PRACTICE

1a Complete the sentences. Use *a*, *an* or *the*.

0 Have you seen ...*the*... newspaper? I can't find it anywhere.

1 I got my sister ..... CD and ..... new book for her birthday. I don't think she liked ..... CD, though.

2 Is this ..... first time you've stayed at ..... Hilton?

3 She started her career as ..... teacher but now she's ..... journalist.

4 Is ..... Nile or ..... Amazon ..... longest river in ..... world?

5 I took ..... bus and then ..... train to the airport. ..... bus was on time but ..... train was late.

6 Several million visitors ..... year are attracted to ..... ski slopes on ..... Alps.

7 I'll meet you outside ..... post office. I'll be there in ..... quarter of ..... hour.

8 We lived in ..... Netherlands before moving here. But before that we worked in ..... Middle East.

1b Complete the essay. Use *the* or zero article (–).

Urban life past and present

(0) ...–..... young people tend to think that (1) ..... life was more difficult for (2) ..... people in the past. Of course, (3) ..... lives our parents led were different from (4) ..... lives we lead today. For example, they couldn't rely as much on (5) ..... modern technology as we do. When my parents were young, (6) ..... computers were as big as a room and (7) ..... mobile phone hadn't been invented yet!

On the other hand, I don't think there were as many social problems in those days. This is partly because (8) ..... family was very important. For instance, (9) ..... families took care of (10) ..... old and weak so (11) ..... homelessness wasn't (12) ..... problem that it is today. In fact, in many ways (13) ..... life was better in the past.

1c Complete the sentences. Use *a*, *the* or zero article (–).

0 In my opinion, ...–..... education should be free.

1 ..... education I got at school was excellent.

2 I'd like my children to have ..... good education.

3 ..... car is expensive to own and run but it's a reliable form of transport.

4 Unfortunately, ... car is a major cause of air pollution and global warming.

5 In some cities ..... cars have been banned from the centre.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRACTICE

3a **Complete the conversations. Use the nouns in the box and *a/an* where necessary.**

cloth	cloth	experience	experience	glass	glass
noise	~~room~~	room	university education		

0 A: Is there going to be enough ..... *room* ..... in the fridge for all this food?
B: Don't worry – it's a large family-size fridge.

1 A: Could I have ..... of water, please?
B: Sure. Sorry. I've spilled it. Would you hand me ..... to wipe it up, please?

2 A: I see you don't have ..... .
B: No, but I have years of ..... managing a business.

3 A: Nice suit. Is it silk?
B: According to the label, it's made of fine woollen ..... .

4 A: I was really frightened last night. I was sure I heard ..... downstairs.
B: I had ..... like that once and I called the police straightaway.

5 A: I need ..... for the night. Have you got any vacancies?
B: Yes, you're in luck. There's one free on the top floor.

6 A: What's happened? There's ..... all over the floor.
B: Oh, one of the kids kicked a football through the window again.

3b **Complete the leaflet. Use the nouns in the box and *a/an* where necessary.**

appointment	classes	exercise	information	progress	swimming
~~time~~	time	up-to-date equipment	valuable advice	work	

We're open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. so if you can't find (0) ..... *time* ..... to work out during the day, you can fit us in before or after you go to (1) ..... . However, do try and make (2) ..... to consult one of our qualified instructors at (3) ..... that's convenient for you. They will give you (4) ..... about choosing the best exercise programme. Then once you start your programme, they will also help you make (5) ..... towards becoming fitter and healthier.

Our gymnasium has a full range of (6) ..... for running, cycling and weightlifting. Or, if you prefer (7) ..... , try our Olympic size pool. We also have day and evening (8) ..... in yoga and Pilates for those who would like a gentler form of (9) ..... . For more (10) ..... about what we offer, you can phone, e-mail or drop by and see us!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRACTICE

4a **Complete the sentences. Use the plural of the nouns in brackets.**

0 There are ...*sheep*... and ...*cows*... grazing in the field. (sheep, cow)

1 There were ..... , ... and ..... aboard the doomed flight. (man, woman, child)

2 Technology has opened up new job ..... in this field. (opportunity)

3 It was one of the best television ..... of the last ten years. (series)

4 Before you serve the steaks, decorate with a few ..... of lettuce. (leaf)

5 I've put the ..... next to the ..... and ..... . (glass, knife, fork)

6 The two ..... faced each other across the river. (army)

7 Do you know how many ..... of birds there are in the world? (species)

8 There were at least a thousand ..... at the demonstration but nobody was carrying ..... . (person, arm)

4b **Circle the correct answer.**

There is little doubt that pollution (0)(*is*)/ *are* contributing to changes in weather patterns. The melting of the polar ice is receiving a great deal of publicity but there are other (1) *phenomenon / phenomena* which we can also attribute to global warming. Plant and animal species (2) *is / are* losing their natural habitats and are in danger of extinction. Meanwhile, living (3) *condition / conditions* in many countries (4) *has / have* been affected by floods and droughts.

