

## PRACTICE TEST 8

### SECTION A: LISTENING

#### Part 1. Choose the correct letter A, B or C for questions 1-5.

1. Why did Anita and Lee choose to talk about John Chapman?  
A He was Lee's childhood hero  
B They wanted to talk about the USA  
C He was relevant to the topic of their studies
2. Where did the students record their sources of information?  
A on their laptops      B on a handout      C on a database
3. The tutor claims she does not understand whether  
A apples grew in America before Europeans arrived  
B the Native Americans had always eaten apples  
C American apples were first bred in Europe
4. The tutor says the audience was particularly interested to hear about  
A grafting techniques in ancient China  
B the cultivation of apples in Kazakhstan  
C the spread of apples along the Silk Route
5. How will Anita and Lee present their follow-up work?  
A on the department website      B as a paper      C as a poster

#### Part 2. What do Lee and Anita agree about their presentation skills with their tutor?

Write the correct letter A, B or C next to questions 6-10.

- |                             |                            |        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| A excellent                 | B acceptable               | C poor |
| Presentation skills         |                            |        |
| 6. use of equipment .....   | 7. handling software ..... |        |
| 8. timing of sections ..... | 9. design of handout ..... |        |
| 10. clarity of speech ..... |                            |        |

#### Part 3. Complete the table below. Write NO MORE THAN ONE WORD for each answer

INVESTIGATING TASTE		
Procedure	Result	Cause
More yellow added to green colour of (1) .....	Subjects believed extra (2) ..... added to drink	Brain influenced by product presentation
Gum chewed until it is (3) .....then again with sugar	Mint flavour (4) .....	Sweetness necessary for mintiness
Same drink tasted cold and at room temperature	(5) .....drink seems sweeter	Temperature affects sweetness
Crisps eaten in rooms which were (6) .....	With louder crunch, subjects believed crisp taste (7) .....	Sound affects taste perceptions
Variety of cheese sauces prepared	Subjects believed some sauces tasted less strong	(8) .....affects taste perceptions
Two different flavoured (9) .....tasted together	Subjects still tasted (10) .....when no longer there	Brain is filling the taste 'gap'

### SECTION B: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the word whose underlined part differs from the other three in pronunciation in each of the following questions.

**Question 1:** A. allegedly      B. supposedly      C. confusedly      D. wickedly

**Question 2:** A. admiral      B. adventure      C. advocate      D. advent

Mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the word that differs from the rest in the position of the main stress in each of the following questions.

