LISTEN AND FILL IN THE BLANK

SAM: I'm currently studying psychology at university, and I love it, even though it's quite challenging. I (1) _____ an essay on cognitive development last week, which took a lot of time to research and write. This week, they've already given me (2) _____ to start. It's non-stop! We also have to give presentations on different topics very often. Having to speak in front of a big class made me (3) _____ at first, but I'm getting more confident with it. I think that will be useful for my future career. I'll be taking exams in a few months, so I've started (4) _____. Passing these exams is crucial because I plan to study abroad for a semester next year. I want to improve my German and learn from a different culture.

JESSICA: After graduating from high school, I enrolled in an online business course while working part-time. The (5) _____ is great, but it also means I must stay motivated and organized. I had to (6) _____ last term because I couldn't keep up with both work and assignments. Now, I'm more organized, and I just got a good grade on my (7) _____ assignment, which felt really encouraging. The course involves taking online lessons, which I can do at my own (8) _____. I also work individually on projects, but sometimes, we have group tasks where we meet online to discuss ideas and complete assignments together. It's different from regular classes, but I'm getting (9) _____ to it, and I'm learning a lot about teamwork and how to manage my time.

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LIAM: I left school a few years ago and decided to go back and study engineering at university. It's been a huge learning curve! I had to retake a few exams I didn't pass on the first try, but it's been (10) _____ the effort. Writing essays on technical topics isn't easy, but I can see my progress each term. I'm also working on a project with classmates that involves designing a new kind of energy-(11) _____ engine. It's definitely challenging, but I feel proud of the work we're doing. After I graduate, I'm not sure if I should look for a job with an engineering firm to work on sustainable energy projects or continue studying to specialize in renewable energy engineering. Both options sound good—starting work would give me experience, but more studying could open more (12) _____. I'll need to decide as graduation gets closer.

DANIEL: I was a good student in (13) _____ and middle school and always got good grades. I never failed an exam and passed all my classes with As and Bs. But when I started high school, things (14) _____. I made friends with a group of students who weren't the best influence. I stopped focusing on my studies, started (15) _____ all my subjects, and got into a lot of trouble. Eventually, things got so bad that I was (16) _____ from the school. Getting expelled was a wake-up call for me. I had to switch to a new school and realized I couldn't keep going the way I was. At the new school, I worked hard, started getting good grades again, and (17) _____ to graduate. Now, I'm in college studying Economics, and I'm about to graduate. Looking back, I'm proud of how far I've come. I learned a lot from that (18) _____ in high school, and it taught me the importance of staying focused and surrounding myself with the right people.

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