

Complete the following newspaper article by writing one word in each of the numbered gaps.

Shining example or white elephant?

The new university hospital in Trenton, (1) the Health Minister Victoria Culley has described (2) a 'shining example' to hospitals all (3) the country, has been open now for over six months. (4) heard several less than complimentary comments about the organisation and efficiency of the place, I decided to see for myself. Before (5) there, I had arranged with my local GP to have some routine blood tests for anaemia.

In (6) of arriving early (7.15 a.m.!) I found that there were already long queues at the reception desks. (7) I was waiting, I looked around and have to admit that it is an impressive building; large and light with marble everywhere. Eventually my turn came and I presented my doctor's letters to the receptionist, (8) informed me that I was in the X-ray queue and I'd have to go to another queue and start again! I couldn't believe it and asked her if it (9) be possible to give me an appointment card anyway (10) making me queue up again. She informed me it was no (11) arguing with her and I should have read the sign, an almost invisible piece of card saying 'X-rays'

just in front of her (12) very few people can have seen it. No (13) how hard I tried to persuade her, she wouldn't give me an appointment card for a blood test, so I started (14) again and finally got the card at 8.30! I then set off for the blood tests room, following the nice new signs (15) they suddenly stopped and I realised that I was in a part of the hospital that hasn't been finished yet! When I got to the door I saw a notice saying 'Back in 10 minutes'. I sat down and waited for 30 minutes before a doctor appeared and told me to come in without, of course, (16) for keeping me waiting. I asked him why I'd had to wait and he explained he'd had to help out in another ward which was (17) as a (18) of a flu epidemic among the doctors!

I got out of the hospital at 9.45 a.m. and breathed a sigh of relief. I'm now waiting for the results.

So, Mrs Culley, a far from rosy picture. Certainly the public should be (19) no illusions that things have changed for the better. Perhaps you should visit the hospital as an anonymous out-patient rather than a government minister if you really want to know what it's like, (20) , as I suspect, you don't actually care that much!

8 Review writing

For questions 1–15 read the film review below and then decide which word best fits in each space. The exercise begins with an example (0).

Having seen the (0) *trailer* on TV for this latest Sam Spadacci film, I knew I was in for something a little different! The main (1) of the film (2) with the fall and eventual rise of Frankie Longo, (3) by the new Hollywood superstar Larry Zardini. The (4), which has some brilliant one-liners, was written by Spadacci's old associate, Matt Dusi.

Everything starts off fairly predictably – a young Italo-American kid, mixed up with the local Mafia – it seems to be the usual (5) of Spadacci's own roots. But then, after going in and out of jail for a couple of years, Frankie 'gets cuisine' and suddenly discovers he's a marvellous cook! Some (6) are a little slow-moving as we (7) on Frank's culinary prowess – did we really need to spend five minutes of the film watching Frank's perfect soufflé rising in the oven?

Soon Frankie is cooking for the rich and famous, including the Mafia big cheese Joe d'Ancona – a wonderfully over the top (8) by veteran Bruno Marmo – and eventually the President! Inevitably, in (9) of his efforts to go straight, Frankie is caught up in a secret (10) to assassinate the President. Without giving too much away, Frankie apparently goes along with the Mafia while really sabotaging things. There are some crazy (11), including gangsters exploding out of a giant birthday cake! The (12) maintains the almost slapstick feel with a manic tempo at times.

(13) some of the dialogue is a little laboured at times this is, all in (14), a thoroughly entertaining bit of fun, which I (15) whole-heartedly.

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|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0 A commercial | B episode | C trailer | D broadcast |
| 1 A storyline | B narrative | C contents | D commentary |
| 2 A concerns | B shows | C describes | D deals |
| 3 A designed | B set | C played | D cast |
| 4 A chapter | B script | C speech | D story |
| 5 A study | B survey | C test | D revision |
| 6 A sections | B chapters | C acts | D scenes |
| 7 A analyse | B focus | C devote | D examine |
| 8 A character | B part | C performance | D personality |
| 9 A spite | B account | C despite | D view |
| 10 A plot | B design | C agreement | D intention |
| 11 A stages | B stunts | C actions | D productions |
| 12 A beat | B singing | C record | D soundtrack |
| 13 A While | B Except | C Although | D Whereas |
| 14 A balance | B all | C conclusion | D end |
| 15 A offer | B suggest | C recommend | D represent |

For questions 1–15, complete the following story by writing each missing word in the space. Use only one word for each space. The exercise begins with an example (0).

