Exercise 1. Underline the correct article: *a/an, the* or – (no article).

1. This test measures *a/the/-* concentration of acid in *a/the/-* stomach.

2. It took *an/the/-* incredibly long time for the results to be announced.

3. There have been *an/the/-* improvements in *a/the/-* quality as well as *an/the/-* efficiency.

4. *A/The/-* high percentage of businesses fail in the first year.

5. The study found that *a/the/-* significant number of homes had two cars.

6. This shows *a/the/-* sharp decline in *a/the/-* proportion of aid allocated to health.

7. He studied the role of *an/the/-* extended family in caring for older people.

8. These reforms have succeeded to *a/the/-* certain extent.

9. All children should receive *a/the/-* basic education.

10. The HR department deals with *a/the/-* recruitment of new staff.

11. What is *a/the/-* significance of these figures?

12. She has *a/the/-* excellent communication skills.

Exercise 2. Underline the best word or phrase to complete each sentence.

1. I would be grateful *when/if/whether* you could confirm the booking in writing.

2. What's the best way to deal with a patient *who's/whose/who* behaving aggressively?

3. It's important to start saving towards a pension now so that you're financially secure *if/as/when* you retire.

4. Please don't hesitate to contact me *if/that/whether* you have any questions.

5. I don't know yet *if/that/whether* or not I'll be able to come.

6. Cheap airlines have brought benefits. *Such as/For example/Like*, foreign travel is no longer only for the rich.

7. The bank has announced that it will close 50 of *it's/their/its* 800 branches.

8. MPs will debate *if/about/whether* to change the age limit for buying cigarettes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 3. Use the words from the box to complete the advice below. Use one word in each gap and use each word only once.

when	like	if	whether
however	obviously	its	it's

Considering a gap year abroad?

First, you need to decide (1)..... you want to spend the year travelling or working in another country. This will, (2)....., depend partly on your budget.

(3)..... tempting to just relax and enjoy some time off after all the stress of exams. (4)....., working in a country will enable you to learn more about (5)..... people and culture and, ultimately, gain more from the experience. It will also look good on your CV (6)..... you get back!

(7)..... you do plan to work while you're away, you'll need to check visa and work permit rules for the country you're visiting. For many countries, (8)..... the US, it's vital to sort out the paperwork before you go. Check our website for more details.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 4. Rewrite the sentences using an adjective + noun to replace each underlined phrase.

Example:

His parents both have jobs that pay well.

His parents both have ***well-paid jobs***.

1. The exhibition featured a number of devices that can save your time.

   The exhibition featured a number of ……

2. All the chalets have kitchens with all the equipment you need.

   All the chalets have ……

3. My grandfather was a man with a rather short temper.

   My grandfather was ……

4. We stayed in a castle which was built 200 years ago.

   We stayed in ……

5. Fighting has resumed after a ceasefire which lasted for a short while.

   Fighting has resumed after ……

6. The man was sentenced to five years in prison.

   The man received ……

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 5. Underline the correct words in the text below.

Stayfit

The Stayfit Health Club offers a wide range of fitness (1) *programs/programmes* to suit your (2) *life-style/lifestyle*. Choose from a package of individual sessions with one of our (3) *fully trained/full-trained* instructors or join in with any of the (4) *twenty-five/twenty five* different exercise classes we run each week. Alternatively, you can brush up on your serves or (5) *practice/practise* your backhands on our (6) *full-size/full size* indoor tennis courts.

Apply now for a 20% discount* on a (7) *12 months/12-month* membership package.

*Availability (8) *dependent/dependant* on demand.

Exercise 6. Complete the news stories below with one preposition in each space.

The number of births in Scotland has risen to its highest level since 1999, according to the Registrar General. Figures suggest that more than 54,000 babies were born in 2005, a rise (1) ..... 420 births on the previous year – that's an increase (2) ..... less than 1%. The increase (3) ..... births is lower than the increase (4) ..... almost 3% between 2003 and 2004. The Registrar General for Scotland said: "The recent upturn (5) ..... the birth rate is encouraging but it may be easing off."

There was a slight decline (6) ..... the number of deaths in 2005, with a drop (7) ..... the incidence of strokes and heart disease, two of Scotland's top three causes of death. There was also a fall (8) ..... the number of both marriages and divorces.

