

**A** Write the verbs in brackets in the correct form in each gap.

## The importance of nothing

There is a lateral thinking question which asks: 'If the Romans (1) ..... (have) all the technology we have today, why would they not have been able to get to the moon?' (2) ..... (we / be) to think about this logically, we would probably be unable to come up with a satisfactory reason. However, with lateral thinking, there is a perfectly reasonable explanation. (3) ..... (the Romans / be) as technologically advanced as we are, they would indeed be stuck here on Earth. Why? Because if, 2,000 years ago, they (4) ..... (employ) a Roman centurion to count down their Roman space rocket, he would have started at ten (in Latin, of course), got down to one and then stopped. The Romans had no word for 'zero', so there would have been no 'Lift-off!'

Of course, the truth is that if these hypothetical Romans (5) ..... (have) the number 'zero', it would be impossible for them to have all our technology. If the concept of zero (6) ..... (develop), we would not have computers today. Modern maths and physics relies absolutely on there being a numeral to represent nothingness. It may seem obvious to us now that zero should exist, but many philosophers in the past were very uncomfortable with the idea. The ancient Greeks tied themselves in logical knots by stating: 'If nothing (7) ..... (be) a number, then it would be something. And if it (8) ..... (do) become something, then it would no longer be nothing.' If it (9) ..... (be) for an Indian mathematician called Brahmagupta, who knows what would have happened? He wrote the earliest known text stating that zero was a number. If he (10) ..... (do), we might not have set foot on the moon either.

**B** Write the verbs in brackets in the correct form in each gap to make hypothetical situations.

- 1 Supposing you ..... (have) the chance to spend a year in space, would you take it?
- 2 What if we ..... (decide) to run away right now and never come back?
- 3 Suppose all your friends ..... (say) bad things about you behind your back and you found out. What would you do?
- 4 Imagine you ..... (have) any money or any means of getting any. What on earth could you do?
- 5 What if the Internet ..... (invent)? Wouldn't that be weird?
- 6 Supposing the sun ..... (stop) shining right now, how long would it take for us to realise?
- 7 Imagine we ..... (just / tell) that a huge meteor was on its way to Earth. What would be the best thing to do?
- 8 Suppose you ..... (can) travel back in time. Where would you go?
- 9 What if everyone in the world ..... (speak) the same language?
- 10 Suppose it ..... (prove) that aliens existed and were living among us!
- 11 I do realise it'll probably never happen but imagine her song ..... (become) really popular!
- 12 What if you ..... (give) three wishes by a genie in a bottle? What would you wish for?
- 13 Supposing you ..... (wake) up one morning and found you'd gone back in time, how would you feel?
- 14 I know we can't travel faster than the speed of light but suppose for a moment that we ..... (be) able to.
- 15 Imagine that humans ..... (can) speak. How do you think we'd communicate?

**C Look at the questions that follow each sentence and circle the answer, A, B or C which is not correct.**

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| <p>1 Why do you always act as if you were better than everyone else, John?<br/>Is John better than everyone else?<br/>A Yes, he is.<br/>B No, he isn't.<br/>C He might think he is.</p> <p>2 Rod often acts as if he had lots of brothers and sisters.<br/>Does Rod have lots of brothers and sisters?<br/>A Yes, he does.<br/>B No, he doesn't.<br/>C He could have but we don't know.</p> <p>3 They look as if they've been running fast.<br/>Have they been running fast?<br/>A Yes, they're probably sweating.<br/>B No, they haven't.<br/>C They could well have been.</p> | <p>4 There's no need to be frightened of him. Just treat him as if you didn't know he'd spent some time in prison.<br/>Do you know about the time he spent in prison?<br/>A Yes, you do.<br/>B No, you know nothing about it.<br/>C You probably do.</p> <p>5 It was scary! At one point, it felt like we weren't ever going to get out of that jungle alive.<br/>How did you feel in the jungle?<br/>A You would get out of it easily.<br/>B You would possibly die in the jungle.<br/>C You didn't know if you would survive the jungle or not.</p> <p>6 Sara looked as if she had just woken up.<br/>How did Sara look?<br/>A She looked tired and she wasn't wearing her make-up.<br/>B She certainly hadn't just woken up then.<br/>C She could possibly just have looked tired but got up a lot earlier.</p> |
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**D Write the verbs in brackets in the correct form in each gap. When a situation is hypothetical or unlikely, use unreal tenses.**

