

C1 ADVANCED

Open Cloze Practice Worksheet

Reading and Use of English - Part 2

34 one-word gaps
10 key language patterns
3 exam-style Open Cloze texts
Complete answer key with explanations

*The secret is not to guess.
Diagnose the gap.*

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How to Use This Worksheet

In C1 Advanced Open Cloze, the missing word is often a small one: a preposition, auxiliary verb, pronoun, linker or part of a fixed expression. The challenge is to recognise the structure around the gap.

Your rule for this worksheet: look at the grammar first, then decide which one word completes the sentence naturally.

10 Types of Words to Look For

	Type	Typical clues
1	Prepositions	capable of, rely on, insist on
2	Articles & determiners	a/an, the, each, little
3	Auxiliary verbs	be, have, do
4	Modal verbs	may, might, must, should
5	Pronouns & reference	it, them, one, others
6	Relative words	who, whose, which, where
7	Linking words	although, though, while, whether
8	Comparative structures	than, as, more, less
9	Fixed expressions	by no means, in case, in spite of
10	Phrasal / multi-word verbs	put up with, account for, come up with

Exam reminder: Part 2 has eight gaps. Write ONE word in each gap.

Exercise 1 - What Kind of Word Is Missing?

Complete each sentence with ONE word only. Each question practises one of the ten patterns from the lesson.

1. She is perfectly capable _____ working independently when necessary.

2. It was such _____ unexpected outcome that even the researchers were surprised.

3. The results appear to _____ been misunderstood by several commentators.

4. You _____ have checked the figures before sending the report.

5. Several solutions were proposed, but none of _____ proved practical.

6. The scientist, _____ work transformed our understanding of the disease, received an international award.

7. Even _____ the evidence was limited, the committee decided to continue the investigation.

8. The second task proved considerably harder _____ the first.

9. The proposal is by no _____ certain to be accepted.

10. I don't know how she puts up _____ that level of noise every day.

Exercise 2 - Open Cloze

Why Taking a Break Can Help You Think

For questions 11-18, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only ONE word in each gap.

Many people assume that the best way to solve a difficult problem is to keep working at it until an answer appears. Far (11) _____ being a waste of time, however, taking a short break may actually improve our ability to think clearly.

Researchers suggest that the brain continues to process information even when our attention has shifted elsewhere. This may be one reason (12) _____ solutions sometimes occur to us while we are walking, cooking or doing something completely unrelated to the original problem.

A break is most effective when it allows our attention to move away from the problem rather (13) _____ simply replacing one demanding activity with another. Checking dozens of messages, for example, may not provide the same mental rest (14) _____ going for a walk.

People may also be more willing to persist with a challenging task when they know they will soon be able (15) _____ pause.

What matters, then, is not necessarily how long the break lasts, but (16) _____ it genuinely changes the kind of attention we are using. A few minutes may be all (17) _____ is needed.

The point is not to avoid effort, but to use it more intelligently so that concentration can be maintained for longer (18) _____ becoming counterproductive.

Your Answers

11. _____	12. _____	13. _____	14. _____
15. _____	16. _____	17. _____	18. _____

Exercise 3 - Open Cloze

Why We Copy Other People's Behaviour

For questions 19-26, complete the text with ONE word in each gap.

Whether we realise it or not, much of our social behaviour is influenced by the people around us. When we enter an unfamiliar situation, we often look to others for clues about how we are expected (19) _____ behave.

This is particularly common when there is little information (20) _____ which to base a decision. People may assume that an action is appropriate simply because several others are doing (21) _____.

Yet following the majority is by no (22) _____ always sensible.

In some situations, each person may be copying everyone else, none of (23) _____ has any independent knowledge. A group can therefore become increasingly confident even (24) _____ the assumption on which its behaviour is based is weak.

The lesson is not that we should ignore what other people do, but (25) _____ we should distinguish between useful social evidence and simple repetition.

The more uncertain we are, the more important it becomes to ask what the group's judgement is actually based (26) _____.

Your Answers

19. _____	20. _____	21. _____	22. _____
23. _____	24. _____	25. _____	26. _____

Exercise 4 - Open Cloze

Why We Are Not Always Good at Predicting What Will Make Us Happy

For questions 27-34, complete the text with ONE word in each gap.