**Question 3:** A. extravagant      B. distinctively      C. fundamental      D. dilapidated

**Question 4:** A. mysterious      B. original      C. elaborate      D. necessary

**Question 5:** A. rental      B. canal      C. dental      D. sandals

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

- Question 6:** Ann: "Where's Polly?" John: "She is in her room \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. studying      B. is studying      C. studies      D. has studied
- Question 7:** \_\_\_\_\_ Everglades is a large, low, wet region in the southern part of the US state of Florida.  
A. The      B. θ      C. An      D. Some
- Question 8:** It is possible \_\_\_\_\_ may assist some trees in saving water in the winter.  
A. to lose leaves      B. when leaves have lost      C. that the loss of leaves      D. the leaves are lost
- Question 9:** I called Jenny yesterday with a view \_\_\_\_\_ asking her about the project.  
A. to      B. of      C. in      D. for
- Question 10:** Pam broke her arm in the accident. It would have been much worse if she \_\_\_\_\_ her seat belt at that time.  
A. hadn't worn      B. hadn't been for      C. hadn't been wearing      D. had been wearing
- Question 11:** Having opened the bottle, \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone.  
A. the drink was poured      B. Mike poured the drink  
C. Mike pouring the drink      D. the drink was being poured
- Question 12:** He said there was nothing that happened, but I began to \_\_\_\_\_ when he kept beating about the bush.  
A. get cold feet      B. smell a rat      C. keep an eye on      D. be off my head
- Question 13:** That he came up with all the ideas \_\_\_\_\_ a miracle to us.  
A. were      B. was      C. to be      D. have been
- Question 14:** My father gave me \_\_\_\_\_ as a birthday present on my birthday.  
A. a digital useful alarm clock      B. an alarm useful digital clock  
C. a useful alarm digital clock      D. a useful digital alarm clock
- Question 15:** It is a serious operation for a woman as old as my grandmother. She's very frail. I hope she \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. comes round      B. gets away      C. puts through      D. pulls through
- Question 16:** Tim looks so frightened and upset. He \_\_\_\_\_ something terrible.  
A. must experience      B. can have experienced  
C. should have experienced      D. must have experienced
- Question 17:** I don't suppose anyone will volunteer, \_\_\_\_\_?  
A. does he      B. do I      C. will they      D. won't they
- Question 18:** The knee is \_\_\_\_\_ most other joints in the body because it cannot twist without injury.  
A. to be damaged more than likely      B. more likely to be damaged than  
C. likely to be more than damaged      D. more than likely to be damaged
- Question 19:** He became a millionaire by \_\_\_\_\_ of hard work and a considerable amount of luck.  
A. dint      B. process      C. cause      D. effect
- Question 20:** Most whole milk undergoes homogenization, \_\_\_\_\_ hot milk is pumped through valves to break up and permanently disperse the fat globules.  
A. which process      B. a process in which      C. which is a process      D. a process
- Question 21:** He considers shares to be a good long-\_\_\_\_\_ investment.  
A. length      B. time      C. term      D. age
- Question 22:** \_\_\_\_\_, the catfish is prized for its taste.  
A. With ugly look      B. As looking ugly      C. As it is looking ugly      D. Ugly looking as it is
- Question 23:** Lan: "Well, cats are very good at catching mice around the house." Mai: "\_\_\_\_\_"  
A. You are welcome.      B. Mind your words.  
C. You can say that again.      D. Nothing more to say.
- Question 24:** Studies have shown that the elderly who are pet owners have lower blood pressure than \_\_\_\_\_ who live without pets.  
A. elderly      B. do the elderly      C. for the elderly to do      D. to the elderly

Mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the underline part that needs correcting.

- Question 25:** Ducks are less susceptible to infection than another types of poultry.  
A. another      B. than      C. to      D. less
- Question 26:** Fiorello La Guardian made a speech to the United Nations Relief Administration, which he was the director, stating that Europe experienced prosperity after the World War II.  
A. he      B. stating      C. which      D. made
- Question 27:** During our tour of the refinery, it was seen that both propane and gasoline were produced in large volumes.  
A. the refinery      B. it was seen      C. and      D. in large volumes



one individual who settled in New Amsterdam (today's Manhattan section of New York City) in 1642 described the flowers that bravely colonized the settlers' gardens. They were the same flowers seen in Dutch still-life paintings of the time: crown imperials, roses, carnations, and of course tulips. They flourished in Pennsylvania too, where in 1698 William Penn received a report of John Tateham's "Great and Stately Palace", its garden full of tulips.

By 1760, Boston newspapers were advertising 50 different kinds of mixed tulip "roots". But the length of the journey between Europe and North America created many difficulties. Thomas Hancock, an English settler, wrote thanking his plant supplier for a gift of some tulip bulbs from England, but his letter the following year grumbled that they were all dead.

Tulips arrived in Holland, Michigan, with a later wave of early nineteenth-century Dutch immigrants who quickly colonized the plains of Michigan. Together with many other Dutch settlements, such as the one at Pella, Iowa, they established a regular demand for European plants. The demand was bravely met by a new kind of tulip entrepreneur, the traveling salesperson. One Dutchman, Hendrick Van Der Schoot, spent six months in 1849 traveling through the United States taking orders for tulip bulbs. While tulip bulbs were traveling from Europe to the United States to satisfy the nostalgic longings of homesick English and Dutch settlers, North American plants were traveling in the opposite direction. In England, the enthusiasm for American plants was one reason why tulips dropped out of fashion in the gardens of the rich and famous.

