

QUESTIONS ON GRAMMAR, VOCABULARY AND DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Practice 10

REPHRASING

1. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using the word given.

1. She still hasn't really recovered from losing her job in August.

BEING

She still really hasn't got _____ in August.

2. I'm afraid I believed his fake story completely.

TAKEN

I regret to say that I _____ his fake story.

3. This washing machine will give you years of service if you care for it properly.

AFTER

Properly _____ will give you years of service.

4. Could you help me tackle a problem with my son?

DEALING

I'd be grateful for _____ a problem with my son.

5. The news that the President had quit came as a great surprise to everyone.

ABACK

Everyone _____ President quitting.

6. Do you mind if I observe you while you draw that sketch?

OBJECTION

Do you _____ observe you while you draw that sketch?

7. Janet has never passed any exams, as far as I'm aware.

KNOWLEDGE

To _____ no formal qualifications.

8. None of us was expecting to have a test this morning.

BLUE

This morning's test _____ for every one of us.

CLOZE TEST – 1 point

1. For questions 1-10, read the text below and fill in each space with the word which best fits in there. Use one word only in each space. Each correct word is worth 0.1 point.

Strandings

All (0) **OVER** the world, strandings of dolphins and whales are becoming more common and environmentalists claim that this may be Nature ringing the alarm bells, believing it is the sea itself which is enduring a slow death (1) _____ about by pollution. Some dolphins found dying off America and in the Mediterranean were nearly all infected (2) _____ a virus, but heavy pollution had also suppressed their immune systems.

Individual strandings are mainly the (3) _____ of illness or injury. The animals cannot either navigate (4) _____ swim proper and accidentally come ashore. It is even possible that they may choose to strand themselves as a response (5) _____ their condition. In the southern hemisphere, mass strandings of these animals are common and everywhere (6) _____ plight sparks frantic rescue missions to refloat them by well-meaning humans. Such strandings happen (7) _____ the animals are in a large group and their leader becomes disoriented and swims ashore. They then all follow and, as (8) _____ as the leader remains stranded, (9) _____ amount of work by human rescuers will persuade the others to go (10) _____ to sea.

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS – 1 point.

2. The following sentences include idiomatic expressions. Write down the exact word that complete each sentence in the right form. Each item is worth 0.1 point.

9. We paid through the _____ to get our car fixed – it was a complete rip-off!
10. It's good to have your own opinion and swim against the _____.
11. Living with your in-laws can certainly be a _____ for disaster.
12. I'm glad we've invited Sinead. She's always the life and _____ of the party.
13. Grandfather looked like a _____ out of water at the disco.
14. S Ann is exhausted again. She's always biting off more than she can _____.
15. Despite the fact that he was in very serious money trouble, he was still concerned with keeping up _____.
16. I thought long and _____ about it before deciding.
17. If you have to make a decision, it's no use sitting on the _____. You must choose one or the other.
18. We became more knowledgeable about the kind of dangerous secrets that might be held behind closed _____ and the damage they could do.

Oposiciones al Cuerpo de Profesores de E.O.I. 2022-2023

LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point

3. Have a look at the following verbs expressing ways of drinking. Explain what they mean exactly (connotations and nuances of meaning between them) and write a sentence which exemplifies their specific meaning. You will get 0.2 points for each verb successfully defined and exemplified.

SIP – SLURP – SWIG – GULP – CHUG

SPOTTING MISTAKES – 1 point

4. Some of the following sentences include a mistake. Write OK for the sentences which are correct and write the sentence correctly for the ones which are wrong. The mistakes may involve changing or adding words or structures. The sentences which are correct cannot be modified. Each item is worth 0.1 point.

- a) Most of the passengers considered crowded and uncomfortable the airport.
- b) The neighbours asked if or not we had heard anything during the night.
- c) The government is discussing the problems which have arose from pressure in Congress.
- d) No doubt didn't he realise the consequences of his actions.
- e) The collection was found in 1926, having laid undiscovered for almost 16 centuries.
- f) Hard-wearing those boots may be, but comfortable they aren't!
- g) In case I'd known about the long queues, I would've left home much earlier.
- h) It was so good a day that we all decided to go out.

