

**Collocations/expressions****A Complete the blanks with the verbs follow, have or take.**

a photograph/picture	action on sth	the blame for sth
a seat	a party/celebration	a look (at)
fun	a meal	a rest/break
sb's advice	an argument/a quarrel	sb/sth for granted
care of	a holiday	turns
a meeting	orders	sth into consideration
a test	measures	sb by surprise
trouble with	a bath/shower	time
a headache/toothache	a dream	place
instructions	directions	one's chance

**B Read the sentences below. Complete the boxes with the verbs have or take and the blanks with prepositions.**

- 1 Twenty two countries will **part** **in** this year's water polo tournament.
- 2 Every year we **advantage** **of** the Bank Holiday and spend a long weekend at a seaside resort.
- 3 They **no respect** **for** their new teacher.
- 4 Before setting off on a fishing trip, you must **take** **into** the weather conditions **account**.
- 5 Do you **any idea** **about** how to operate this contraption?
- 6 I **no intention** **of** going back to school next year.
- 7 The children couldn't **their eyes** **on** the performing dolphins.
- 8 David had no option but to **responsibility** **for** the company's disastrous performance.
- 9 I **difficulty** **with** deciding which school to go to next year.
- 10 **no notice** **of** what she says. She's always making up stories.
- 11 You need to **more confidence** **in** yourself.
- 12 Now that I'm older, I **no interest** **in** stamp collecting.
- 13 I am a pilot and I **a lot of pride** **in** my work.

**C Read the sentences and complete them with the correct form of the verbs give, pay, bring or mind.**

- 1 It's been weeks since I last **gave** Helen a visit.
- 2 **Henry** **ring** **immediately**. He said it was urgent.
- 3 What were you doing hiding behind the door? You **gave** me a real shock.
- 4 The chairperson **paid** the meeting to an end because the members of the board could not agree on a plan of action.
- 5 Gerry was kind enough to **give** me a lift to the railway station.
- 6 Passengers are asked to **take** the step when disembarking.
- 7 Who can **give** me an explanation for the rising sea waters?
- 8 The teacher got angry because nobody was **paying** attention to him.

## Phrasal Verbs

Read the sentences on the left and match the phrasal verbs with their definitions on the right by writing the correct number in the box next to each definition.

### A TAKE

- 1 The customers were asked to **take** their shoes **off** before entering the Japanese restaurant.
- 2 Susan decided not to **take on** any new responsibilities.
- 3 The video recorder I bought wasn't working properly, so I **took it back**.
- 4 Everybody says I **take after** my mother.
- 5 The passengers had to wait over thirty minutes before the aeroplane finally **took off**.
- 6 After retiring, Steven **took up** bowling to keep himself occupied.
- 7 My brother will **take over** the company now that my father has passed away.
- 8 Why did you **take off** without saying goodbye last night?
- 9 The furniture **takes up** too much space and the kids have nowhere to play.
- 10 He must have been tired because he didn't seem to **take in** anything I was saying.

- leave the ground
- fully understand
- look like, resemble
- gain control of
- fill, occupy
- return
- begin, become interested in
- remove
- leave suddenly without telling anyone
- accept

### B CLOSE, KNOCK

- 1 The police had **closed off** the highway in search of the escaped prisoner.
- 2 The funfair was **closed down** because of its terrible safety record.
- 3 The force of the ball hitting his head **knocked him out** cold.
- 4 They had no choice but to **knock down** the old warehouse.
- 5 Cycling on the footpath is prohibited due to the danger of **knocking down/over** pedestrians.

- demolish
- cease, stop operating
- isolate, prevent from being used/accessed
- make unconscious
- hit and cause to fall down

### C CLEAR, CLEAN, DROP

- 1 The misunderstanding will be **cleared up** as soon as he gets here.
- 2 Students are asked to **clean out** their lockers at the end of the school year.
- 3 We were detained after school in order to **clean up** the laboratory.
- 4 Could you please **drop me off** at the railway station?
- 5 He had a big fight with his parents because he decided to **drop out** of college.
- 6 You wouldn't believe who **dropped in** yesterday at my place!

