Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

THE TOUGHEST RUNNERS



These runners are the ones who have completed every London Marathon **(1)** _____ the first race in 1981. They are the toughest runners of **(2)** _____. These athletes, **(3)** _____ honour of both their mental **(4)** _____ physical strength, have **(5)** _____ given a permanent entry in the event **(6)** _____ the rest of their lives, provided **(7)** _____ they do not miss a year. Other people have run the race faster or under greater handicaps, but these are athletes **(8)** _____ a mission. For **(9)** _____, the annual event is a way **(10)** _____ life, not just a worthy fund-raising exercise or a single challenge. Bill O'Connor is **(11)** _____ of these runners. In his case, running **(12)** _____ a daily ritual which began in New Zealand, where, **(13)** _____ a youngster, he pounded along the wet sand **(14)** _____ the edge of the Tasman Sea. Now aged fifty, **(15)** _____ working as a mathematics teacher at a school in London, **(16)** _____ retains his fascination with the London Marathon and the activity **(17)** _____ running. He says, "When the first London Marathon **(18)** _____ held, I thought to **(19)** _____ that here was a challenge. I thought that if **(20)** _____ was only going **(21)** _____ be one race, I wanted to have run **(22)** _____ it. But the London Marathon became **(23)** _____ most impressive success story **(24)** _____ British sport and Bill O'Connor **(25)** _____ been a constant part of it. Had he ever felt he would fail **(26)** _____ finish? "In 1985. It was a beautiful day and I started running much **(27)** _____ fast for the first mile and got worried. So I slowed down for the next mile. Yet although I expected I would take **(28)** _____ least four hours, I finished **(29)** _____ two hours thirty-four minutes and twenty-nine seconds." It is his best time so **(30)** _____.

Adapted from: *Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English 6*

LIVEWORKSHEETS