Binomials

1 NOUN PHRASES

a Read the sentences and definitions, and complete the **bold** binomial phrases with a word from the list.

buts egg ends error gloom needles parcel ~~times~~

1 This new book describes the **life and** *times* of Charles Dickens in 19th-century London.
(= the life and what it was like in that period)

2 We're almost ready for the party, but there are a few **odds and** _____ still to be done.
(= small, unimportant things)

3 I told her to finish her homework by 9 p.m., **no ifs or** _____. (= no excuses)

4 After driving for four hours, I got terrible **pins and** _____ in my leg. (= an uncomfortable feeling after sitting or lying in an awkward position)

5 Taking notes in meetings is **part and** _____ of my job. (= an essential part of)

6 Despite losing three matches in a row, it's not all **doom and** _____ for the team – they'll almost certainly have an easy win against the Faroe Islands.
(= a feeling that everything will go badly)

7 There were no instructions, but we managed to put the shelves together by **trial and** _____.
(= trying various methods until you are successful)

8 People don't use the train because it's expensive, but it's expensive because not many people use it. It's a **chicken and** _____ situation, unfortunately.
(= difficult to tell which one of two things was the cause of the other)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 ADJECTIVAL OR ADVERBIAL PHRASES

a Complete the binomials with a word from the list.

cheap	~~cut~~	far	first	hit	out	rough	skin

1 decide in a way that cannot be changed or argued about
cut **and dried**
All decisions have been taken. Everything is ~.

2 not done in a careful, planned way
_____ **and miss**
The conference was a bit ~. Some great talks, but some awful ones, too.

3 travelling around talking to people
_____ **and about**
I'm exhausted. I've been ~ all morning.

4 simple and prepared quickly, but good enough
_____ **and ready**
The hostel was a bit ~, but at least it was cheap and it was a bed for the night.

5 prioritized above anything else
_____ **and foremost**
~, the main advantage of foreign travel is that you get to know other cultures.

6 over a large area
_____ **and wide**
The singer's fans had come from ~ to see their idol.

7 of reasonable quality, enjoyable, despite being inexpensive
_____ **and cheerful**
Our local restaurant is ~, but the food is pretty good.

8 very thin
_____ **and bone**
Simon has got really thin – he's just ~.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 PHRASES WITH REPETITION

a Match the **bold** binomials in sentences 1–9 to their meanings A–I.

1 G In the end, we had a **heart-to-heart** and she told me why she was so upset.
2 ___ I've told you **again and again** not to be late for school, and here you are still in bed at 8.00!
3 ___ My nephew put a frog in my bed – he's a little **so-and-so**.
4 ___ My niece adores living in London. She's a city girl **through and through**.
5 ___ We'd spoken many times on the phone, but we'd never met **face to face**.
6 ___ The puppy was very timid at first, but **little by little** we persuaded him to trust us.
7 ___ I know it's difficult, but if you just take things **step by step**, you'll get through it.
8 ___ Sadly, poverty and obesity often go **hand in hand**, as healthy food is more expensive.
9 ___ Scott and Johnson were **neck and neck** until the last 50 yards, when Scott pulled ahead.

A together in real life
B closely connected
C level in a race or competition
D many times
E gradually
F completely
~~G an honest and personal conversation~~
H an annoying or unpleasant person
I (deal with sth) one stage at a time

LIVEWORKSHEETS