PART 2

For questions 13-24, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.

FLOWER POWER

Flowers grow everywhere in the world but (0) _when_ people think of tulips, they think of the Netherlands. The Dutch have a saying: "Flowers love people". (13) _____ this is true, then flowers really love the Dutch, as flowers have been cultivated in the Netherlands for hundreds of years. In fact, the flower industry has been (14) _____ profitable that it has been boosting the Dutch economy since the seventeenth century.

Recently, however, the Dutch flower growers have been (15) _____ difficulties in coping with the tough competition from abroad. The Colombians, for instance, have (16) _____ the Dutch by surprise. Their flowers are now (17) _____ demand all over the world (18) _____ to the simple fact that they are cheaper. Within a few short years, the Colombians have brought Holland's domination of the flower industry to an end. (19) _____ this fact, the Netherlands is still in control of over sixty per cent of the world's flower market.



In (20) _____ to help the Dutch growers, the European Commission has decided to promote the flower industry, as (21) _____ as the growers themselves are willing to cut costs and become more competitive. All this in the hope of making people buy more flowers than they used to. Today the average Dutchman buys 150 stems a year, (22) _____ the Germans buy 80 stems and the English only 50 stems. These numbers are constantly declining. (23) _____ this trend is reversed, many Dutch growers will soon be (24) _____ of business.

LIVEWORKSHEETS