

Read these comments by a resident, a fire officer and a climate change expert about a recent flood. Complete each text with **that** or **the fact that**.

**Resident** Nobody really thought (1) \_\_\_\_\_ flooding this bad would happen again, but as the river level rose, we had to face up to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ we'd have to leave our home. Personally, I blame the fire service. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ it's been raining heavily here for five days should have meant that they were better prepared to help us.

**Fire officer I really feel** (4) \_\_\_\_\_ some of the criticisms of my fire officers are unfair, although (5) \_\_\_\_\_ **today is a public** holiday did mean that many of our staff weren't here to help with the rescue. However, ~~we~~ warned residents yesterday (6) \_\_\_\_\_ they might have to evacuate their houses with little notice, and the difficulty in evacuating people from their houses wasn't helped by (7) \_\_\_\_\_ they wanted to take large amounts of personal belongings with them.

**Climate change expert: We** can't ignore (8) \_\_\_\_\_ **climate change** is going to increase the risk of flooding, and a number of studies have suggested (9) \_\_\_\_\_ winter river levels throughout the country will be much higher than in the past. Unfortunately, the situation in this area is complicated by (10) \_\_\_\_\_ so many trees have been cut down on the hills around here and rainwater flows more quickly into the rivers. So there's a real possibility (11) \_\_\_\_\_ serious flooding could now happen here every winter.

**For questions 1 -9, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.**

Homework: how useful is it?

Homework is an (1) \_\_\_\_ part of school life in most countries around the world. However, there is still considerable debate among teachers about (2) \_\_\_\_ homework has a significant educational value. On the one side are those who (3) \_\_\_\_ that it takes too much time away from other more useful activities. On the other are those who see homework as reinforcing school lessons so that concepts will not be forgotten. (4) \_\_\_\_ is often neglected in this debate is the role of parental involvement and (5) \_\_\_\_ or not the child's home provides support for effective homework. Parents in low-income families often don't have the time to make homework a priority or aren't able to afford a computer or additional books (6) \_\_\_\_ money they have goes on the basic necessities of life - accommodation, food, clothing and heating. However, the 7 \_\_\_\_ that only middle-class parents support their children's education is quite obviously wrong. Not 8 \_\_\_\_ well-to-do parents give the support they should, and some parents living in the most impoverished circumstances 9 \_\_\_\_ find the time and energy to involve themselves in their children's homework.

- |                 |               |            |              |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. A ingrained  | B established | C allowed  | D accustomed |
| 2. A if         | B that        | C whether  | D supposing  |
| 3. A tell       | B describe    | C claim    | D inform     |
| 4. A Whatever   | B Which       | C That     | D What       |
| 5. A whether    | B why         | C whatever | D if         |
| 6. A Whichever  | B That        | C Whatever | D Which      |
| 7. A fact       | B concept     | C idea     | D reason     |
| 8. A each       | B all         | C any      | D every      |
| 9. A imaginable | B imagining   | C imagined | D imagine    |

**Choose the correct word or phrase.**

1 She isn't very interested in science subjects. **On the contrary / On the other hand** she really loves studying history.

2 He walked quickly down the corridor **before / until** he reached the last door.

3 My aunt was followed into the room by my two nieces and three nephews. **Lastly / At last** came my uncle, carrying all the suitcases.

4 I knew I had the right qualifications and experience for the job. **Even though / Even so**, I felt very nervous as I walked in to face the interview panel.

5 At college I had only two tutorials a week but this didn't mean I wasn't busy.

**On the contrary / On the other hand**, I studied at least six days a week.

6 Once he'd done the washing up and got the children to bed, Matt sat down in front of the fire. **Lastly! / At last** he had some time to himself.

7 **Even though / Even so** the snow had stopped falling, it was still freezing cold.

8 We had **no sooner / hardly** started driving than the children said, 'Are we there yet?'

**Complete these texts with the appropriate form, active or passive, of the verb.**

Acupuncture (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (*practise*) in China for over 3,000 years, and today it (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (*widely use*) alongside conventional medicine. In traditional Chinese medicine, no symptom (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (*view*) in isolation. Instead, the body and the mind (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (*evaluate*) together. The goal of acupuncture (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) to create harmony in the body by restoring the flow of Qi (pronounced 'chee'). This (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (*consider*) to be the life force involved in all body functions. Qi (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (*collect*) in the organs and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (*travel*) through energy channels in the body. Acupuncturists (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (*believe*) that diseases (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (*occur*) when the circulation of Qi (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (*prevent*), whether by injuries, heat, cold or other factors. By redirecting the flow of Qi, acupuncture can (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (*help*) cure disease.

The first mobile phones (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (*construct*) in Stockholm in the 1950s — but were not very mobile! They could only \_\_\_\_\_ (2) (*use*) in cars because the receiver and transmitter \_\_\_\_\_ (3) (*weigh*) over 40 kilos and had to (4) (*carry*) \_\_\_\_\_ in the boot. But technology \_\_\_\_\_ (5) (*advance*) so quickly that by the 1990s mobiles could \_\_\_\_\_ (6) (*hold*) in the hand and people talking on their mobiles \_\_\_\_\_ (7) (*become*) a familiar sight.

Of course, not everyone welcomed mobiles, and in the mid-1990s their use (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (*ban*) in many schools. Even recent research which (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (*suggest*) that prolonged exposure to emissions from mobiles might be a health hazard (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (*not discourage*) their use, and analysts now (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (*predict*) that by 2025, 95% of all electronic communication (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (*conduct*) by mobile phone.