CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH: Key

Reading and Writing part 7

1 Complete the text. Write one word in each space.

My name (0) *is* Alison Davey and I live (1)_____ Alice Springs, Australia. It's not a very big town – only about 25,000 people (2)_____ here.

Alice Springs (most people just call it 'Alice') is in the north (3)_____ the country. It's not a bad place to live (4)_____ it isn't very exciting. There's a nice park that you can visit and outside the town there are some mountains where you can (5)_____ walking.

It's a very hot place and it's very dry too because it doesn't (6)_____ very much.

In January, it's really hot and sometimes the (7)_____ can go up to 36 degrees. Alice is a very long (8)_____ from the sea so there aren't any beaches here.

Right now I'm at school but I want to go to university later. I want to go to Sydney because it's bigger (9)_____ Alice and a bit (10)_____ interesting too!

Exam guide: open cloze

In this kind of exercise, you have to write one word in each space. These exercises test your grammar and vocabulary, but mostly grammar.

- First, read the text from beginning to end without worrying about the spaces. Then you get a good idea of the overall meaning.
- Then, when you go back to the beginning, think about meaning and grammar – for example, in space number 1, you know that people live in a city or town, so the answer is *in*.
- Look at spaces 9 and 10 – what's the word that comes after a comparative adjective like *bigger*? And what's the word that goes before longer adjectives like *interesting*?
- Sometimes you have to think about meaning too. For example, in space 6, the text says that the town is very dry because something doesn't happen very much. What stops a place being dry? That's right – *rain*.

2 Complete the email. Write one word in each space.

Hi Amy,

Well, here we **(0)** *are* at last. Niagara Falls! We flew from London **(1)**_____ Toronto and then **(2)**_____ dad hired a car and we drove to see the waterfalls. Wow – it's a fantastic place. I don't think there is anything more beautiful **(3)**_____ this in the world. I read that Niagara Falls isn't **(4)**_____ highest waterfall in the world – I think that's the Angel Falls in Venezuela – but it is really big. When you go close, the noise from the water is so loud, you can't **(5)**_____ other people talking!

We stayed for about two hours. We walked around and took a lot **(6)**_____ photos. Then we went to the hotel – it's a really small hotel **(7)**_____ only ten rooms. I'm happy because I've **(8)**_____ my own room, and my parents are in another room.

Well, we **(9)**_____ having a great time here. Tomorrow we go back to Toronto. Can I **(10)**_____ to you again from there?

See you!

Beth