

## FCE Reading and Use of English – Practice Test 8

### 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 keep out of                      **B put up with**                      C miss out on                      D stand up for

#### Planes can make it rain

Living next to an airport has always meant having to **0** \_\_\_\_\_ the noise of planes landing and taking off. Now it seems that **1** \_\_\_\_\_ residents also have bad weather, according to a **2** \_\_\_\_\_ published study.

The scientists looked at satellite **3** \_\_\_\_\_ of clouds above airports, and also studied computer models of the way clouds behave. What they found was that as a plane flies through a very cold cloud, the air behind it expands and then cools **4** \_\_\_\_\_ rapidly. This sudden drop in temperature, **5** \_\_\_\_\_ with the hole formed in the cloud where the plane has passed through, can increase the **6** \_\_\_\_\_ of rain or snow on the ground.

In the case of major airports, with hundreds of flights every day, this can have a significant **7** \_\_\_\_\_ on weather patterns up to 100 kilometres away. The researchers point out, however, that aircraft passing through clouds are **8** \_\_\_\_\_ to affect the global climate.

- |                  |               |               |                 |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 A neighbouring | B close       | C local       | D surrounded    |
| 2 A lately       | B recently    | C lastly      | D freshly       |
| 3 A images       | B figures     | C aspects     | D portraits     |
| 4 A totally      | B extremely   | C entirely    | D perfectly     |
| 5 A joined       | B attached    | C composed    | D combined      |
| 6 A forecasts    | B certainties | C chances     | D opportunities |
| 7 A result       | B influence   | C consequence | D impression    |
| 8 A doubtful     | B unsure      | C unlikely    | D improbable    |

### 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: OF

#### Cycling makes financial sense

These days, most people are aware **0** \_\_\_\_\_ the environmental impact of motor vehicles, and they realise that cars are responsible **9** \_\_\_\_\_ many of the problems facing their cities. Not **10** \_\_\_\_\_ people, however, ever stop **11** \_\_\_\_\_ think about how much money they would save by switching from driving to cycling.

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Cars cost a lot to buy, and **12** \_\_\_\_\_ other major investments such as houses, they quickly lose their value. On **13** \_\_\_\_\_ of that, there are running costs such as repair bills, tax and insurance, all of **14** \_\_\_\_\_ seem to go up every year.

Bicycles, by contrast, are far **15** \_\_\_\_\_ expensive to purchase and maintain, do not require petrol and are easy to park. And if a lot more people took up cycling, the government could spend less of the nation's resources on roads, which at present their taxes help pay for **16** \_\_\_\_\_ they drive on them or not.

### 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:** PREDICTIONS

#### Too many emails

Some years ago, there were **0** \_\_\_\_\_ that email would soon be replaced as the most common means of online communication by social **17** \_\_\_\_\_ sites. Since then, however, the number of emails sent has increased **18** \_\_\_\_\_, to the point that the volume received on a daily basis has become **19** \_\_\_\_\_ for many people.

0.PREDICT

17.WORK

18.STEADY

19.STRESS

20.BEAR

For some users, the situation has become so **20** \_\_\_\_\_ that they regularly delete all the emails they receive without even bothering to read them, which is rather **21** \_\_\_\_\_, to say the least. A less extreme measure is to install software that sorts incoming mail into different categories. By doing this, promotions from **22** \_\_\_\_\_ organisations, for instance, go into a separate folder from messages arriving from friends or employers, **23** \_\_\_\_\_ us to see which emails are more important than others. Not all of us, though, may be so keen to let software make such **24** \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

21.RISK

22.COMMERCE

23.ABLE

24.DECIDE

### 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.** Everyone expects that the Olympic champion will win the next race, too.

**EXPECTED**

The Olympic champion \_\_\_\_\_ win the next race, too.

**Example: 0. IS EXPECTED TO**

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25. 'I'll take you to the station if you're ready,' my brother said.

**LONG**

My brother said he'd take me to the station \_\_\_\_\_ ready.

26. My bike needs repairing again.

**GET**

I'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ again.

27. The firm said profits had fallen on account of the recession.

**FALL**

The firm blamed \_\_\_\_\_ the recession.

28. Sigourney regretted spending so much in the shops.

**WISHED**

Sigourney \_\_\_\_\_ less in the shops.

