

DAY 39. VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Practice 1

Complete the sentences with these words.

fast high mean rosy rough rude

- 1 After graduating with first-class honours from university, Mike's family had _____ hopes that he'd make something out of his life.
- 2 If you think you can sail through life without working hard, you're in for a _____ awakening.
- 3 Just because Frank comes from the _____ streets of Boston it doesn't mean he's an unpleasant man.
- 4 She had a particularly _____ view of the situation, but everyone else was not so optimistic.
- 5 I'm not looking to invest years in this endeavour; I want a _____ track to success.
- 6 George has a very _____ manner, but he's quite sweet and gentle deep down.

Practice 2

Circle the correct words.

- 1 Henry, these people are into a lot of dangerous stuff; you really don't want to fall down / in / up with them.
- 2 When Carol mentioned that Tom didn't get the promotion, she realised she had slipped in / up / out, as he didn't know about it.
- 3 They ended up being taken to the police station because they got caught / wound / taken up in an anti-government demonstration and some people there were acting aggressively.
- 4 When the publisher asked her if she wanted to be stationed in Japan, Donna skipped / leapt / flew at the chance.
- 5 Of / In / On all likelihood, they'll choose you to lead the team of scientists.
- 6 Things may be dull now, but good times are around the square / corner / block.
- 7 I know it's been a tough few weeks around here, but in perspective / retrograde / retrospect, we've learnt a lot about how our industry works.
- 8 He was a horrible boss to work for, but in / on / to his credit, he got things done.

Practice 3

Match the words 1–6 with the words a–f that are roughly opposite in meaning.

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 aptitude | <input type="checkbox"/> | a anguish |
| 2 backbone | <input type="checkbox"/> | b attainment |
| 3 failure | <input type="checkbox"/> | c criticism |
| 4 hope | <input type="checkbox"/> | d ineptitude |
| 5 initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> | e irresolution |
| 6 recognition | <input type="checkbox"/> | f lethargy |

Complete the sentences with some of the words from B.

- 1 The young assistant took the _____ of scheduling a meeting with the manager for her own six-month review.
- 2 His _____ in managing the finances of the family business led to its inevitable collapse.
- 3 The caste system of social stratification in India bars the lowest classes from the _____ of position or power.
- 4 With the phenomenal success of her fifth book, Veronica finally received the _____ she so richly deserved.
- 5 The athlete's joy on finishing the race first, turned to _____ when he was disqualified over an irregularity.
- 6 Brody's got no _____. He needs to toughen up if he wants to succeed in the cut-throat world of politics.
- 7 Though Jules himself had little _____ for sport, he was able to recognise raw talent in others and became a successful sports agent.
- 8 Amelia couldn't summon the energy or the interest to leave the house. There was a definite air of _____

Practice 4

Exam Task

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and decide which answer (a, b, c or d) best fits each gap.

A true Olympic triumph

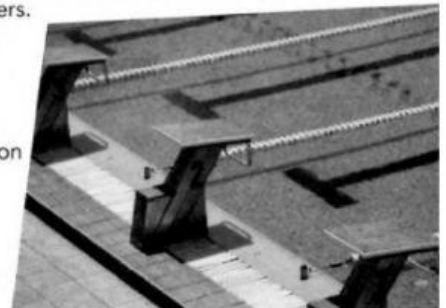
Yusra Mardini is an Olympian like no other. A champion swimmer native to Damascus, she felt she had the (1) _____ of futures after war broke out in her home country of Syria. It essentially meant her plans for one day competing in the Olympic Games had been all but (2) _____ off. Fearing for her safety, she felt she had no choice but to (3) _____ out for the relative safety of Europe. She made her way across Turkey, eventually arriving at the shores of the Aegean and, like so many refugees, she undertook with dogged (4) _____ the journey over the perilous waters that lie between Turkey and the Greek island of Lesbos. Her boat, meant for six but carrying 20, couldn't make it the whole way; knowing their lives were (5) _____ stake, Mardini and two other strong swimmers got into the water and pushed the boat for three hours, eventually reaching land.

Some months later she would arrive in Germany, where she was able to pick up the (6) _____ of her life and get back on track. After training morning and evening for hours every day, she, along with ten other refugees, competed in the 2016 Rio Olympics. In the end, the (7) _____ she suffered during her flight from war did little to (8) _____ her spirits, and she remembers well that it was her swimming that saved her life and the lives of others.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 a roughest | b bleakest | c crudest | d harshest |
| 2 a erased | b written | c deleted | d marked |
| 3 a sit | b set | c go | d get |
| 4 a prevalence | b aptitude | c fulfilment | d determination |
| 5 a to | b on | c in | d at |
| 6 a pieces | b bits | c fragments | d parts |
| 7 a ineptness | b anguish | c criticism | d failure |
| 8 a dampen | b moisten | c wet | d drench |

Dealing with words that have similar meanings

- Some of the four answer choices for vocabulary questions will have very similar meanings. They may be part of a set expression or, as is sometimes the case, the meaning is within the whole sentence.
- Look to see if the gap forms a set expression first and, if not, read the entire sentence closely to see what word choice will fit logically with the overall meaning.



Practice 5

Read the passage, then select the word or phrase that fills the blank in both grammar and meaning.

The wisdom of teaching philosophy

The idea that children should be taught philosophy, (1) _____ it doesn't replace other pertinent subjects, has begun to pick up speed. Studies have shown that (2) _____ only does it enhance decision-making abilities, it (3) _____ also encourage children to look at things differently and approach problems from different angles. In a study I recently conducted, my team discovered that even the children recognise an improvement. One ten-year-old boy told me that if he (4) _____ studied philosophy at a younger age, he would (5) _____ a better problem solver today.

I wondered if anyone in the grown-up world would agree, so I began interviewing adults to see if my theory of philosophy being an effective decision-making tool (6) _____ be proved true. Michaela, a successful businesswoman with a master's degree in business, agreed to speak with me on (7) _____ that I did not reveal her full name. She freely admits that, after having struggled through many tough negotiating sessions throughout her career, she's now openly wondering, '(8) _____ if I had taken a degree in philosophy? I probably would have had easier success!'

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| 1 a supposing | b as long as | c unless | d given |
| 2 a if | b in | c not | d for |
| 3 a could | b should | c can | d does |
| 4 a had | b – | c has | d were |
| 5 a not have been | b not be | c have been | d be |
| 6 a could | b can | c will | d would |
| 7 a providing | b condition | c supposing | d given |
| 8 a What | b And | c Only | d As |

- The correct choices for many of the gaps will likely hinge on grammatical patterns, fixed phrases or even just prepositions. For any answer choices you're not sure about, read the text carefully to see if you can find these small clues that will reveal the answer.
- A few of the gaps may be quite close to each other, so the answer in one gap may be connected to the other.

