B2 First: Open Cloze

READING AND USE OF ENGLISH | PART 2 | FOUR PRACTICE TEXTS

Practise choosing the **one word** that completes each gap. This collection contains four original B2 First-style texts, with a worked example, 32 questions and a compact answer key.

Know the exam format

8 gaps	1 word	1 mark
per text	per gap	per correct answer

Remember: Part 2 tests grammar and vocabulary in context: articles, pronouns, auxiliaries, prepositions, linking words and fixed expressions. Read the words *before and after* every gap.

A simple four-step method

1. Read the whole text.
Work out the overall meaning before choosing any words.

2. Look closely at each gap.
Check which part of speech or grammatical form is needed.

3. Use one word only.
Write the complete word, not a contraction or an abbreviation.

4. Read it again.
Check spelling and make sure every sentence sounds natural.

Worked example

I decided **(0)** _____ join a local running club.

Answer: to. We use *decide to do something*. Check the verb pattern after *decide*.

Practice text 1

PREPOSITIONS, FIXED PHRASES AND A QUESTION WORD

A weekend without notifications

For questions **1–8**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. **Use only one word in each gap.** There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example 0: **my**

When **(0)** _____ friend suggested spending a weekend without our phones, I wasn't particularly enthusiastic. I was so used **(1)** _____ checking messages that I reached for my phone even when it hadn't made a sound. Still, I agreed to give the idea a try.

We put our devices in a drawer as soon **(2)** _____ we arrived at the cottage. For the first few hours, I kept wondering **(3)** _____ had tried to contact me. In the afternoon, however, we went for a walk and discovered a path we had never noticed **(4)** _____. We spent so long exploring that we almost forgot **(5)** _____ dinner.

By Sunday evening, I realised how much attention I normally paid **(6)** _____ my screen. I had expected the break to be difficult, but it turned **(7)** _____ to be surprisingly relaxing. Since then, I've made a habit **(8)** _____ switching off notifications during meals.

Write your answers

01		05	
02		06	
03		07	
04		08	

Practice text 2

AUXILIARIES, RELATIVES AND FIXED EXPRESSIONS

The community garden

For questions **9–16**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. **Use only one word in each gap.** There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example 0: **ago**

Years **(0)** _____, the land behind our block of flats was nothing more than an empty car park. One resident suggested turning it **(9)** _____ a community garden. At first, few people believed the plan would work. None of us **(10)** _____ ever grown vegetables before, and we didn't know where to begin.

Luckily, a local shop offered **(11)** _____ donate basic tools, while neighbours brought seeds and plants. We divided the space into small plots, each of **(12)** _____ was looked after by a different family. It wasn't **(13)** _____ the first vegetables appeared that the sceptics started to change their minds.

Some neighbours had never spoken to one another **(14)** _____ joining the project. Nowadays, people not only share gardening advice but also give spare vegetables **(15)** _____ to anyone who wants them. When I walk past it now, I often think about **(16)** _____ a difference one simple idea can make.

Write your answers

09		**13**	
10		**14**	
11		**15**	
12		**16**	

Practice text 3

VERB PATTERNS, COMPARISONS AND TIME EXPRESSIONS

Learning to cook from a video

For questions **17–24**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. **Use only one word in each gap.** There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example 0: **never**

I had **(0)** _____ cooked anything more complicated than pasta before I left home. It was only after moving into my first flat **(17)** _____ I realised how much I had to learn. I couldn't afford to eat out every night, so I searched **(18)** _____ simple recipes online.

I started **(19)** _____ watching short videos that showed every stage of the cooking process. Most recipes looked difficult, but I found several beginner-friendly ones and one of **(20)** _____ required only ingredients I already had in the cupboard. I decided to make vegetable soup. I was worried that I might add **(21)** _____ much salt or forget an important step, but I followed the instructions carefully.

The soup wasn't quite **(22)** _____ good as the version my mother makes. Even so, preparing it was far **(23)** _____ satisfying than ordering a takeaway. I've cooked at home several times a week **(24)** _____ then, and I now enjoy experimenting with new flavours.

Write your answers

17		**21**	
18		**22**	
19		**23**	
20		**24**	

Practice text 4

PREPOSITIONS, PHRASAL VERBS AND COMPARISONS

A cycling group in the rain

For questions **25–32**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. **Use only one word in each gap.** There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example 0: **a**

On **(0)** _____ rainy Saturday last spring, I joined a cycling group for the first time. I was nervous because I hadn't ridden a bike **(25)** _____ several years and worried that I wouldn't be able to keep up. One of the organisers told me not to worry, explaining that beginners would be looked **(26)** _____.

Although we had planned to follow a route along the river, the rain was so heavy **(27)** _____ we had to change our plans. We stopped for hot drinks. The café **(28)** _____ we waited for the storm to pass was almost empty. By the time we left, the rain had become lighter, and everyone agreed to carry **(29)** _____.

As we cycled through the quiet streets, I realised I was enjoying myself much more **(30)** _____ I had expected. The group leader encouraged me to keep **(31)** _____ with the others, but never made me feel rushed. Since that day, I've become a regular member and now look forward **(32)** _____ our rides, whatever the weather.

Write your answers

25		**29**	
26		**30**	
27		**31**	
28		**32**	

Answer key & language notes

32 ANSWERS | FOUR PRACTICE TEXTS

Each correct answer earns **one mark**. Read the short explanations to review grammar patterns and fixed expressions. If an answer is unfamiliar, write your own example sentence.

Text 1 · A weekend without notifications

01	**to**	be used to + -ing
02	**as**	as soon as
03	**who**	wonder who did something
04	**before**	never noticed before
05	**about**	forget about something
06	**to**	pay attention to
07	**out**	turn out to be
08	**of**	make a habit of + -ing

Text 2 · The community garden

09	**into**	turn something into
10	**had**	past perfect: had grown
11	**to**	offer to do something
12	**which**	each of which
13	**until**	it was not until ... that
14	**before**	before + -ing
15	**away**	give away = distribute for free
16	**what**	what a difference

Text 3 · Learning to cook from a video

17	**that**	it was only after ... that
18	**for**	search for
19	**by**	start by doing something
20	**them**	one of them
21	**too**	too much + uncountable noun
22	**as**	not as good as
23	**more**	far more ... than
24	**since**	since then

Text 4 · A cycling group in the rain

25	**for**	for several years
26	**after**	be looked after
27	**that**	so ... that
28	**where**	the place where
29	**on**	carry on = continue
30	**than**	more ... than
31	**up**	keep up with
32	**to**	look forward to + noun

ALSO ACCEPTABLE 4 previously · 15 out · 25 in

Score: _____ / 32