29. People believe that poem was written about these beautiful hills.

**HAVE**

That poem \_\_\_\_\_ written about these beautiful hills.

30. Without your help, I wouldn't have finished the job.

**BEEN**

I wouldn't have finished the job if \_\_\_\_\_ your help.

## Part 5

*You are going to read an article about studying abroad for a year. For questions 31-36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.*

### **A lot can happen in a year abroad**

*Like many students before her, studying abroad had a profound affect on Sarah Morrison*

As I sat staring out at California's spectacular Big Sur coastline, I felt fortunate to have a sister who had persuaded me to spend a year of my degree abroad. It seems that there are not enough older siblings explaining just how easy it is to take part in an international exchange.

While most universities offer worldwide exchanges, where students swap places with others from all over the world for a semester or a year during their degree, the number and quality on offer, together with the cost and time spent abroad, vary dramatically.

A deciding factor for me in choosing to study at the University of Edinburgh was the fact it offered more than 230 exchange places at overseas universities in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and South America.

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Despite all this choice, I still found that deciding to spend a year abroad was something of a novelty, with most of my friends giving more thought to embracing Edinburgh than packing their bags to leave a city that had only just become their home. Yet, fortified by my sister's advice and a Californian friend who told me I would love the coast, I applied to spend my third year at the University of California, Berkeley - never guessing that this would affect almost every future decision I would make.

From the start of your exchange, you are aware that the time you have in your new country is limited and not to be wasted. Your experience is shaped by a predetermined start and end, which immediately increases the significance of the time in between.

From the first week I arrived, I started to work at The Daily Californian, Berkeley's student newspaper. I moved from an international house with more than 600 students from all over the world into a co-operative house where 60 of us shared responsibility for management of the building. I met people from Calcutta, Cairo and Chile, and learnt that holding on to any stereotypes I might have about Americans would be about as useful as assuming that all European people lived on farms.

The grades I earned at Berkeley didn't actually count towards my degree classification at Edinburgh. However, I studied under a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, signed up for student-led seminars and took an African American literature class that shaped my dissertation in Edinburgh. Whether I was learning about contemporary poets on a tour of San Francisco or reporting on the President's speech in San Francisco for the next day's newspaper, my stay there enabled me to return to Edinburgh with an increased sense of awareness about what I wanted to gain from my English literature degree.

While the expense might seem like an initial barrier to international exchanges, in reality they can actually save a student money. Visas, health insurance and flights to the chosen country will have to be bought, but a student will usually only be charged 25 to 50 per cent of their home university's annual fees. A student travelling abroad is entitled to a larger student loan, and grants are available at many institutions for students going on an exchange.

Taking part in an exchange may not appeal to all students. You have to research the options independently, apply almost a year before you go away and be aware of the grades required in the first year to qualify for a place on one. Even so, Edinburgh's international exchange officer, Helen Leitch, says: 'If I had a pound for every time that students told me it was the best experience of their life, I would be a very wealthy woman indeed.'

- 31.** One reason Sarah became a student at Edinburgh University was that
- A she could first study abroad and then move to Edinburgh.
  - B her sister had previously studied at Edinburgh.
  - C she could do part of her studies at a suitable university abroad.
  - D most of the students at Edinburgh spend a year at an overseas university

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32. How did Sarah feel when she went to Berkeley?

- A She was pleased to find the people were exactly as she had expected.
- B She knew she wanted to make the most of her stay there.
- C She wanted to get a job rather than begin studying immediately.
- D She began to wish her stay there could be a little shorter.

33. What does Sarah feel she achieved at Berkeley?

- A She formed a clearer idea of what her long-term aims were.
- B She took the first steps towards becoming a teacher.
- C She developed her poetry-writing skills significantly.
- D She ensured that she would graduate with a first-class degree.

34. What does Sarah say about the cost of an international university exchange?

- A As a student you can get reduced rates for health insurance.
- B Your fees may be cut by half for every year of your course.
- C It can be cheaper overall than studying in your own country.
- D Taking cheap flights abroad can save you a lot of money.

