

TASK 1 ▷ Read TEXT 1 “How to give good advice”. Choose the sentence from the list below that best completes each gap. Write your final answers in the grid provided below, as shown in the example 0. There is ONE EXTRA statement that you do not need to use.

6 points

TEXT 1: HOW TO GIVE GOOD ADVICE

0. Just listen. When someone is talking and trying to get your advice, start by just listening. They need to be heard. This gives them the chance to sort out issues for themselves and come to accept a situation in their own mind. **- 0 -**. Sometimes if you listen to the whole story you can easily recognize the problem.

1. Talk them through the hurdles¹. Go over with them what the difficult parts of the situation are and why those things constitute a problem. **- 1 -**. “So, you want to move but you're worried that it's impossible. What are the things stopping you from moving? You need to find a job first, right? Okay. What else? You can't leave your dad alone here? Right.”

2. Express confidence in them. Sometimes, everything a person needs to make the right decision is to know that someone believes in them and that someone thinks that they can do the right thing. Be that person for them, especially if no one else can be. **- 2 -**. You just have to let all that bravery that I know you have shine through.

3. One good habit is to ask them if they even want advice. Some people just want to talk and they don't want to be told what to do. **- 3 -**. If they say that they would like advice, give it. If they say no, then just say something like, “Well, if you keep having problems I'm here and happy to help you through it.”

4. Emphasize that you don't control the future. People, when they seek advice, will often be wanting a guarantee. Remind them that you can't give this, that there's no way to predict the future. **- 4 -**.

5. Find them some supporting materials. Do a little research on the problem that they're having and send them helpful links. You can even buy them a book, if you find one that covers their problem. **- 5 -**.

6. Follow up on the issue. **- 6 -**. This will let them see that you really do care about them and that you really are interested in seeing their problem solved.

¹ hurdles: difficulties.

Source: Adapted from <https://www.wikihow.com>

A. (EXAMPLE) Don't talk until they've finished, unless they seem to need a direct response. ✓

- B. After a while, if they don't contact you with new information or updates, you should ask them again (unless they clearly don't want to talk about it).
- C. If you feel they really need to hear your advice however, let them know it's just a suggestion, and you don't expect them to do it.
- D. Tell them something like, “This is a really tough decision, but I know you want to do the right thing. And I know you will do the right thing.”
- E. Something that they see as an impenetrable barrier might actually be easy to deal with, with a little outside perspective.
- F. Let them see that you are there for them and that even if things don't come like they hoped, life will still go on.
- G. The first most basic step is to not judge the other person. No one should be thought of as less or as bad for a single decision that they made.
- H. This is a great way to give someone the tools they need to solve their own problems.

0. A	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
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TASK 2 ▢ Read both articles in TEXT 2 “*Daughter’s request collects 50,000 birthday cards*” and “*When grandma confesses...*”. For items 1-10, choose the BEST option (A, B, C or D). Write your final answers in the grid provided below, as shown in example 0.

10 points

TEXT 2

DAUGHTER’S REQUEST COLLECTS 50,000 BIRTHDAY CARDS

With his birthday approaching, World War II navy veteran¹ Duane Sherman – 0 – a bit lonely. His daughter asked friends on Facebook if they – 1 – send him some well-wishes. He received over 50,000 letters.

At the moment, there are birthday cards, thank you notes, small gifts, and souvenirs filling postal bins piled up one – 2 – another all throughout Sherman’s home in Fullerton, California. And that only represents a fraction of the total. He had to store thousands of letters at a friend’s house, and many more bins are still waiting to be – 3 – at the post office.

He has received letters from all 50 states and 10 different countries. Some of the senders included the Pittsburgh Steelers² and the Secretary of the Navy. The commander of the USS Cowpens even took the veteran out to lunch – 4 – officers from the San Diego US Navy Sonar School paid him a visit to listen to his stories.

Sherman’s birthday was on December 30, and so far, he has gone through fewer than 2,000 letters. He is legally – 5 –, so his daughter, Sue Morse, has to read them to him. It’s pretty safe to say that they will be busy for the foreseeable³ future.

Source: Adapted from <https://www.navytimes.com>

¹ **veteran**: A veteran is someone who has served in the armed forces of a country, especially during a war.

² **Pittsburgh Steelers**: An American football team.

³ **foreseeable**: anticipated, expected, certain.

WHEN GRANDMA CONFESSES SHE HAS NEVER SEEN THE OCEAN, GRANDSON TAKES HER ON EPIC CROSS-COUNTRY TRIP

It has been four years – 6 – Grandma Joy told her grandson that she had never seen the most breathtaking landscapes of America, and from that moment on, they have gone on dozens of epic cross-country adventures. Brad Ryan was feeling – 7 – from veterinary school when he visited his 85-year-old grandma back in 2015. He hoped that spending some quality family time in his Ohio hometown would cheer him up.

He was amusing his grandma with stories of his travels. – 8 –, he was heartbroken to hear her confess that she had never seen the ocean or mountains. Ryan then spontaneously asked his grandmother if she would like to hike the Smoky Mountains with him. Needless to say, she was more than happy to oblige¹.

They have visited 29 different national parks across America, from the slopes of the Great Sandy Dunes in Colorado to the shores of Acadia National Park in Maine. In the last three and a half years, Ryan says that he and his grandma have collectively driven 25,000 miles through 38 states, and it has dramatically affected his quality of living.

“Seeing it through my grandmother’s eyes, – 9 – every morning wakes up and is thankful to be alive, has taught me how to live,” Ryan told WJLA. “With her, I’ve had to slow down and see it in a different way, which has made it a lot richer.

