the ____ (7) teenager and build on that.”

The government’s proposals to help ____ (8) this problem include an increased role for ____ (9) training and a ____ (10) increase in the use of information technology.

PLACEMENT TEST – KEY

A				
1.A	5.A	9.B	13. A	17 C
2.B	6.C	10.C	14.C	18 C
3.C	7.B	11.B	15 A	
4.B	8.C	12. A	16 A	

B				
1. instructor		5. length		9. inaccuracies
2. peaceful		6. luxurious		10. deceptive
3. unfriendly		7. simplify		
4. centrally		8. objectionable		

C				
1.C	2.D	3.F	4.A	5.E
B – is not used				

D				
1 C	2 A	3 A	4 B	5 C

E						
1 D	2 C	3 G	4 E	5 A	6 F	7 B
H – is not used						

- F**
(0) ~~D - common~~
1 F - fundamental
2 G - hesitation
3 L - root
4 A - alter
5 K - relevant
6 H - hook
7 B - average
8 M - tackle
9 N - vocational
10 I - significant

You do **not** need to use: E - *connect*, C - *branch* and J - *normal*.

mniej niż 20 p - poziom B1 (lub niższy)

25-39 -poziom B2

40- 55 - poziom C1 lub wyższy

* Adapted from ‘Is tech transforming language?’ by Ben Zimmer

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141120-is-tech-transforming-language>

**Extract from ‘3 Simple Steps to Boosting Your Brainpower’ by Michelle Brown , PhD.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/ageless/201702/3-simple-steps-boosting-your-brainpower>

*** Adapted from ‘Why We Travel’ by Jonah Lehrer <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2010/mar/14/why-travel-makes-you-smarter>

**** Adapted from: Moore, J. (2005). ‘Common mistakes at Proficiency...and how to avoid them’; Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

PLACEMENT TEST – ANSWER SHEET

NAME: _____

Ex. 1

- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. ___ | 5. ___ | 9. ___ | 13. ___ | 17. ___ |
| 2. ___ | 6. ___ | 10. ___ | 14. ___ | 18. ___ |
| 3. ___ | 7. ___ | 11. ___ | 15. ___ | |
| 4. ___ | 8. ___ | 12. ___ | 16. ___ | |
-

Ex. 2

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ | |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ | |
-

Ex. 3

- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. ___ | 2. ___ | 3. ___ | 4. ___ | 5. ___ |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
-

Ex. 4

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 ___ | 2 ___ | 3 ___ | 4 ___ | 5 ___ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
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Ex. 5

- | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 ___ | 2 ___ | 3 ___ | 4 ___ | 5 ___ | 6 ___ | 7 ___ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
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Ex. 6

(⊕) D

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 1 ___ | 6 ___ |
| 2 ___ | 7 ___ |
| 3 ___ | 8 ___ |
| 4 ___ | 9 ___ |
| 5 ___ | 10 ___ |

