

Use of English

Practice Test, Part E

TEXT 1: Things You Didn't Know About Silver

Task: Choose the correct grammatical form (A–D) for each gap.

Read the full text:

Silver's antibacterial properties (1)_____ their way into the kitchen. It's used in many refrigerators' antibacterial linings (2)_____ germs before they attack your fresh produce. It's also no accident that silver cutlery, kept in the drawer for Christmas, was popular in the past, given that it has the innate ability to banish bacteria.

Since silver prevents the growth of bacteria and fungi, it is ideal for use in sports clothing, where growth can lead to unpleasant odours. Whether it (3)_____ into the fibre itself or coated on to it, silver-infused fabrics keep odour (4)_____ a minimum.

Silver solutions were officially approved by medical authorities in the Twenties for use as antibacterial agents. Today, dressings, topical gels and bandages containing silver are well established for clinical wound care and are now used in (5)_____ products such as plasters because of its wide-spectrum antimicrobial activity.

Questions (1–5)

1. "Silver's antibacterial properties (1)_____ their way into the kitchen."

Did the properties act on their own, or were they found by someone?

- A have been found — but who found "their way"?
- B were found — is this about a past event only?
- C had been found — before what other past event?
- D have found — the properties themselves did the finding?

2. "It's used in... linings (2)_____ germs before they attack..."

What is the PURPOSE of the linings?

- A killed — past tense here?
- B to kill — expresses purpose
- C are killing — continuous action?
- D kill — fits grammatically after a noun?

3. "Whether it (3)_____ into the fibre itself or coated on to it..."

"Whether it _____ into the fibre or coated on to it" — can "is" be shared between two participles?

- A is integrating — active continuous — but "coated" is passive
- B is integrated — "is" shared: "is integrated... or [is] coated"
- C integrated — where would the auxiliary verb be?
- D integrating — active form — but "coated" is passive

4. "...fabrics keep odour (4)_____ a minimum."

A common collocation with "a minimum" — which preposition?

- A in — "in a minimum"?
- B of — "of a minimum"?
- C at — "at a minimum"?
- D for — "for a minimum"?

5. "...are now used in (5)_____ products such as plasters..."

"_____ products" — what type of word can modify a noun here?

- A consume — can a verb go directly before a noun?
- B consuming — does "consuming products" make sense?
- C consumer — noun + noun = common pattern in English?
- D consumerist — does this fit everyday products?

TEXT 2: It Wasn't All Bad

Read the full text:

An extraordinary collection of "lost" televised plays (6)_____ in the Library of Congress in Washington DC. The news of discovering the plays (7)_____ immediately announced to the public. The plays were originally broadcast by the BBC and other companies like Granada (8)_____ 1957 and 1962. (9)_____ recording is Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*.

The plays, some of (10)_____ have not been seen for 50 years, include a version of Anouilh's *Colombe* starring Sean Connery and Dorothy Tutin. The collection will be broadcast at the British Film Institute in November.

Questions (6–10)

6. "An extraordinary collection of... plays (6)_____ in the Library of Congress..."

The grammatical subject is "An extraordinary collection" (+ of plays). Singular or plural verb?

- A was discovered — singular passive, past simple
- B have discovered — active — but did the collection discover itself?
- C has discovered — active — same problem
- D were discovered — plural — but "collection" is singular

7. "The news... (7)_____ immediately announced to the public."

"News" — is it singular or plural in English?

- A were — plural
- B was — singular
- C has — but is this about a present result?
- D had — before what other event?

8. "...broadcast by the BBC... (8)_____ 1957 and 1962."

Two dates with "and". Which preposition creates a time range with "and"?

- A till — usually followed by one date
- B since — from then until now
- C between — goes naturally before "X and Y"
- D from — goes with "to", not "and"

9. "(9)_____ recording is Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*."

Is this comparing two things or identifying one out of many? Does it need "the"?

- A Earliest — superlative without "the"?
- B Earlier — comparing only two?
- C The earliest — superlative with "the"
- D The earlier — comparative with "the"?

10. "The plays, some of (10)_____ have not been seen for 50 years..."

After a preposition ("of"), referring to things (plays).

- A what — used in relative clauses?
- B that — can it follow a preposition?
- C whom — for people or things?
- D which — for things, after prepositions?

TEXT 3: Embarrassing Situation

Read the full text:

There was this newbie refugee lady who (11)_____ her visit to the doctor in Australia, and as she was leaving the doctor's room, the nurse said (12)_____ "See you later then, love." So the woman sat and waited in the clinic to see when she (13)_____ later. When it came to closing time, the staff asked her (14)_____ she had a problem and she said: "But I thought you needed to see me later, so I'm waiting!"

"Oh no, dear," smiled the nurse. "That's just the Australian way of saying goodbye." The poor lady was terribly (15)_____.

Questions (11–15)

11. "...lady who (11)_____ her visit to the doctor..."

She finished the visit BEFORE the nurse spoke. Which tense shows an action completed before another past action?

- A was completed — but did she complete it, or was it completed for her?
- B had completed — shows a finished action before another past event
- C has completed — connects past to present moment?
- D would complete — a hypothetical or future plan?

12. "...the nurse said (12)_____ 'See you later...'"

HOW did the nurse say it? What part of speech describes the manner of an action?

- A cheery — can an adjective modify "said"?
- B cheeriness — can a noun modify "said"?
- C cheers — is this a greeting or a verb form?
- D cheerily — does an adverb modify "said"?

13. "...waited in the clinic to see when she (13)_____ later."

The story is in the past. She was thinking about a FUTURE event. How do we express future in a past narrative?

- A would be needed — future seen from the past
- B will be needed — but is the narrative in the present?
- C is needed — present tense in a past story?
- D was needed — same time as the main events?

14. "...the staff asked her (14)_____ she had a problem..."

This is a reported yes/no question. Which word means "if" in this context?

- A unless — introduces a negative condition
- B while — about simultaneous time
- C whether — introduces an indirect yes/no question
- D until — about a time limit

15. "The poor lady was terribly (15)_____."

How did the lady FEEL? Which word form describes a person's feeling?

- A embarrass — can a verb follow "was terribly"?
- B embarrassed — -ed describes how someone feels
- C embarrassing — -ing describes what causes a feeling
- D to embarrass — infinitive after "was terribly"?