For texts 1–2, choose the word or phrase which fits best in each gap. Choose the correct letter (A, B, C or D).

1 How much voltage is dangerous?

We're accustomed to seeing danger signs warning us of high voltage, so it's reasonable to ask, 'How high is too high?' Unfortunately, it's not possible to give a straightforward answer as it depends on two other variables, **1.1.** _____ current and resistance.

The best way to understand the dangers of electricity is through the analogy of a waterfall. According to this model, voltage **1.2.** _____ to the height of the waterfall. At the top of the waterfall, the water has the potential energy to cause damage when it hits the bottom. The higher the waterfall, the greater the potential.

However, potential energy is nothing without a strong current, which is represented by the amount of water flowing over the waterfall. After all, if there's only a trickle of water, it's not going to do much damage **1.3.** _____ how far it falls. And it's the same with electricity: it's the combination of voltage and current that makes it dangerous. However, in day-to-day life, we rarely **1.4.** _____ ever encounter electricity which happens to be high voltage and low current, which is why 'high voltage' is still a useful shorthand.

The final factor to consider is electrical resistance, which is the ability of an object to prevent electricity from flowing freely through it. Returning to our original question about dangerous voltage, this relates to our bodies' ability to resist electrical flow. The level of resistance varies from body to body, depending on factors such as the balance between fat and bone, or whether the skin is wet, dry or broken. Bearing all those provisos **1.5.** _____, a good rule of thumb is that anything over 42V is potentially deadly. An even better rule of thumb is this: if you see a 'high voltage' sign, keep a safe distance.

1.1.	1.2.	1.3.	1.4.	1.5.
A. jointly	**A.** corresponds	**A.** according to	**A.** but	**A.** into consideration
B. namely	**B.** associates	**B.** no matter	**B.** or	**B.** under attention
C. particularly	**C.** equalises	**C.** instead of	**C.** yet	**C.** in mind
D. respectively	**D.** compares	**D.** regardless	**D.** if	**D.** to heart

2 The McCormick Tribune Ice Rink

No visit to Chicago is complete **2.1.** _____ a visit to the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink, beloved by both locals and visitors alike. The rink forms the centrepiece of McCormick Tribune Plaza, one of the city's best loved recreation centres. During the cold winter months, the plaza serves as an open-air ice rink, but as the days warm up and winter melts into spring, it transforms into a popular dining venue, with a 300-seat restaurant and regular music events throughout the year. The plaza is famous for its jaw-dropping views of the Historic Michigan Boulevard District, whose skyline is one of Chicago's best known landmarks.

From mid-November to mid-March, the ice rink is open for skating most afternoons, with longer opening hours during the weekend. Beneath the ice lies **2.2.** _____ chiller system, which works wonders by allowing skating to continue even during unseasonably warm weather.

The rink is free for members of the public to use, but unless you bring your own skates, you'll need to pay for rental. Inevitably, the rink can get pretty crowded at peak times, especially weekend evenings, so **2.3.** _____ be prepared for a long chilly wait for your turn on the ice. Nonetheless, most visitors **2.4.** _____ it worth the wait, due to the buzzing atmosphere, with music blaring from loudspeakers and crowds of people of all ages mingling and hanging out. Many visitors don't even bother with their ice skates, and simply **2.5.** _____ in a little people-watching. The venue also hosts occasional theme nights, such as Santa Night in 2008, when the rink was filled with hundreds of Father Christmases, and Zombie Night, an attempt to break the world record for the greatest number of zombies on ice.

2.1.	2.2.	2.3.	2.4.	2.5.
A. apart from	**A.** a run-of-the-mill	**A.** you'd sooner	**A.** consider	**A.** envisage
B. unless	**B.** an out-of-date	**B.** you'd better	**B.** assume	**B.** absorb
C. other than	**C.** a state-of-the-art	**C.** it'd be best	**C.** regard	**C.** indulge
D. without	**D.** an over-the-top	**D.** you'd rather	**D.** perceive	**D.** occupy

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