Some say that governments (5) *is / are* not doing enough to solve the problem, while politicians claim they are doing the best they can with limited (6) *resource / resources*. In any case, we find ourselves at (7) *a / some* crossroads. Perhaps only a (8) *crisis / crises* will encourage us to change our habits.

4c **Complete the news flashes. Use one word in each gap.**

(0) ...*An*... aircraft has gone down and news (1) ..... now coming in about the crash. Rescue services have been sent to the area but the authorities (2) ..... not releasing any more information about the accident at this point.

Fire has destroyed a home in South London. All the members of the family (3) ..... safe but their belongings (4) ..... been destroyed and they will be homeless for some time. The family (5) ..... said they have no idea what caused the blaze. The police (6) ..... treating the incident as suspicious.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRACTICE

6a **Circle the correct answer.**



0 A: He's a new artist and his work is attracting *a large number of* / *a great deal of* attention.
B: That's right. *A large number of* / *A great deal of* visitors attended his last exhibition.

1 A: I have very *few* / *little* time – just *a few* / *a little* minutes.
B: Don't worry. This won't take *much* / *many* time.

2 A: I have to buy *a little* / *a few* things at the supermarket.
B: We only have *a little* / *a few* milk left. Would you get some while you're out?

3 A: I don't have *much* / *many* money with me. Could I borrow some, please?
B: *How much* / *How many* would you like to borrow?

4 A: Do you get *much* / *many* visitors here in the winter?
B: Not really. That's why *much of* / *many of* our staff are part-time.

5 A: There's *too much* / *too many* work here for one person to do.
B: I know, and there are *too little* / *too few* people to help.

6 A: There's been *a great deal of* / *a large number of* interest in the house but no one's made an offer to buy it yet.
B: I'm surprised. There aren't *many* / *much* places as nice as this in the area.

7 A: I don't know *how many* / *how much* people are likely to come to the meeting.
B: I'm sure some won't be able to make it. *Few* / *A few* have already sent their apologies.

8 A: Is Anne here?
B: I'm afraid she left an hour ago with *several* / *several of* her colleagues.

6b **Complete the sentences. Use *a little*, *little*, *a few* or *few*.**

0 There's ..*little*.. doubt in my mind that he's guilty.

1 We have ..... time, so don't hurry too much.

2 I paid ..... attention to what he was saying, I'm afraid.

3 She called to say she's going to be ..... minutes late.

4 There's ..... money left – in fact, we're virtually broke.

5 Unfortunately, there were very ..... people in the audience.

6 Would you like ..... more coffee?

7 There are ..... more things I'd like to discuss.

8 All we can offer at the moment are low-paid jobs that ..... people want.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6c **Complete the sentences. Use *of* where necessary.**

0 Much ...*of*... the city was destroyed in the war but a great deal ...*of*... it has been restored since then.

1 I've lived in this village for a number ..... years.

2 I've never seen this many ..... people at a local event.

3 Jane arrived at the meeting with a few ..... her colleagues – several ..... them had come to support her.

4 Much ..... this work was started last year.

5 Very little ..... his money was left after the taxes had been paid.

6 You may have to wait several ..... months for the decision.

7 Hundreds ..... people were killed when the earthquake struck.

8 Too much ..... time has been spent on this problem.

6d **Look at the results of a survey about what young people do after school. Then complete the text. Use one word in each gap.**

Number of people interviewed: 60

19 years old: 70% 18 years old: 10%

17 years old: 5% 16 years old: 15%

Results of survey

		Yes	No
1	Do you take part in sporting activities?	48	12
2	Do you take advantage of extra tuition offered by your school/ college?	40	20
3	Do you have a part-time job?	22	38
4	Are you a member of a school/college club or society?	10	50
5	Do you do volunteer work (work for which you don't get paid)?	4	56

We asked sixty students what activities they took part in after school or college. The students were aged sixteen to nineteen but a large (0) ...*number*... were closer to nineteen years of age. On the whole, the students that we interviewed expressed a great (1) ..... of interest in sports. Extra tuition in difficult subjects was also popular with (2) ..... students although one third did not take advantage of this opportunity. (3) ..... students had a part-time job but most said they preferred to concentrate on their studies.

Turning to the less popular activities, there wasn't a (4) ..... deal of interest in joining school clubs. Although a (5) ..... students said they were members of a club, more than 80% said they preferred to do other things. Volunteer work was the least popular activity and there was (6) ..... interest in this activity; very (7) ..... students said they did unpaid work after school.

LIVEWORKSHEETS