**Question 45:** Which of the following questions does the passage mainly answer?

- A. Where were the first Dutch colonies in North America located?
- B. What is the difference between an Old World and a New World plant?
- C. Why are tulips grown in many different parts of the world?
- D. How did tulips become popular in North America?

**Question 46:** The word "integral" in line 2 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. interesting
- B. overlooked
- C. fundamental
- D. ornamental

**Question 47:** The passage mentions that tulips were first found in which of the following regions?

- A. Western Europe
- B. India
- C. Central Asia
- D. North America

**Question 48:** The word "flourished" in line 8 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. were marketed
- B. were discovered
- C. thrived
- D. combined

**Question 49:** The author mentions tulip growing in New Netherland, Pennsylvania and Michigan in order to illustrate how \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. tulips grew progressively more popular in North America
- B. imported tulips were considered more valuable than locally grown tulips
- C. tulips were commonly passed as gifts from one family to another
- D. attitudes toward tulips varied from one location to another

**Question 50:** The word "grumbled" in line 13 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. denied
- B. warned
- C. explained
- D. complained

**Question 51:** The passage mentions that one reason English and Dutch settlers planted tulips in their gardens was that tulips \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. were easy to grow
- B. made them appear fashionable
- C. had become readily available
- D. reminded them of home

**Question 52:** The word "they" in line 17 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. tulips
- B. immigrants
- C. plants
- D. plains

**Question 53:** According to the passage, which of the following changes occurred in English gardens during the European settlement of North America?

- A. They grew in size in order to provide enough plants to export to the New World.
- B. They decreased in size on the estates of wealthy people.
- C. They contained many new types of North American plants.
- D. They contained a wider variety of tulips than ever before.

**Question 54:** The passage mentions which of the following as a problem associated with the importation of tulips into North America?

- A. They were no longer fashionable by the time they arrived.
- B. Settlers knew little about how to cultivate them.
- C. Orders often took six months or longer to fill.
- D. They often failed to survive the journey.

Read the following passage taken from Baron's How to prepare for the TOEFL and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions from 55 to 64.

According to the ***controversial*** sunspot theory, great storms on the surface of the sun hurl streams of solar ***particles*** into the atmosphere, causing a shift in the weather on earth.

A typical sunspot consists of a dark center umbra surrounded by a lighter penumbra of light and dark threads extending out from the center like a spoke a wheel. Actually the sunspots are cooler than the rest of the photosphere, which may account for their color. Typically, the temperature in a sunspot umbra is about 4000 K.

Sunspots range in size from tiny granules to complex structures with areas stretching for billions of square miles. About 5% of the pots are large enough so that ***they*** can be seen without instruments: ***consequently***, observations of sunspots have been recorded for several thousand years.

Sunspots have been observed in arrangements of one to more than one hundred spots, but they tend to occur in pairs. There is also a marked tendency for the two spots of a pair to have opposite magnetic field associated with any given sunspots is closely related to the spot's size.

Although there is no theory that completely explains the nature and function of sunspots, several models attempt to relate the phenomenon to magnetic fields along the lines of longitude from the north and south poles of the sun.

**Question 55:** What is the author's main purpose in the passage?

- A. To argue for the existence of magnetic fields in sunspots
- B. To describe the nature of sunspots
- C. To propose a theory to explain sunspots
- D. To compare the umbra and the penumbra

**Question 56:** The word ***controversial*** in line 1 is closest to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. open to debate
- B. very complicated
- C. widely accepted
- D. just in traduce

**Question 57:** Solar particles are hurled into space by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. small rivers on the surface of the sun
- B. underdetermined causes
- C. changes the earth's atmosphere
- D. disturbances of wind

**Question 58:** The word ***particles*** in line 2 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. gas explosions in the atmosphere
- B. small pieces of matter from the Sun
- C. liquid streams on the sun
- D. light ray from the sun

**Question 59:** How can we describe matter from the sun that enters the earth's atmosphere?

- A. Very small
- B. Very bright
- C. Very hard
- D. Very hot

**Question 60:** The sunspot theory is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. relatively new
- B. widely accepted
- C. subject to disagreement
- D. not considered important

