READING AND USE OF ENGLISH | PART 2

C1 Advanced: Open Cloze

Four original C1-level texts, thirty-two one-word gaps and a compact explained answer key.

4	32	1
practice tasks	questions	word per gap

How to approach C1 Part 2

1. **Read the whole text first**
   Notice the argument, time reference and links between ideas.

2. **Diagnose the missing word**
   Check whether you need an auxiliary, preposition, linker or pronoun.

3. **Recognise grammatical patterns**
   Look for inversion, relative clauses and fixed expressions.

4. **Write exactly one word**
   Read each completed sentence again and check your spelling.

Worked example

At first (0) _____, a crowded diary can look impressive. GLANCE completes the fixed expression at first glance.

Want more help?

Read C1 Advanced Open Cloze: 10 Types of Words to Look For.

PRACTICE 1 | QUESTIONS 1-8

The Quiet Art of Repair

Consumption, community and practical skills

INSTRUCTIONS **Example (0): AS**

Read the whole text. Write ONE word only in each numbered gap (1-8). Question 0 is a worked example.

There was a time when a broken household appliance was regarded (0) _____ something to be replaced rather than repaired. In some neighbourhoods, however, a small movement is challenging that habit. The assumption (1) _____ buying a replacement is always the most convenient option is being questioned by groups who meet weekly to fix everyday objects.

At one of these events, visitors are invited to work alongside volunteers, rather (2) _____ hand over their possessions and wait. The organisers insist (3) _____ demonstrating each step, even when doing so takes longer than simply completing the repair themselves. Not until a visitor has tried a solution (4) _____ a volunteer offer to take over.

Far (5) _____ being an inefficient use of time, this approach encourages conversations that might never otherwise happen. People who would not ordinarily speak to one (6) _____ begin exchanging advice, while the practical work makes them aware (7) _____ how little they know about familiar objects. Occasionally, an item its owner had assumed (8) _____ beyond repair is restored with a minor adjustment. The result is more than a working toaster or lamp: it is a different way of thinking about what we throw away.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS

01 _____	02 _____
03 _____	04 _____
05 _____	06 _____
07 _____	08 _____

Need hints? Read the C1 Advanced Open Cloze lesson.

PRACTICE 2 | QUESTIONS 1-8

The Hidden Cost of Being Busy

Attention, interruptions and working habits

INSTRUCTIONS **Example (0): GLANCE**

Read the whole text. Write ONE word only in each numbered gap (1-8). Question 0 is a worked example.

At first (0) _____, a diary packed with appointments can look like evidence of a productive life. Yet a crowded schedule may leave us with (1) _____ less time for sustained thought than we imagine. This is partly (2) _____ interruptions have a hidden cost: each time our attention shifts, we must rebuild our understanding of what we were doing.

One researcher describes a process (3) _____ which an employee checks a message, returns to a complex report and then spends several minutes trying to recall the point they were making. It is difficult to recognise this lost time, because many workplaces measure effort in terms (4) _____ hours at a desk rather than progress on important problems.

By early evening, an employee might have answered dozens of emails without (5) _____ made any real progress on their original project. To tackle the problem, some organisations have introduced meeting-free mornings, during (6) _____ staff are encouraged to work without interruption. Such arrangements are effective only (7) _____ managers resist the temptation to fill every available gap with new requests. The goal is not to avoid communication but to make better (8) _____ of the time we already have.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS

01 _____	02 _____
03 _____	04 _____
05 _____	06 _____
07 _____	08 _____

Need hints? Read the C1 Advanced Open Cloze lesson.

PRACTICE 3 | QUESTIONS 1-8

A Bridge That Changed a Neighbourhood

Public space and unexpected social effects

INSTRUCTIONS **Example (0): THE**

Read the whole text. Write ONE word only in each numbered gap (1-8). Question 0 is a worked example.

