

TEST

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ANSWERS SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET.

1. Put the bracketed verbs in the correct tense and voice form.

I picked up a paintbrush at the age of 25. I (1) _____ (not / have) any positive experiences with art before that, so for years I (2) _____ (believe) that I just (3) _____ (not / be) any good at it. As a child, I wasn't encouraged to express myself creatively in any way. If you (4) _____ (tell) me back then that I (5) _____ (sell) my paintings later in life, I (6) _____ (think) you were just a bit loony. At the time I (7) _____ (not / realise) that within me was an artist waiting to be born, but it was the best surprise. It all started in 2010 when I (8) _____ (take) my first art class. I (9) _____ (search) for my own voice and style for years ever since, and over these past years my paintings (10) _____ (become) my close friends. It's a beautiful thing.

2. Fill each of the gaps in the following sentences with the correct preposition or particle.

1. Our boss always drums the importance of deadlines (11) ... our team, but at times we still miss them.
2. Would you listen (12) ... (13) ... the phone while I'm in the garden? I'm expecting a call and don't want to miss it.
3. My friend Jim likes to stir things (14) ..., often saying things that he knows people will disagree with.
4. Jack is off work today, so I am standing (15) ... (16) ... him.
5. After a morning tour of the city sights, he spent the rest of the day (17) ... leisure.
6. Ever since I moved out, I have been fending (18) ... myself without my parents' help.
7. I had to fork (19) ... a lot of money for my car's unexpected repairs.
8. Companies with profits below a certain amount are exempt (20) ... paying taxes.
9. We put the accident (21) ... (22) ... bad luck, there's just no other reason it happened.
10. Can I bounce a couple of ideas (23) ... you before the meeting? I'd really like to know what you think of them.
11. Learning Chinese in a year was (24) ... them all, they just couldn't do it.
12. It is very easy to yield (25) ... temptation and spend too much money on unnecessary things.

3. Paraphrase each sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between two and seven words, including the word given.

1. People who choose unusual career paths often experience criticism from their family.

People who choose unusual career paths often (26) _____ criticism from their family. (against)

2. I thought writing this article would be easy, but it seems that I've taken on a task that's too challenging for me.

I thought writing this article would be easy, but it seems that I've (27) _____. (chew)

3. Good friends should be forgiving and not have disagreements over misunderstandings.

Good friends should be forgiving and not (28) _____ misunderstandings. (fall)

4. I've been running marathons for years now, so this 5 km run will be very easy for me.

I've been running marathons for years now, so this 5 km run will be (29) _____ for me. (park)

5. It's important to get vaccinated in order not to fall ill with the flu.

It's important to get vaccinated in order not to (30) _____ the flu. (come)

6. I've got my final exams in a couple of weeks so it's time to study.

I've got my final exams in a couple of weeks so it's time to (31) _____. (hit)

7. I stopped liking Peter when he didn't keep his promise.

I (32) _____ Peter when he didn't keep his promise. (went)

8. Society should try to eradicate discrimination and create an inclusive environment for everyone.

Society should try (33) _____ discrimination and create an inclusive environment for everyone. (stamp)

9. I'd appreciate it if you could listen to me attentively for just five minutes.

I'd appreciate it if you could (34) _____ for just five minutes. (lend)

10. You can be confident that I will be there as promised.

You (35) _____ that I will be there as promised. (rest)

4. Use the words in brackets to form new suitable words in the provided spaces.

1. Technology is a powerful (36) _____ (able) of education and learning, allowing students to access educational materials online.
2. As your (37) _____ (mortgage), the bank is likely to have a number of requirements that you must comply with before you can receive the loan.
3. Her luggage was stolen because she had left it (38) _____ (attend).
4. The college was a (39) _____ (benefit) of the private grant, receiving over \$20,000.
5. Investors eagerly anticipated the (40) _____ (redeem) of their shares last month.
6. Even today a man who stays at home to take care of the children can be regarded as something of an (41) _____ (odd).
7. The company has won high praise for the fine materials it uses, and the superb (42) _____ (craft) of its products.
8. She often suffers from (43) _____ (sleep) due to drinking too much coffee.
9. He only ate a few (44) _____ (mouth) of pie as he wasn't too hungry.
10. The Rembrandt painting was secretly sold at auction for an (45) _____ (close) amount.

5. Complete the sentences with the correct word.

1. Her speech struck a (46) cord / chord with the audience, and she received a round of applause.
2. Education is based on the fundamental (47) principal / principle that each child should develop their full potential.
3. An (48) ingenuous / ingenious invention often arises from necessity rather than luxury.
4. It is (49) negligent / negligible to allow small children to swim without proper adult supervision.
5. Although the first job-applicant had a great CV, it was the (50) consequent / subsequent person to be interviewed who was actually offered the job.
6. The bus remained (51) stationery / stationary during the traffic jam.
7. The family photographs were arranged neatly on the (52) mantel / mantle for everyone to see.
8. Only the most (53) credible / credulous person could believe her absurd story.
9. The (54) troupe / troop of acrobats travelled around the country performing their show.
10. The young filmmakers were given free (55) rein / reign to experiment with new themes and techniques.

6. Choose the best alternative to fill in the gaps in the text.

Nothing compares to the joy of coming home to a loyal (56) _____. There are an estimated 1 billion pets globally, with dogs and cats making up the majority. Around 50% of the world's population is (57) _____ to own at least one pet. But how do we benefit from owning a pet? Over the past 10 years, scientists have been looking at the (58) _____ physical and mental health benefits of owning different pets – from dogs to guinea pigs. (59) _____ with animals has shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-(60) _____ hormone) and lower blood pressure. Pets can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support and boost your mood.

