

## Part 1

For questions 1-8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

### Example:

A major

B frequent

C similar

D various

### The Eighth Wonder of the World

The Thames Barrier is a **0** \_\_\_\_\_ part of the flood defence scheme for protecting London **1** \_\_\_\_\_ rising water levels. The defenses **2** \_\_\_\_\_ include raised river embankments and additional flood gates at strategic points, including the Barking Barrier. The unique structure that is the Barrier spans the 520-metre wide Woolwich reach and **3** \_\_\_\_\_ of 10 separate movable gates, each pivoting and supported between concrete structures which house the operating machinery.

When raised, the four main gates **4** \_\_\_\_\_ stand as high as a five storey building and as wide as the opening of Tower Bridge. Each **5** \_\_\_\_\_ 3700 tonnes. During the first twelve years of **6** \_\_\_\_\_, the Barrier has been closed twenty nine times to protect London.

**7** \_\_\_\_\_ the Barrier from the comfortable cafeteria. Picnic on the riverside embankment. Enjoy beautiful views from the riverside walk. Visit the shop which stocks a large selection of souvenirs, books and Barrier information.

There is a children's play area suitable for 4- to 12-year olds, located adjacent to the riverside walk. A visit to the spectacular Thames Barrier is a **8** \_\_\_\_\_ experience.

**1** A against

B for

C between

D with

**2** A and

B also

C still

D too

**3** A consists

B includes

C involves

D contains

**4** A which

B every

C each

D none

**5** A measures

B costs

C calculates

D weighs

**6** A operation

B surgery

C vacation

D profession

**7** A Sight

B View

C Hear

D Explore

**8** A forgettable

B memorable

C forgetful

D memorised

## Part 2

For questions 9-16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). In the exam, write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

**Example: IN**

### Datamac

Datamac was the greatest machine **0** \_\_\_\_\_ the world. Its business **9** \_\_\_\_\_ facts: it accepted **10** \_\_\_\_\_, stored them, tested them and delivered them.

It was located in Tokyo, where it received messages and questions from all **11** \_\_\_\_\_ the world. It sent answers to every town and city in every **12** \_\_\_\_\_. An army of workers fed it with facts all the time. Other workers moved about inside Datamac and **13** \_\_\_\_\_ after it.

Datamac had a very special duty. It was in **14** \_\_\_\_\_ of all the facts about every person in the world. Each day it brought these four million facts together, and answered the question: "**15** \_\_\_\_\_ will happen tomorrow?" Every city in the world received report for its own part of the country. And the complete World Report **16** \_\_\_\_\_ to the Chief of the Correction Force in Tokyo. John Williams had been Chief for only three weeks. By now he was not afraid of the World Report every morning. It was just a pile of papers, fifteen centimetres thick.

## Part 3

For questions 17-24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0). In the exam, write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

**Example: ENTHUSIAST**

Being a DIY **0** \_\_\_\_\_ I was happy to take on the challenge of **17** \_\_\_\_\_ an old but **18** \_\_\_\_\_ cottage.

I had been given the **19** \_\_\_\_\_ by a man who used to be an **20** \_\_\_\_\_ of mine before he stopped working for me.

The cottage needed to be changed **21** \_\_\_\_\_, and my friend had to remove all his **22** \_\_\_\_\_ before I could start.

The requirements for such a task are many and before any **23** \_\_\_\_\_ could be made some organisation was needed. The final **24** \_\_\_\_\_ was worth the effort though.

- 0.ENTHUSE
- 17.MODERN
- 18.DELIGHT
- 19.INVITE
- 20.EMPLOY
- 21.EXTEND
- 22.POSSESS
- 23.ARRANGE
- 24.TRANSFORM

## Part 4

For questions 25-30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use **between two and five words**, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

**Example:**

0. They think the owner of the house is in France.

**THOUGHT**

The owner of the house \_\_\_\_\_ in France.

**Example: 0. IS THOUGHT TO BE**

25. The hairdresser did Mary's hair last Tuesday.

**HAD**

Mary \_\_\_\_\_ last Tuesday.

26. Andrew's job is to supervise all the employees of the company.

**RESPONSIBLE**

Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ all the employees of the company.

27. Harry reads faster than his little sister.

**READER**

Harry \_\_\_\_\_ his little sister.

