

Part 1: Multiple-Choice Cloze

Description

In this part of the Use of English you are given a short text with gaps. For each gap there are 4 multiple-choice options. You have to decide which of the 4 options fills the gap correctly. Only **one** answer is correct.

This part of the exam focuses mainly on vocabulary and the following areas are frequently tested:

1. Words with a similar meaning

You have to choose between words which have a similar meaning, for example '**witness**' is used in the context of crime or accidents, '**audience**' in the context of plays, concerts or films, '**spectator**' in the context of sporting events, or '**viewer**' in the context of TV, pictures or other objects.

2. Fixed phrases and collocations

You have to complete a fixed phrase. A fixed phrase is a group of words whose meaning as a whole is different from the meaning of the individual words, for example '**get in touch with**' means 'contact'.

You have to complete a collocation. A collocation is a combination of words which are often used together, for example you '**take photos**' or you have a '**spectacular view**'.

3. Phrasal verbs

You have to complete a phrasal verb. A phrasal verb is made up of two or three words: a verb and a preposition or an adverb, for example '**look after**', '**come across**', '**take up**'.

Phrasal verbs can be tested in three different ways:

- the whole phrasal verb, for example '**look after**'
- just the verb, for example '**look**'
- just the preposition or adverb, for example '**after**'

4. Grammatical patterns

Sometimes the choice of the correct word not only depends on its meaning but also on its grammar.

In some cases you may have to decide which word is correct because the sentence requires either a countable or an uncountable noun.

- A **countable noun** can be counted. It can be used with the indefinite article 'a' / 'an' and it can be singular or plural, for example '**suggestion**'.
- An **uncountable noun** cannot be counted. It cannot be used with the indefinite article 'a' / 'an' and it cannot be plural, for example '**advice**'.

In other cases you may have to decide which word is correct depending on the grammatical pattern which follows or comes before the gap. This may involve deciding:

- which **preposition** follows a particular word, for example 'succeed **in**' or 'be keen **on**', or comes before it, for example '**on** foot'
- which **verb structure** follows a particular word, for example 'enjoy **doing**' or 'would like **to do**'

5. Linking words and phrases

You have to decide which linking word or phrase is correct in the context. A linking word or phrase is used to join words, parts of sentences, or sentences, for example '**even though**', '**if**', '**in order to**', '**despite**', etc.

Examples

Below you will find an example for each of the areas described before. First read the example and decide which option (A, B, C or D) best fits the gap. Then read the feedback, which will show you the correct answer and explain why this answer is correct:

1. Words with a similar meaning

Last year we went on a two-week _____ in the Caribbean Sea. It was fantastic. We visited a lot of beautiful islands.

A voyage

B excursion

C cruise

D trip

Feedback:

Option C '**cruise**' is correct.

The context tells you that the people spent their holiday travelling on a ship and visiting a number of places. The noun '**cruise**' is used for this type of holiday.

A '**voyage**' is a long journey from one particular place to another on a ship or in a spacecraft, for example the voyage of the Titanic.

An '**excursion**' is a short visit to an interesting place, for example a one-day excursion to Liverpool.

A '**trip**' is a visit to a particular place or for a particular purpose, for example a business trip, a fishing trip, a trip abroad, a boat trip, etc.

2.1 Fixed phrases

When visiting the Australian Outback, it is very important to _____ in mind that it has few inhabitants and little water.

A keep

B remain

C save

D stay

Feedback:

Option A '**keep**' is correct.

'**Keep something in mind**' or '**keep in mind that**' is a fixed phrase and means 'remember something', especially something important.

2.2 Collocations

Our company has been working _____ with an employment agency to recruit new staff for many years.

A firmly

B closely

C hardly

D tightly

Feedback:

Option B '**closely**' is correct.

The words '**firmly**', '**closely**' and '**tightly**' are similar in meaning, but the verb 'work' collocates with 'closely' in this context. If you '**work closely with somebody**', you co-operate with them to a great degree.

The word '**hardly**' means 'almost not' and so does not make sense in the context.

3.1 Phrasal verbs

New technologies have _____ a change in the way we communicate.

A turned into

B brought about

C come up with

D taken over

Feedback:

Option B '**brought about**' is correct.

