

## Exercise 1

### LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Beethoven is widely regarded as one of the greatest composers in history. He gave his first public (119) \_\_\_\_\_ as a pianist when he was only 8 years old. He studied in Vienna (120) \_\_\_\_\_ the guidance of Mozart. By his mid-twenties he (121 ) \_\_\_\_\_ a name for himself as a great pianist known for unpredictable and brilliant improvisations. In 1796, Beethoven began losing his hearing. (122 ) \_\_\_\_\_ his illness, he involved himself 'in his work and (123) \_\_\_\_\_ some of the greatest works of music. Beethoven's finest works are also the finest works of their kind in music history: the 9th Symphony, the 5th Piano Concerto, the Violin Concerto, the Late Quartets, and his Missa Solemnis. And he achieved all these despite being completely (124) \_\_\_\_\_ for the last 25 years or so of his life.

*(Source: <http://Listverse.com>)*

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|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 119. A. perform    | B. performance | C. performing  | D. performer   |
| 120. A. on         | B. for         | C. behind      | D. under       |
| 121. A. had earned | B. earned      | C. has earned  | D. was earning |
| 122. A. In case of | B. Instead of  | C. In order to | D. In spite of |
| 123. A. did        | B. created     | C. painted     | D. learned     |
| 124. A. deaf       | B. mute        | C. blind       | D. sick        |

## Exercise 2

### THANKS A MILLION

Percy Ross was born in 1916 in Michigan. His parents has come to the USA from Latvia and Russia and the family were poor. But Percy soon showed a talent (125) \_\_\_\_\_ business and made a fortune in the fur trade and auction business. Then disaster struck and he (126) \_\_\_\_\_ all his money. But he soon made a fortune again – this time by (127) \_\_\_\_\_ plastic bags. In 1969, he sold his plastic bag company for millions of dollars. Ross started giving away in 1977: he gave \$50,000 to 50 Vietnamese refugees so that they could make a new home in the USA. (128) \_\_\_\_\_ he held a Christmas party for 1,050 poor children in the American town of Minneapolis. Ross bought a bike for every one of the 1,050 children at the party.

After these first experiences of giving money away, Ross decided to do it on a (129) \_\_\_\_\_ basis. He started a newspaper column called ‘Thanks a Million’, and later a radio show, in order to give away his money. It took years, but Ross finally (130) \_\_\_\_\_ in giving away his entire fortune.

*(Source: Solutions – Intermediate)*

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|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 125. A. for         | B. of            | C. on           | D. with         |
| 126. A. threw       | B. wasted        | C. lost         | D. sent         |
| 127. A. manufacture | B. manufacturing | C. manufacturer | D. manufactured |
| 128. A. But         | B. Then          | C. Yet          | D. Though       |
| 129. A. frequent    | B. usual         | C. occasional   | D. regular      |
| 130. A. interested  | B. invested      | C. succeeded    | D. tried        |