A summer job

'Oh good, you're here at last. I was wondering what time you'd (0) *arrive*,' snapped the boss. 'I've been waiting for you

(1) three quarters of an hour!'

I apologised and explained that the early morning traffic had been (2) heavier than I'd expected.

'Oh dear! I don't suppose you're (3) to getting up so early after your time at university. To be honest, I'm surprised you were (4) to get here before midday,' he added sarcastically. I smiled and said nothing.

The job was driving a bus around Stratford (5) Cheryl, the boss's daughter, gave a description of the places of interest we were passing.

We set off at half past nine with a bus full of tourists. Suddenly Cheryl hissed into my ear, 'How (6) have you had your licence? You drive (7) a complete lunatic! Slow down or they won't see anything.'

'Sorry,' I said, gritting my teeth. 'I'll (8) my best.'

At 11 o'clock, the tourists and Cheryl went into Anne Hathaway's cottage so I decided to go and have a cup of coffee. The cafe was a (9) further away than I realised and I had to stand in the queue for ages – it (10) have taken me 20 minutes to get served. When I got back to the bus, Cheryl was furious.

'Where on earth have you (11)?' shouted Cheryl.

'I just went for a coffee. Your father said it (12) be OK,' I protested.

When we got back, Cheryl told her father about my dreadful behaviour. But before he (13) to open his mouth, I said 'Look, I've had just about enough of this. Don't bother to sack me, I won't be (14) in tomorrow!' and walked out.

I later found out that they had had four different drivers in (15) many weeks.

2 Phrasal verbs

Complete each of the following sentences with the appropriate form of a suitable phrasal verb. An example sentence is provided.

Example: Hal had no trouble in *calling up* all the data we needed on the computer screen.

- 1 Giving up my job to go and live abroad to be the biggest mistake I've ever made.
- 2 Jane has always her brother even when he was accused of murder and everyone else refused to speak to him.
- 3 This watch used to belong to my great-great-grandfather. It's been from father to son for five generations.
- 4 My karate instructor always Robert to demonstrate techniques as he's the best in the class.
- 5 I've got to drive, so I think I'd better orange juice, thanks all the same.

7 Register cloze

For questions 1–16, read the following comments from a language school student questionnaire and use the information to complete the numbered gaps in the formal memorandum to staff. Use no more than two words for each gap. The words you need do not occur in the students' comments. The exercise begins with an example (0).

Typical answers to feedback questionnaire:

Classes

'My teacher was late for class every day except the first Monday!'

'I came to England to study English not to play games – I'm not a child!!!'

Facilities

'My classroom (A35) is a mess – can't the repairmen fix the cracks in the walls and stick the wallpaper back on? Only one of the lights was working during the whole 4-week course!'

'I liked the books and things in the self-access centre but it's in a bad place right at the top of the library on the fourth floor! Why not put it somewhere students spend more time?'

'The "Munch House Cafe Bar" is OK – I liked the new chairs and tables. Some of the sandwiches were off and they always ran out of coke when it was hot!'

Food

'I didn't like the food at all – it's always the same – chips, chips, chips!'

'All the food is boring – it has no real taste.'

Activities

'I liked the tour of the city but the sports were terrible, nobody knew where to go or what time to arrive!'

'Tom Shark was very rude to the students and we had to pay for things I thought I'd paid for when I paid for the course – like the BBQs and discos!'

Memorandum

To: All members of EFL staff
From: Jack Boot (Director of Studies)
Date: 16 June
cc: The Principal

RE: STUDENT FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

I am afraid there were a large number of (0) *complaints* about the school at the end of this course. The following is a summary of the most recurrent comments.