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS B – 1 point (this very same question came up in the exam in 2018 – Andalucía)

5. List 5 idioms related to "food". Explain their meaning and exemplify. Each item is worth 0.2 points.

PRONUNCIATION – 1 point

6. What is the pronunciation of *drought*? Are there any other similar words it could be confused with, either in spelling and/or pronunciation?

ANSWER KEY

1. REPHRASING

1. She still really hasn't got **over being made redundant** in August.
2. I regret to say that I **was taken in by** his fake story.
3. Properly **looked after, this washing machine** will give you years of service.
4. I'd be grateful **for your help in dealing with** a problem with my son.
5. Everyone **was taken aback by the** President quitting.
6. Do you **have any objection if I** observe you while you draw that sketch?
7. To **my knowledge, Janet has** no formal qualifications.
8. This morning's test **came out of the blue** for every one of us.

2. CLOZE TEST

All (0) **OVER** the world, strandings of dolphins and whales are becoming more common and environmentalists claim that this may be Nature ringing the alarm bells, believing it is the sea itself which is enduring a slow death (1) **BROUGHT** about by pollution. Some dolphins found dying off America and in the Mediterranean were nearly all infected (2) **BY/WITH** a virus, but heavy pollution had also suppressed their immune systems.

Individual strandings are mainly the (3) **RESULT** of illness or injury. The animals cannot either navigate (4) **OR** swim proper and accidentally come ashore. It is even possible that they may choose to strand themselves as a response (5) **TO** their condition. In the southern hemisphere, mass strandings of these animals are common and everywhere (6) **THEIR** plight sparks frantic rescue missions to refloat them by well-meaning humans. Such strandings happen (7) **WHEN** the animals are in a large group and their leader becomes disoriented and swims ashore. They then all follow and, as (8) **LONG** as the leader remains stranded, (9) **NO** amount of work by human rescuers will persuade the others to go (10) **BACK** to sea.

3. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS – 1 point.

1. We paid through the **NOSE** to get our car fixed – it was a complete rip-off!
2. It's good to have your own opinion and swim against the **TIDE**.
3. Living with your in-laws can certainly be a **RECIPE** for disaster.
4. I'm glad we've invited Sinead. She's always the life and **SOUL** of the party. soul
5. Grandfather looked like a **FISH** out of water at the disco.
6. Ann is exhausted again. She's always biting off more than she can **CHEW**.
7. Despite the fact that he was in very serious money trouble, he was still concerned with keeping up **FACE**.

Oposiciones al Cuerpo de Profesores de E.O.I. 2020-2021

8. I thought long and **HARD** about it before deciding.
9. If you have to make a decision, it's no use sitting on the **FENCE** You must choose one or the other.
10. We became more knowledgeable about the kind of dangerous secrets that might be held behind closed **DOORS** and the damage they could do.

4. LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point

(Remember that you should only define and exemplify 5 of the following)

Sip: "to drink in small amounts" → *She sat there, sipping at her tea.*

Slurp: "to drink making loud sucking noises" → *She slurped noisily from her cup.*

Swig: "to drink carelessly and in large amounts, especially alcohol" → *He sat next to me, swigging at a bottle of vodka.*

Gulp: "to swallow large amounts of food or drink quickly in a way that shows you are very hungry" → *He gulped down the rest of his tea and went out.*

Chug: "to drink all of something, especially beer, without stopping" → *The twins had a contest to see who could chug the beer faster.*

5. SPOTTING MISTAKES – 1 point

- a) Most of the passengers considered **THE AIRPORT** crowded and uncomfortable.
- b) The neighbours asked **WHETHER** or not we had heard anything during the night / **IF** we had heard anything during the night **OR NOT**.
- c) The government is discussing the problems which have **ARISEN** from pressure in Congress.
- d) No doubt **HE DIDN'T REALISE** the consequences of his actions.
- e) The collection was found in 1926, having **LAIN** undiscovered for almost 16 centuries (lain).
- f) Hard-wearing those boots may be, but comfortable they aren't! **OK**
- g) **IF** I'd known about the long queues, I would've left home much earlier.
- h) It was so good a day that we all decided to go out. **OK**

Comentado [Office1]: The mistake simply concerned Word Order. Your corrected version must show that you spotted that mistake, avoiding versions like *the airport was considered crowded*; *they considered the airport as crowded/being crowded*; *they considered that the airport was crowded*.