28. "I didn't steal the lady's purse", said the boy.

**DENIED**

The boy \_\_\_\_\_ the lady's purse.

29. It was our first trip to Italy so we were very excited about it.

**TIME**

It was the \_\_\_\_\_ to Italy so we were very excited about it.

30. "Whose car is this?" he asked.

**BELONG**

"Who \_\_\_\_\_ ?" he asked.

## Part 5

You are going to read an extract from the novel, "Alice in Wonderland". For questions 31-36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Before she had drunk half the bottle, she found her head pressing against the ceiling, and had to stoop to save her neck from being broken. She hastily put down the bottle, saying to herself 'That's quite enough - I hope I will not grow any more - as it is, I can't get out at the door - I do wish I hadn't drunk quite so much!'

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Alas, it was too late to wish that! She went on growing, and growing, and very soon had to kneel down on the floor: in another minute there was not even room for this, and she tried the effect of lying down with one elbow against the door, and the other arm curled round her head. Still she went on growing, and, as a last resource, she put one arm out of the window, and one foot up the chimney, and said to herself 'Now I can do no more, whatever happens. What will become of me?'

Luckily for Alice, the little magic bottle had now had its full effect, and she grew no larger: Still it was very uncomfortable, and, as there seemed to be no sort of chance of her ever getting out of the room again, no wonder she felt unhappy.

'It was much pleasanter at home,' thought poor Alice, 'when one wasn't always growing larger and smaller, and being ordered about by mice and rabbits. I almost wish I hadn't gone down that rabbit hole - and yet... and yet - it's rather curious, you know, this sort of life! I do wonder what can have happened to me! When I used to read fairy-tales, I fancied that kind of thing never happened, and now here I am in the middle of one! There ought to be a book written about me, that there ought! And when I grow up, I'll write one... but I'm grown up now,' she added in a sorrowful tone; 'at least there's no room to grow up any more in here.'

'But then,' thought Alice, 'will I never get any older than I am now? That'll be a comfort, one way... never to be an old woman... but then... always to have lessons to learn! Oh, I shouldn't like that!'

'Oh, you foolish Alice!' she answered herself. 'How can you learn lessons in here? Why, there's hardly room for you, and no room at all for any lesson books!'

And so she went on, taking first one side and then the other, and making quite a conversation of it altogether; but after a few minutes she heard a voice outside, and stopped to listen.

'Mary Ann! Mary Ann!' said the voice. 'Fetch me my gloves this moment!' Then came a little pattering of feet on the stairs. Alice knew it was the Rabbit coming to look for her, and she trembled till she shook the house, quite forgetting that she was now about a thousand times as large as the Rabbit, and had no reason to be afraid of it.

Presently the Rabbit came up to the door, and tried to open it; but, as the door opened inwards, and Alice's elbow was pressed hard against it, that attempt proved a failure. Alice heard it say to itself 'Then I'll go round and get in at the window.'

'That you won't' thought Alice, and, after waiting till she fancied she heard the Rabbit just under the window, she suddenly spread out her hand, and made a snatch in the air. She did not get hold of anything, but she heard a little shriek and a fall, and a crash of broken glass, from which she concluded that it was just possible it had fallen into a cucumber-frame, or something of the sort.

Next came an angry voice - the Rabbit's - 'Pat! Pat! Where are you?' And then a voice she had never heard before, 'Sure then I'm here! Digging for apples, your honour!'

'Digging for apples, indeed!' said the Rabbit angrily. 'Here! Come and help me out of this!' (Sounds of more broken glass.)

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'Now tell me, Pat, what's that in the window?'

'Sure, it's an arm, your honour!'

'An arm, you goose! Who ever saw one that size? Why, it fills the whole window!'

'Sure, it does, your honour: but it's an arm for all that.'

**31.** Why didn't Alice leave the house when she noticed she was growing?

- A. She couldn't find her way out.
- B. She was already too big.
- C. She was hiding from the Rabbit.
- D. She was comfortable there.

**32.** As she grew, Alice had to

- A. keep changing position.
- B. break the roof of the house.
- C. be very gentle.
- D. climb up the chimney.

**33.** Alice had a long conversation with

- A. the Rabbit.
- B. herself.
- C. an old woman.
- D. Pat.

