



Task 2: Gap fill (verbs)

For gaps 1–12, write the correct forms of the verbs in brackets in the spaces on the right.

There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

After the divorce my friends queued up to wed him

Cecilia Attias __ 0__ (**LEAVE**) Nicolas Sarkozy shortly after his election in 2007. For six years she __ 1__ (**REMAIN**) silent, more or less. In a book which is due __ 2__ (**PUBLISH**) next month, Nicolas Sarkozy's second wife, Cécilia, speaks out... a little.

Cecilia Attias, 53, who __ 3__ (**CURRENTLY / LIVE**) with her third husband in New York, says that she left Mr Sarkozy 'because he had sort of forgotten me'. She reveals that several of her friends immediately scrambled to divorce their husbands in the hope of achieving wealth and power by __ 4__ (**MARRY**) the bachelor President. 'I saw women __ 5__ (**GIVE**) him their phone number even when I was next to him.' All of them were disappointed, when Mr Sarkozy married Carla Bruni six months after Cecilia left.

The former first lady explains that, once inside the Elysée Palace, Mr Sarkozy __ 6__ (**TRANSFORM**) from a dynamic politician to an agitated president, prone to terrible rages. The world already knows that? Yes, but Cecilia goes on to offer an interesting, if self-serving, psychoanalysis of the man with whom she __ 7__ (**LIVE**) for 25 years. 'It is strange,' she writes 'that this man who was totally placid in his private life, a man who never raised his voice at home managed to project such an impulsive public image.' She further __ 8__ (**EXPLAIN**) that as a candidate, Mr Sarkozy was concerned for all victims and those left by the wayside. In power, he disturbed public opinion with his worrying impulses and shocking comments.

Ms Attias is especially critical of former President Sarkozy's unsuccessful re-election campaign last year in which he borrowed hard-right and populist themes and language from the National Front. She said: 'He ran after voters on the extremes, and scarcely found any, when every political expert will tell you that elections in France, like most great democracies, __ 9__ (**WIN**) in the centre.' The unspoken implication is that Mr Sarkozy __ 10__ (**NOT LOSE**) his political bearings if he hadn't lost Cecilia, who had been his informal political adviser and spokeswoman for common sense. However, she rejects suggestions she was the driving force behind Mr Sarkozy's rise to power. 'Contrary to what has been written, I never attempted __ 11__ (**INFLUENCE**) my former husband,' she writes. 'I never advised him to take one direction rather than another.'

The book, *Une envie de vérité (A Desire for the Truth)* – has been the subject of much advance speculation and curiosity. The news magazine *Le Point* published extracts, which turned out to be largely bland. There were no bitter recriminations against Mr Sarkozy; no catty comments about Carla. A journalist of *Le Monde* predicted that those who expected the settling of accounts wouldn't get what they hoped for.

Cecilia Attias divorced Mr Sarkozy in October 2007, four months after he __ 12__ (**ELECT**) president. She is now married to a French PR executive, Richard Attias, for whom she had left Mr Sarkozy for 12 months in 2005–6. She says that she fell for Mr Attias because he was solid, precise and reassuring – the opposite of the superficial political world that she had come to detest. 'I am just a simple person who has so far had a complicated life,' she wrote.

(Adapted from an article in *The Independent*, 3 October 2013, by John Lichfield)

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