- Dave talks as though he ..... (**grow up**) in the UK, but he actually only moved here three months ago.
- I was such a mess when I got home I looked as if I ..... (**drag**) through a hedge backwards!
- It was such a bad case of flu that I honestly felt as if I ..... (**go**) to die.
- When I saw Corin on TV last night, it felt as if he ..... (**do**) chat shows for ages. I can't believe this was his first one!
- Hardip looked as if he ..... (**have**) the worst possible news. In fact, he'd failed his finals.
- Don't you think Maria sometimes looks as though she ..... (**wish**) she'd been born in another century?
- Rupert often dresses as though he ..... (**roll**) in money but he's actually on the dole.
- You kids are behaving as if it ..... (**be**) a school night. It is, you know!
- How can you sit there as if nothing ..... (**happen**)?

**E Make each of these statements or questions as polite as possible by using past tenses.**

- What time ..... (**you, want**) to be woken tomorrow morning?
- I ..... (**look**) for an engagement present for a young couple.
- We ..... (**wonder**) whether you ..... (**want**) to go out this evening.
- Excuse me, sir. .... (**you, plan**) to park there for long?
- ..... (**you, wish**) to see me about something, Mr Patel?
- ..... (**you, look**) for anything in particular?
- ..... (**you, want**) milk and sugar in your tea?
- I ..... (**hope**) you ..... (**give**) me a hand tomorrow.
- How long ..... (**you, intend**) to stay here?
- I ..... (**wonder**) if you ..... (**pay**) by credit card, madam.



**F Write a verb from the box in the correct form in each gap.**

allow • buy • call • do • get up • give • go • learn • look • make • start • stop

- 1 It's high time you ..... smoking. It's a disgusting habit!
- 2 It's time you ..... for a job, young man!
- 3 I think it's time we ..... a new carpet. This one's got holes in it!
- 4 It's time for you kids ..... your homework.
- 5 It's about time the government ..... listening to the views of ordinary people.
- 6 Wake up, Bonnie. It's time ..... now.
- 7 Don't you think it's time you ..... a pay rise?
- 8 It's time for you ..... a partner in the firm; you've been with them for over eight years, after all.
- 9 It's definitely time I ..... to stay out after ten o'clock at night.
- 10 It's time for us ..... now, Sammy. Are you ready?
- 11 Isn't it about time you ..... to drive?
- 12 Is it a good time ..... Aunty Audrey? What time is it in Australia?

**G Write a word or short phrase in each gap so that each second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.**

- 1 We'd prefer the successful candidate to have previous experience in the field.  
We'd rather the successful candidate ..... previous experience in the field.
- 2 Would you prefer me to come back later?  
Would you rather ..... later?
- 3 To be honest, I'd prefer you not to tell anyone about this.  
To be honest, I'd rather ..... anyone about this.
- 4 I'd prefer us to get a new kitchen rather than go on an expensive holiday.  
I'd sooner ..... a new kitchen than ..... on an expensive holiday.
- 5 Dad said he'd prefer Brian to be living nearer home and I agree with him.  
Dad said he'd rather Brian ..... nearer home and I agree with him.
- 6 I would prefer her to be sent on a training course rather than sacked.  
I would rather ..... on a training course than sacked.
- 7 I'd prefer us not to talk about this right now, if you don't mind.  
I'd sooner ..... about this right now, if you don't mind.
- 8 Of course I would have preferred you to tell me the truth!  
Of course I would rather ..... me the truth!
- 9 I think Jeanne would definitely prefer to have a traditional wedding.  
I think Jeanne would definitely rather ..... a traditional wedding.
- 10 We would have preferred them not to have stayed so long, that's true.  
We would sooner ..... so long, that's true.

**H Circle the correct word or phrase. If both are correct, circle both.**

- 1 All of my friends have got mobiles. I wish I **have** / **had** one too!
- 2 Don't you sometimes wish you **ran** / **were running** this company?
- 3 If only we **didn't leave** / **hadn't left** the map at home!
- 4 If only we **don't** / **didn't** have to go to school tomorrow!
- 5 I do wish the bus **came** / **would come**. I'm going to be late.

