

Progress test N1

Units 1 – 2 – 3

Multiple-choice cloze (Part 1)

- 1** For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning.

Happy families

It came as no surprise to me when a newspaper article I read (0) B recently claimed to prove that the happiest children tend to be (1) children.

When I was younger, I used to (2) having a brother because I thought that parents with just one child were bound to (3) them more attention and love than more.

My most unhappy childhood memories involve my older brother, Thomas. I didn't get (4) with him at all and, because he was much bigger than me, he would always (5) any fights we had. My parents took the view that they should not interfere in our arguments, and made us sort them (6) ourselves, which meant that Thomas could do whatever he wanted.

However, the good news about siblings is that as they get older, they seem to start valuing each other more. In fact, nowadays Thomas and I are quite (7) I suppose this is not surprising, since we share a history that goes back a long way. It's special for us but no one else is very (8) in our past.

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 0 | A lately | B recently | C currently | D presently |
| 1 | A only | B single | C unique | D individual |
| 2 | A miss | B hope | C wish | D regret |
| 3 | A pay | B make | C allow | D provide |
| 4 | A on | B by | C round | D away |
| 5 | A win | B beat | C succeed | D overcome |
| 6 | A of | B over | C out | D through |
| 7 | A near | B close | C familiar | D attached |
| 8 | A concerned | B caring | C interested | D knowledgeable |

Open cloze (Part 2)

- 2** For questions 9–16, read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning.

Why trees matter

Everyone knows that trees are important **(0)** ~~for~~ the environment and human health. In cities, trees improve air quality and they absorb pollution. They remove dangerous gases **(9)** CO₂ and nitrogen oxide from the air and release oxygen back into the environment. Trees can help in the fight against climate change **(10)** they are known to significantly reduce temperatures by providing shade and also by releasing water vapour through their leaves.

But trees have many other practical benefits, which are **(11)** just related to physical health but also to mental health and well-being. People who live in areas where there are lots of trees feel happier and healthier **(12)** those living in very built-up urban areas. In the past, architects and town planners didn't **(13)** to understand the effect that trees have on people, which **(14)** why many urban environments lack enough green spaces. Now things are changing as so many studies **(15)** shown that trees can make a real difference to people's lives. **(16)** of the most surprising findings is that people in hospital have quicker recovery times if they are able to see trees.

Word formation (Part 3)

- 3** For questions 17–24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning.

A worthwhile challenge

Most people agree that learning to play a (0) *musical* instrument is one of the most worthwhile things they have ever done but also one of the hardest. A lot of children are very (17) when they first take up an instrument, but don't realise how much practice will be involved. Sadly, they quickly start to lose interest as they find the technical skills (18) difficult. If they feel they are not making enough progress, young people often give up having lessons after two or three years, only to regret it when they are older. But those who have enough talent and (19) and are willing to put in the effort it takes to reach a reasonable standard, can rightly feel a strong sense of (20)

Apart from acquiring a lifelong hobby and a (21) skill, playing an instrument for pleasure is beneficial in less obvious ways too. Learning a new piece of music requires a huge amount of (22) Although it may not seem like it, this is an (23) way of reducing stress because your brain is completely focused on the music, which means (24) about anything else is impossible.

MUSIC

ENTHUSIASM

INCREASE

DETERMINE

ACHIEVE

VALUE

CONCENTRATE
EFFECT

WORRY

Key word transformation (Part 4)

- 4** For questions 25–30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

Example:

Conor has a natural ability for music like his parents.

AFTER

Conor ~~takes after his parents~~ in his natural ability for music.

- 25** Julia can sing much better than me.

WELL

I can't Julia.

- 26** My dad has a beautiful voice but he hates performing.

DESPITE

My dad hates performing a beautiful voice.

- 27** I don't know my sister very well because she's so much older than me.

HARDLY

I because she's so much older than me.

- 28** It's been ages since I saw James.

NOT

I ages.

- 29** I think I forgot to lock the door.

REMEMBER

I don't the door.

- 30** My mother started her own business when she was forty.

SET

My mother her own business when she was forty.