- visit without warning
- empty and clean
- leave somewhere
- resolve, explain
- clean thoroughly
- leave without finishing the course

## Words with Prepositions

### A Complete the blanks with prepositions.

Adjectives	Nouns	Verbs	
disgusted _____	a reason _____	put the blame _____ sb	forget _____ sth
envious _____	a threat _____ sb	_____ sth	lie _____ sb _____ sth
guilty _____		get/take the blame _____ sth	sentence sb _____
patient _____		dream _____	
popular _____	accuse sb _____ sth	escape _____	
shocked _____	arrest sb _____ sth	fight _____ sb _____ sth	
suspicious _____	blame sb _____ sth		

## unit 11

### B Read the following sentences and complete them with prepositions.

- 1 Why do I always **get the blame** \_\_\_\_\_ everything that goes wrong?
- 2 The whole country was **shocked** \_\_\_\_\_ the President's sudden death.
- 3 Both parties **put the blame** \_\_\_\_\_ each other \_\_\_\_\_ the collapse of peace negotiations.
- 4 Jane's friends were **envious** \_\_\_\_\_ her rise to fame and fortune.
- 5 Don't **blame me** \_\_\_\_\_ the misunderstanding. I tried my best.
- 6 The well-known businessman was **sentenced** \_\_\_\_\_ three years in jail for fraud.
- 7 People are usually **suspicious** \_\_\_\_\_ politicians making promises during election time.

### Grammar Revision (Clauses of concession, reason, purpose and result)

See Grammar Review page 160

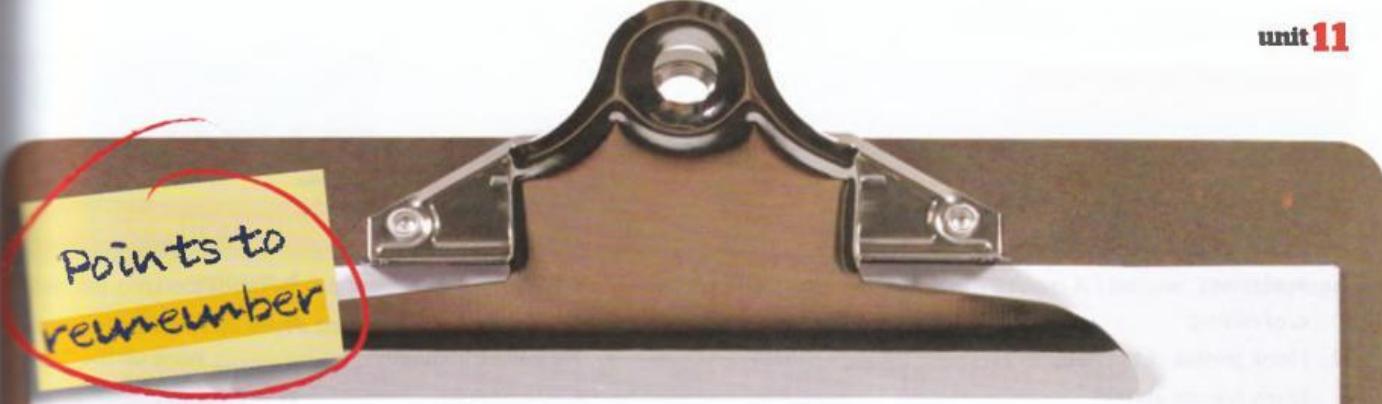
### A Read the text below and complete each blank with one word.

The production of items made of gold dates back to ancient Egyptian and Minoan times, when gold was panned (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the aim of making golden bowls and cups. Gold was usually found in river beds, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, in (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to pan for gold, a circular dish (pan) was filled with a mixture of sand and gravel that contained gold. So (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to obtain the gold, this mixture was held under a stream of water and swirled (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that the lighter parts would slowly wash away and the gold particles would collect at the bottom of the pan. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ gold was a scarce metal, it was used as a form of exchange, and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ it became the basis for international transactions. Over time, new mining techniques developed and elaborate methods were adopted because (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the demand for gold. (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to its huge reserves, South Africa has always been the world's leading supplier of gold. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the discovery of gold in California and Australia in the 1840s. Gold is stored in reserve by many governments. In Fort Knox, USA, alone, there are thirty-eight billion dollars worth of gold bars secured behind a twenty-ton door. In (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of these resources, however, financial circles predict a decline in the demand for gold. Gold was once a powerful currency, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ nowadays it seems to have lost much of its glitter.



### B Rewrite the following sentences so that the second sentence has a similar meaning to the first. Begin with the word(s) given.