Schools spend much more (9) ..... computer-based resources than (10) ..... books, new figures suggest. Expenditure (11) ..... ICT (information and communication technology) has seen a rise (12) ..... more than 50% over the past year, according to figures from the Department of Education. A spokesperson pointed out that one of the reasons (13) ..... this shift is that pupils now have more reading material available to them (14) ..... the internet. Government figures also show that schools spent £197 million (15) ..... exam fees during the same period, a rise (16) ..... a quarter in two years.

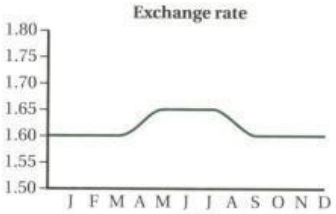
LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 7. Complete the texts about the charts and graphs using words from the box. Each word is used once.

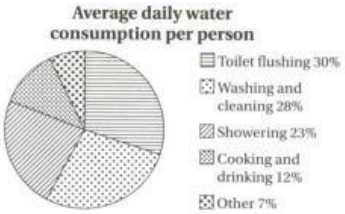
see	fell	compares	graph	drops	bar chart	rate
in	percent	with	for	comes	pie chart	percentage

The (1) ..... above (2) ..... the average life expectancy (3) ..... men and women living in different areas. We can (4) ..... that women in suburban areas have the highest life expectancy, (5) ..... an average of 84 years. Life expectancy for both men and women (6) ..... significantly for those living in city centres.

The (7) ..... shows a slight rise (8) ..... the exchange (9) ..... in the second quarter. It then (10) ..... back to previous levels towards the end of the year.



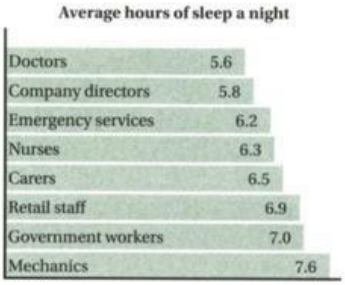
According to the (11) ....., around a third of the water we use is flushed down the toilet. A fairly large (12) ..... of our water usage goes on washing and cleaning. Then showering (13) ..... next, accounting for around 28 (14) ..... of our daily consumption.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 8. Underline the best words or phrases to complete the text below.

Does the (1) *amount/number* of time you spend in bed affect your performance in the office? According to a recent survey, insomniacs miss an average of 5.8 days a year from work. Good sleepers, (2) *on the contrary/in contrast,* miss only 2.4 days on average. This chart (3) *contrasts/compares* the average (4) *number/proportion* of hours' sleep a night for people in different professions. Mechanics get the most sleep, with 7.6 hours per night, (5) *in contrast to/ in contrast* doctors and company directors, who sleep for less than 6 hours. Shift workers such as nurses and members of the emergency services, unsurprisingly, get relatively little sleep (6) *in comparison with/comparing to* those in nine-to-five jobs. How stressful your job is could also affect the (7) *amount/number* of sleep you get, with one in five insomniacs blaming work pressures for their sleeplessness. The figures suggest that government employees are good sleepers (8) *compared to/compares to* private-sector workers, so perhaps job security plays a role as well.



Exercise 9. Match the two halves of the sentence.

1. The sample contained an equal number of	a. damage to the environment.
2. They are expected to make a certain number of	b. space available.
3. The job involves a fair amount of	c. players in each team.
4. There is only a limited amount of	d. boys and girls
5. We try to cause the minimum amount of	e. travelling.
6. There are the same number of	f. calls per hour.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 10. Choose the best adjective from the box to complete each sentence. Use each word only once. Not all of the adjectives are used.

enormous	low	small	certain	fair	direct	equal
marked	big	same	stark	large	limited	2. increasing

1. There isn't sufficient detail available for all sectors to make a ..... comparison.

2. An …… number of market stalls now also accept credit cards.

3. Wanaka's laid-back atmosphere stands in …… contrast to the bustle of nearby Queenstown.

4. There are only a …… number of places still available.

5. Some energy drinks contain roughly the …… amount of caffeine as a cup of coffee - around 40mg per l00g.

6. A …… comparison is only possible where all the external factors are the same.

7. They were not equipped to cope with such a …… number of people.

8. The film has generated an …… amount of media interest.

9. The top fifth of families received 47 percent of the total income. The lowest fifth, in ……contrast, received 3.4 percent.

10. The building work is bound to cause a …… amount of disruption.

LIVEWORKSHEETS