35. What does 'one' refer to in the last paragraph (underlined)?

- A an international exchange as part of a university course
- B a research degree at a university in another country
- C a university course that is paid for by the government
- D the first year of a university course in your own country

36. What does Helen Leitch suggest in the final paragraph?

- A Students who do international exchanges often go on to become extremely rich.
- B Most students who've done an international exchange believe it was highly worthwhile.
- C Only students from rich families can afford to do an international exchange.
- D She should be paid a far higher salary for organising international exchanges.

## Part 6

*You are going to read an article in which a television news producer talks about his work. 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.*

### Working as a TV news producer

*Rob Cole has produced TV news for decades now, working on anything from international celebrities to global conflicts. He shares the benefit of his considerable experience in the industry*

Rob's time behind the cameras has coincided with huge changes in the way news is reported - from a time when everyone bought local newspapers, through the birth of 24-hour rolling news, and now the Internet. But what is the work like on a day-to-day basis?

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Rob's always worked in foreign news, so his focus is obviously on news from around the world. As you can imagine, there's a lot of that. Rob comes in early, having checked his phone, social media, and listened to as many news programmes as he could. **37** \_\_\_. Running the foreign section is like a never-ending contest - constantly trying to get his journalists' news presented ahead of the TV station's other sections.

Once you have a story it's then a matter of making sure that wherever the journalist is, the report comes into the building - through satellite, Internet or other routes - and it is ready to run on air on time. **38** \_\_\_. There's nothing like getting a note from the producer at another network congratulating on a job well done. The low points, on the other hand, are much less pleasant: 'I've had colleagues badly injured.'

So how can you become a news producer? Says Rob: 'We get loads of applications. **39** \_\_\_. Don't be put off; people in this business admire people who don't give up.'

You need to be keen to learn and, of course, take a real interest in current affairs. 'You have to be obsessed with news, constantly following it. Even if you're a creative producer, doing graphics, you still have to care about what's going on in the world. Also, some people think about going into the media just because it sounds exciting. That would be a mistake; you have to really want to do the job. Luck's involved too, of course. **40** \_\_\_.'

In some ways, Rob's job should remain fairly constant for the next few years. 'They will always need someone to make decisions and take responsibility for newsgathering. However, what will change is the way in which news is delivered. When I started in TV, the crew used to consist of a reporter, producer, a camera operator, a sound person, and sometimes even a separate lighting person. **41** \_\_\_. Now there's just the reporter and a multitasking camera operator who also edits and supplies the written material - if you're lucky!'

'Before long there will be a crew of just one, shooting all their own material on a smartphone, then editing and voicing that material, before sending it to head office, where it ends up going straight on air. **42** \_\_\_. Actually, this has already started to happen. The technology will just get quicker and quicker and smaller and smaller.'

- A.** You might write to just the right person at the right time.
- B.** Turning the device around and pressing the live app button also enables live broadcasting into the same programme.
- C.** They would be loaded down with equipment and some of them would be linked by cable.
- D.** With this information, before any stories actually come in, he then decides on the news priorities of the day.
- E.** In those days it was possible to start a career in news without even going to university: you went straight into training on a local paper.
- F.** Making sure it does so matters, especially given the friendly competition with other TV networks: 'beating the other networks' is a real highlight.
- G.** I always endeavour to reply, but from my own experience too many people don't get back to you, so it's best to keep trying.

## Part 7

You are going to read a magazine article about adults who have met an old school friend again through social media. For questions 43-52, choose from the people(A-E). The people may be chosen more than once.

### Which section...

43. is surprised at the job her friend now has?
44. is sure that this time their friendship will last?
45. thinks her life may have changed as a result of meeting her friend again?
46. feels that in one way she and her friend have similar personalities?
47. believes that even without the Internet they would have met again?
48. regrets losing contact with her friend years ago?
49. was initially unsure whether she wanted to talk to her friend again?
50. told her friend she was sad to hear what had happened to her?
51. was surprised at how little her friend's appearance had changed?
52. admits she wrongly predicted her friend would never have a successful career?

### Friends again

Five people talk about the school friends they have met up with again thanks to social media websites.

#### A Nadia Hassan

Although we've been living in different countries for a long time, I know I should have made more of an effort to stay in touch with Amina because we always got on well together, even though we're quite different people. For instance, I'm much more ambitious than her and have no plans to start a family, whereas she already has two children. It's quite a contrast in lifestyle, and although it's great that we're both content with our own lives - and we've enjoyed catching up with each other's news - I don't really know whether in the future we'll have enough in common to keep the relationship going.