Comentado [Office2]: *If* cannot be followed immediately by *or not*. Therefore, there are two options here: either including *whether*, which perfectly collocates with *or not*, or placing *or not* at the end of the sentence. The first option is preferred.

Comentado [Office3]: The mistake here concerned inversion, so the only change you had to make was eliminating that inversion. Avoid versions like "there is no doubt that he didn't realise...", since that version doesn't show you have spotted the mistake.

Comentado [AB4]: According to the instructions of the exercise, you would have to include 5 idioms only. Here you have a more comprehensive list, though more idioms could be added, by all means.

6. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS B – 1 point

To be the apple of one's eye: "a person that is adored by someone". *Baby Jessica is the apple of her father's eye.*

To have a bun in the oven: "to be pregnant". *I don't think Jane will come to the bar because she has a bun in the oven.*

To be a big cheese: "to be a very important person". *I thought I was just going to interview the secretary, but they let me talk to the big cheese himself.*

To butter someone up: "to be extra nice to someone, usually for selfish reasons". *We'll have to butter Angie up before we tell her the news about the broken vase.*

The cream of the crop: "the best". *We hired the cream of the crop to entertain us at the Christmas party.*

Oposiciones al Cuerpo de Profesores de E.O.I. 2020-2021

(Don't) cry over spilt milk: "get upset over something that has happened and cannot be changed". *The mirror is broken and we can't fix it. There's no need to cry over spilt milk.*

(not) one's cup of tea: "something you (don't) enjoy". *Opera isn't exactly my cup of tea.*

To be full of beans: "to have a lot of (silly) energy". *The kids were full of beans after the circus.*

A hard nut to crack: "difficult to understand, often a person". *Angelo is a hard nut to crack when something is bothering him like this.*

In a nutshell: "simply". *In a nutshell, I'm having a bad day.*

A piece of cake: "very easy". *The exam was a piece of cake.*

To put all of one's eggs in one basket: "to rely on one single thing". *Even though I'm majoring in Art, I'm taking a maths course because my Dad says I shouldn't put all of my eggs in one basket.*

To spill the beans: "to reveal the truth". *On Monday, I'm going to spill the beans about my travel plans.*

To take something with a pinch of salt: "don't consider something 100% accurate". *Take Mandy's advice with a pinch of salt; she doesn't always do her research.*

To have a finger in every pie: "to be involved in many activities and have a lot of influence of power (usually with a negative meaning)". *He's very controlling – he has a finger in every pie.*

To bring home the bacon: "to earn money to support your family". *His friends had all gone to college or were bringing home the bacon.*

Food for thought: "an idea that makes you think seriously and carefully". *The programme certainly provides plenty of food for thought.*

To bite off more than one can chew: "to try to do too much, or something that is too difficult". *Gabriella thought she would enjoy being team leader, but she may have bitten off more than she can chew.*

To sell something like hot cakes: "to be bought quickly or in great numbers". *The tickets are selling like hot cakes.*

To be/go nuts: "to be/go crazy". *He'd be nuts to take the job.*

To sugar-coat something: "to do something that makes an unpleasant situation seem less unpleasant". *There's no way of sugar-coating it – the report predicts a grim future for the industry.*

To be a tough cookie: "someone who is strong enough to deal with difficult or violent situations". *She had a difficult childhood, but she's a tough cookie. I know she'll be a success.*

To be the icing on the cake: "something that makes a good situation even better". *I'm really happy playing here, and if we win today that will be the icing on the cake.*

7. PRONUNCIATION – 1 point

Drought, meaning "shortage of water", is pronounced /draʊt/. It may be easily confused (both in spelling and pronunciation) with the word *draught* /dra:ft/, meaning "current of air" and *draughts* /dra:fts/, "a board game similar to chess – checkers".

It may also be confused with participles like *thought*, *fought*, *bought*, since they present the same combination <ought>, but their pronunciation is /ɔ:t/ instead of /aʊt/.