The context tells you that new technologies have 'caused' a change in the way we communicate, and only have '**brought about**' expresses this meaning.

3.2 Phrasal verbs

The United Kingdom is _____ up of four countries: Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A put

B done

C made

D taken

Feedback:

Option C '**made**' is correct.

The context tells you that the United Kingdom is 'formed from' four countries, and '**made up of**' expresses this meaning.

3.3 Phrasal verbs

The first Olympic Games were set _____ over 2,700 years ago in Olympia, in the southwest of Greece.

A out

B off

C down

D up

Feedback:

Option D '**up**' is correct.

The context tells you that the Olympic Games first 'started' over 2,700 years ago, and '**set up**' expresses this meaning.

4.1 Grammatical patterns / Countable – uncountable noun

After graduating from university, he started _____ for a small engineering company.

A job

B work

C occupation

D career

Feedback:

Option B '**work**' is correct.

Note that there is no indefinite article 'a' or 'an' after the verb 'started'. This means that the sentence requires a noun which is uncountable (not used with the indefinite article 'a' or 'an'), and only the noun '**work**' is **uncountable**.

4.2 Grammatical patterns / Prepositions after or before the gap

In many parts of the world there is a _____ of drinkable water.

A lack

B need

C demand

D requirement

Feedback:

Option A '**lack**' is correct.

The nouns '**lack**', '**need**', and '**demand**' are all possible in the context, but only the noun '**lack**' can be followed by the preposition '**of**'.

The nouns '**need**', '**demand**' and '**requirement**' are followed by the preposition '**for**'.

4.3 Grammatical patterns / Verb structures after the gap

The doctor _____ me to do more sport.

A made

B suggested

C told

D informed

Feedback:

Option C '**told**' is correct.

All four verbs are possible in the context, but only the verb '**told**' can be followed by '**me to do**'.

The verb '**made**' is followed by object + infinitive without 'to':

'The doctor **made me do** more sport.'

The verb '**suggest**' is followed by a gerund (doing):

'The doctor **suggested doing** more sport.'

The verb '**inform**' is followed by object + a sentence with or without 'that':

'The doctor **informed me (that) I should do more sport.**'

5. Linking words and phrases

My company offered me a job in the sales department. _____, I didn't accept it because it involved travelling a lot.

A Despite

B Although

C However

D Therefore

Feedback:

Option C '**However**' is correct.

Only the linking word '**however**' can be used to contrast ideas in two different sentences and is followed by a comma.

'**Although**' and '**despite**' contrast ideas in the same sentence. Note that '**despite**' is followed by a noun or a gerund (doing):

Although my company offered me a job in the sales department, I didn't accept it because it involved travelling a lot.

Despite my company **offering** me a job in the sales department, I didn't accept it because it involved travelling a lot.

'**Therefore**' means 'as a result' and so does not make sense in the context.



Tips to score!

How to approach the task

Here are some tips to help you deal successfully with this task:

- **Read the text.** Before you begin to work on the gaps, look at the title and read the whole text quickly to get a general idea of what the text is about. This will make it easier to find the missing words.
- **Read the sentence.** Read the whole sentence and pay particular attention to the language before and after the gap before you decide what the missing word is. Ask yourself:
 - 1) Which of the options makes sense in the context?
 - 2) Is the missing word part of a fixed phrase, a collocation or a phrasal verb?
 - 3) Does the missing word depend on the grammatical pattern before or after the gap, for example a preposition or a verb structure?
- **Understand the context.** Remember that sometimes you need to read the context before or after the sentence with the gap to help you make your choice. In this example from above, the correct word depends on the information given in both sentences:

My company offered me a job in the sales department. (first information)

____, I didn't accept it because it involved travelling a lot. (second information)

My company offered me a job in the sales department.

***However,** I didn't accept it because it involved travelling a lot. (correct answer)*

- **Make sure it makes sense.** When you have finished, read the whole text quickly again to make sure that the options you have chosen make sense in the context.
- **Learn the uses and grammar of new words.** When learning a new word, make sure that you also learn its grammar, the words it collocates with and any fixed expressions using this word. A good monolingual dictionary will help you with this and it will also show you how this word is used in typical contexts.