WORD BUILDING

In this type of task, just like in multiple choice and in open cloze, you receive a text with gaps. Next to the gaps, there are base words which you are supposed to use to form a word that should go into the gap. Most often you need to change the word category (e.g. a verb into a noun, an adjective into an adverb), but occasionally you will need to change the meaning of the word as well (e.g. change an adjective or a verb into its opposite, or use a plural of a noun). The context and the structure of the sentence will help you decide what part of speech to use. Your answers must be grammatically and lexically correct. You have to pay special attention to spelling as well, because your answer will only be accepted if it is spelled correctly.

1 READING THE TEXT FOR GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Before you start doing the exercise, read the whole text ignoring the gaps so that you know what the text is about. Do not pay too much attention to unknown vocabulary, as you do not need to know every word in the text to complete the exam task successfully.

2 WORKING WITH THE GAPS

The words which come immediately before or after the gap and the grammar of the sentence will help you determine what part of speech you need to form. Remember that you have to use the base word which is given next to the gap. Usually, it is possible to form several different words from the given base word. When you have established what part of speech you need (e.g. a verb or an adjective), try to predict the meaning of the word that is missing from the gap. Be careful with suffixes and prefixes: *fascinated* is not the same as *fascinating*, *friendly* is not the same as *unfriendly* and *encourage* is not the same as *discourage*. Pay special attention to whether the word you need to use (e.g. an adjective) should be positive or negative – prefixes like *un-, in-, im-, ir-, il-, dis-, mis-* can be all used to form words of opposite meaning.

3 PROOFREADING YOUR WORK

Your answer has to be grammatically and lexically correct. Make sure you used the correct part of speech and that the meaning of your answer makes sense in the sentence. Pay special attention to spelling, as you are not allowed to make any spelling mistakes in this part of the exam. After you finish choosing the answers, read the text one more time to check if your answers sound natural and logical in the context of the text as a whole.

1 Look at the word building tasks below and do exercises a–c.

a Form the opposites of the adjectives in the box by using appropriate prefixes and suffixes: *un-, il-, in-, im-, ir-, dis-, -less*. Next, write the nouns these adjectives are formed from.

ADJECTIVE	OPPOSITE	NOUN
different		
polite		
literate		
relevant		
honest		
careful		
important		
successful		

b Look at the nouns below. Write two adjectives for each of the nouns.

NOUNS	ADJECTIVES
surprise	
comfort	
approval	
luck	
reliability	

c Look at the adjectives below. Write the nouns these adjectives are formed from.

ADJECTIVES	NOUNS
strong	
wide	
long	
high	

WORKING WITH THE GAPS

2 Below you will find a sentence taken from a word building task. Read it and do exercises a–c

For example, it is now [1]_____ **(possibility)** to broadcast food and snacks commercials which are specifically aimed at teenagers.

a What part of speech do you need to complete the gap?

b Read the sentence again. Use the word "possibility" to form two adjectives of opposite meaning that could be used to complete the gap.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

c Read the paragraph below. Which of the two adjectives is the correct answer?

Recently the government has introduced a series of laws which are supposed to control advertising. For example, it is now [1] _____ (**possibility**) to broadcast food and snacks commercials which are specifically aimed at teenagers. Such products used to be advertised quite freely in the past, but right now they are more strictly controlled.

Look at the nouns in the box below and form two verbs for each of them.

NOUNS	VERBS
agreement	
courage	
infection	
installation	
obedience	
plug	
qualification	

Choose from the verbs in Exercise 3 to complete the sentences below. Use the verbs in their correct form.

1 It is very important that soldiers never _____ the orders of the general. They must always do what they are told to.
2 Jack Dawson was _____ from taking part in the Athletics World Championship for taking illegal drugs.
3 That was a really bad fall, Jimmy. We must _____ the wound as soon as we get home.
4 OK, perhaps you _____ with me now, but you will soon see that I was right!
5 Although I failed my driving test for the first time, this will not _____ me! I'm going to take it again next month.
6 This new antivirus programme isn't working properly on my computer, so I think I will have to _____ it.
7 You must always _____ a lamp before you change the bulb in it.

EXAM TASK

5 You are going to read an article about a very old postcard. Use the words in brackets to form one word for each of the gaps 1–8. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Oldest Christmas Card IN SERVICE

Christmas is a very special time of the year for most people, but for the Cliftons of Hastings, Nebraska there is another cause for [0] celebration (**celebrate**) this year. They have just received a Christmas card that the family has been using for 50 years today.

It all started when Mr. Clifton's grandmother bought the card to send to her nephew, who had just moved to the West Coast. The card had a [1] _____ (**fun**) cartoon saying, 'The dearest Christmas card for someone dear to the heart.' Inside, it went on with an [2] _____ (**explain**) about the increasing price of greeting cards and how it would be appreciated if the recipient sent the card back so that it could be reused the [3] _____ (**follow**) year.

The card has small tabs for the signature of the [4] _____ (**send**), each of which is to be torn off before the card is posted again.

A few days ago it was sent from a residential care home in Oregon, where David Clifton's elderly father is [5] _____ (**current**) living. 'We asked our children not to [6] _____ (**wrap**) their presents until we opened that envelope for the 50th time. This is really special,' David said.

Each year since 1958 the card has been delivered by the postman to the doors of family members living in the four corners of the country. It has now become such a [7] _____ (**value**) family possession that one family member is always appointed as its safekeeper. The back of the card and the tabs are now full of names and even extra slips of paper have been attached to it to provide more space for writing.

The card has been sent to [8] _____ (**difference**) relatives living in Connecticut, New Jersey, Florida, Nebraska and Oregon.

LIVEWORKSHEETS