

FCE Use of English 1, Test 8

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 in	B about	C with	D to
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Infinite Universe

One of the biggest questions 0 _____ modern science is whether the universe is finite. There is no clear or definitive proof that the universe is either infinite or 1 _____, although both sides of the argument have supportive evidence. What we know for sure is that the Big Bang took 2 _____ 13.8 billion years ago, so this is approximately how old our universe is.

One of the methods to measure the size of the Universe is through light that we can see. However, due to the expansion of the universe, the farthest light we have been able to detect is about 46 billion light-years 3 _____ in all directions. In the first moments of the universe after the Big Bang, the volume and density of matter were more or less the same, but as they cooled down, the regions of mass accumulation and the regions of empty space became more defined. This is why we can detect light 4 _____ a distance of 46 billion light-years, even though our universe has 5 _____ in its current form for only 13.8 billion years.

Although we can't currently see the curvature of the universe, it has been suggested that if the Universe were at least 250 times larger than our currently observable Universe, it could potentially still bend backwards, somewhere beyond our 6 _____ to see. Discussions about the Big Bang, the size and shape of the universe, dark matter and dozens of other 7 _____ topics continue to fascinate experts who spend their lives 8 _____ at the stars.

1	A finished	B limited	C ending	D finite
2	A back	B time	C place	D action
3	A away	B ago	C far	D long
4	A at	B in	C on	D of
5	A lived	B happened	C existed	D survived
6	A ability	B skill	C force	D strength
7	A mysterious	B strange	C questionable	D odd
8	A following	B watching	C observing	D looking

Answer Keys

1. **D – finite.** 'Either ... or ...' construction requires two contrasting words in the gaps. The only word with the opposite meaning for infinite is finite here. 'Limited' has a similar meaning, but it normally has the meaning of being low in quantity.
2. **C – place.** You have to be careful here not to fall for the usual FCE/CAE trap. Even though we are talking about time, the phrase is 'to take place', regardless of whether we talk about where or when it happened.
3. **A – away.** Here they are talking about how distant the last point of visibility is – or how far it is. We can't phrase is at '5 kilometers far'.
4. **A – at.** The preposition 'at' is the only one that works in this context with the noun 'distance', e.g. 'He was the best runner at the 500 meters distance'.
5. **C – existed.** Keep in mind that we are talking about an inanimate object, it is not alive. This leaves us with existed and survived as the two options. The last one should not be used as it implies certain difficulties that it had to go through, which is not stated here.
6. **A – ability.** Ability is something that you have from birth, while skill is something you acquire or develop as you live.
7. **A – mysterious.** 'Mysterious' means unknown and difficult to understand – exactly the word that would explain the many secrets of space. 'Odd' and 'strange' have pretty much the same meaning, but the focus on being unusual. 'Questionable' has a negative meaning of not being completely true or honest.
8. **D – looking.** The only word here that goes well with 'at' preposition.