- 1 They never help the poor even though they are very wealthy.  
Despite \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 However well he performed, he didn't win the first prize.  
No matter \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Even though I was sick, I tried not to fall behind with my homework.  
Sick \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 In spite of his disability, he managed to get on with his life.  
Although \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 She is so friendly that everyone wants to hang out with her.  
She is such \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 All flights were delayed yesterday because there was an accident on the runway.  
Due \_\_\_\_\_.



Points to remember

- ④ In spite of / Despite the cold weather, they went swimming. ✓  
 In spite of / Despite the fact that the weather was cold, they went swimming. ✓  
 In spite of / Despite the weather being cold, they went swimming. ✓  
 In spite of / Despite the weather was cold, they went swimming.  
 Despite of the cold weather, they went swimming.  
 (in spite of / despite + noun / the fact that / -ing form)
- ④ Although the weather was cold, they went swimming. ✓  
 Though the weather was cold, they went swimming. ✓  
 Even though the weather was cold, they went swimming. ✓  
 Even although the weather was cold, they went swimming.  
 Although / Though / Even though the cold weather, they went swimming.  
 (though / although / even though + clause)
- ④ The flight was cancelled because the air-traffic controllers were on strike. ✓  
 The flight was cancelled because of the air-traffic controllers' strike. ✓  
 The flight was cancelled because of the air-traffic controllers being on strike. ✓  
 The flight was cancelled because of the air-traffic controllers were on strike.  
 (because + clause of reason, because of + noun / -ing form)
- ④ We can't use the company car to go out in the evening. ✓  
 We can't use the company car for to go out in the evening.  
 We can't use the company car for going out in the evening. ✓  
 We can't use the company car for to going out in the evening.  
 (to + infinitive, for + -ing form, expressing purpose)
- ④ He wakes up early so as not to be late for work. ✓  
 He wakes up early so as to not be late for work.  
 He wakes up early in order not to be late for work. ✓  
 He wakes up early in order to not be late for work.  
 He wakes up early not to be late for work.  
 (so as not to and in order not to express negative purpose.)
- ④ I'm going to buy a car so that I can get to work faster.  
 I bought a car so that I could get to work faster.  
 (so that + can / may / will express purpose with present / future time reference.)  
 (so that + could / might / would expresses purpose with past time reference.)
- ④ I'm taking an umbrella in case it rains. ✓  
 I'm taking an umbrella, in case it will rain.  
 I took an umbrella in case it rained. ✓  
 I took an umbrella, in case it would rain.  
 (Do not use will / would after in case.)
- ④ The film was so boring that I nearly fell asleep. ✓  
 It was so boring a film that I nearly fell asleep. ✓  
 It was such a boring film that I nearly fell asleep. ✓  
 The film was such boring that I nearly fell asleep.  
 It was such boring film that I nearly fell asleep.

### Key Transformations

- ④ Although / Even though / Though it was raining heavily, they went on a day trip.  
 In spite of / Despite the fact that it was raining heavily, they went on a day trip.  
 In spite of / Despite the heavy rain, they went on a day trip.
- ④ They worked hard but they didn't manage to finish the project on time.  
 However hard they worked, they didn't manage to finish the project on time.  
 No matter how hard they worked, they didn't manage to finish the project on time.
- ④ Jane wasn't feeling well, so she didn't go out.  
 Jane didn't go out because/as she wasn't feeling well.  
 Since/As Jane wasn't feeling well, she didn't go out.  
 Not feeling well, Jane didn't go out.  
 Jane didn't go out because of / due to not feeling well.  
 Jane didn't go out because of / due to the fact that she was not feeling well.
- ④ The child was rescued because the lifeguards acted immediately.  
 The child was rescued due to / thanks to / owing to the lifeguards' immediate action.
- ④ Whatever he tells me, I don't believe him.  
 I don't believe him no matter what he tells me.
- ④ We arrived at the airport early because we did not want to miss the plane.  
 We arrived at the airport early in order / so as not to miss the plane.  
 We arrived at the airport early so that we wouldn't miss the plane.  
 We arrived at the airport early for fear of missing the plane.  
 We arrived at the airport early for fear (that) we might miss the plane.
- ④ We left early in order to / so as to / to get there in time.  
 We left early so that we could/would get there in time.  
 We left early with a view to / with the aim of getting there in time.
- ④ There was so much smoke that we couldn't see anything.  
 There was such a lot of smoke that we couldn't see anything.
- ④ His heart was so weak that he didn't survive the operation.  
 He had such a weak heart that he didn't survive the operation.  
 He had so weak a heart that he didn't survive the operation.  
 His heart was too weak to survive the operation.  
 His heart wasn't strong enough to survive the operation.