- 6 Do you ever wish that you **sang / could sing** really well?
- 7 There's only really one thing I regret. I wish I could **go / have gone** to university but of course, in those days, it just wasn't possible.
- 8 Excuse me, I wish I **spoke / to speak** to the person in charge.
- 9 I **wish / hope** it snows tomorrow!
- 10 Why on earth does Geoffrey wish **he would be given / they would give him** a knighthood?
- 11 Well, I don't think it's a very sensible business venture, but I do wish you **luck / lucky**.
- 12 My grandfather always wished that he **was / had been** taller.
- 13 If only **you were / you'd been** watching Thomas instead of checking your e-mail. He wouldn't have fallen off the slide then.
- 14 I do wish the taxi driver **didn't go / wasn't going** so slowly. We're never going to get there!
- 15 If only Peggy **wasn't / hadn't been** sent off. I'm sure we'd have won the match.

### I Choose the correct answer.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p>1 Imagine ..... when the ancient Egyptians built the pyramids. How would your life have been different?<br/>A you'd been living      C you live<br/>B you're living      D you've been living</p> <p>2 What if your cat suddenly ..... to you right now? How would you react?<br/>A had started talking      C starts talking<br/>B is starting to talk      D started talking</p> <p>3 Would Rubik have become rich if he ..... the Rubik's Cube?<br/>A hadn't invented      C didn't invent<br/>B hadn't been inventing      D wasn't inventing</p> <p>4 It's high time ..... rid of this old sofa.<br/>A we got      C for us to get<br/>B we get      D to get</p> | <p>5 It's amazing how Jenny acts as though she and Darren ..... serious problems at the moment.<br/>A aren't having      C hadn't had<br/>B weren't having      D hadn't been having</p> <p>6 ..... either of you want some more dessert?<br/>A Had      C Did<br/>B Would      D Were</p> <p>7 If you ..... to attend the wedding, would you still have to reply to the invitation?<br/>A aren't planning      C weren't planning<br/>B don't plan      D hadn't been planning</p> <p>8 Apparently, Lewis would rather we ..... anything special for his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday next month.<br/>A don't organise      C haven't organised<br/>B didn't organise      D aren't going to organise</p> |
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### J Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

- 1 Pauline doesn't want to be given a main part in the school play. **rather**  
Pauline ..... a main part in the school play.
- 2 We didn't get to meet the Minister and that was a great shame. **only**  
If ..... to meet the Minister!
- 3 Why don't they stop making so much noise downstairs? **wish**  
I ..... making so much noise downstairs!
- 4 What a shame I didn't see his face when you told him the news. **could**  
I wish ..... his face when you told him the news.
- 5 Don't you think they should bring out a new version of *MatchPlayer*? **about**  
Don't you think it's ..... out a new version of *MatchPlayer*?
- 6 I only knew about the meeting because Cynthia rang me. **if**  
I wouldn't have known about the meeting .....



**A** If the word in bold is correct, put a tick. If it is incorrect, rewrite it correctly.

- 1 Whenever she gets home from work, Mum always seems **unhappily** about something. ....
- 2 I don't know what's in it, but it smells **strongly** of cinnamon. ....
- 3 When Terry finally became **calmly**, I asked him what had happened. ....
- 4 I'm glad I didn't go on holiday with Efy and Graham because it sounded **dreadfully**. ....
- 5 It's hard to believe that the seeds you planted have grown so **quickly**. ....
- 6 The car sped past me and turned **sharply** into the next street. ....
- 7 The actors could tell that the audience were growing **restlessly**. ....
- 8 Why are you looking so **accusingly** at me? ....
- 9 Add some chilli to the curry because it doesn't taste **spicily** enough. ....
- 10 I don't think I get **angrily** very often, but one or two people do really annoy me. ....
- 11 In the darkness, I felt **nervously** for the light switch and finally found it. ....
- 12 Tim appeared **tiredly** after his tennis match. ....