**34.** Mary Ann is most likely

- A. the name of the Rabbit.
- B. what the Rabbit calls Alice.
- C. Alice's little sister.
- D. Alice's friend.

**35.** Before the Rabbit called him, Pat was spending his time

- A. doing something secret.
- B. hiding from the Rabbit.
- C. doing something silly.
- D. growing food.

**36.** Why does the Rabbit argue about what they see in the window?

- A. He knows that Pat is foolish.
- B. He can't see it clearly.
- C. He can't believe his eyes.
- D. He is trying to trick Pat.

## Part 6

You are going to read a magazine article about one person's experience of being aware while she is dreaming, called lucid dreaming. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (37-42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. 37 \_\_\_.

### Lucid Dreaming

The other night I experienced a lucid dream. In the dream I was sitting gazing into our fish aquarium. I peered in closely, examining our spotted suckerfish. I often gaze at him because he never moves much in the daytime. I watch him to see if he is OK. As I stared at him, suddenly I noticed there were two more suckerfish! They were identical to the original.

37 \_\_\_. Then I wondered where they could have come from. As I pondered this I abruptly realised that I must be dreaming! 38 \_\_\_. I jumped up and looked around. There were other people in this dream with me. I had a husband, a son and a dog. Before looking at the fish, I had been going along, living my daily life in a mundane fashion. The last thing I had remembered doing was feeding the dog and kissing my little boy on the head while he played on the kitchen floor.

As I looked at these people, I realised it wasn't my real husband or either of my real children - I excitedly blurted out at them that we were all dreaming. 39 \_\_\_. I yelled again "We are dreaming!" As I became even more self-conscious, I announced that I could test my theory by flying.

If this really was a dream, I should be able to fly! So I jumped up and flew to the ceiling. I can still see the look on the man's face as he watched me float up to the ceiling. Unfortunately, as I watched the fear and doubt on his face, I began to fall. I sank all the way back down and landed with a hard thud on the floor. When that happened, I began to doubt my own perception and lost my awareness as I fell back into a regular dream state.

The above is an example of lucid dreaming. 40 \_\_\_. You are aware that you are dreaming, while dreaming. If you have ever had it happen to you spontaneously, you understand how exciting it is, the heart races with excitement at your prospects.

Gazing at something in your home or on your body, such as your hands during your regular workday is a technique used by dream researchers to induce lucid dreaming. Another technique is to continually ask yourself throughout the day if you are dreaming. 41 \_\_\_. On another occasion just before becoming lucid in a dream, I noticed that my kitchen cupboards were the wrong colour, which alerted me. The duplicated fish are another example.

Stephen LaBerge, the pioneer of lucid dreaming research, suggests that once you can become lucid, there is no limit to what your imagination can create in a dream. 42 \_\_\_. You can even try out things you've always wanted to try and see what it is like. It has been discovered, and my experience supports this, that when you do become lucid, it is extremely difficult to stay that way. Research has shown though that the more you do

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it, the better at it you get and the better your control is. Often a few seconds of lucidity is all that is manageable. It is still a thrilling experience.

- A. "Of course!" I said; that explains this.
- B. At first I was startled and shocked, surprised that there were more.
- C. It truly is amazing, from flying, to inventing, to art.
- D. After waking from the dream and becoming lucid, I remember gazing at my hands and noticing that they were an odd shape.
- E. My husband looked at me, perplexed.
- F. If you develop these habits - if you happen to be in a dream state while looking at your hands - you will be tipped off when your hands look odd.
- G. Lucid dreaming is the state of being conscious in your dreams.

## Part 7

*You are going to read four accounts of people who have followed their dreams and travelled someplace amazing. For questions 43-52, choose from the people (A-D). The people may be chosen more than once.*

### Which person...

- 43. interacted closely with wild animals? \_\_\_
- 44. was participating in a water sport? \_\_\_
- 45. did not think he/she would like the place so much? \_\_\_
- 46. was in relatively close proximity to dangerous animals? \_\_\_
- 47. refers to documenting their travel experiences? \_\_\_
- 48. appreciated the advantages of travelling alone? \_\_\_
- 49. spent time near places of worship? \_\_\_
- 50. told someone all about his/her experience? \_\_\_
- 51. compared the place he/she visited with other places? \_\_\_
- 52. was shown around by a professional? \_\_\_