## Examination Practice

**A** Choose the correct answer.

**B** Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given unchanged. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1 Although the police suspected him, they didn't arrest him.  
**suspicious** Despite \_\_\_\_\_, the police didn't arrest him.

2 However busy she is, she always makes time for exercise.  
**matter** She always makes time for exercise, \_\_\_\_\_ she is.

3 There was so much traffic on the road that I was an hour late.  
**lot** There was \_\_\_\_\_ on the road that I was an hour late.

4 The operation was cancelled because it was considered risky.  
**due** The operation was cancelled \_\_\_\_\_ involved.

5 The puzzle was not easy enough for them to do.  
**so** The puzzle \_\_\_\_\_ couldn't do it.

6 He wants to buy a new computer, so he is saving up.  
**aim** He is saving up \_\_\_\_\_ a new computer.

7 He braked suddenly to avoid hitting the old man.  
**as** He braked suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ the old man.

8 He is proud of his work, but he is not arrogant.  
**pride** Even \_\_\_\_\_ his work, he is not arrogant.

9 That accident was so frightful that I'll never forget it.  
**such** It was \_\_\_\_\_ I'll never forget it.

10 He uses two alarm clocks in order not to wake up late.  
**that** He uses two alarm clocks \_\_\_\_\_ wake up late.

# Section 2

## Words easily confused

Use the correct form of the words in the boxes to complete the sentences in each group A-I below. You may use some of the words more than once. In some cases, more than one word may be correct.

### A stop avoid forbid prohibit ban prevent escape

- 1 Smoking has been \_\_\_\_\_ in all public places.
- 2 The examiner asked the students to \_\_\_\_\_ writing and put down their pens.
- 3 The government has taken strict measures to \_\_\_\_\_ accidents on motorways.
- 4 I take these pills to \_\_\_\_\_ getting seasick while travelling by boat.
- 5 For reasons of hygiene, animals are \_\_\_\_\_ to enter hospitals.
- 6 She tried to \_\_\_\_\_ her husband from informing the authorities.
- 7 She was lucky to \_\_\_\_\_ a conviction for shoplifting.

### B blame accuse arrest charge convict sentence

- 1 The police \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Jones and \_\_\_\_\_ him with assault.
- 2 Despite the student's protests, the teacher \_\_\_\_\_ her of cheating.
- 3 The man was \_\_\_\_\_ of murder and \_\_\_\_\_ to twenty years in prison.
- 4 Don't \_\_\_\_\_ us for the broken window, we weren't playing football this morning.

### C complaint annoyance accusation disappointment

- 1 Much to our \_\_\_\_\_, we had to wait for over an hour to purchase the tickets.
- 2 Despite the media hype, the concert was a real \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 I wish to make a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ about the quality of the food.
- 4 Don't make false \_\_\_\_\_ when you don't have proof.

### D chase pursue hunt follow

- 1 A stray dog \_\_\_\_\_ me home today and I'm thinking of keeping it.
- 2 My brother and I used to \_\_\_\_\_ each other around the house when we were young.
- 3 Police have been \_\_\_\_\_ the terrorists for weeks now but still haven't found them.
- 4 He wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ a career in engineering.

### E cause excuse reason purpose aim

- 1 John has to find a good \_\_\_\_\_ for being late, otherwise he'll get into trouble.
- 2 The \_\_\_\_\_ of the meeting is to discuss next year's plans. If you can't attend it, you must have a good \_\_\_\_\_, as the \_\_\_\_\_ is to get everybody's opinion.
- 3 The carelessness of the driver was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fatal accident.

**unit 11****F**

rob    steal    burgle    hijack    deceive    cheat    lie    shoplift    blackmail

- 1 The criminal's innocent looks \_\_\_\_\_ people into trusting him.
- 2 "Don't \_\_\_\_\_ to me. I know you weren't at school today!" shouted my mother.
- 3 Our house was \_\_\_\_\_ last night and all our valuables were \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Two terrorists \_\_\_\_\_ the plane and made the pilot change course.
- 5 The student tried to \_\_\_\_\_ during the test, but the teacher caught him and took away his paper.
- 6 As a teenager, Bob \_\_\_\_\_ from the local store and was even caught once.
- 7 Two men \_\_\_\_\_ the bank on Elm Street this morning.
- 8 Kim \_\_\_\_\_ John by demanding \$1000 so that she wouldn't reveal his secret.