“I want young people to understand that they can – 10 – with their grandparents,” Ryan told the news outlet. “I think we’ve lost that as a society. There’s so much perspective and knowledge we can still gain from our elders.”

Source: Adapted from <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org>

¹ **to oblige**: to accept.

EXAMPLE :

0.	A. was feeling	B. has felt	C. is feeling	D. was going to feel	A	✓
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1.	A. are going to	B. will be able to	C. can	D. could		
2.	A. below	B. on top of	C. next to	D. behind		
3.	A. carried	B. picked up	C. sent	D. brought		
4.	A. while	B. like	C. almost	D. since		
5.	A. deaf	B. bald	C. blind	D. ugly		
6.	A. since	B. ago	C. yet	D. already		
7.	A. disappointed	B. exhausted	C. bored	D. guilty		
8.	A. unless	B. instead	C. although	D. however		
9.	A. which	B. who	C. that	D. whom		
10.	A. disagree	B. argue	C. hang out	D. mix		

SCORE:
 ___ / 10

TEXT 3: AMIRA’S STORY

One night the bombs were coming closer and closer. We were all sitting together downstairs because we couldn’t sleep. As houses were being destroyed one by one in our village, neighbours were running from one house to the next. So some neighbours were gathered in our house too.

A rocket landed on the roof of our house, but no one was injured. We ran in fear to another house. We were so terrified we didn’t even think about taking anything with us. Soon after, our house was totally destroyed. We left with no IDs, nothing. Our dad took us out of the country through a smuggler¹. We escaped that night in a rented car. Whenever we passed a checkpoint², we hid under the seats of the car and the driver covered us up.

We crossed the border illegally, through the mountains. We got out near the border and had to walk about 100 metres across the mountain. When we heard a plane, we started running. We were very scared. When we arrived at the refugee camp, there were already many tents. We bought some materials to make a tent. The men built it. Our tent has two rooms and a kitchen area. There are 13 of us living here.

The neighbours helped us by giving us things like bottled water, mattresses, blankets, cups and plates. We could pick up and leave at any time, as we don’t have anything of value here. My most treasured things are my necklaces. I wear them all at the same time, because they have many memories. One of them was a present from a boyfriend, but I don’t want my mother to know about that!

We have so many needs that you can’t count them. At home things were cheap. Everything is expensive here. We even have to pay for water. In winter there was snow halfway up the sides of our tent and we couldn’t even see out of it. At home we had our own bedrooms, but here we all sleep together in the tent on the ground.

We can’t go to school here, and there are no jobs available because too many people are looking for work. We don’t even have any books. So we just help out with cooking and cleaning, or watch TV all day. We are really bored. To pass the time we do each other’s hair and draw pictures of each other, or listen to popular songs on the TV. We also make our own clothes.

We are afraid because the government doesn’t know we are here. If they find out, we could be sent back to Syria. But the UN protects us. Some of the people who are not registered go into the mountains and hide whenever the officials come to count people in the camp. Then they come back to the camp afterwards. We hear from home mostly via WhatsApp and sometimes TV. Only a few old people are still living in our village. There are a few rooms still standing in the destroyed houses, and they live in those.

We have to pay for water to be brought in by truck, but it’s very dirty. But now we have a water filter in our tent. We now have a WC that was installed by an NGO. We receive food distributions, so we have enough food. We make large amounts of simple meals that we can share out easily for all the children, like rice, beans and peas. There are shops, hairdressers and tailors here.

It helps to know that we are not alone, as there are many others here in the same situation as us. We’ve been here for three years now. We miss everything about home. We would love to go back.

¹ a **smuggler** is someone who imports or exports goods secretly, in violation of the law, especially without paying taxes.

² a **checkpoint** is a place along a road or border where travellers are stopped for inspection.

0. (EXAMPLE) The night that Amira's village was bombed... A. she was staying at a neighbour's house. B. some neighbours came to Amira's house. ✓ C. she was upstairs, but she couldn't sleep.	B
1. After their house was destroyed by a bomb, Amira and her family... A. took some basic things with them. B. were rescued by some neighbours. C. had no time to take anything with them.	
2. How did Amira and her family escape from their country? A. They crossed some mountains on foot. B. Amira's dad drove them out of the country. C. They simply passed some checkpoints.	
3. When they arrived at the refugee camp... A. they stayed at one of the tents that were already built there. B. they made their own tent with things they got at the camp. C. some neighbours gave them materials to build their own tent.	
4. Amira and her family noticed that the other refugees... A. were really unfriendly. B. shared their possessions. C. didn't have any drinking water.	
5. One of Amira's most valuable things is something... A. an ex-boyfriend had given her. B. her mom wore when she was little. C. Amira had bought in the camp.	
6. What is life like for Amira and other refugees in the camp? A. There is no sense of community in the camp. B. Amira misses the snowy winters back home. C. They have to pay for very basic things.	
7. Amira and her friends.... A. have no free time for themselves. B. would like to have other things to do. C. go to classes where they learn things.	
8. Amira says that... A. some people are staying illegally in the camp. B. there is nobody living in her hometown anymore. C. they have no news from people in their village.	
9. In the camp... A. living conditions have not changed at all. B. there are a few different businesses now. C. they have to pay for all the food they eat.	
10. Amira is... A. returning home after years as a refugee. B. going to miss the camp when she leaves. C. really looking forward to returning home.	
Source: Adapted from "Diary of a Teenage Refugee" by Amira (2013)	