### Following Dream

#### A Harry

Just north of Fregate I met two manta rays. They were seven or eight feet wide with massive outstretched fins that seemed like rubberized wings. The water was murky, rich with plankton that attracted the giant rays that filtered it through their wide mouths. They treated me with caution, maintaining a constant distance if I turned towards them, but were content to let me swim on a parallel course, as if I, too, was feeding on the plankton. For a few minutes we were companions, until, circling and shifting shape against the depths, they became faint black shadows in the gloom and were gone. The deep blue of the Indian Ocean has captured my heart and drawn me back again and again to these pure shores. On Praslin there were dolphins offshore and a pair of octopus, sliding across the coral as they flashed signals to one another with changing skin tones as remarkable as - but much faster than - any chameleon. At Conception, close to

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Mahe, giant rocks formed an underwater cathedral beckoning me into its vaults where moray eels gaped at me, the strange visitor to their liquid world.

### B Gabriel

And so my first real trip to Asia unfolded in what seemed a series of dream-panels - adventures and faces and events so far removed from my day-to-day experience that I could not convert them into any tongue I knew. I revisited them again and again, sleepless, in my memories and notes and photographs, once home.

Almost every day of the three-week trip was so vivid that, upon returning, I gave a friend a nine-hour account of every moment. The motorbike ride through Sukhothai; the first long lazy evening in an expat's teak house in Sunkumvhit; the flight into the otherworldly charm of Rangoon and the Strand Hotel, and the pulse of warm activity around the Sule Pagoda at nightfall. Long hot days in the silence, 5,000 temples on every side; slow trips at dawn along Inle lake, seeing a bird-faced boat being led through the quiet water; a frenzied morning back in Bangkok, writing an article while monsoon rains pounded on the windows all around me.

### C Maya

As I stepped off the six-seater Cessna plane after a bumpy flight over the Okavango Delta and my feet touched the arid ground I knew this was what I'd been waiting for all my life - Africa. Our first day was at the Selinda Camp in one of the driest parts of the Delta and when we arrived I thought that nothing could possibly survive under the relentless sun. I was almost immediately proved wrong, as Selinda is near a small lagoon - home to a group of hippos. At night we could hear their bark-like call.

Our guides warned us that although hippos may seem harmless, if threatened, they could easily kill a man! We went on to stay in various other camps that were situated in different habitats. Jacana Camp was surrounded entirely by water and only accessible by boat. But my favourite place was the Kalahari Desert. Our final camp was located just on the edge of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, which are home to many rare species of animal, such as the brown hyena.

### D Tom

I'd been to New York three times in the past but not for long and I couldn't remember much of it. This time I only had four days but I was on my own and this seems like a better way to get to know a city: less being sociable, more walking and visiting different places. Perfect. I liked New York even more than I expected and it's right up there on my list of foreign cities where I'd like to live. It's fighting for the top spot with San Francisco, with the next position occupied by Paris. I stayed at the Incentra Village House, which was lovely: reasonably priced, really friendly, comfortable rooms. I'd stay there again. I did a lot of walking and could easily have done a lot more. I rarely left Manhattan. One day I walked more than 12 miles, including the length of Central Park and on down Fifth Avenue. Fifth Avenue was the least pleasant place; it felt like London's Oxford Street. I also walked along the High Line, which is very nicely done, although rather shorter than Paris's Promenade Plantee.



## Answer Keys

### Part 1

1. **A - against.** 'To protect against something' is the only correct collocation in this context. 'To protect with something' would mean using something for protection, not protecting from something, in that case the rising water levels.
2. **B - also.** The only conjunction that fits grammatically.
3. **A - consists.** The only verb in the list that can be followed by 'of'.
4. **C - each.** 'Which' shouldn't be used here as it would be introducing an additional clause, which is not present in the sentence.
5. **D - weighs.** The mass of the gates is mentioned.
6. **A - operation.** Being engaged in work or being active, functioning.
7. **B - View.** Look at or see. 'Sight' can't be used as a verb. 'Hear' doesn't fit as you're unlikely to hear it - it makes no noise unless being lifted, which doesn't happen very often. 'Explore' doesn't make sense - you can't explore it sitting in a cafeteria.
8. **B - memorable.** Something important or exciting, something you're likely to remember.