**B** Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Add any other words you need.

- 1 I haven't had this ..... at work for a long time. (**day, hard**)
- 2 So ..... was it that I never went back to that country again.  
(**experience, frightening**)
- 3 If we'd known how ..... it was going to be, we wouldn't have agreed to do it. (**difficult, task**)
- 4 It was as ..... as I'd seen in a long time. (**moving, performance**)
- 5 Alex has got that ..... he never seems to have to work hard at school.  
(**good, memory**)
- 6 It was too ..... to turn down. (**offer, tempting**)
- 7 No matter how ..... you have, there's always the risk of failure.  
(**career, successful**)
- 8 I don't think I'll ever be as ..... as my brother. (**good, pianist**)

**C** Complete the sentences using the words in bold in the correct order.

- 1 Oh, what a/an ..... sculpture! Did you buy it when you were there?  
(**African, gorgeous, little**)
- 2 Have you seen my ..... boots anywhere? I'm sure I left them here.  
(**black, climbing, leather**)
- 3 They've got some ..... shoes in the sale at Derbyshire's.  
(**ballet, fantastic, pink, Russian, silk**)
- 4 Didn't the bride look lovely in that ..... dress?  
(**beautiful, cotton, cream, wedding**)
- 5 Does Spencer still drive that ..... car of his? (**blue, foreign, ugly**)
- 6 It's hard to imagine that such a ..... frog is so important to the local environment. (**Amazonian, green, tiny**)
- 7 Andrea has a ..... rug on the floor in her bedroom.  
(**long, lovely, sheepskin, white**)
- 8 The clown was wearing a ..... wig and a red nose. (**funny, plastic, red**)
- 9 I couldn't believe it when Sylvia turned up in the same ..... hat that she wore last time. (**horrible, wide, yellow**)
- 10 When are you going to get rid of those ..... trousers?  
(**dreadful, French, nylon, short**)

**D** Circle the best position for each adverb in bold. There may be more than one answer.

## THE MILLENNIUM DOME

- 1 The Millennium Dome, or the O<sub>2</sub> as (A) it (B) is (C) called (D) now that the mobile company of that name owns the naming rights, has become a distinctive part of the London skyline. (**correctly**)
- 2 It was built for the millennium celebrations of 2000, and (A) a number of people (B) criticised (C) the high cost of construction (D). (**strongly**)
- 3 Costing £789 million to build and operate for a year, (A) it (B) failed (C) to reach (D) its target of 12 million visitors. (**completely**)
- 4 Even Michael Heseltine, the politician who was originally in charge of the Dome, later admitted that (A) it (B) would (C) have been (D) better to build something else. (**probably**)
- 5 Although the press were critical, (A) people who visited the Dome (B) had (C) a positive experience (D). (**often**)
- 6 Even with low visitor numbers, (A) it (B) was (C) the most popular attraction in Britain in 2000 (D). (**easily**)
- 7 Although (A) it (B) is (C) closed (D), the Dome has a bright future as a venue for pop concerts and other

**E** Complete with an appropriate comparative or superlative form of the words in the box. Add any other words you need.

demanding • few • funny • hard • long • observant • reliable • slight • ugly • valuable

- 1 I thought this week's programme was far ..... last week's, so it's definitely improving.
- 2 My new laptop is ..... my old one, but I suppose it was quite cheap so I shouldn't be surprised.
- 3 Jim Carter knows what he wants from employees, and I don't think I've ever worked for ..... manager.
- 4 Because of its internal structure, diamond is ..... substance known.
- 5 Beside the house, there stood ..... tower block I had ever seen.
- 6 If the conflict goes on any ....., more people are going to lose their lives.
- 7 ..... his *Portrait of Dr. Gachet*, van Gogh's *Irises* still sold for \$49 million.
- 8 Even ..... amongst us soon realise when a friend has changed their appearance in some way.
- 9 I'm afraid that what you're saying doesn't make ..... difference to how I feel.
- 10 Frankly, I think ..... people who know about this, the better.

**F** Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 It's good to see that Rebecca has become a great **lot** / **deal** more independent than she used to be.
- 2 The hotel was **away** / **far** from the most luxurious I've stayed in.
- 3 The new law is **less** / **little more** than an attempt to divert attention from the real problems.
- 4 This is **by** / **from** far the worst public transport system I've ever been on.
- 5 Have you noticed that the neighbours' trees have grown **easily** / **considerably** bigger?
- 6 My mum's getting **a little** / **little** older now, so she needs someone to look after her.
- 7 It was **quite** / **somewhat** the most delightful little puppy I had ever seen!
- 8 If you have **any** / **even** further problems with your computer, don't hesitate to call me.
- 9 I'd say that the woman I saw running away from the bank was **any** / **no** taller than I am.
- 10 Imogen was told that she would have to work a **better** / **good** deal harder than she had been doing.



