GOLD EXPERIENCE B2+ 2ND EDITION
UNIT 6 VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR PRACTICE

I. Complete the gaps with the correct present or past narrative tense.

My favourite city in the world has to be Barcelona. I first **(1) …….. (go)** there with my family when I was fourteen. We **(2) …….. (visit)** cities before going to Barcelona, but no other city feels the same. We always rent the same apartment, right in the middle of the Gothic Quarter. I can see it so vividly: my sister and I **(3) …….. (sit)** on the balcony, sipping mineral water and nibbling olives. We **(4) …….. (have)** any worries at all, we're just happy to watch the world go by.

It **(5) …….. (bring)** back memories of one summer evening several years ago. We **(6) …….. (spend)** the day on the beach just outside of the city and we **(7) …….. (walk)** back to the apartment through the twisty, narrow streets. It must have been ten o'clock in the evening and it still **(8) …….. (feel)** warm. Instead of going straight back to the apartment, my parents decided to stop at a restaurant in a bustling little square. There was so much life there. Everyone **(9) …….. (go out)** for the evening and it made me realise how different life was at home.

II. Complete the sentences with the correct form of these phrasal verbs. You may need to add an object.

blend in	dress up	face up to	mess up	put through	warm up

1. …….. a lot of pain when I ran the marathon, but I finished it in under three hours.
2. I like the way the new skyscrapers …….. with the more historic ones in the centre of London.
3. I was doing really well and then I …….. the last part of the game. I just lost my nerve.
4. My brother is excited about the party. My mother is going to …….. as a super hero.
5. My food is cold. I'm going to…….. in the microwave.
6. I think we have to …….. the facts – we're never going to finish before the deadline.

III. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1. This area has become quite **industrialised** / **upmarket** in recent years, full of expensive apartments and restaurants.
2. It used to be a pleasant high street, but now it's just **bustling** / **congested** with traffic.
3. The city centre is compact, but the **smog** / **metropolitan** area is huge.
4. The company is expected to move the factory to the new **deserted** / **industrial** zone in the city.
5. After many years living in the centre, my parents moved to a quieter **bustling** / **suburban** area.
6. The **redeveloped** / **industrial** waterfront office blocks are due to be finished next year.
7. I live in a very wealthy neighbourhood, while the one **bustling** / **neighbouring** it is very poor indeed.
8. Our house has got three bedrooms and one **civic** / **communal** bathroom.

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IV. Complete the sentences with compound words. Use one word from A and one word from B. You may need to add a hyphen.

A

convenience	housing	market	noise	pedestrian	roof	world

B

crossing	estate	famous	place	pollution	store	top

1. It's really handy having a …… on the corner, especially if you run out of milk.

2. More than 8,000 people live on this ……

3. One of the worst things about living in the city centre is the ……

4. My neighbours have got a lovely …… terrace with a view.

5. This part of the road is really dangerous. They should put a …… here really.

6. There is a …… palace in Granada. People come from everywhere to see it.

7. Archaeologists think this was once the site of a medieval …… because they have found remains of food and textiles.

V. Read the text and complete the gaps with one word only.

A couple of years ago, I went to stay with my brother in the south of France. At that time, he **(1)** …… spending the year in Marseille as part of his university studies. As I didn't have much money, I **(2)** …… decided to take a coach – all the way from London to Marseille. The journey was nearly twenty-two hours long and it seemed to go **(3)** …… forever. I'd taken nowhere **(4)** …… enough food and water with me, so I was hungry and thirsty. I tried to sleep on the coach, but it was impossible in such a tight space. Hours must **(5)** …… passed before I finally managed to fall asleep. It was **(6)** …… far the deepest sleep I'd ever had. When I eventually woke up, we were still on the **(7)** …… -ending motorway. The problem **(8)** …… that there was no one else on the coach except the driver. I couldn't speak much French, but I could tell he wasn't pleased to see me. He'd already dropped his passengers off in Marseille and now he was on his way to Paris. I pleaded with him to turn the coach **(9)** …… and go back to Marseille, but he refused. He simply drove to the nearest town and kicked **(10)** …… off the coach!