### Part 2

9. **was.** The previous sentences suggests we are talking about the past. A verb 'to be' in past simple is all we need here.
10. **them.** The same construction with 'them' is used throughout the sentence: "... accepted them, stored them, tested them... "
11. **over.** "From all over the world" is a set phrase here.
12. **country/region.** Both words can be used here.
13. **looked.** 'To look after' here is to take care, to make sure it is in good working order.
14. **charge/control/possession.** Was responsible for/controlled/had the facts.
15. **What.** The introductory word for the question.
16. **went.** 'Sent' can't be used here as it would require 'to' before to make is passive.

### Part 3

17. **modernising.** 'In charge of doing something'. If you choose to spell it with a 'z' instead of 's', make sure you remain consistent in your spelling throughout your exam.
18. **delightful.** An adjective with the positive meaning, suggest with 'old, but' construction.
19. **invitation.** Make sure to spell the word right.
20. **employee.** Not an 'employer', as the man worked for the author, not the other way round.
21. **extensively.** An adverb is required here, pay attention to your spelling.
22. **possessions.** Another [tricky to spell](#) word, two double 's'.
23. **arrangements.** More words with difficult spelling, this time a noun. 'To make arrangements' is to prepare something that is needed in order to do something.

24. **transformation.**

**Part 4**

25. **had her hair done.** The first 'had' refers to the passive voice, the second one - to past simple ('last Tuesday').
26. **is responsible for supervising.** 'To be responsible for doing something' - to have the duty to do something.
27. **is a faster reader than.** A comparison is needed here, do not to forget the indefinite [article](#).
28. **denied stealing/having stolen.** Do not forget that the limit on words is as low as two, so 'denied stealing' is acceptable.
29. **first time we had travelled/been.** Since we're using 'it', we are referring to so-called 'past in the past', and to show what happened first we have to use Past Perfect.
30. **does this car belong to.** "to belong to someone"

**Part 5**

31. **B.** First paragraph of the text: "... I hope I will not grow any more – as it is, I can't get out at the door...".
32. **A.** Second paragraph: "She went on growing, and growing, and very soon had to kneel down on the floor: in another minute there was not even room for this, and she tried the effect of lying down with one elbow against the door, and the other arm curled round her head."
33. **B.** Alice keeps on having an internal dialogue with herself for the next few paragraphs. The Rabbit comes much later.
34. **B.** In the same paragraph that begins with "Mary Ann!...", third sentence: "Alice knew it was the Rabbit coming to look for her". That's the name he called Alice.
35. **C.** "'Digging for apples, indeed!' said the Rabbit angrily." - the tone indicates Rabbit's dissatisfaction with pet. He was doing something silly - apples shouldn't be dug for as they grow on trees.
36. **C.** "An arm, you goose! Who ever saw one that size? Why, it fills the whole window!" - Rabbit has never seen an arm that big and he doesn't believe his eyes.

**Part 6**

37. **B.** "...surprised that there were more." refers to the last sentence of the previous paragraph with the more fish. The sentence after the gap confirms the choice - the author wonders where 'they' could have come from.
38. **A.** The author comes realisation of dreaming, saying 'Of course!' as the idea strikes them.
39. **E.** The husband from the dream is mentioned before. 'Perplexed' means lost or confused.
40. **G.** First the term of lucid dreaming is introduced, and the explanation of it is given in the following sentence.
41. **F.** The habits to develop lucid dreaming skills, especially the hands techniques, are mentioned in the preceding sentences.

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42.C. The sentence that follows the gap continues the list with "You can even try out things you've always wanted to try..."

### Part 7

43.A. Throughout the paragraph the author mentions occasions of meeting and interacting various sea animals.

44.A. One can infer from context that the author is swimming either by means of a boat, a board, or without any equipment.

45.D. *I liked New York even more than I expected...*

46.C. The author mentions hearing the 'bark-like' call of hippos at night. In the next sentence it is mentioned that hippos can be very dangerous, if provoked. Paragraph A shouldn't be used for answer as no animals listed in it are described as dangerous.

47.B. *I revisited them again and again, sleepless, in my memories and notes and photographs, once home.*

48.D... *this seems like a better way to get to know a city: less being sociable, more walking and visiting different places.*

49.B. *Long hot days in the silence, 5,000 temples on every side...*

50.B. *Almost every day of the three-week trip was so vivid that, upon returning, I gave a friend a nine-hour account of every moment.*

51.D. Last two sentences of the paragraph make comparisons, including Oxford Street in London and Promenade Plantee in Paris.

