

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

ACROSS THE GAP



Some of the (1) _____ impressive structures in the world (2) _____ bridges. Bridges have to (3) _____ built to withstand a variety of forces. These forces come (4) _____ a combination of factors: the weight of the bridge, the weight of the traffic, and the strains exerted (5) _____ the weather, (6) _____ as wind, rain and snow. Bridges are costly (7) _____ build and engineers go to a great (8) _____ of trouble to ensure that (9) _____ are safe, yet use the minimum amount of material. To be (10) _____ to do this, they must fully understand the properties of the materials they are (11) _____ to use. Certain materials, (12) _____ example, are easy to bend. They are flexible. Flexible materials (13) _____ be useful in bridge-building but need to be combined (14) _____ stiffer materials (15) _____ support large load. Stiff materials are difficult to bend but tend to be brittle. Glass, for instance, (16) _____ a stiff material but will snap easily if (17) _____ try to bend it. Stiff materials can be very hard to compress (18) _____ are useful when used (19) _____ supporting pillars in bridges.

The property that (20) _____ perhaps the most important in bridge-building materials is (21) _____ strength to withstand large forces (22) _____ breaking. Steel is (23) _____ a strong material, which is (24) _____ it is often used. Concrete is a stiff material and, (25) _____ glass, tends to snap if bending forces (26) _____ applied, but it is very strong when compressed. If concrete (27) _____ used to support (28) _____ bending force, then it must be reinforced (29) _____ another material. Steel is usually used (30) _____ it is relatively cheap and is good for supporting bending forces.

Adapted from: CAE Practice Tests Plus 1