Use of English – Practice 3

Word Formation exercise

Use the word given in brackets to form **a word** that fits in the gap in the same line.

Degus

You may not be (**1**) _____ (**FAMILY**) with the degu, but this small sociable mammal is growing in (**2**) _____ (**POPULAR**) as a 'pocket' pet. They are sometimes called 'brush tail rats' because of their (**3**) _____ (**APPEAR**), but they are completely unrelated to rats. As the natural inhabitants of desert-like parts of central Chile, they can live in the Andes mountains at a (**4**) _____ (**HIGH**) of 3,500 metres above sea level, although this is quite (**5**) _____ (**USUAL**). They live in groups as big as a hundred, so if you're thinking of getting one as a pet consider buying two or more.

There is no of websites with (**6**) _____ (**ADVISE**) on caring for this small rodent. So what do degus eat? You should feed them a (**7**) _____ (**MIX**) of specially-made dry food that doesn't have sugar in it and leafy vegetables. As their teeth are constantly growing, they are capable of chewing through plastic so buy a metal cage that is as big as is (**8**) _____ (**PRACTICE**) possible. Degus dislike being picked up, but with the right sort of (**9**) _____ (**ENCOURAGE**), they will eat from your hand or allow you to stroke them. In the wild, they clean themselves in a 'sand bath' by rubbing sand into their fur. This is normal (**10**) _____ (**BEHAVE**) so make sure there is a bowl of sand in your pet's cage.