52.C. *Our guides warned us that although hippos may seem harmless, if threatened, they could easily kill a man*

## Vocabulary

The vocabulary below is meant to help you with the more difficult words. If the word isn't on the list then you are either supposed to know it or it is too specific to be worth learning and you don't have to know it to answer the question. Symbols in brackets mean part of speech (see bottom of the list). Sentences in italics give examples of usage for some more complex words and phrases.

**And remember — you are not given a vocabulary list (or a dictionary) at your real exam.**

### Part 1

**Flood** (n) - a natural phenomenon of rising water levels in lakes, rivers and other bodies of water that causes damage to crops and infrastructure.

**Embankment** (n) - a raised, man-made platform at river or sea bank that is used either for pleasure or utility, such as preventing floods.

**Pivot** (v) - to turn with the center being the point of rotation.

**Stock** (v) - (here) to keep in stock i.e. to have available at the shop to purchase now rather than order

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something and wait for it to arrive.

**Adjacent to** - right next to something.

### Part 2

**Move about** (phr v) - to move around.

**Pile** (n) - an unordered mass of things lying on some surface like the ground or a table. *When I opened his briefcase, there was a pile of money, most of the notes crumpled or dirty.*

### Part 3

**DIY** - Do-It-Yourself, a practice of making or assembling something with your own hands.

**Take on the challenge of doing smth** - to accept a difficult task.

### Part 4

**Do smb's hair** - to give somebody a haircut

**Purse** (n) - a very small bag for your money, credit and business cards as well as coins. Notably, in American English it means a handbag - a much larger container for things.

### Part 5

**Stoop** (v) - to bend your shoulders forwards because you are cold, insecure or you (in this context) need to enter someplace with low ceiling.

**Hastily** (adv) - quickly and without thinking because of fear or hurry.

**Sorrowful** (adj) - full of sadness and regret.

**Fetch** (v) - to bring something. *The teacher asked one of the students to fetch him some chalk from the storage room as he had ran out of it.*

**Tremble** (v) - to shake or shiver because of being cold or afraid of something.

**Snatch** (n) - (here) close your hand on something in an attempt to catch it. *She snatched the ping-pong ball before it fell on the ground.*

### Part 6

**Lucid dreaming** - the act or practice of seeing dreams that you have control over, i.e. understanding that you are asleep but not waking up

**Stare** (v) - to look at something intensely and for a long time. If you stare at something you find it interesting. Staring at other can be considered impolite.

**Ponder** (v) - if you ponder something you think about it long and hard

**Mundane** (adj) - uninteresting, ordinary, boring. *Another mundane week at work was over and I was happy to have the weekend all to myself.*

**Blurt out** (phr v) - to say something loud after you had kept it a secret for some time.

**Thud** (n) - a sound made by a heavy object hitting some surface i.e. a book falling on wooden floor.

**Prospects** (n) - opportunities or possibilities. Can be used both positively and negatively.

**Gaze** (v) - similar to stare, but you gaze at something or someone because you find it beautiful or attractive.

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**Induce** (v) - to make something happen, to help something happen quicker.

**Perplexed** (adj) - confused and feeling uncomfortable because you do not understand something.

### Part 7

**Interact** (v) - to spend time with, to communicate. I knew John pretty well because we had to interact professionally for some years.

**Proximity** (n) - how close something is to something else. The proximity of school made this house a great purchase for young families or those seeking to rent it out.

**Murky** (adj) - difficult to see through because of dirt or darkness.

**Gape at smth** - to look at smth with surprise with your mouth open. Can often be used figuratively for humorous effect.

**Revisit** (v) - to look back to, to live through it again in your memories.

**Vivid** (adj) - bright, detailed, clear. My memories of the vacation in the Caribbean were very vivid indeed.

**Monsoon** (n) - South-East Asia natural seasonal phenomenon with lots of heavy rains.

**Arid** (adj) - so dry that no plants or other vegetation grows there. The arid fields stretched as far as we could see, the sight was quite depressing.

**Relentless** (adj) - merciless and intense, unstoppable. The relentless rainfall kept us indoors for the better part of the week.