

Grammar

1 Complete the sentences with the future continuous, future perfect simple, or future perfect continuous form of the words in brackets. Add words if necessary, but do not change the word order.

- 1 I _____ (finish / fill / in) this application form by the end of tomorrow.
- 2 Jasmina _____ (move / in / to) her new apartment tomorrow afternoon.
- 3 By eight o'clock, they _____ (practise) this song for three hours!
- 4 From next week, we _____ (start) the training session 15 minutes earlier.
- 5 By lunchtime tomorrow, you _____ (arrive / in) New York!
- 6 By the end of this year, I _____ (learn / English) for ten years.
- 7 They _____ (interview) the candidates on Friday morning.

2 Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first. Use the word given in CAPITALS but do not change its form. Write up to five words, including the word given.

- 1 We don't have a lot of time before the exam. MUCH
We don't have _____ before the exam.
- 2 Each course is slightly different. ALL
_____ slightly different.
- 3 There aren't a lot of my friends applying to Oxford. MANY
_____ my friends are applying to Oxford.
- 4 Almost everyone is doing work experience. MOST
_____ doing work experience.
- 5 I need some time to think about the offer. LITTLE
I need _____ to think about the offer.
- 6 No student failed the English exam. NONE
_____ the English exam.

3 Complete the dialogue with *a*, *an*, *the* or – (no article).

- Sam:** Do you want to come to ¹ _____ concert with me? It's been ages since I saw any live music.
- Alex:** Sure ... although it depends what kind of music.
- Sam:** Well, you know I love ² _____ classical music? There's ³ _____ interesting series of concerts coming up at that new theatre next to ⁴ _____ ice rink in town.
- Alex:** OK. It's not really my thing, but I'd like to see ⁵ _____ new theatre, so why don't you get me ⁶ _____ ticket for ⁷ _____ concert you think will be most interesting.

Vocabulary

4 Choose the correct option (A, B or C) to complete the sentences.

- 1 I'll need to earn some money while I'm studying, so I need to get a ____ .
A part-time job B gap year C funding
- 2 The view from my desk is amazing – I work on the fourteenth floor of an ____ .
A apprenticeship B upward trend C office block
- 3 The number of first-time buyers has ____ every year, and is now 10% lower than five years ago.
A increased B fallen C risen
- 4 The ____ protested because they were so angry about the library closing.
A local residents B tenants C landlords
- 5 This apartment looks great. What ____ does it have?
A guarantees B obligations C facilities
- 6 The old factories had to be ____ when they became unsafe.
A decreased B destroyed C occupied

5 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets.

- 1 Your personal _____ (state) is a great opportunity to highlight your experience.
- 2 There is often a lot of pollution in _____ (industry) areas.
- 3 I'm _____ (steady) getting better at filling in application forms, but I still don't like it!
- 4 This area of town has changed quite _____ (drama) since the factories closed.
- 5 If you'd like to get some practical training for a job, you could do an _____ (apprentice).
- 6 It's almost impossible to find _____ (afford) housing in the city centre.

6 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 Prices have **gone up / gone down** so much that we can't afford to buy a house at the moment.
- 2 I want to go to drama college to **get a scholarship / pursue my dream** of being an actor.
- 3 If you look at the figures, you can see there's been a **crash / rise** of 10% – from 50% to 60%.
- 4 The **increase / decrease** in the university's fees means more students can afford them.
- 5 I'd love to work abroad before I go to university, so I'm going to take **a gap year / out a loan**.
- 6 Not buying a house is a **lifestyle choice / personal statement** for some people. Others don't have the option.
- 7 There's been a **steady / sharp** change in temperature. Suddenly, it's much colder.
- 8 Some people **spend a fortune / apply for funding** on expensive clothes. I'd rather spend my money on travelling.

Use of English

7 Complete the mini-dialogues with the correct option, A, B or C.

1 **Matt:** Hi Josh. ____

Josh: Thanks, Matt. It wasn't great that I failed, but I'm hoping I can take the test again later this year.

Matt: I'm sure you'll do better next time.

A I'm thinking of you.

B Sorry to hear your bad news.

C Congratulations on your driving test.

2 **Ben:** Hey Sam, I hear congratulations are in order!

Sam: Ah – Annie told you about our engagement, did she?

Ben: Yes, that's great news! ____

A My deepest sympathies

B My sincere condolences

C I'm really happy for you!

3 **Ben:** Look at this picture I found of my grandparents' wedding!

Zara: That's funny! What are they throwing?

Ben: Well, ____ throw rice at the bride and groom after the ceremony!

A some people choose to

B older relatives say

C it used to be common to

4 **Zoe:** Ellie, I heard about your bad news, and ____.

Ellie: Thanks Zoe. It was a shock to all of us.

Zoe: Well, we're all thinking of you.

A I'm so sorry

B bad luck

C your graduation

5 **Alice:** Hey Lily, what's the strangest New Year's Eve tradition you've ever heard of?

Lily: Well, there's a tradition in Spain that started over 100 years ago, and ____ do it now.

Alice: Oh, I think I've heard about that! They eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes 12, don't they?

