Alexander

Sir Alexander Heathcote was an exact man. (1) _____ people were like him. He was exactly six feet three-and-a-quarter inches tall, rose at seven o'clock every morning, joined his wife at breakfast to eat one boiled egg cooked for precisely four minutes, two pieces of toast with one spoonful of Cooper's marmalade, and drink one cup of China tea. He used to take a carriage from his home in Cadogan Gardens at exactly 8:20 and (2) _____ at the Foreign Office at promptly 8:59, returning home again on the stroke of six o'clock.

Sir Alexander had been exact from an early age, as he was the only son of a general. But, unlike his father, he chose to serve his queen in the diplomatic service, another exacting calling. He (3) _____ in progressing from a shared desk at the Foreign Office in Whitehall to third secretary in Calcutta to minister in Peking. He was delighted when Mr. Gladstone (4) _____ the opportunity to represent the government in China. For some time he had been (5) _____ in the art of the Ming dynasty. This appointment would present him a perfect chance of (6) _____ in their natural habitat some of the great statues, paintings and drawings he had previously been able to admire only in books.

When he arrived in Beijing, Her Imperial Highness wished him a successful term of office in his appointment and then the audience (7) _____ to an end.

1	A) Many	B) Little	C) Few	D) Much
2	A) reach	B) arrive	C) come	D) enter
3	A) fulfilled	B) achieved	C) managed	D) succeeded
4	A) proposed	B) approached	C) offered	D) suggested
5	A) involved	B) interested	C) fond	D) keen
6	A) observing	B) noticing	C) remarking	D) looking
7	A) got	B) brought	C) came	D) went

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Philip and Michael

Philip Masters was a millionaire now. (1) _____, everyone in the club was aware that he had built up his own business from scratch after he had left his first job as a kitchen salesman. "Ready-Fit Kitchens" had started in a shed at the end of Philip's garden. Later, he (2) _____ in building a factory on the other side of town that employed more than three hundred people.

Ten years later, the financial press speculated that Philip's business was worth a couple of million. When five more years later the company was taken over by the John Lewis Partnership, Philip got seventeen million pounds. (3) _____ businessmen were as lucky as he was.

Philip was married for more than twenty years. He had fallen in love with Sally at first (4) _____. Now Sally was chairman of the regional branch of the Save the Children Fund. Their son had just won a place at St Anne's College, Oxford. Michael was the boy's godfather.

Michael Gilmour could (5) _____ be a greater contrast. On leaving school, where Philip had been his closest friend, he (6) _____ to find a permanent job. He started out as a trainee with Watneys, but lasted only a few months. Then he started to work as a reporter with a publishing company. He drifted from job to job. (7) _____ Philip, he married his childhood sweetheart, Carol West, the daughter of a local doctor. They had a daughter. Michael seemed to have settled down at last.

1	A) Therefore	B) Moreover	C) However	D) Although
2	A) fulfilled	B) succeeded	C) managed	D) achieved
3	A) Little	B) Many	C) Much	D) Few
4	A) view	B) sight	C) look	D) glimpse
5	A) simply	B) nearly	C) hardly	D) merely
6	A) lacked	B) missed	C) failed	D) lost
7	A) Like	B) Alike	C) Familiar	D) Similar

LIVEWORKSHEETS

My company

In 1978 I was chairman of Cooper's, a company which ran 127 vehicles of various weights and sizes. We (1) _____ in transporting goods by road.

My father had founded the firm in 1931, starting out with three vehicles – two of them driven by horses. By the time we became Cooper & Son in 1967, the company had (2) _____ in obtaining seventeen big trucks and delivered goods all over the north of England.

My father insisted that I leave school the moment I passed my O levels. "I'll teach you more about the real world in a month than you'd learn from any of those university types in a lifetime," he (3) _____ to say. I followed his advice and never (4) _____ it. I left school a few weeks after my sixteenth birthday. The next morning I joined Cooper's as an apprentice, and spent my first three years at the depot under the watchful eye of Buster Jackson, the works manager. He taught me how to take the company's trucks (5) _____ and, more important, how to put them back together again.

After graduating from the workshop, I spent five years in different departments. When my father retired in 1977 – at the age of seventy – I took over as chairman. Then I began to set in motion some ideas I'd been working on for the past decade, (6) _____ I knew my father didn't approve of them. I never (7) _____ him, but Europe was only the beginning of my plans for the company's expansion.

1	A) concentrated	B) focused	C) specialized	D) devoted
2	A) achieved	B) succeeded	C) managed	D) fulfilled
3	A) kept	B) held	C) used	D) took
4	A) dissatisfied	B) disappointed	C) displeased	D) regretted
5	A) away	B) apart	C) along	D) among
6	A) although	B) moreover	C) however	D) therefore
7	A) spoke	B) said	C) told	D) talked

LIVEWORKSHEETS