

TEST 4

1 Complete the news stories below with one preposition in each space.

The number of births in Scotland has risen to its highest level since 1999, according to the Registrar General. Figures suggest that more than 54,000 babies were born in 2005, a rise (1) 420 births on the previous year – that's an increase (2) less than 1%. The increase (3) births is lower than the increase (4) almost 3% between 2003 and 2004. The Registrar General for Scotland said: "The recent upturn (5) the birth rate is encouraging but it may be easing off."

There was a slight decline (6) the number of deaths in 2005, with a drop (7) the incidence of strokes and heart disease, two of Scotland's top three causes of death. There was also a fall (8) the number of both marriages and divorces.

Schools spend much more (9) computer-based resources than (10) books, new figures suggest. Expenditure (11) ICT (information and communication technology) has seen a rise (12) more than 50% over the past year, according to figures from the Department of Education. A spokesperson pointed out that one of the reasons (13) this shift is that pupils now have more reading material available to them (14) the internet. Government figures also show that schools spent £197 million (15) exam fees during the same period, a rise (16) a quarter in two years.

2 There are 10 mistakes with prepositions in the paragraph below – either incorrect or missing prepositions. Find the mistakes and correct them.

In the past few years, there has been a dramatic increase of the number of budget airlines which offer cheap flights throughout Europe. If you look in the internet, you will find some amazing deals at their websites. These 'no frills' airlines provide very few facilities their passengers, but when they're only spending a few euros for a flight, most people are happy with a basic service. This reduction of the cost of European air travel has, inevitably, led to an explosion of the number of people who can afford to take foreign holidays. The growth to air travel and changes to patterns of tourism within Europe have had both positive and negative impacts. It has encouraged investment for many regional airports and boosted local economies, but what of the environmental impact of those extra air miles?

3 Rewrite the sentences below using the noun form of the underlined verb.

Example:

The graph shows that sales have fallen by 8%.

The graph shows a fall of 8% in sales.

1 We hope to reduce the number of injuries by 25%.

We hope to achieve a

2 The availability of this treatment varies a great deal from one region to another.

There is

3 House prices have risen by 40% in the past five years.

In the past five years, there has been

4 Daytime temperatures can peak at around 30°C in summer.

Daytime temperatures can

5 The new principal is promising to improve computer access for students.

The new principal is promising

6 We need to invest more money in staff training.

There needs to be

4 Below are comments from five people who have chosen to give up their cars, but their words are in the incorrect order. Rewrite them to form correct sentences.

1 giving environmental for My car main reason up my was.

2 mean local I transport need Improvements don't public that just in a car.

3 different for to I rid reasons decided get my car a of number of.

4 economic It fuel to a car any more run due the high wasn't cost to of.

5 money much I spending found on I was too repairs.