**G**

attack    knock    hit    beat    blow    strike

- 1 It's dangerous to \_\_\_\_\_ people on the head.
- 2 The child was \_\_\_\_\_ by a vicious dog and had to be taken to hospital.
- 3 She never \_\_\_\_\_ on the door before entering.
- 4 Some football hooligans started to \_\_\_\_\_ each other after the match, so the police had to intervene.
- 5 He received a severe \_\_\_\_\_ on the head, which left him unconscious.
- 6 The church clock in the village square began to \_\_\_\_\_ ten.

**H**

robber    thief    burglar    kidnapper    convict    criminal    pickpocket    victim    hostage

- 1 The \_\_\_\_\_ demanded one million dollars as ransom for the release of their \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 A \_\_\_\_\_ snatched the old lady's handbag from her arm.
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_ responsible for breaking into the flat next door have been caught.
- 4 The bank \_\_\_\_\_ escaped through the fire exit.
- 5 Most of the gang's \_\_\_\_\_ were old people living on their own.
- 6 The escaped \_\_\_\_\_ was caught within 24 hours.
- 7 When you travel, always be wary of \_\_\_\_\_, who can steal your wallet without you realising it.
- 8 Jack the Stabber is one of the country's most wanted \_\_\_\_\_. It is said that he has murdered ten people.

**I**

forget    leave    ignore    neglect    omit

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ to turn off the TV last night, so it was left on all night long.
- 2 It's cruel to \_\_\_\_\_ pets as they rely on their owners.
- 3 Why is Jill \_\_\_\_\_ Bill? Aren't they talking to each other anymore?
- 4 I don't want people to know I was involved in this project so \_\_\_\_\_ my name from the credits.
- 5 I've \_\_\_\_\_ the concert tickets upstairs. Could you get them?

## Derivatives

**This unit deals with adjectives, adverbs and nouns that derive from verb roots.**

Verb Root	Adjective = verb + -able
accept	acceptable

Verb Root	Adjective = verb + -ible
access	accessible

- Many adjectives in **-ible** signify that what the verb describes can be done.  
*accessible* = *that can be accessed*
- Some other common verbs that form adjectives in the same way are: *convert*, *digest*, *resist* and *sense*.
- When the verb root ends in **-d** or **-de**, the **-d** / **-de** changes into **-s** before the ending **-ible**:  
*comprehend* → *comprehensible*      *divide* → *divisible*
- When the verb root ends in **-mit**, the **-t** changes into **-ss** before the ending **-ible**.  
*permit* → *permissible*
- Adjectives in **-ible** form adverbs in **-ibly**: *sense* → *sensible* → *sensibly*

Verb Root	Noun = verb + -ery
cook	cookery

- Some other common verbs that form nouns in the same way are: *rob* and *trick*.
- When the verb ends in **-e** or **-er**, the **-e**/**-er** is replaced by **-ery**.  
*discover* → *discovery*      *forge* → *forgery*

Verb Root	Adjective = verb + -ent -ant	Noun = verb + -ence -ance
confide	confident	confidence
ignore	ignorant	ignorance

- Some other common verbs that form adjectives in **-ent** and nouns in **-ence** are: *correspond, depend, differ* and *exist*.
- Another common verb that forms an adjective in **-ant** and a noun in **-ance** is: *resist*
- When the verb root ends in **-ate**, the **-ate** is replaced by the **-ant** and the **-ance**:  
*tolerate* → *tolerant* → *tolerance*
- Some verb roots form only **nouns** in **-ance**, not adjectives in **-ant**:  
*assist* → *assistance*      *attend* → *attendance*

## unit 11

- Some adjectives and nouns which derive from verb roots do not follow the rules presented above:  
*appear* → *apparent* → *appearance*      *perform* → *performing* → *performance*  
*insure* → *insured* → *insurance*      *please* → *pleasant* → *pleasure*  
*interfere* → *interfering* → *interference*      *signify* → *significant* → *significance*  
*obey* → *obedient* → *obedience*

Verb Root	Noun (person) = verb + -ant
assist	assistant

- Nouns in **-ant** referring to people signify a person that does what the verb describes.
- Some other common verbs that form nouns in the same way are: *account, attend, consult, contest, defend, depend, inhabit* and *serve*.
- When the verb root ends in **-ate** or **-y**, the **-ate/-y** are replaced by **-ant**.  
*immigrate* → *immigrant*      *occupy* → *occupant*
- Be careful with the noun (person) deriving from the verb **apply**.  
*apply* → *applicant*

### Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in capitals.