By (0) _____ time the harbour footbridge finally opened, residents had debated its merits for years. The structure connected two neighbourhoods that had long been separated by a busy road. What surprised people was not (1) _____ quickly they could now cross from one side to the other, but how much more frequently they began to meet.

Where there had once (2) _____ a neglected strip of land, there was now a little garden beside an outdoor market. Local businesses, many of (3) _____ had struggled to attract customers, reported a modest increase in trade. On market days, musicians took (4) _____ advantage of the sheltered space beneath the bridge and performed for passers-by.

The designers had imagined a practical shortcut, yet the bridge soon turned (5) _____ a place where people chose to linger. The council expected shorter journeys; little (6) _____ it anticipate that an ordinary piece of infrastructure might change social habits. (7) _____ carefully officials had consulted residents, this outcome would have been difficult to predict. The project ultimately revealed the extent (8) _____ which public spaces can influence the relationships between the people who use them.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS

01	_____	02	_____
03	_____	04	_____
05	_____	06	_____
07	_____	08	_____

Need hints? Read the C1 Advanced Open Cloze lesson.

PRACTICE 4 | QUESTIONS 1-8

When an Experiment Fails Well

Citizen science and the value of surprises

INSTRUCTIONS **Example (0): OF**

Read the whole text. Write ONE word only in each numbered gap (1-8). Question 0 is a worked example.

Few would deny the importance (0) _____ careful planning in scientific research. Nevertheless, some of the most revealing discoveries come from experiments that fail to produce (1) _____ investigators expected. A recent community project, for example, began with volunteers recording the number of moths visiting gardens across a small town.

(2) _____ though everyone used identical equipment, the figures varied sharply from one location to another. At first, the organisers put these differences (3) _____ to faulty sensors. Only after every device had been checked again (4) _____ they realise that nearby streetlights were influencing the readings.

Instead of abandoning the results, the group decided to investigate the extent (5) _____ which artificial lighting affected the insects. Their observations prompted a second study, the findings (6) _____ which helped local officials rethink lighting in public spaces. In the end, it was not so (7) _____ the original plan as the researchers' willingness to question it that proved valuable. The volunteers, (8) _____ efforts had initially seemed wasted, came to see an unexpected outcome as their most significant contribution. What had looked like failure turned out to be an unusually useful starting point.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS

01 _____	02 _____
03 _____	04 _____
05 _____	06 _____
07 _____	08 _____

Need hints? Read the C1 Advanced Open Cloze lesson.

FOUR PRACTICE TASKS | THIRTY-TWO ANSWERS

Answer key & grammar notes

Check the complete expression, not just the missing word. Each answer is one word.

PRACTICE 1

The Quiet Art of Repair

01 THAT - the assumption that ...
02 THAN - rather than
03 ON - insist on doing
04 DOES - inversion after Not until
05 FROM - far from doing
06 ANOTHER - one another
07 OF - be aware of
08 WAS - reported past assumption

PRACTICE 2

The Hidden Cost of Being Busy

01 FAR - far less time
02 BECAUSE - partly because
03 IN - a process in which
04 OF - in terms of
05 HAVING - without having made
06 WHICH - during which
07 IF - only if
08 USE - make better use of

PRACTICE 3

A Bridge That Changed a Neighbourhood

01 HOW - how quickly
02 BEEN - had once been
03 WHICH - many of which
04 FULL - take full advantage of
05 INTO - turn into
06 DID - inversion after Little
07 HOWEVER - however carefully
08 TO - the extent to which

PRACTICE 4

When an Experiment Fails Well

01 WHAT - produce what they expected
02 EVEN - even though
03 DOWN - put ... down to
04 DID - inversion after Only after
05 TO - the extent to which
06 OF - the findings of which
07 MUCH - not so much ... as
08 WHOSE - relative showing possession

Self-check: what did the gaps test?

Look again for dependent prepositions, relative words, inversion after negative expressions, fixed phrases and verb forms. Revisit any patterns you missed, then attempt a text again without the key.

More guidance: C1 Advanced Open Cloze - 10 Types of Words to Look For