**Question 61:** The word ***they*** in line 7 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. pots
- B. miles
- C. granules
- D. Structures

**Question 62:** The word ***consequently*** in line 7 could best be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Nevertheless
- B. In this way
- C. Without doubt
- D. As a result

**Question 63:** In which configuration do sunspots usually occur?

- A. In a configuration of two spots
- B. In groups of several thousand spots
- C. In one spot of varying size
- D. In arrangements of one hundred or more spots

**Question 64:** How are sunspots explained?

- A. Sunspots may be related to magnetic fields that follow longitudinal lines on the sun.
- B. Sunspots are explained by storms that occur on the earth.
- C. Sunspots have no theory or model to explain them.
- D. Sunspots appear to be related to magnetic fields on the earth.

### **SECTION C: WRITING**

**Part I. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means the same as the sentence printed before it.**

**Question 65.** I rarely sleep in the afternoon.

→ I'm not in ..... .

**Question 66.** My grandfather had completely forgotten that he phoned me last night.

→ My grandfather didn't have ..... .

**Question 67.** My brother-in-law is the most exasperating person I've ever met.

→ I've yet ..... .

**Question 68.** Tim spoke to his lawyer before signing the contract.

→ Tim didn't ..... .

**Question 69.** His love increases with his admiration for her.

→ The more .....

## **SECTION D**

### **Part A. READING**

**I. You are going to read a magazine article about friendship. Seven sentences have been removed from the article.**

*Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.*

- A. They spent all their weekends together, and several evenings a week too .
- B. There is much less time each day and each week to 'feed' the friendship, to prevent it from dying.
- C. For one production, she and another woman called Carol had to work very closely together on the script.
- D. It's actually very difficult to sustain this number of friends into adulthood.
- E. Because of this, I'm now much more careful about the friends I choose.
- F. They enjoy each other's company while they're working together, but they don't really socialize outside of the working environment.
- G. Real friends are actually incredibly hard to find.
- H. For this way of viewing friendship to be successful, it requires both people in the relationship to feel the same way about the other person.

### **A FRIEND IN NEED...**

It's fairly easy to define what a relative is. It's a person you're biologically related to, or who has married someone you are biologically related to, or has been adopted, for example, by someone you're biologically related to. In short, it's someone in your family. It's not quite so easy to define what a friend is.

On an obvious level, our friends are people who are not family members whose company we enjoy. However, what about two people who work closely together in an office? 0. ....F... Are they friends, or just colleagues? And consider two people who were best friends at school, but haven't been in contact with each other for over twenty 'years. Are they still friends? Or should we say they used to be friends but aren't any more?

'So what?', you might say. 'Perhaps friendship is tricky to define, but that doesn't matter. If you think you're friends with someone then you are, but if you don't then you're not.' In many cases, that might be a good general rule, but there are potential problems with it. 1. .... There are countless examples of relationships where that doesn't happen.

Take Jane, for example. She joined an amateur dramatics club, which puts on plays two or three times a year. 2..... They met several times a week, and frequently called each other on the phone. As Jane says: 'I enjoyed working with Carol, and we got on well together. It was really difficult when we'd finished the play, though. Carol still wanted to meet up and chat regularly. I didn't, mainly because I just didn't have time. I've got a family and a busy social life, and I wasn't looking for any more close friends. How do you tell someone who thinks they're your close friend that really they're not?'

A further problem is the issue of 'fair-weather friends'. These are people who you consider to be your friends, but prove themselves not to be when things get tough. Jake, for example, thought that Dave was a really close friend. 3..... They both shared an interest in movies, and had the same sense of humour. 'Everything was great,' says Jake, 'until my mother became ill. It was a troubling time for me, and I got a bit depressed. I needed Dave to give me some support, but he wasn't interested. He just disappeared.' What Jake needed, and what Dave was not, was the kind of friend referred to in the saying 'a friend in need is a friend indeed'. The idea behind this is that if you are still the friend of someone when they are 'in need', when they need something such as help from you, then you are a real friend. You're not a 'fair-weather friend'. 4..... Most adults say that they only have two or three real friends - people they can totally rely on in difficult times.