**G** Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

- The red shoes are slightly more expensive than the green ones. **quite**  
The green shoes ..... the red ones.
- Richard is much more committed to the project than Grant seems to be. **like**  
Grant seems to be ..... to the project.
- If you argue about it more, we'll get to Denver later. **the**  
The ..... we'll get to Denver.
- My new MP3 player was twice the price of yours. **expensive**  
Your MP3 player was ..... mine.
- England is much bigger than Wales. **nowhere**  
Wales ..... England.
- Derek is quite a bit more adventurous than his sister, Annabelle. **nearly**  
Annabelle ..... her brother, Derek.
- Bigger cities have higher crime rates. **the**  
The ..... the crime rate.
- Their first album was considerably more successful than their second. **near**  
Their second album ..... their first.

**H** Underline the word or phrase which cannot complete the sentence.

- Jackie didn't like the show so much, but I thought it was **absolutely / quite / very** perfect.
- You were **completely / fairly / totally** right about Laura – she is from Manchester.
- We've been **absolutely / a little / quite** busy at work, so I'm looking forward to a break.
- It's **completely / totally / very** pointless trying to persuade Michael to lend you his new car.
- Anthony seems to be **a little / really / utterly** worried about the situation.
- Jackson's shot from the halfway line was **absolutely / quite / too** incredible.
- If you think I'm going to help you after what you did, you're **a bit / completely / quite** wrong.
- In the end, the documents that the tax office sent us were **completely / totally / very** useless.

**I** Complete using the words in the boxes. You need to use one word in each box twice.

- Don't press the keys so ..... or you'll break the keyboard.
- This is ..... the most attractive part of the city, is it?
- It's ..... to understand why Isabelle reacted in the way she did.

hard • hardly

- It's not ..... ! You never let me go to parties!
- Divide the money between you .....
- I'm ..... satisfied with your progress.

fair • fairly

- They're giving away ..... tickets to the concert!
- This tool moves ..... in any direction.
- Can we get in ..... if we're members of the club?

free • freely

- 10 I'm always uncomfortable in ..... places.  
 11 This request is ..... unusual.  
 12 The dog jumped ..... and cleared the fence.

high • highly

**J Write one word in each gap.****VERTICAL LIVING**

In the 1950s and 60s, the tower block seemed to offer a solution to two problems. Firstly, houses built (1) ..... earlier in the century, or even in the nineteenth century, were (2) ..... longer suitable for people to live in. Secondly, an increasing population placed a great (3) ..... more strain on available space. New, vertical tower blocks, able to house more people in a relatively small space (4) ..... a horizontal street, started to appear. The more people got used to living in these structures, (5) ..... more they would form the heart of communities, or so the thinking went.

Initially, these blocks were (6) ..... popular than the old housing they replaced. They were (7) ..... and away the (8) ..... affordable alternative for many people, and they also offered excellent views.

However, these buildings soon became (9) ..... attractive to residents as crime rose. It also became clear that a tower block was (10) ..... like as friendly a place to live in (11) ..... a traditional street. More often (12) ..... not, residents in a tower block didn't interact with each other on a regular basis. Although modern tower blocks are making something of a comeback amongst young professionals, they still have a poor reputation in the minds of many people.

**K Choose the correct answer.**

- 1 I ..... when Colin asked me to make him a cup of tea.  
 A had sat hard down      C had hardly sat down  
 B had sat down hardly      D had hard sat down
- 2 Where's that ..... dress that your grandma gave you?  
 A lovely, long, pink, silk      C lovely, pink, long, silk  
 B pink, long, lovely, silk      D long, pink, silk, lovely
- 3 Although he ..... to Ernest Hemingway, I think his books are unique.  
 A often has been compared  
 B has often been compared  
 C has often compared  
 D has been comparing often
- 4 Don't you think ..... in society have a responsibility to help those less fortunate?  
 A wealthy      C wealthiest  
 B wealthier      D the wealthy
- 5 The rents in this area are ..... the highest in the city.  
 A far from away      C far and away  
 B away by far      D far to away
- 6 The coastguard boarded the ship and found .....  
 A four injured alive men      C four injured men alive  
 B alive four men injured      D injured four alive men
- 7 To be honest, Harry has ..... than you have.  
 A been more helpful considerably  
 B been considerably more helpful  
 C been more considerably helpful  
 D considerably been more helpful
- 8 I'm ..... my brother is.  
 A nowhere like so ambitious  
 B nothing near as ambitious as  
 C nothing as ambitious than  
 D nowhere near as ambitious as