Animals can serve as a source of comfort and support. (61) _____ dogs are especially good at this. They're sometimes brought into hospitals or (62) _____ homes to help reduce the elderly patients' anxiety. Dogs may also (63) _____ in the classroom. One study found that dogs can help children with ADHD (64) _____ their attention. Kids who interact with animals show better social skills and more (65) _____, which allows them to work in a group more effectively. Another study found that children with autism spectrum (66) _____ were calmer while playing with guinea pigs. When the children spent 10 minutes in a (67) _____ group playtime with guinea pigs, their anxiety levels dropped. The children also had better social interactions and were more (68) _____ with their peers.

Overall, owning any pet can be good for your health. If your goal is to increase physical activity, you might benefit from owning a dog as you have to walk a dog several times a day. If your goal is reducing stress, sometimes watching fish swim can result in a feeling of calmness. So, there's no one type that fits all. The key factor is the (69) _____ love of a pet, which can (70) _____ your life with more meaning.

56. a) company b) campaign c) companionship d) companion

57. a) predicted b) estimated c) counted d) valued

58. a) referential b) upcoming c) potential d) perspective

59. a) facing b) interacting c) transacting d) interrogating

60. a) related b) connected c) risen d) united

61. a) remedial b) curative c) healing d) therapy

62. a) nursing b) nurse c) nursery d) nursed

63. a) abet b) aide c) aid d) adhere

64. a) wander b) draw c) comply d) focus

65. a) interconnection b) contribution c) cooperation d) coordination

66. a) disorder b) disease c) illness d) sickness

67. a) superfluous b) supervised c) superficial d) supervisory

68. a) ensured b) engrossed c) enfeebled d) engaged
69. a) unconditional b) unkempt c) unlike d) unanimous
70. a) peruse b) amuse c) infuse d) diffuse

7. Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

A. I had always wanted to learn a second language, but growing up I could never decide which language to take up. I did try to attend a Spanish course at school, but after four semesters of studying vocabulary and grammar to pass my exams, this bright-eyed, straight-A student was left disappointed with how little Spanish she could actually speak. However, this time things were different: over the years I had really fallen in love with Italian culture. I couldn't wait to jump right into the language learning process, so I signed up for a course.

B. My first week was a mixture of language excitement and stress. I was thrilled to see words I understood because they were close to my native language or to one of the few words I remembered from Spanish classes all those years earlier. Yet I started to notice how much I needed to learn just to be able to have a basic conversation in Italian, so I set to work, trying hard to do as many exercises as possible every day.

C. About two months into the course, I started to feel a new, distinct feeling of being overwhelmed by learning Italian. I was making progress, but it was slower than I had anticipated. Over the next months, I continued searching for the perfect tool. I started listening to Italian music, obsessing over translating lyrics and trying to understand every single word. I bought books and then got frustrated at the number of words and phrases I didn't understand. I tried listening to Italian podcasts in my sleep at night. I made flashcards and became fixated on drilling decks not to miss a single word. Even as it became clear that it wasn't working, I kept approaching the language from an all-or-nothing, perfectionist point of view. If I didn't understand everything, I was failing.

D. It was all too much, and I finally acknowledged that I simply couldn't continue as I was. Something had to change. But instead of quitting or putting tasks aside, I decided to set aside my perfectionism. I realised that the problem wasn't me, the problem was my expectations. I expected to see fast progress, preferably being "fluent" in one year. I didn't expect to make mistakes once I had learned something. I thought I could do it all and allowed no room for errors. Operating this way, I was completely missing the point – the language itself. Being afraid of making mistakes left me focusing inward instead of appreciating the progress I was really making. Thinking I should be able to do more, speak more, and understand more only reinforced a fixed, never-good-enough mindset.

E. But overhauling my expectations and giving up perfectionism really worked. Ever since, I have stepped out of my comfort zone. Realizing that the intentional time I spend studying a language is more effective than worrying about completing tasks perfectly, I've returned to some of my original resources, such as reading books, listening to songs and podcasts. I've also discovered other resources with no expectation of them making me fluent. The difference has been incredible. I can speak Italian at an intermediate level and understand it even better. I've also connected with other language learners working to define their own language paths and set a healthy and realistic standard for approaching knowledge and education. All in all, learning to aim for "good enough" was somehow harder – until it wasn't.

7.1. Choose the most suitable heading for paragraphs A, B, C, D, E. One heading is not needed.

1. Chasing perfection
2. Redefining success and embracing imperfection
3. Picking up a foreign language
4. Language learning resources that helped achieve perfection
5. Excitement meets challenge: the first steps in learning Italian
6. Expecting perfection is the enemy of progress

A. (71) _____

B. (72) _____

C. (73) _____

D. (74) _____

E. (75) _____

7.2. Mark the following statements as True or False.

1. The author fell in love with Italian culture during her early childhood. (76) _____
2. The author was unable to speak Spanish fluently due to not excelling academically. (77) _____
3. Two months into the course, the author experienced feelings of frustration due to slow progress compared to her expectations. (78) _____
4. Listening to music and podcasts in Italian didn't help her rapidly achieve proficiency in understanding oral speech. (79) _____
5. Ultimately, adopting lower standards for herself diminished her ability to engage meaningfully with the Italian language. (80) _____