#### B Julia Nowak

The first thing that struck me was that Natalia still looked much the same as she had ten years earlier, unlike some other people in their late twenties - especially those who have had serious personal issues to deal with during that time. She's also still very keen on sports, which I'm not, but she remains as sociable as she ever was and I suppose we're quite alike in that respect. In fact, she was one of the first people I thought of when the idea of contacting my old classmates occurred to me, and it's great you can do that online so easily. Otherwise you could lose touch with them forever.

#### C Olivia Morgan

Back in our school days I always liked Megan, but she was never keen on studying so I sort of took it for granted that she would end up doing a job that didn't require qualifications. Now it turns out she went on to do really well academically and for two years was a Philosophy lecturer at a top university. The other mistake I made was being rather cautious about responding when she first got in touch with me online last

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autumn, when in fact as soon as we saw each other on the screen we started chatting again as if that ten-year gap had never existed. I think we both quickly realised that we wouldn't ever let anything like that happen again.

### D Maite Silva

I was delighted when Carla told me she has such a good job. Somehow I always knew she'd do well, though I must confess that back then she was the last person I would have imagined becoming an economist because she was pretty hopeless at maths. But when she appeared on my laptop screen after all those years I was impressed by how mature she sounded and looked, and in fact she might be having an influence on me. Ever since we met up again. I've found myself taking a more serious attitude to my career, with promotion now a real possibility.

### E Yan Lin

When I realised my old classmate Ming was trying to contact me I didn't hesitate for a second in replying. Somehow I'd always known that one way or another we were bound to run into each other at some point, because when we left school we'd both gone off to do the same subject at different universities. What I hadn't been prepared for, though, was the news that she'd had to interrupt her studies owing to personal problems. I expressed my sympathy, but she assured me she'd recovered and eventually graduated, and that since then she's been working in advertising. Which of course is exactly what I do, too.

## Answer Keys

### Part 1

1. **C- local.** 'Local residents' makes the only strong collocation of the four.
2. **B - recently.** A study that has been published short time ago.
3. **A- images.** A satellite image is a picture taken from the orbit of our planet.
4. **B- extremely.** The only word having the meaning of 'very rapidly'.
5. **D- combined.** The only word of the four that can be used with 'of'. If something is combined with something else, they are joined together.
6. **C- chances.** To increase chances of something is to make something more likely to happen.
7. **B - influence.** This is the only noun that collocates with 'on' preposition.
8. **C - unlikely.** Unlikely to do something. 'Doubtful' is not used with 'to' infinitive; 'Unsure' doesn't fit grammatically; 'Improbable' has the meaning 'impossible' here.

### Part 2

9. **for.** 'To be responsible for something' means to be the reason that something has happened, especially something bad.
10. **many.** The idea in these two sentences is that despite the obvious advantages of cycling, few people actually use bicycles.
11. **to/and.** Both options can be used with slightly different meaning: 'Stop to think' is to stop in order to spend some time thinking about it; 'Stop and think' are two actions followed by one another.
12. **unlike.** A contrast is made between large investments - houses and cars.
13. **top.** 'On top of that' is a set expression meaning 'in addition to something'.
14. **which.** A relative clause that requires the usage of which (and not that).
15. **less.** Making a comparison with the topic of the previous paragraph - cars - we can deduce, that the word 'less' (and not 'more') is required here.
16. **whether.** 'Whether or not' means 'unimportant which of the two options is true'.

### Part 3

17. **network/networking.** Either is acceptable.
18. **steadily.** Adverb that means 'at an even rate'.
19. **stressful.** An adjective that denotes stress is needed. Note the ending '-ful' with only one 'l'.
20. **unbearable.** An adjective with a negative meaning is required. Make sure to spell the word right.
21. **risky.** An adjective with the meaning of risk.
22. **commercial.** Do not forget to spell it with double 'm', otherwise you won't get the point for this question.

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23. **enabling.** A prefix 'en-' is added as well as the ending '-ing' to form a verb.  
24. **decisions.** A plural form is needed as we are not talking about one email, but many of them.