We make decisions every day about what we believe will make our lives better. Yet research suggests that people are not always particularly good at predicting how they will feel about future experiences.

One reason is that we tend to focus (27) _____ the most obvious feature of a decision while paying too little attention to the ordinary details surrounding it.

Someone considering a new job, for example, may concentrate mainly on salary while overlooking the daily journey to work, even (28) _____ commuting may eventually have a greater effect on their quality of life.

We also adapt to changes more quickly (29) _____ we expect. As a result, the excitement caused by a purchase - or the disappointment caused by a setback - may gradually disappear.

This does not mean that planning is pointless. Rather, it suggests that important decisions should take (30) _____ account not only dramatic differences but also everyday routines.

It may also help to ask people who have already made similar choices what the experience has been (31) _____.

We are often better (32) _____ imagining an event than predicting our emotional response to it. For this reason, information from people actually living through an experience may sometimes be more useful (33) _____ abstract speculation.

Before making an important decision, therefore, it may be worth considering not only what you expect to happen, but how much it is likely to matter once it has become part (34) _____ ordinary life.

Your Answers

27. _____	28. _____	29. _____	30. _____
31. _____	32. _____	33. _____	34. _____

Open Cloze Strategy Check

Before you decide on an answer, ask yourself: What kind of word does the gap need?

- a preposition after an adjective, noun or verb
- an article or determiner
- an auxiliary verb: BE, HAVE or DO
- a modal verb
- a pronoun or reference word
- a relative word
- a linker or conjunction
- part of a comparative structure
- part of a fixed expression
- a particle or preposition in a phrasal / multi-word verb

Three checks before you move on

1. Does the completed sentence sound natural?
2. Does it make sense in the whole paragraph?
3. Have you written ONE word only?

Useful habit: When you correct a mistake, write down the whole chunk - for example, focus on, take into account, put up with - rather than the missing word alone.

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. **OF** - capable of + noun/-ing
2. **AN** - such + a/an + adjective + singular countable noun
3. **HAVE** - appear to have been misunderstood
4. **SHOULD** - should have + past participle can express criticism of a past action
5. **THEM** - none of them; them refers back to solutions
6. **WHOSE** - whose expresses possession
7. **THOUGH** - even though + clause
8. **THAN** - harder than
9. **MEANS** - by no means = not at all / certainly not
10. **WITH** - put up with = tolerate

Exercise 2 - Why Taking a Break Can Help You Think

11. **FROM** - far from being
12. **WHY** - one reason why
13. **THAN** - rather than
14. **AS** - the same ... as
15. **TO** - be able to + infinitive
16. **WHETHER** - whether introduces the question of whether the break genuinely changes attention
17. **THAT** - all that is needed
18. **WITHOUT** - without + -ing

Answer Key - continued

Exercise 3 - Why We Copy Other People's Behaviour

- 19. **TO** - be expected to do something
- 20. **ON** - information on which to base a decision
- 21. **IT** - it refers to the action
- 22. **MEANS** - by no means
- 23. **WHOM** - none of whom; used for people after the preposition of
- 24. **THOUGH** - even though + clause
- 25. **THAT** - not that ..., but that ...
- 26. **ON** - be based on

Exercise 4 - Predicting What Will Make Us Happy

- 27. **ON** - focus on
- 28. **THOUGH** - even though + clause
- 29. **THAN** - more quickly than
- 30. **INTO** - take something into account
- 31. **LIKE** - what something has been like
- 32. **AT** - be good / better at + -ing
- 33. **THAN** - more useful than
- 34. **OF** - part of

How Did You Do?

30-34 correct: Excellent. You are recognising many of the grammatical and lexical patterns that C1 Advanced Open Cloze tests.

24-29 correct: Very good. Look again at your mistakes and identify the pattern, not just the correct word.

18-23 correct: You have a good foundation. Revise prepositions, fixed expressions and grammatical structures.

Below 18: Return to the lesson and practise identifying what type of word each gap requires.

One final tip

Do not record: 27. ON. Record: focus on something. Every correction then becomes a useful chunk of English you can recognise next time.