



C2 Proficiency - Test Unit 8

Vocabulary

Environment collocations

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

catastrophe	ecological	hazardous	wind farms	erosion	tourism	waste	habitats
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- 1 The proposed offshore _____ would generate enough power for the whole county.
- 2 The percentage of household _____ that was recycled in the UK in 2021 stood at less than 50%.
- 3 Governments must act faster to avoid the looming _____ disaster.
- 4 Humans are susceptible to new viruses as a result of shrinking animal _____.
- 5 The _____ waste from the shipping container had spilt into the ocean, killing thousands of fish.
- 6 You can mitigate soil _____ by planting trees and legislating against poor farming methods.
- 7 There have been numerous failed attempts to promote sustainable _____ in the region.
- 8 The younger generation are acutely aware of the climate _____ that we face if leaders don't act now.

Complete the gaps in the text with the correct words.

We have heard a lot recently about the impacts of climate change on our woodland (1) _____. Now, let us turn our attention to our seas.

Coastal (2) _____, the gradual weathering of land by natural forces, jeopardises (3) _____ habitats and wildlife conservation efforts. As shorelines recede, vital breeding and feeding grounds vanish, disrupting ecosystems and compromising biodiversity. As well as the loss of ground, this crisis exacerbates the threat of coastal landfills releasing harmful (4) _____ that will contaminate marine environments.

As climate change brings about more storms and higher seas create more waves, winds and flooding, this gradual erosion will continue to worsen. For low-lying island nations, particularly in the Pacific, these changes increase vulnerability and the risk of a (5) _____ catastrophe. Here, communities will face displacement and agricultural land will be lost, posing economic and social challenges.

A comprehensive, coordinated effort is essential, integrating responsible waste (6) _____, (7) _____ development, and a commitment to mitigating the human impact on fragile ecosystems. Only through such measures can we hope to avert the impending (8) _____ disaster.

Language focus

Comparatives

Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 Education about recycling is *now more than ever* / *every bit* as important as the act itself.
- 2 The initiative made *such* / *so* a marked improvement that many boroughs implemented it.
- 3 It was as if the governments didn't have the *lightest* / *faintest* idea about the dire situation.
- 4 As far as I'm concerned, the *faster* / *fastest* we can phase out fossil fuels, the *better* / *best*.
- 5 Trying to get some people to change their habits is *like* / *as* talking to a brick wall.
- 6 Individual behaviour change is *now more* / *not quite as* important as changes in industry.
- 7 If I may be *so bold* / *as bold* as to say, my opponent's company has historically been a major polluter.
- 8 We must work hard to ensure that future generations are *not much* / *no worse off* than we have been.

Expressing contrast

Choose the correct options to complete the text.

The new cleaner, greener alternative to petrol cars began in its life as far back as 1832. **(1)** *Despite* / *Nonetheless* being an innovative concept, it was to take until the second half of the 19th century before electric vehicles really began to take off. The concept was ahead of its time, **(2)** *despite* / *albeit* the first iterations created by Robert Anderson were crude and somewhat impractical.

Since then, EVs have come on in leaps and bounds. More than 650,000 were being driven in the UK in 2023. **(3)** *While* / *Nonetheless* this must be applauded, there are still major obstacles to overcome. The cost of an EV is **(4)** *a great deal* / *comparatively* high compared to petrol vehicles. Most neighbourhoods aren't **(5)** *almost* / *nearly* as prepared as they should be regarding recharging points. And then there's range anxiety: **(6)** *albeit* / *despite* some EVs being able to go 300 miles on one charge, motorists are still concerned about the battery limitations.

And **(7)** *even* / *yet*, EVs remain our best option for tackling harmful emissions. With the right investment, they could become the norm and not just the exception.

Word formation

Complete the gap in the sentence with the correct form of the word given.

- 1 These vegetables have been _____ (**GENE**) modified to make them more resistant to extreme weather, such as drought.
- 2 Once we had identified the issue, we were able to find a way to _____ (**COME**) it.
- 3 Although only _____ (**EMPLOY**) on a casual basis, she spent long hours at the office.
- 4 The recent events were _____ (**ADVANTAGE**) for the other side and really gave a boost to their campaigning.
- 5 People are becoming _____ (**PROGRESS**) more aware of the source of their food.
- 6 The athlete's personal difficulties didn't affect his performance in the _____ (**SLIGHT**).
- 7 Something must be done to slow the accelerating _____ (**DEGRADE**) of land in arid zones.
- 8 Her rude comments highlighted her _____ (**SENSE**) to the feelings of those around her.

Reading and Use of English

Part 3 Word formation

Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space. There is an example at the beginning.

Think before you throw!

Most of us recycle plastic, cans and paper, but what about wood? Although you only have to look up to see trees, this type of recycling is almost (0) _____ (**VISIBLE**) to most of us. But, by recycling wood, fewer trees will need to be felled, which is a big win for oxygen levels in the atmosphere and for the (1) _____ (**CREATE**) of healthy ecosystems.

According to the UK's Woodland Trust, tree cover in the UK has more than doubled over the last 100 years, but this isn't all good news. (2) _____ (**RESPECT**) of this increase, the majority of trees being planted are non-native types, which can alter the species (3) _____ (**COMPOSE**) of the areas in which they occur. As a result, native woodlands remain isolated and have experienced serious declines in woodland wildlife.

The increasing cost of buying wood, along with the need to reuse resources, seems to point towards recycling wood as being essential if we want a (4) _____ (**SUSTAIN**) option. And yet, every year, 4.5 million tonnes of it are needlessly disposed of in (5) _____ (**LAND**).

Isn't it about time we did more to reuse this (6) _____ (**VALUE**) resource? To contribute more to the (7) _____ (**CIRCLE**) economy by preventing (8) _____ (**NECESSARY**) waste? Or, at least recycle it if reuse isn't an option?