

GAPPED TEXT

I. Five sentences have been removed from the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer. There are three extra sentences which you DO NOT NEED to use.

The **BIGGEST** shopping centre in the world

Dubai is an amazing place to go shopping and if you love fashion, this is the place to come! My favourite place is the Dubai **Mall**. It's the largest shopping centre in the world by total **area** and there are about 1,200 shops. There are different 'districts' in the mall. For example, there's one whole **section** which sells shoes, and another which sells jewellery. I often spend time walking up and down Fashion Avenue with my friends – that's where the designer shops are, like Dolce & Gabbana and Dior.¹

It's great to look in the windows at the **luxury** items, though.

Some people think shopping malls are boring, but the Dubai Mall isn't! Of course, there are a lot of shops, but there are plenty of other things to see and do there. There's an aquarium and underwater zoo, and we go to the cinema or ice-skating there, as well.²

You need them because it's pretty easy to get lost!

There are a lot of places to eat in the mall.³

There's fast food, many different kinds of international food, and healthy stuff, too. I love going to the Rainforest Café. We usually get fruit smoothies and burgers. There's one called the 'Jungle Chicken Burger', which is delicious. The desserts are great. I love seeing little kids' faces when the 'Sparkling Volcano' dessert arrives at their table. It's a huge chocolate thing!

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Next to the mall is the Burj Khalifa – the tallest building in the world. You can travel up to the observation deck at the top of the building from the mall. From there you can look down on Dubai. I don't go up there very often because everything looks so small from above that you can't see it very well. I go to the Dubai Fountain several times a year, though.⁵

It's the world's largest musical fountain and it's free to watch. It's fun!



- A You can get anything you like.
- B They charge a lot of money to do this.
- C We can't afford to buy much there, even when there are discounts or promotions.
- D That's just outside the mall, too.
- E Sometimes my friends and I share one.
- F My favourite one is a new skirt I bought.
- G I don't but my friends sometimes do.
- H There are customer service desks, too, where you can ask for directions too.

II. Six sentences have been removed from the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer. There is one extra sentence which you DO NOT NEED to use.

How to

START YOUR OWN BAND

A lot of readers have been asking me for advice about how to put a band together, so I thought it was time to write a post about my experience. Every band has a different story, but hopefully some of the stuff below will be useful to you.

First, you've got to choose your band members.

¹ I was at college with a great bunch of musicians, so I didn't have to look far. You might not be so lucky, but there are all sorts of other ways to find members. In fact finding musicians isn't as hard as you think, as a lot of people want to be in a band. You can place ads in local colleges, music shops, or even the local press if you're willing to pay. Or just ask around – friends, friends of friends. Do make it clear which musicians you're looking for though, so that you don't waste people's time. Drummers are always the hardest to find!

It's important that you play the music that feels right to you. Don't just go for what's popular at the time – you need to play what you love. Your favourite bands and their styles will obviously be an influence on you, and that's fine. However, you need to do something a bit different. Don't just copy them! Mix and match until you find a sound you all like. ²

You don't have to write your own songs. Some bands just play other people's songs all the time, and are quite happy with that. ³ Not everyone has the musical talent for this, but if one or more of you in the group do, you're in luck. Maybe one of you has a tune they created. Any of you can suggest ideas, and you can all use this as a base to build on. Keep it simple at first, and you'll get there eventually.

Finding a good place to practise is essential. There has to be enough space for the band and all the gear, plus it has to be somewhere where the noise won't bother other people too much. A garage can be good, as long as there isn't a car in it. Some towns and villages have community rooms that you can use. ⁴ Take your time to have a look around. You'll find somewhere eventually.

When you're good enough, you'll want to promote your band and start looking for gigs. Setting up a website is easy nowadays, and you can do it for free. ⁵ This will cost you, as you will need to book time in a studio. Get your songs as near perfect as possible beforehand, because studio time is expensive. Three or four should be fine – then upload them to your website so people can hear what you've got.

When you get your first gig, try to produce some promotional stuff – T-shirts, badges, that kind of thing. They get your name 'out there', and most bands make more money doing that than from playing live at the beginning. Work hard, practise and keep writing new songs. Play at local venues and get to know other bands in your area – all contacts are good contacts. ⁶ Whether or not you ever make the big time, being in a band is an experience worth having that you'll remember all your life.



- A That way you'll develop your own sound.
- B You can usually hire these by the hour.
- C Above all, enjoy yourself.
- D Apart from that, motivation is the most important thing.
- E The main thing to do, however, is to record a demo.
- F But if you want to make it big, you need your own material.
- G For me, that was the easy part.