At school, children and teenagers often have one or two 'best friends' but they also have a wide circle of other friends - twenty or thirty is not uncommon. 5. .... The main reasons for this are time and shared experience. Children see their friends every day (during term time) and have plenty of opportunity to 'feed' the friendship - in class, during the breaks, after school. Also, of course, all the members of the group live close together, and have a shared interest (the school and what happens there). With adults, this is rarely possible. 6.....

And, of course, people move apart geographically when they grow up, and lose the sense of a shared interest when they start working in different fields, or spending their time in different ways. Very few of our friends from school remain real, close friends twenty years later.

### **II. CLOZE-TEST**

**Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.**

**CIVIL SERVANTS**

In countries around the world, there are literally millions of people who work for the national and (1)..... government. From the post office to the office of the President, civil servants keep the government's (2)..... running.

Many people would like to go for a civil service (3)....., and for good reason. Government (4)..... usually enjoy a variety of (5)..... including health insurance, paid holiday leave and (6)..... funds. They have good annual (7)....., are always paid extra for doing (8)..... and are sometimes even rewarded with bonuses for making useful (9).....!

Civil service jobs are usually permanent; rarely are workers (10)..... redundant. Applicants who apply for a (11)..... in the civil service must (12)..... in an application form and pass an examination before they can be selected and appointed to a job.

- |                   |               |                  |                |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. A. topical     | B. nearby     | C. local         | D. close       |
| 2. A. officers    | B. services   | C. franchises    | D. research    |
| 3. A. commission  | B. occupation | C. accommodation | D. career      |
| 4. A. assistants  | B. employees  | C. applicants    | D. bosses      |
| 5. A. investments | B. benefits   | C. debts         | D. experiences |
| 6. A. pension     | B. richness   | C. wealth        | D. fortune     |
| 7. A. winnings    | B. takings    | C. salaries      | D. gifts       |
| 8. A. gigs        | B. functions  | C. overtime      | D. work        |
| 9. A. suggestions | B. profits    | C. performances  | D. ideas       |
| 10. A. made       | B. done       | C. taken         | D. forced      |
| 11. A. movement   | B. position   | C. motion        | D. location    |
| 12. A. write      | B. complete   | C. sign          | D. fill        |

### III. OPEN CLOZE-TEST

Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

#### Ornithology

Ornithology, or the study of birds, attracts people from all kinds of background. It also attracts a certain amount of ridicule. 'What can be (1)..... exciting about going out in all weathers looking at birds?' people tend (2)..... say to me. Well, birds (3)..... fascinated me since I was young and I would much (4)..... go out in the rain with my waterproofs and binoculars than sit at home watching television.

For those who are still sceptical, (5)..... sole solution is to get a book on birds, have a quick look, and get out there. Seeing birds in (6)..... natural environment is so (7)..... more enjoyable if you know what you are looking at. You don't have to be an expert in order to get pleasure (8)..... identifying species. Try to avoid making too much noise or the birds will (9)..... disturbed and flyaway and you won't succeed (10)..... seeing anything.

Oh, and you (11)..... better take a waterproof jacket - just in case the weather turns bad. Don't worry, though. It'll soon clear (12)..... and you'll be able to get on with the fascinating hobby of bird-watching.

### Part B. USE OF ENGLISH

#### I. WORD FORM: Give the correct form of word given

##### The Inventor of the Bar Code

Although you may never have heard of Joe Woodland, you almost certainly use his invention on a (0).....basis. For Joe was the man who came up with the idea of the bar code - that little box containing parallel lines of (1)..... width and (2)..... that you find on the packaging of most products that are offered for sale at retail (3)..... worldwide. Joe Woodland actually invented the bar code way back in 1949, when the manager of a supermarket in Philadelphia asked him to design an electronic (4)..... system which would be both simple and effective. The purpose of the bar code is to store (5)..... information about the product, which (6)..... speeds up the process of recording sales and restocking the shelves.

