An unforgettable trip

When I decided to go travelling, I wanted to get away from everything for a while. I could suddenly feel the freedom and the adventure, and I really wanted it for a (1) _____ time. So I sold all my furniture, gave notice on my flat, quit my job, and then bought a backpack and a ticket halfway around the world.

During my first stopover in Singapore, on my way to Australia, I felt nervous. I sat tired and hungry in my hotel room, (2) _____ with my wish to take a flight straight back home. Because if I felt lonely after (3) _____ 14 hours, could I honestly do this for another 12 months? Fortunately, something inside encouraged me not to (4) _____ up and to see the night through, and I carried on.

One of my worries setting out had been meeting rude people, but I didn't come across a single unkind person on my travels. In fact, the people I met were everything I tried to be: kind, considerate, creative, down to earth, passionate, warm and friendly. (5) _____ I travelled on my own, I was never alone – all the people I met became my friends. For example, one Italian girl gave me her jumper when I was cold, a Japanese girl helped me cook a meal, and another girl helped me with my bags on a train. Once I met a group on a tour bus who persuaded me to (6) _____ them on a boat trip, which ended up being one of the best trips of my life. And the guy I met (7) _____ chance walking down a mountain on Christmas Day is now one of my closest friends.

1	A) high	B) big	C) long	D) huge
2	A) striking	B) struggling	C) striving	D) straining
3	A) else	B) still	C) yet	D) just
4	A) give	B) make	C) take	D) keep
5	A) However	B) Therefore	C) Although	D) Moreover
6	A) connect	B) link	C) unite	D) join
7	A) by	B) on	C) to	D) at

The effect of the temperature

Many people believe that office conditions can influence our work. For a (1) _____ time achieving a comfortable room temperature in hot climates was a constant struggle. Research discovered an obvious fact: finding an office temperature to (2) _____ everyone all the time is basically impossible. "Part of the problem is trying to work out the "correct" temperature. It depends (3) _____ what you're measuring," said researcher David House.

One study (4) _____ at the impact of the room temperature on worker productivity, by tracking the activity of managers in an office. (5) _____ it measured the activity of just nine women, the results were impressive. At 25°C they were typing non-stop with an error rate of just 10%. When the temperature dropped to 20°C, they were half as productive, more than doubling the number of mistakes.

But it's not quite that simple. When students in the other study were asked to solve a math problem in either a cool or a warm room, the group in the cooler room (6) _____ in this task twice as often. It means that complex decisions are more difficult when we're warm. When the temperature is above 27°C, we're not so good at mathematics.

In fact, the room temperature can do more than influence your productivity – it can change the way you think. Warm environments are better for creative thinking, while cooler workplaces are thought to (7) _____ people active during repetitive or monotonous tasks.

1	A) huge	B) high	C) big	D) long
2	A) please	B) amuse	C) enjoy	D) prefer
3	A) in	B) from	C) on	D) for
4	A) observed	B) looked	C) watched	D) glanced
5	A) Although	B) Moreover	C) Therefore	D) However
6	A) fulfilled	B) managed	C) achieved	D) succeeded
7	A) stay	B) gain	C) keep	D) hold

A night in the Eifel Tower

Seven million people visit the Eiffel Tower every year. But have you ever dreamed (1) _____ sleeping in this iconic structure? Holiday rental company Viva constructed a temporary VIP apartment on the first level of the tower, open only for the duration of the Euro football tournament from 10 June to 10 July 2016. The two-bedroom apartment, with the best Paris views was furnished with a big screen television for (2) _____ the game. The space also included a seating area filled with hanging plants.

A lot of people were attracted by the (3) _____ to sleep in the apartment. To determine who got this chance, Viva (4) _____ a contest asking entrants to describe how they would spend their night in the tower. "My two young sons are autistic and are both obsessed with lights and the tower itself so I'd spend the night (5) _____ their excitement!" was the winning response from Michelle, in the UK.

Scott, from the United States, (6) _____ to win a night's stay with his response about reuniting five generations in Paris: his mother who first visited the city in 1953, his daughter and granddaughter who visited at 13 and 14 respectively, and a brand new granddaughter who joined the trip.

The four winners began their one-night stays from the 23rd of June. (7) _____ there were no other nights to win, all the visitors to the Eiffel Tower had the chance to tour the apartment and join a match viewing party.

1	A) at	B) over	C) of	D) for
2	A) staring	B) watching	C) seeing	D) looking
3	A) probability	B) ability	C) availability	D) opportunity
4	A) held	B) kept	C) took	D) gave
5	A) amusing	B) preferring	C) enjoying	D) pleasing
6	A) handled	B) achieved	C) maintained	D) managed
7	A) Although	B) Moreover	C) Therefore	D) However