### Part 4

25. **as/so long as I was.** Remember that in reported speech we take one step back with all the tenses (as I was...).
26. **get my old bike repaired.** Passive voice is used here - as suggested by the keyword 'get'.
27. **the fall in profits on.** 'To blame on something or someone'. The main difficulty is using the right [preposition](#).
28. **wished (that) she had/she'd spent.** Past Perfect is needed here to show what happened first and what followed it. In this case first she spent money, then she regretted.
29. **is believed to have been.** Another passive voice construction. Make sure to spell 'believed' right.
30. **it had not been for.** Another Past Perfect tense example to show relation of actions in time.

### Part 5

31. **C.** Paragraph Three, first sentence: '*A deciding factor for me in choosing to study at the University of Edinburgh was the fact it offered more than 230 exchange places at overseas universities*'. Answer A is not mentioned. Answer B doesn't fit - her sister persuaded her to study abroad, not in Edinburgh specifically. The opposite of Answer D is said in the text: '*... deciding to spend a year abroad was something of a novelty, with most of my friends giving more thought to embracing Edinburgh...*'
32. **B.** Paragraph Five contains the answer, even though it is mentioned before Berkeley, it relates to it as Berkeley was the ultimate aim of going to California. The opposite of Answer A is mentioned - people didn't live up to popular stereotypes (end of Paragraph Six). Answers C and D are not mentioned.
33. **A.** Last sentence of Paragraph Seven: '*... my stay there enabled me to return to Edinburgh with an increased sense of awareness about what I wanted to gain from my English literature degree.*' Answer C is mentioned as a minor detail.
34. **C.** Paragraph Eight, second sentence says that you only pay a fraction of what you would normally pay in your home university. Therefore, it can actually be much cheaper. Other answers are either not mentioned or given partial attention.
35. **A.** To qualify for a place on the international exchange programme. The whole paragraph talks about the possible difficulties of getting there.
36. **B.** The cases of satisfied students are very numerous - they believe that their time abroad was well worth it.

**Part 6**

- 37.**D.** 'This information' in D refers to whatever he learns from his phone, social media and so on, to prioritise his tasks.
- 38.**F.** 'Making sure it does so' is getting the report into the studio, ready to be read live.
- 39.**G.** 'it's best to keep trying' helps to connect it to the next sentence: 'Don't be put off; people in this business admire people who don't give up.'
- 40.**A.** Sentence A is the best way to illustrate how luck can be a huge factor in this kind of business.
- 41.**C.** The idea of the paragraph is how equipment is getting smaller, better and easier to use. Sentence C shows how in the past it took a number of people with various hardware to shoot the news.
- 42.**B.** An additional argument is presented in favour of the future of reporting and news in general.

**Part 7**

- 43.**D.** *'... I must confess that back then she was the last person I would have imagined becoming an economist because she was pretty hopeless at maths.'*
- 44.**C.** *'... in fact as soon as we saw each other on the screen we started chatting again as if that ten-year gap had never existed.'*
- 45.**D.** *'... in fact she might be having an influence on me.'*
- 46.**B.** *'... she remains as sociable as she ever was and I suppose we're quite alike in that respect.'*
- 47.**E.** *'Somehow I'd always known that one way or another we were bound to run into each other at some point...'*
- 48.**A.** *'... I know I should have made more of an effort to stay in touch with Amina because we always got on well together...'*
- 49.**C.** *'The other mistake I made was being rather cautious about responding when she first got in touch with me...'*
- 50.**E.** *'I expressed my sympathy...'*
- 51.**B.** *'The first thing that struck me was that Natalia still looked much the same as she had ten years earlier...'*
- 52.**C.** *'... she was never keen on studying so I sort of took it for granted that she would end up doing a job that didn't require qualifications. Now it turns out she went on to do really well academically and for two years was a Philosophy lecturer at a top university.'*

## 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.

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### Part 1

**Take off** (phr v) - to leave the surface of the ground and get in the air. *Usually used to talk about aircrafts such as planes, helicopters and others. Take off procedure had to be delayed due to poor visibility.*

**Expand** (v) - to increase in size, volume or quantity. *Water expands when turns into ice so make sure not to leave any full bottles in your fridge.*

**Significant** (adj) - considerable, noticeable. *A significant part of city budget was used to found a new park.*

### Part 2

**Aware** (adj) - If you are aware of something you know of it or at least you understand it exists. *We are well aware of the current schedule problems are are trying our best to fix them.*