Joe's (7)..... came from Morse code and he formed his first barcode in the sand on the beach one day. The idea was way ahead of its time however, and didn't find any immediate practical (8)..... Convinced that the system was (9)..... with further development, however, Woodland didn't give up. It was the (10)..... of laser gun technology decades later which allowed Joe's invention to come into everyday use.

- |              |
|--------------|
| 0. DAY       |
| 1. REGULAR   |
| 2. LONG      |
| 3. LET       |
| 4. CHECK     |
| 5. CODED     |
| 6. POTENTIAL |
| 7. INSPIRE   |
| 8. APPLY     |
| 9. WORK      |
| 10. ARRIVE   |

#### II. Fill in the gaps in the following sentences with suitable particles. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes.

1. I wonder if this dress fits. I'll try it ..... and see.
2. 'Did you enjoy the concert last night with Liz?' 'We didn't go. I waited an hour, but Liz didn't turn .....
3. Don't spend the money you won. Why don't you put it ..... until you have enough to buy something you really want?
4. I was ill for two weeks, so I've fallen ..... with my work.
5. This painting can't possibly be an original. I think we've been taken .....

**III. For questions 1-15, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct and some have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓) in the margin on the right. If a line has a word which should not be there, underline the word and write it on the margin on the right. There are two examples at the beginning (0 and 00).**

#### SCHOOL REUNIONS

- |     |  |                 |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| 0 . | The idea of school reunions has always been popular in                   | .....✓.....     |
| 00. | the United States, where people see their former classmates <u>every</u> | .....every..... |
| 1.  | once a year. Apparently, the idea has also caught on in                  | .....           |
| 2.  | England since there are several <u>them</u> announced in the             | .....           |
| 3.  | newspapers every day. From many people's point of view, school           | .....           |
| 4.  | reunions are for those who like to show off or cannot                    | .....           |
| 5.  | make their friends easily. When a person leaves                          | .....           |
| 6.  | from school, a new chapter in their life is about to                     | .....           |
| 7.  | begin. It is much more better to keep a few school friends               | .....           |
| 8.  | that you really like rather than it is to contact                        | .....           |
| 9.  | with those that you did not really care about                            | .....           |
| 10. | them. Of course, it is only natural to wonder what                       | .....           |
| 11. | your old schoolmates have achieved and how they have                     | .....           |
| 12. | changed but, in most cases, they are not just the same                   | .....           |
| 13. | as they were at school. They are probably still                          | .....           |
| 14. | tell the same awful jokes and stories. I have not                        | .....           |
| 15. | seen most of my schoolmates again since I was at                         | .....           |
|     | school and I do not really want to.                                      | .....           |

**IV. Choose the best answer to complete each sentences**

1. He believed that promotion should be awarded on ..... not on length of service.  
 A. equality      B. merit      C. characteristics      D. purpose
2. Many married woman in the survey said they lacked time to ..... an interest.  
 A. chase      B. conduct      C. proceed      D. pursue
3. Even at that early state the school felt that she ..... a good chance of passing her exams.  
 A. possessed      B. gained      C. stood      D. took
4. The thief's girlfriend was ..... with helping him.  
 A. accused      B. blamed      C. charged      D. threatened
5. This is ..... the most difficult job I have ever had to do.  
 A. by far      B. by chance      C. by heart      D. by myself
6. ..... of the play introduces the cast of characters and hints at the plot.  
 A. The act first      B. First act      C. Act one      D. Act first
7. They are happily married although, of course, they argue .....  
 A. most times      B. from day to day      C. every now and then      D. on the occasion
8. There wasn't a ..... of truth in what he said.  
 A. ray      B. lump      C. grain      D. pinch
9. Oh bother, ..... the bus I wanted to catch!  
 A. there goes      B. it's left      C. wherever      D. owing to
10. I left at 5.30, ..... they were still arguing.  
 A. at the time      B. all the time      C. just in time      D. at which time

**Part E. SPEAKING: Make a 5-minute talk about the following topic:**

**Students should have freedom to choose their own subjects in the National examination for Upper Secondary Education. Do you agree or disagree?**