Grammar | comparatives

1 a Read texts 1 and 2 and complete the sentence.

Text 1 is _____ positive about Wikipedia _____ Text 2.

1

Wikipedia has revolutionised the way encyclopaedias are compiled. Its open nature has led to a democratising process; knowledge is now not only in the hands of professors, but of the ordinary man or woman who has the interest, time and dedication to research and document facts. No wonder the establishment feels threatened. 'It's not authoritative!' they cry. 'It's too left-wing!' 'It doesn't represent the whole range of culture!' Of course it doesn't. It is a contemporary comment on the world. With time, today's contributors' views will be challenged and edited by a new generation.

2

Wikipedia is a valuable resource for the amateur researcher in a hurry. If you want to find out when the Crimean War started, or what *quarks* are or when Picasso painted *Guernica*, Wikipedia will tell you, with 99.99 percent accuracy. But for anything more complex Wikipedia is full of potential or real misinformation. It's not the contributors' fault; they genuinely want to get it right. But, for all we know, the contributors could be five-year-olds. Wikipedia's open-source system means that anyone — young children, obsessives and the lunatic fringe — can edit it. Because of this, no serious academic should trust Wikipedia.

next week we discuss ...

Replace the mistakes for t words given

Nowhere	Than
The	It is mile
Would	as
Nothing	Considerably more

b Find and correct the mistake in each sentence.

1. It is nothing near as complimentary about Wikipedia as the other text.

2. It suggests that Wikipedia is nowhere like as reliable as other encyclopaedias.

3. It is more considerably positive about Wikipedia than the other text.

4. The author of the text had rather let each generation question the views of the preceding generation.

5. According to the text, the less we know about the contributors, less we can trust Wikipedia.

6. The author of the text is definitely not as critical of Wikipedia to the author of the other text.

7. The author of the text probably thinks that rather for using Wikipedia for all research, you should only use it for simple facts.

8. The text implies that it's a mile better to let everyone contribute to encyclopaedias.

c Are the statements in Ex. 1b about Text 1 or Text 2?

Vocabulary | describing places

2 Complete the text with words from the box.

> off the beaten track   unspoilt   diverse
> tranquil   heart   side by side   vast
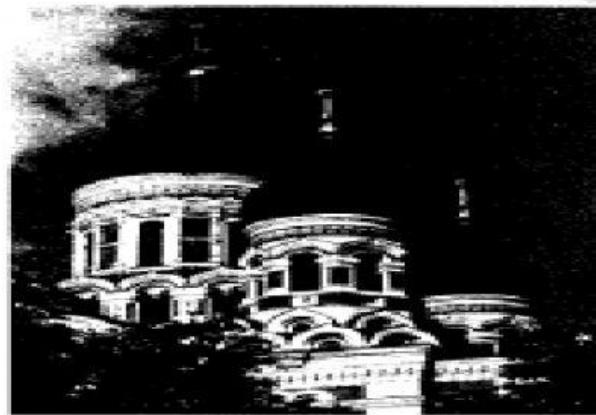> run-down   stunning   packed   gaze   stroll

Jill and Werner's Travel blog
across Eastern Europe

Instead of going to the usual tourist spots, Werner and I went (1) _____ to Tallinn, capital of Estonia. I'm glad we did. The (2) _____ of the city is the Old Town. We found the architecture absolutely (3) _____ with cobbled streets and church spires, castles and beautiful ancient buildings standing (4) _____ . We wandered for a while before stopping for lunch in a local restaurant. I ate a superb cod and potato dish while Werner tucked into a lamb cutlet.

The best thing to do in Tallinn is to (5) _____ at the old buildings – the (6) _____ town hall, which seems to stretch for miles, and the wonderful Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. It's a great city to (7) _____ around because everything is fairly close together and the streets are pedestrian-friendly.

We were staying in a very cheap hotel near the centre. The building was old and slightly (8) _____ and the room wasn't the biggest, but it was clean and comfortable. In the evening we went out to sample the nightlife. I was told that the clubbing scene is pretty (9) _____ , with techno, jazz, folk and disco music all available every night of the week. Tallinn is also becoming popular with the stag party crowd and apparently some of the nightclubs – Hollywood and Decolte in particular – are usually (10) _____ with tourists. But when we were there, the town seemed completely (11) _____ by tourism. Werner and I went for a quiet drink in a bar called Guitar Safari, and ended up listening to excellent live music all evening. Overall, after the excitement of some of the other cities, we found our experience of Tallinn extremely (12) _____ , but by no means boring.

introductory it

Now choose the correct version of the following:

1. Which is correct?

○ It is often said that you should wear what suits you not what is fashionable.
○ It is often said that what suits you and not what is fashionable should be worn.

2. Which is correct?

○ It has been announced that the company will cease operations in Europe.
○ The company it has announced will cease operations in Europe.

3. Which is correct?

○ It is a common-held belief that social networks allow us to express our opinion.
○ That social networks allow us to express our opinions it is a common-held belief.

4. Which is correct?

○ It is to watch movies that is more entertaining than to read books.
○ It is more entertaining to watch movies than to read books.

5. Which is correct?

○ It is to understand the mass media in today's society that is of crucial importance.
○ It is of crucial importance to understand the mass media in today's society.

Gerunds and infinitives

1. I use them _____ to my favorite songs and _____ after work.
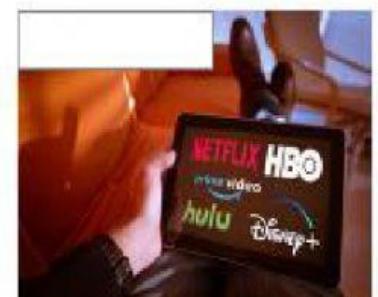
2. If I had them, I would use them _____ when I travel.

3. I need it _____ with people in various languages.

4. Hmmm...very interesting...I would use it _____ _____ for my house.

5. I use it _____ I have to run.

6. I want it _____ TV series from around the world.

7. I use _____ For example, _____ or _____ at the supermarket.

8. This is very useful! I use it _____ _____

9. We use it _____ _____ when we work from home.

Match the gadgets and services to the pictures. Then listen and write what that they are used for.

digital pencil   smart speaker   streaming service   smart glasses

video chatting service   3D printer   earbuds   translator   digital pencil