- I have to buy a \_\_\_\_\_ book as I'm \_\_\_\_\_ at cooking.
- There has been a \_\_\_\_\_ change in his behaviour lately.
- My friend was in for a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ surprise when he saw that his house had been \_\_\_\_\_.
- The food at the restaurant was \_\_\_\_\_, but the service was awful.
- I can't stand this \_\_\_\_\_ heat! I have to buy an air-conditioner.
- This disease is still \_\_\_\_\_, so it is \_\_\_\_\_ to be extra careful.
- Many students lack in \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_ English.
- He is \_\_\_\_\_ clever for his age.
- Some students are totally \_\_\_\_\_ and their behaviour in general is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Kelly's house was not \_\_\_\_\_ against fire, so the \_\_\_\_\_ company will not pay for the damage.
- He was charged with \_\_\_\_\_ and was imprisoned for six years.
- My trip to Japan was \_\_\_\_\_. I had an \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- Visa \_\_\_\_\_ must have their passports with them.
- Despite his young age, he behaved very \_\_\_\_\_.

COOK, HOPE
NOTICE
PLEASE
BURGLE
TOLERATE
BEAR
CURE, ADVISE
CONFIDE, SPEAK
REMARK
OBEY
ACCEPT
INSURE, INSURE
FORGE
FORGET, ENJOY
APPLY
SENSE

### Examination Practice

#### A Read the text below and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each space.

#### A WILD HUNT

Living in a modern society, we cannot (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the acts of crime that take place every day. Criminal activity ranges from stealing to the more serious crimes of kidnapping and murder.

Just recently, a hunt was on for two men who (2) \_\_\_\_\_ an off-licence in broad daylight. The shop owner tried

to call the police, but he received a severe blow to the back of his head, which left him unconscious. It appears that the two (3) \_\_\_\_\_ had planned everything very well, since they (4) \_\_\_\_\_ getting caught. They were seen getting on their motorbike holding guns by two policemen in a patrol car, who started (5) \_\_\_\_\_ them. (6) \_\_\_\_\_, the robbers managed to get away through the back streets. All exits from the city were closed (7) \_\_\_\_\_ immediately. Even the airport was put on alert and flights were delayed, as strict security measures were (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and all passengers were asked to give proof of their identity. Many people considered this a nuisance and were shocked (9) \_\_\_\_\_ these tactics. So, they put the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for the situation on the police and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ them of incompetence. In the end, the police (12) \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility for the setbacks.

1	A ignore	B neglect	C forget	D omit
2	A stole	B robbed	C shoplifted	D hijacked
3	A criminals	B convicts	C pickpockets	D burglars
4	A escaped	B avoided	C prevented	D stopped
5	A arresting	B chasing	C hunting	D following
6	A Despite	B Therefore	C Although	D However
7	A down	B off	C up	D away
8	A taken	B followed	C put	D made
9	A with	B about	C from	D by
10	A fault	B accusation	C blame	D cause
11	A charged	B accused	C blamed	D convicted
12	A got	B recognised	C took	D received

**B** Complete the text below with the correct form of the words in capitals.

## ANTIBACTERIAL SOAPS

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ number of people feel that washing with antibacterial soaps is the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do. Unfortunately, their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ has led them to believe that these soaps are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to normal ones. However, research has shown that there is no real (5) \_\_\_\_\_ between washing with ordinary soap or soap (6) \_\_\_\_\_ antibacterial agents. It has also been proved that being too clean actually has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ effects, as our (8) \_\_\_\_\_ do not become (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to germs. This (10) \_\_\_\_\_ has come as a surprise, especially to those who believe that bacteria have to be fought with every means known to man.



CONSIDER  
SENSE  
IGNORE  
PREFER  
DIFFER  
CONTAIN  
DESIRE  
BODY  
RESIST, DISCOVER