CPE - Article (Balancing an argument)

Read the article and drag and drop the corresponding boxes where they belong. You have collocations, set phrases and a variety of linkers. Good articles of this kind do not require the use of complicated structures, but they do require connectors to be well used.

Computers: a dream or a nightmare?

1_____, we 2_____ regard computers as an indispensable part of everyday life. We see them 3_____ in almost every office and they are 4_____ common in the home. While this has been a great advantage for some people because it has made their work easier, it has been a nightmare for others, who have 5_____ learning new skills. 6_____, while some parents believe that their children can learn faster with computers, others worry that they will become totally dependent on them before they have learnt to read, write and count for themselves.

_____, the benefits computers have brought are obvious. _____, they save space and time. Vast quantities of data can be kept economically on disks and reproduced at any time _____ filling rows of filing cabinets, and there are hundreds of _____ tasks that can now be performed very simply. In a minute or two, a typist can now edit and retype a letter; in a few seconds, a bank can check how much a customer has in an account in another city. _____, _____, there are also disadvantages. Computers do make mistakes _____they are always the result of a human error. We read of people receiving gas bills for millions of pounds because the computer has been badly programmed or an operator has pressed the wrong key. _____ that computers do not recognise _____ errors so there is a danger that the next generation may be taught to rely on them absolutely before they have learnt the basic skills necessary to work out problems for themselves.

_____, computers are _____a dream _____a nightmare. They are admirable tools that improve the quality of life but, like all tools, they must be used sensibly. We _____ that human beings provided them with the information they contain so we cannot trust them until we know enough to recognise when it is inaccurate. _____, the greatest risk comes at the national level; the advice given by a government computer could lead to disaster

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if those responsible for making the decisions were tempted to take it _____ it came from a machine that is supposed to be infallible.

MUST NEVER FORGET

Complete the article with words from the box. There are more words than you need.

stalking / bounding / freezing / skulking / tramping / boiling / twitching / trumpeting / terrifying / contamination / self-sufficient / grumpy / sustainable / starry / pleasurable / massive / daintily / wistfully / painstakingly / wearily / touch / peace / basics / manual / community / organic /

HOW A TRIP TO AFRICA INSPIRED A LOVE OF ORGANIC FARMING

Forty years ago, I went to live on a small farm in the foothills of Mount Kenya. I shall never forget my first sight of a herd of elephants (1) _____ through the forest and (2) _____ loudly at the edge of my garden, or the antelope (3) _____ over the fences to munch on the crops we had (4) _____ planted. In the evenings, as I sat on my veranda, gazing up at the (5) _____ night, I experienced a deep sense of being in (6) _____ with nature. Then the cough of a leopard (7) _____ nearby or the (8) _____ roar of a lion (9) _____ its prey would warn me that it was time to put the dogs safely in their kennels.

We were totally (10) _____ with regard to food and one thing I shall never forget was the taste of my home-grown produce. Neither before nor since have I ever tasted anything so amazing. The land was not tainted with chemicals and the pure (11) _____ cold mountain water slaked the thirst of these fast-growing plants, so everything was (12) _____ . The (13) _____ hot days and afternoon rains created lush conditions for growing: tomatoes were the size of apples, with a richness and depth of taste that is hard to describe; peppers and chillies were (14) _____ too, filling the mouth with fiery deliciousness, and banana trees were heavy with fruit.

Returning to the UK ten years later and discovering that fruit and vegetables were exceedingly expensive and tasted of absolutely nothing, I decided to grow my own produce organically. After twenty-five years of hard (15) _____ labour, I finally have a thriving organic smallholding whose produce, even if the taste isn't quite as exotic or (16) _____ as that from my African garden, gets quite close to it. Having seen the (17) _____ of both plant and animal life by chemicals, it is satisfying to know that the organic movement is growing, but sad to see how slowly this is happening in the Western world.

Each night I (18) _____ trudge home and sit on my veranda dreaming (19) _____ of my time in Africa. Now there are fewer stars in the sky and the lion's roar and leopard's cough are replaced by the sound of cows and sheep, all accompanied by the distant hum of a busy motorway. A far cry from Mount Kenya, but a little bit of relative (20) _____ and quiet in the midst of a busy world.

For questions 1–10, complete the text with a linking word or phrase from the box. Drag each box and drop it where it belongs.

consequently	moreover	while	in spite of	on the contrary
for example	certainly	nevertheless	as a result	in my view

THE VALUE OF BEAUTY

(1)_____ , beautiful things are necessary in our lives, helping to make our environment more comfortable and relaxing. Objects of beauty can be found everywhere: (2) _____ paintings, furniture or even kitchen appliances. In fact it's (3) _____ true that some people spend thousands of pounds on creating the most beautiful kitchen in their home. There's no doubt that life would be very dull and meaningless without beautiful things around us. (4) _____ many people might think paintings are an expensive waste of money, just imagine what it would be like if there were bare walls in our public buildings, or in our homes. (5) _____ , what is beautiful to one person will be ugly to another so it is important that we choose our own pieces of art or furniture. Nowadays, however, many people employ an interior designer to decorate their homes. This is (6) _____ of having very little time to spare – people work harder than ever and then have to pay other people to do work in their homes. (7) _____ these designers being able to produce delightful results, probably better than the clients could do themselves, the designs and pieces chosen may not truly reflect what the client believes is beautiful. (8) _____ , these clients may not particularly like the finished product and you would expect them to complain bitterly about it because they have spent so much money. (9) _____ , they tend to keep silent because they are too embarrassed to admit it. (10) _____ it is very important to remember that beauty is very subjective and, therefore, if you like something you should buy it, whether it matches the rest of the décor or not!

(1)