THE HISTORY OF SHOES

Read and choose the best word for the gap.

In the past, importance (1) _____ not given to shoes being comfortable or fashionable. These early foot coverings were probably animal skins, (2)_____ people tied round their ankles during cold (3) _____ . We still use leather today, but (4) _____ materials such as silk, plastic, or cotton are also popular, (5) _____ on what is in fashion.

It was only one hundred and fifty years (6) _____ that people began to wear a different shoe on each foot. Formerly, the two shoes had been straight instead of shaped and (7) _____ be worn on the left or the right foot. All shoes used to be made by hand, but now, (8) _____ there are shoemakers still using their (9) _____ skills, most shoes are now machine-made in large factories. The introduction of sewing machines (10)_____ the shoe industry to produce large (11) _____ of cheaper shoes for a wider range of buyers.



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