

FCE Use of English 1, Test 9

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 after	B on	C in	D out
----------------	-------------	-------------	--------------

Diamonds

Diamond is the strongest, firmest mineral in existence – and one of the most sought **0** _____. It comes **1** _____ various shapes and colours. Diamonds can be both natural and **2** _____, which means they are made by humans rather than nature. They are synthesised to be used in many spheres of life – this has to be done because real diamonds are prohibitively expensive.

It is **3** _____ that the first diamonds were found in waters of Indian rivers 2500 years ago. However, it was not until 19th century that the mining of diamonds had started on a large **4** _____. The first major deposits were found in South Africa thanks to the “diamond rush” that attracted people from all over the world to try their fortune. At the time, nine out of ten diamonds came from this country. Even today it **5** _____ the leading producer of diamonds, accounting for more than a third of all the stones mined worldwide.

Diamonds remain the most expensive of gemstones. Its size is **6** _____ in carats – one carat being 20 grams and costs up to \$12,000. Any stone over 2 carat is **7** _____ big. The biggest stone to have ever been discovered is Cullinan, named after the owner of the mine it was found in. It weighed an astonishing 3107 carat, or more than half a kilogram. It was later broken **8** _____ nine large fragments to be given shape.

1	A with	B of	C in	D as
2	A unnatural	B fake	C artificial	D crafted
3	A informed	B assumed	C trusted	D believed
4	A scale	B size	C shape	D proportion
5	A leaves	B remains	C stands	D holds
6	A checked	B estimated	C counted	D measured
7	A thought	B considered	C regarded	D seen
8	A into	B by	C from	D off

Answer Keys

1. **C – in.** 'To come in shape (of)' is a common phrase that talks about the physical appearance of an object. 'Comes with' would mean being accompanied with something else, e.g. 'This MP3 players comes with two AA batteries'.
2. **C – artificial.** Artificial means man-made. 'Unnatural' conveys the idea of contradicting the nature, which is not the idea of the sentence. 'Fake' has a strong negative connotation. 'Crafted' implies craftsmanship, e.g. made with care and high skill, usually refers to more complex objects.
3. **D – believed.** This is the most common impersonal structure to illustrate a commonly-held opinion among a group of people. 'It is assumed' means that no factual information to support this idea is present. Options A and C do not make any strong set phrases.
4. **A – scale.** The preposition 'on' helps us choose the right word. Generally, when talk about the volume of some operation (e.g. business or manufacturing) the word 'scale' should be used.
5. **B – remains.** Options C and D would require 'as' preposition to work. Option 'A' does not fit, as 'leaves' has a different meaning and requires an object.
6. **D – measured.** As we talk about size, we can't count it. We can check it, but measuring is a more precise idea, while checking is more about making sure that something is right or wrong. 'Estimating' implies approximate calculation, which is not the approach here as we are talking about a very expensive commodity – diamonds.
7. **B – considered.** Options C and D need 'as' to work in this context. 'Thought' required 'to be' here.
8. **A – into.** 'To break into' in this context means splitting into smaller pieces or fragments.