VI. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is one of the most isolated cities in the world. Situated on the Sea of Okhotsk in eastern Siberia, it is only **(1)** ……. by boat or by aeroplane. It has long been a place of **(2)** ……. importance as many sailors and submarines have been based here. Although the city's architecture is simple and **(3)** ……., the surrounding scenery is spectacular. A chain of snow-capped mountains with two **(4)** ……. volcanoes dominates **ACCESS** **STRATEGY** **EXCEPT** **ACT**

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the skyline. One of these volcanoes last erupted in 2008 and is likely to erupt again in the near future, making it of special scientific interest. The city also faces out onto the sea, so if you are **(5)** ..... about wildlife, this is a good place for whale watching. Although temperatures can drop to minus twenty degrees in winter, in general it is not as **(6)** ..... during the rest of the year. In fact, temperatures can reach up to twenty-five degrees in summer. Although there are no major roads into the city, you can get around by public transport. The buses are by no means **(7)** ..... and you can get one from the airport to the city centre very cheaply indeed. The accommodation tends to be fairly basic and in most hotels a bathroom is **(8)** ..... There are several hotels in the city, but it is **(9)** ..... to book ahead in high season as they can get very busy. With few other places nearby, you will be **(10)** ..... you did.

ENTHUSE
CHILL
COST
OPTION
THANK
PREFER

VII. Read the article. Choose from the paragraphs (A–G) the one which fits each gap (9–14). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

A Nevertheless, the tour I had read about on the internet promised an English-speaking guide and the reviews were generally excellent. Apparently, the guide would meet us in a location that was easy to find before taking us down into the sewers. Despite my friends' negative experience, I decided to trust the comments I had read online and book myself onto a tour.

B Despite that, it is not necessary to wear any special equipment, such as hard hats, as the tunnels are wide and tall inside. In fact, the sense of space is quite surprising. It is, however, advisable not to wear your best shoes. The tunnels can be rather muddy and slippery in places.

C In contrast, our tour was to take place on foot, starting out above ground, on the edge of the River Seine. We met at the Pont de l'Alma from where we had some fantastic views along the river, with the Eiffel Tower in the background. The guide gave us a fascinating explanation of how the river has shaped the lives of the inhabitants, before leading us to the entrance to the sewers.

D Since the tour cost far less than I expected, I decided to go, even though the reviews were terrible. However, I only wish I had paid more attention to those negative reviews as it would have saved me both time and money. It really was the dullest tour I have ever experienced.

E However, for me they are a fundamental part of the fascinating story of Paris, not least its literary history. As a life-long fan of *Les Misérables*, I have been fascinated by the scenes set in the dark, damp tunnels beneath the city. For it is down there, that the story's hero manages to escape to freedom.

F In addition to that, I appreciated hearing stories of how the tunnels had been used by smugglers and other criminals over the years. Of course, I was particularly pleased when the tour guide brought up Jean Valjean and his escape through this very same sewage system.

G Thus, it was a pleasant surprise when I found out that you could actually go on a guided tour of the sewers. Having been to Paris several times, I had already visited the main tourist attractions, and I was looking for something a little different to pass the time. I wanted to see the more authentic Paris, but I also wanted to learn something as well.

Disposing of a city's liquid waste

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Paris is famous for its iconic buildings and monuments. The Eiffel Tower, Nôtre Dame and the Champs Élysées are most likely to be on the list of things to see for visitors to the city. However, somewhat lower down the list for most people is a trip to the sewer system, the underground network of tunnels which are responsible for disposing of the city's liquid waste. After all, most visitors are looking for charm and romance, not smelly subterranean tunnels.

1. ……..

Carrying his unfortunate, injured friend through the subterranean maze, Valjean finally emerges onto the banks of the River Seine, free from his past life. The sewers described in *Les Misérables* are far more than just a waste outlet – they are a metaphor for equality and freedom.

2. ……..

Some friends of mine had been on a Parisian sewer tour some years ago, but they'd had mixed feelings. Their main complaint was that as it was unguided and they felt they hadn't learnt very much. In fact, they had struggled to find the entrance to the place and then managed to get hopelessly lost inside, which I am sure is no one's idea of fun.

3. ……..

Upon meeting our tour guide, we were given a brief explanation of the history of the tour itself. Surprisingly, the first sewer tours had taken place in the late 19th century and in those days, visitors were taken around the tunnels in a kind of small, steam-powered train. Later, they were carried out in boats that sailed down the subterranean rivers of waste.

4. ……..

Although the Paris sewage system has more than 2,000 kilometres of tunnels, the tour only takes in around 500 metres of tunnel. Unlike other museums and historic sites, the sewers are very much a working system, with gates and pumps which could presumably be potentially dangerous. Therefore, the tour organisers have to take health and safety issues very seriously.

5. ……..

You might wonder what you can find out on a tour like this, apart from the fact that the tunnels are indeed used to transport human waste. As you might expect, it was explained how the system had been built and expanded over the centuries and there were displays showing models of the equipment that had been used, including a giant metal ball used to push waste down the water channels.

6. ……..

Although this was a short tour, taking only an hour or so, it was absolutely fascinating and I can not recommend it highly enough. The only suggestion I would make is that you go in one of the cooler seasons. The smell can be pretty overpowering in the summer!

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