**Face** (v) - to be presented with a problem, usually used in the passive. *Young people nowadays are facing multiple problems, one of them is sky-high rent prices.*

**Running costs** - the amount of money it takes to keep something in operating condition i.e. repairs, regular maintenance and other payments. *Car running costs can be reduced significantly if you know how to fix it yourself.*

**At present** - currently, at the moment.

### Part 3

**Common** (adj) - ordinary, regular, not special. *It is common for first year students to have a part-time job to help take care of expenses.*

**Volume** (n) - the amount of something. The difference between volume and quantity is that the first usually can't be counted accurately. *The volume of orders we have had to process recently has increased dramatically.*

**Keen** (adj) - happy or enthusiastic to do something. *She wasn't very keen to help her fellow students - needless to say, she wasn't the most popular girl of the group.*

### Part 4

**Recession** (n) - a situation in global economy when people have no extra money to spend so businesses either slow down or die out.

**On account of** - due to, because of. *The classes had to be cancelled on account of teacher falling ill.*

### Part 5

**Swap** (v) - to get one thing in exchange for another. In this context, students exchange places, i.e. student A takes student B's place in the other country and vice versa.

**Novelty** (n) - something that is new to you, something you are not used to. *Waking up at dawn was quite a novelty after spending almost three months of summer partying without a care in the whole world.*

**Fortified by** - made stronger by something, used both figuratively and literally. *My decision to leave home as soon as I turned 18 was fortified by Harvard offer of scholarship.*

**Predetermined** (adj) - decided from the beginning. *Sports analysts believe that results of key games in the*

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*championship are predetermined.*

**Contemporary** (adj) - relating to the current time period. *Contemporary poets are just as good at capturing reality and putting it eloquently into phrases as those of the times long gone.*

**Entitled** (adj) - to have the right to something i.e. discounts, privileges and other benefits. *You should be entitled to free legal protection if you have no money to pay for it out of your own pocket.*

### Part 6

**Coincide** (v) - to happen at the same time.

**Low point** - the worst possible period or situation. *The low point of my life was in my late thirties when I had to sleep on a park bench because I couldn't afford to rent a room.*

**Loads** (n) - (informal) lots of, too many to count. *Teenagers spend loads of hours on useless activities such as playing videogames.*

**Put off** (phr v) - to feel dislike or to have reservations about something. *Many future doctors are put off by the fact that they would have to study for many years before they could make any money.*

**Obsessed with** - to be very interested in something, to be crazy about it. *Dan is obsessed with this girl next door but I fail to see how she could make anybody interested in her.*

**Supply** (v) - to provide or deliver something. *Our business supplies paper to most corporate clients in the area and we are very proud of the fact.*

### Part 7

**Last** (v) - to continue for a long time. *They say that school friendship lasts the longest.*

**Regret** (v) - to feel sorry about something. *I regret spending so much time in college without getting a second degree - I think I would have achieved much more in life if that way.*

**Admit** (v) - to understand and face that something unpleasant is true, i.e. that you were wrong or that you will have to do something you didn't want to. *Bob admitted to have stolen his brother's phone.*

**Content** (adj) - happy and satisfied. Note that the adjective has the second syllable stressed : 'conTENT'.

**Occur to smb** - to come to somebody's mind. *It never occurred to her that others found her comments offensive or hurtful.*

**Lose touch with smb** - to stop communicating with somebody usually because you live far away from one another or have different lifestyles.

**Take smth for granted** - (here) to assume that something will take place judging by the current situation.

**Cautious** (adj) - careful, worried or suspicious about something, as if expecting trouble or danger. *Wild animals are very cautious and rarely let humans approach them.*

**Confess** (v) - to admit (see before) that you have done something wrong and to say it openly hoping to feel better afterwards.

**Attitude** (n) - approach to something, a way of taking or seeing something, i.e. family, career, friendship. *His attitude to work showed no desire to get anywhere in life, he had no ambition whatsoever.*

**Hesitate** (v) - not to act for some time because you are unsure what to do.

**Bound to do something** - when something is bound to happen it is very likely or almost guaranteed to happen. *They were bound to get married at one point, they just seemed to complete each other.*