Lessons

(1) seems to be a problem with many teachers, in fact one managed to be on time only once during the course. There also seems to be a feeling among students that the lessons weren't (2) and that too many games were played in class. Many of our students find such activities rather (3)

Facilities

Various students noted that the classrooms are in a (4) of repair and that we need to pay greater and more immediate attention to (5) As regards the new self-access centre, many students praised the wide selection of (6) but commented negatively about its (7) at the top of the library building, which, it seems, makes it somewhat (8) for students. Another more positive element in the school is the "Munch House". Many students commented favourably about the (9), but also pointed out that the sandwiches are often (10) and that soft drinks are frequently in short (11) particularly during hot weather.

Catering

The food lacks (12) with a great deal of the same food appearing day after day. It also seems that the food is far too (13) for international students.

Activities

There were numerous negative comments in this area. The sports activities seem very (14) organised with students having no clear instructions as to where or when to play. Certain members of the activities staff were also described as (15) Finally, it is clear that many students are being charged again for activities they paid for in (16), such as barbecues and discotheques.

I propose to hold an emergency meeting to discuss how best to address the most urgent issues outlined above. The meeting will be this Friday 23 June starting at 4.30pm in the staff room.

All staff are expected to attend.

In the following passage, put the verbs in brackets into a suitable (active or passive) tense and put any adverbial expressions in the correct place. The first one has been done for you.

I must admit that Maria's English (1) *is improving* (improve) every day. Three weeks ago she (2) (manage) to book us on to the Portsmouth to Santander ferry at the local travel agent's.

The night before we (3) (be) due to leave, she (4) (ring) me up to remind me to be on time. 'Don't forget the train (5) (leave) at 7.35 and if we (6) (miss) that, we (7) (miss) the ferry too!' she said.

'Of course I (8) (get) there on time,' I replied, somewhat annoyed. 'You're the one who (9) (always turn up) late for things!'

Surprisingly, we both (10) (arrive) at the station in time (11) (catch) the train. We (12) (sit) on the train for about ten minutes when we realised, to our horror, that it (13) (go) in the wrong direction! We got off at the next station where a ticket seller informed us that there (14) (not be) another train to Portsmouth until 8.45. We explained that we had to catch the ferry at 10 o'clock. 'Well, if I (15) (be) you,' he said, 'I (16) (catch) the coach. That should get you to Portsmouth before the ferry (17) (sail). But you (18) (have) to hurry, it (19) (leave) the bus station in about five minutes!'

We shot off like lightning despite the heavy rucksacks on our backs and jumped on the coach just as the driver (20) (shut) the doors. We (21) (just collapse) in our seats with a sigh of relief, when the driver announced, 'Sorry everyone but the motorway (22) (still repair) so we (23) (not get) to Portsmouth until 9.45.'

We groaned in despair. That gave us only fifteen minutes to get to the ferry terminal.

We arrived at Portsmouth bus station at 9.40 and jumped straight into a taxi.

'The Santander ferry terminal and please hurry,' I shouted, 'or it (24) (go) before we (25) (get) there!'

To our astonishment, the taxi driver calmly switched off the engine and turned round.

'(26) you (not hear)?' he said, smiling, 'the ferry workers (27) (come) out on strike last night!'

'Oh no!' I cried in disbelief. 'If only I (28) (listen) to the news this morning!'



7 Editing skills

In most lines of the following text there is one word which is wrongly spelled, including the use of capital letters. Underline each wrongly spelled word and write the correct spelling in the space provided. If there are no spelling mistakes in a line, indicate this with a tick (✓). Look at the examples provided (0).

If you're going skiing this winter, here's a cautionary tale.
Last december three friends decided to go on a cheap skiing holiday in the dolomites in the north of Italy. Being an adventurous lot, they decided to go by car, which turned out to be Dan's ancient VW Beetle. On the way there, they had no problems except for a little quarreling about whose turn it was to drive. The trouble started on there first day's skiing when Amy panicked, fell over and broke her ankle. On the second day, Charlie woke up saying, 'I think I'm dieing'. In fact, he had caught pneumonia. On the third day, Dan tried to be too clever and broke a leg! All of this meant they payed plenty in doctor's billis and then, with nobody able to drive, they traveled back by plane and the car went back by train! So, all in all, it was an extremly expensive trip!

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- 0 *December*
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