

Part 2: Open Cloze

Parts of Speech

The missing word is often (but not always) one of the parts of speech that are listed in the following exercise.

Match the underlined word in bold on the left with the correct part of speech on the right.

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|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 This is the doctor who cured my illness. | auxiliary verb |
| 2 She's suffering from a bad cold at the moment | modal verb |
| 3 I haven't seen him for ages. | other |
| 4 We could go on a picnic or we could stay indoors. | preposition |
| 5 The house was built ten years ago. | article |
| 6 Books should not be removed from the library. | relative pronoun |
| 7 That's the man I was telling you about. | pronoun |
| 8 They didn't play well enough to win. | conjunction |

Pronouns

Words like 'you', 'her', 'which' etc. are often the missing word.

2a Complete the following text by adding one word in each gap. The word is always a personal pronoun.

Paul and Anne decided to decorate the living room (a) as they thought (b) would be cheaper (c)..... that way. Paul went up the ladder on (d)..... own to paint the ceiling, even though Anne told (e)..... to wait till (f)..... could help (g)..... by holding the ladder. Unfortunately, lost (h) balance and the paint went all over Anne and (i) very expensive new dress.

2b The following sentences contain ONE missing relative pronoun. Write the missing word in the space.

1. I work for a company makes computers.
2. Thanks for your letter, ... arrived last week.
3. To ... it may concern.

4. The school ... I studied is in the local newspaper.
5. Who is that woman ... husband we met last week?
6. That man we met at the party. Do you know ... I mean?
7. We live in Madrid, ... is one of my favourite cities.
8. Ten students went in for the exam, none of ... failed.

Articles and Quantifiers

Articles, 'a', 'the' and quantifiers like, 'much', 'many', 'all', 'enough' etc. are often required.

Choose the answer A, B, or C that completes each sentence.

1 The shop was very quiet and people were waiting to be served.

- A little
- B few
- C none

2 I haven't got plans for the weekend if you'd like to go out somewhere.

- A some
- B no
- C any

3 Was there traffic on the roads this evening?

- A much
- B many
- C few

4 I've tried to phone several shops but of them were open.

- A no
- B none
- C any

5 Have you got money to buy a new car?

- A many
- B enough
- C much

6 I asked Sally and Kim but ... of them wanted to go out.

- A none
- B either
- C neither

7 He's exercising a lot than he used to.

- A less
- B fewer
- C least

8 The doctor had two patients, of whom were complaining of upset stomachs.

- A both
- B either
- C all

Conjunctions

Conjunctions (linking words) like 'but', 'and', 'yet' etc. will sometimes be the word you are looking for.

The following sentences contain a missing conjunction. Add the missing word.

1. he felt quite ill he still went to work.
2. There was heavy traffic in the city today of an accident.
3. You could come round to our house we could meet at the cinema.
4. Candidates are not permitted to leave the room they are accompanied by a member of staff.
5. You can have the job you agree to work on Saturdays.
6. There will be strong winds in the north. ... , the south will remain warm and sunny.
7. He came top of his group starting the course late.
8. ... you may be aware, I intend to retire at the end of the year.

Prepositions/Phrasal Verbs

Prepositions ('in', 'at', 'on' etc.) will very often be the missing word.

Choose the answer A, B, C or D that completes each sentence.

- 1 The surgeon is operating the patient now.
 - A at
 - B to
 - C on
 - D in
- 2 There's no possibility us finishing the project by the weekend.
 - A in
 - B with
 - C for
 - D of
- 3 Have you got any advice how to go about buying a new car?
 - A at
 - B on
 - C in
 - D for
- 4 How much have you saved for your holiday?
 - A up

- B in
- C on
- D about

5 The police are looking the recent series of robberies in the area.

- A into
- B on
- C around
- D through

6 I sympathise your problem but I'm afraid there's nothing I can do to help.

- A in
- B for
- C with
- D to

7 Would you be kind enough to fill this application form, please.

- A over
- B with
- C in
- D up

8 He really takes his father. They're alike in so many ways.

- A on
- B after
- C in
- D over

Sentence Level Practice

Most of the categories covered in the previous exercises are tested below along with words that do not fit into these groups.

The following sentences contain a missing word. Write in the missing word.

1. We would have called you if we known you were in.
2. I can't put with this noise anymore. I'm going to complain.
3. Wait minute. I'll see if I've got his address.
4. He failed his exam, was a real surprise.
5. There have been many refugees crossing the border during the last two days.
6. Manchester United won the game in of the fact that they played with only 9 players.
7. This product should consumed within 3 days.
8. It was cold today we decided to stay at home.