A many people still

B fewer people

C it's traditional

8 Choose the translation of the word or phrase in brackets that completes the sentence correctly.

1 We can only rent the house for a year, so we'll have to (wyprowadzić się) ____ at the end of June.

A move in

B move out

C move on

2 We're too tired to finish the project tonight. Let's (wróćmy do tego) ____ in the morning.

A come back to it

B do come back to it

C think long and hard

3 I'm not sure exactly what I'll do, but (myślę, że) ____ a gap year is a good option for me.

A I doubt

B I don't think

C I figure

4 Ben needs to (myśleć długo i intensywnie) ____ about what to do next year.

A line up

B think long and hard

C come back to it

5 (Czego chcą moi rodzice) ____ is for me to be happy.

A All of my parents want

B Both of my parents want

C All that my parents want

Reading

9 Read the texts about taking a gap year and choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

Bridging the gap

If you're thinking about taking a gap year before you head to university, you're not the only one. In fact, you're part of a very definite upward trend. In 2018, it was estimated that over 230,000 students aged 18–25 took a gap year. Of course, there are many different reasons why they might have made this choice. Two of the most common are to earn some money before studying – particularly in the light of increasing tuition fees – and to travel.

Of course, there will always be those who consider a gap year an expensive luxury. But you don't have to spend a fortune, even if you travel. More and more gap-year students combine travel with volunteering, doing internships or doing paid work. The new skills they acquire and the experience they gain in terms of both specific work skills and general life skills can really make a difference, and most universities, as well as employers, see this as very positive.

If you need to convince your parents about the benefits of taking a gap year, you could give them some more statistics. They may be reassured to know that 90% of students who take a gap year do go on to study at university on their return. And around two thirds of those say they took their academic work more seriously after their gap year.

As the number of students taking the traditional gap year between school and university continues to rise, so too does the number of people considering taking a gap year at other stages, perhaps immediately after university or even part-way through their careers. They might prefer to think of it as a 'career break' rather than a 'gap year', but many of them may be making this lifestyle choice because it wasn't available to them when they were younger.

1 What do universities and employers value about students who take gap years?

- A They work harder on their return.
- B They have earned more money.
- C They have some work skills.
- D They have more work and life experience.

2 Which of the sentences is TRUE?

- A Around two thirds of students who take a gap year go on to university.
- B Not everyone who takes a gap year does it before university.
- C In 2018, more students took a gap year than ever before.
- D For many students, taking a gap year helps them decide what to do next.

Career break or career broken?

As we touched down at Juan Santamaría International Airport, my mind was racing and my thoughts were jumping around like a crazy frog on a trampoline. As I'd walked away from my desk four days earlier, I'd never been more certain that this was the right thing to. After all, I'd been working in IT for over 25 years, I was in my late 40s, and I was tired of working for a big company. On top of that, I'd recently been to a party for my 18-year-old niece, who was about to fly off on a round-the-world trip, starting with volunteering on a wildlife project in Sri Lanka. Was I jealous? Not exactly, but it had made me realise how many more options are available to teenagers when they finish school now compared to in my day, when the traditional route was straight from school to university to employment. No wonder I was ready for a change!

Now, looking out into the pouring rain of the Costa Rican night, I was having other thoughts.

'In three months' time, will I have made a difference or will it all have been a waste of time?'

'Will I have ruined my chances of ever going back to my career?'

'Will I really be helping to protect the environment?'

'What if the local residents don't like what we're doing?'

'What will the other volunteers be like? Will they think I've made a huge mistake?'

As the plane slowed to a stop, the pilot welcomed us to Costa Rica. Around me, seatbelts were loosened and arms reached up into the overhead luggage compartments. Bags were brought down, stairs were brought up to the door. There was no going back. And there was only going to be one way to deal with the doubts. I stood up, picked up my rucksack and joined the line of passengers shuffling slowly towards the open door. I took a deep breath of warm, damp tropical air and walked down the steps into the biggest adventure of my life ...

3 In the first paragraph, we learn that the writer

- A is going on a work trip.
- B probably didn't take a gap year before university.
- C has recently been to a birthday party.
- D is married, with children.

4 By the end of the extract, the writer

- A has doubts, but is ready to face them.
- B has so many doubts that he changes his mind about his trip.
- C feels less calm than at the beginning.
- D feels absolutely certain that he's doing the right thing.

5 Both texts

- A examine the impact of a gap year on a student's university experience.
- B look at the benefits to employers of employees who have taken gap years.
- C acknowledge the fact that people take gap years at other times than before university.
- D consider the planning and organisation involved in taking a gap year.

Listening

10 🎧 Listen to five people talking about urban regeneration. Match the speakers (1–5) to the statements (A–F). There is one extra statement.

- A Speaker ____ has doubts about how seriously councils consider local residents' opinions.
- B Speaker ____ doesn't think affordable housing is important.
- C Speaker ____ thinks most people don't want to live in a purely residential area.
- D Speaker ____ mentions his/her job.
- E Speaker ____ is going to discuss details of some specific urban regeneration projects.
- F Speaker ____ mentions the part that a natural element can play in urban regeneration.