circumstances

1 Verb collocations

Use the correct form of these verbs:

adapt to *change* *depend on*
die in *investigate* *know*

1. The police are ..... the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of a substantial amount of money from the company accounts.
2. If you saw somebody drowning, would you try to save them?
   > It would ..... the circumstances. If the sea was really rough, then no, but if it was in a lake, then I probably would.
3. If we ..... more of the circumstances around the child's death, the police would have a much better idea of where to start.
4. In the world of medicine everything develops so quickly that you need to be able to ..... new and continually changing circumstances.
5. I am sorry to say that at present you are not entitled to any benefit. Please contact this department if your circumstances ..... .
6. The little girl ..... very tragic circumstances when she ran out into the road.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

exceptional *exact* *happier*
present *suspicious* *unforeseen*

1. All essays must be handed in by the 12th of April. This deadline will only be extended in ..... circumstances.
2. Police said that there were no ..... circumstances surrounding the woman's death. They think she died of natural causes.
3. She's unlikely to accept the job – given her ..... circumstances. She has a young family and an ageing parent to look after.
4. The concert had to be cancelled due to ..... circumstances. The main singer became ill and had to be taken to hospital.
5. The press are anxious to know how the pop star died. The police have yet to reveal the ..... circumstances of his death.
6. I wish we'd met again in ..... circumstances. Why do we only meet at funerals!

3 Common expressions

Use the following words to complete the following sentences:

any *certain* *no*

1. I think abortion is justifiable in ..... circumstances. For example, if the mother might die, then I think it is right to go ahead.
2. Under ..... circumstances must you leave the children on their own.
3. It's never right to take a life, so we oppose capital punishment in ..... circumstances.

We often use 'in / under / considering the circumstances' to say that we understand and accept why or how somebody did something. Match the halves in the following:

4. Under the circumstances, my parents coped very well when I told them I was leaving my wife.
5. Considering the circumstances of the company at the time of the fire,
6. After the bride didn't turn up,
7. In the circumstances, nobody could complain that the picnic was cancelled.
8. Considering the circumstances of the takeover,

a. *it just rained and rained all day long.*
b. *cancelling the wedding was the only thing to do in the circumstances.*
c. *It's no wonder people were suspicious.*
d. *the union's refusal to co-operate with the new management was perfectly understandable.*
e. *I thought they would have been very upset.*

Now go back and underline all the expressions with *circumstances* in this exercise.

Notes

1. In 3-2 'under no circumstances' or 'not under any circumstances' is a common expression meaning 'never'.
2. Note the following:
   The fees charged for the course will vary according to individual circumstances.
   They have been forced by circumstances to sell their house.
3. A common excuse for delayed flights or trains is 'circumstances beyond our control'.

LIVEWORKSHEETS