

## Phrases, patterns and collocations

### H Complete using the phrases in the box.

bricks and mortar • on the house • on the table • out of shape • precious metal  
raw materials • smooth sailing • the town of

- 1 We had a few difficulties at first, but it was pretty ..... after that.
- 2 Don't worry – these drinks are .....
- 3 Lance built a log cabin in a Canadian forest, using ..... that were all around him.
- 4 Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the great engineer, was born in ..... Portsmouth in 1806.
- 5 The offer ..... is far too low and I'm going to ask them to increase it.
- 6 I would invest in ....., because property is usually a safe investment.
- 7 Charles was so ..... that he was exhausted after just half a day on the building site.
- 8 A ..... such as silver is valuable because of its rarity.

### I Write one word in each gap.

#### Building the home of the future

I've always kept a sharp eye (1) ..... developments in building, so when it was time to plan my own home, I was determined to build the home of the future. It wasn't easy. There are rules and regulations everywhere that seem to block (2) ..... way and, to (3) ..... matters worse, not everyone agrees on the best way to go about it. It certainly gave me a window (4) ..... the world of architecture to hear my architect explain the problems he knew we were going to face. Perhaps I was crazy (that's a (5) ..... of opinion!), but I knew what I wanted. It had to look great, but (6) ..... the surface I wanted it to be high-tech and environmentally friendly. I did a lot of research, and that certainly smoothed the (7) ..... for what was to come. I did some of the physical work myself, putting up walls and bending things (8) ..... shape, and I'd like to erect a monument (9) ..... the person who invented solar-powered heating. In the end, my architect's predictions of doom (10) ..... no foundation and it all took just eight months.

### J For each question, write one word which can be used in all three sentences.

- 1 These accusations are completely without .....  
The ..... stone for the new hospital was laid by the Mayor.  
You have to do a ..... course before you can start your degree.
- 2 Joshua looks aggressive, but he's not such a ..... guy once you get to know him.  
It's time this government got ..... with people exceeding the speed limit.  
The last few years have been quite ..... on Amanda and I'm glad things seem to be getting better.
- 3 The building collapsed only a ..... of months after construction was completed.  
My parents said that I have to find a flat of my own this month, no ..... what.  
We need to install traffic lights at this junction as a ..... of some urgency.

- 4 There was a hush in Parliament as the Minister took the .....  
I'd be afraid of burglars if I lived in a ground ..... flat.  
I quite enjoyed the club, but I thought the ..... show was terrible.
- 5 The Smiths were pretty quick off the ..... to sell when they heard house prices were falling.  
I think that what you said to Rita about her taste in furniture really hit the .....  
Poverty and unemployment have certainly left a ..... on this area.
- 6 A record number of businesses are predicted to ..... in the next 12 months.  
Now carefully ..... the paper in two, and you can begin to see the shape of the paper plane.  
Don't ..... your arms and talk to me in that tone of voice!

## Idioms

**K** Complete using the words in the box. You have to use some words more than once.

belt • home • jungle • landscape • sticks • street • town

- 1 That awful new office block is a real blot on the .....  
2 The crime rate is soaring! It's becoming a real concrete ..... out there.  
3 Make yourself at ..... while I just put the kettle on and make us a nice cup of tea.  
4 It's my birthday, so I'm planning to go out on the ..... with my friends this evening.  
5 Living in the commuter ..... is okay, but I'd love to move back into the city.  
6 I don't know how Nicole survives, living all the way out in the .....  
7 We couldn't afford to live in London, so we ended up living in a satellite ..... about half an hour away.  
8 I love this hotel, and it's always been a kind of ..... from home for me.  
9 After losing his job and getting divorced, it seemed only a matter of time before Anthony was out on the .....  
10 It's fine to travel, but there's nothing better than ..... sweet home.

## Word formation

**L** Each of the words in bold is in the wrong form. Rewrite them correctly.

- 1 The **manufacturer** industries are a major employer in this area. ....  
2 Dunscair and the **roundness** areas have seen a sharp increase in house prices. ....  
3 When the mixture starts to **solidity**, put it in the freezer. ....  
4 Each **housing** is responsible for maintaining the area in front of their house. ....  
5 'I'll always be here for you,' Brittany said **soften**. ....  
6 Be careful – the floor's wet and it's a bit **slippage**. ....  
7 I dropped a spanner and it made a loud, **metallurgy** sound. ....  
8 There have been **substance** improvements to the local area. ....  
9 The council apply the rules on building quite **rigidity**. ....  
10 After the earthquake, all the buildings were checked for **structure** damage. ....



- M** Use the word given in capitals at the end of the line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line.

### Rebuilding Coventry

In the late 30s, (1) ..... knew that the centre of the historic town of Coventry in the West Midlands needed to be redeveloped. Plans had to be (2) ..... when the Second World War started in 1939. However, the architects' opportunity (3) ..... when the city centre was practically destroyed during the war. Many buildings were (4) ..... damaged and demolition work began. Aiming to create a much more (5) ..... area for (6) ..... to work and shop in, town planners came up with a radical idea. They would make the city more (7) ..... by pedestrianising the centre, preventing cars entering. There were (8) ..... from local shopkeepers, who thought that it would have an impact on trade, but the planners went ahead. What was once a (9) ..... populated area became a pleasant, attractive place to visit. It was a real (10) ..... achievement, one that many British towns have emulated since.

ANALYSE  
SHELF  
MATERIAL  
REPAIR  
SPACE  
RESIDE  
INHABIT  
OBJECT  
DENSE  
ARCHITECT

- N** The suffix *-en*, as in *soften*, can be added to nouns or adjectives to form verbs and means 'cause to become' or 'become'. Tick the nouns and adjectives below which can take *-en* to form verbs. You may have to double a final letter or remove a final *-e*.

1 black .....	7 fright .....	13 short .....
2 bright .....	8 hard .....	14 strength .....
3 broad .....	9 length .....	15 tall .....
4 brown .....	10 loose .....	16 tight .....
5 damp .....	11 narrow .....	17 weak .....
6 deep .....	12 red .....	18 wide .....

- O** Complete the sentences using words formed in exercise N in the correct form.

- Apparently, they're going to ..... the road here so that it can cope with the heavy traffic.
- This decision by the authorities only ..... our determination to fight on.
- Ryan's face ..... as he realised what a terrible mistake he'd made.
- The dress suits you, but it's a bit long. You can always ..... it.
- Could you help me ..... my seat belt? It's a bit loose.
- Some flowers in here would certainly ..... the place up, wouldn't they?
- They leave the clay in the sun to ..... and use the bricks to build houses.
- We must remain strong and not ..... if we're going to stop this bypass being built.