

QUESTIONS ON GRAMMAR, VOCABULARY AND DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Practice 12

HOMOPHONES

1. For each pair of sentences, find two words with the same sound but different spelling.

- I cannot _____ to see any animal suffering.
The giant pulled the roof off the house with his _____ hands.
- As soon as the policeman was out of _____, one of the men broke a window.
This spot you are standing on was once the _____ of a great battle.
- The dress showed off Maria's beautiful slender _____.
Quite frankly, this whole scheme has been a _____ of time and money.
- In the novel, Cruz is a clever servant who _____ always through his master's plots.
Armed police were sent to the house to _____ the gang's weapons.
- Mix the apples and almonds into a fine _____ and pour it into a jug.
The inspector _____ up and down the room, considering his next move.

PAIRS OF SENTENCES

1. Show the difference in meaning between the following sentences, explaining what each sentence means.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 a Like you, I wish I could play the piano. | 4 a I didn't have time to read the paper this morning. |
| 1 b I wish I could play the piano like you. | 4 b I haven't had time to read the paper this morning. |
| 2 a Your essay was most interesting. | 5 a By the time we had had lunch it was 2.30. |
| 2 b Your essay was the most interesting. | 5 b By the time we had lunch it was 2.30. |
| 3 a She swims as well as she runs. | |
| 3 b She swims as well as runs. | |

MULTIPLE MEANINGS – 1 point

2. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. (0) is an example. Each correct word is worth 0.2 points.

1 _____

- Our rooms are at the back of the hotel and _____ a magnificent view of the botanical gardens behind.
- Sue really wanted to help Trevor, but was up to her eyes in work and just couldn't _____ the time.
- I really can't _____ to let an opportunity like this slip through my fingers.

2 _____

- Keep a _____ eye on the baby, she tends to pull things off the table.

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

- For my 18th birthday last year, all my _____ relations clubbed together and bought me a new computer.
- It's going to be a very _____ contest, as the two competitors are very evenly matched.

3 _____

- Paul is convinced that some treasure was once _____ the apple tree in his garden.
- Professor Damian strode off down the corridor, deep in thought, his hands _____ in his pockets.
- Because she wanted to forget her various misfortunes in life, Mariel **buried** herself in her work.

4 _____

- When you're on a diet, however bland the menu may seem, you must resist the temptation to _____ your fish and vegetables in oil or butter.
- The constant chattering of the children tends to _____ out the noise of the factory next door.
- It's by no means unusual even for wild animals to _____ in the river, because the current is very strong.

5 _____

- Denise _____ a hand wearily over her forehead as she contemplated all the work there was still left to do.
- Shane's comments _____ unnoticed because everyone was distracted by the sounds coming from outside.
- Through lack of foresight, the organization seems to have _____ up a golden opportunity.

CLOZE TEST – 1 point

3. 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.

Don't forget that when making a pot of tea, brewing time is critical. Pour in the boiling water and (1) _____ the tea brew for three to five minutes, (2) _____ on the size of the tea-leaf being used. If the strength is not to (3) _____ liking, adjust the amount of tea used, (4) _____ than the brewing time.

Another thing which is important (5) _____ to stir the tea before (6) _____ it out. Some people turn the pot three times one way and three times the other, which (7) _____ the same job. Tea will taste unpleasantly stewed (8) _____ left in the pot for more than then minutes. It is also better (9) _____ to use a tea cosy or other form of teapot cover, as this will simply speed (10) _____ the stewing process.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

4. For questions 1-6, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Lock and key

The search for a safe home, for privacy and security, has existed ever since human beings first built a permanent homestead. The rope-lifted beam behind the door may have (1) _____ to an electronic lock triggered by a plastic card with more combinations than there are atoms in the universe, but the (2) _____ to shut out the 'bad guys' remains. The appeal of a lock and key is, to some (3) _____, psychological. Recently, various companies have experimented with computerised locking systems, where smart cards, swiped through a 'reader', control electronic locks by means of a digital (4) _____. But people don't like them. You may be (5) _____ to put up with it at work, but at home, everyone wants the (6) _____ of turning a physical key in a lock. As a result, when one locksmith company developed a new electronic system, they made sure they incorporated a proper metal key into the device.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. A taken on | B given way | C handed down | D passed over |
| 2. A force | B craving | C shove | D urge |
| 3. A extent | B rate | C measure | D scale |
| 4. A directive | B command | C rule | D manipulation |
| 5. A agreeable | B liable | C prepared | D geared |
| 6. A reassurance | B guarantee | C endorsement | D confirmation |

LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point

5. Choose five of the following verbs expressing ways of speaking. 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.

TWITTER – GROWL – HISS – HUM – LISP – BABBLE – STAMMER

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS B – 1 point.

6. List 5 idioms related to "parts of the body". Explain their meaning and exemplify. Each item is worth 0.2 points.

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS – 1 point.

7. 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.

1. She's got the gift of the _____ - she should work in sales and marketing... or become a politician!
2. I started this project, and I intend to see it _____.
3. We didn't use to get on well, but we've drawn a _____ under the past and have started over again.
4. So when should you spill the _____ and be honest?
5. We pretended we didn't know it was her birthday, but Sam gave the _____ away.
6. They don't have a hope in _____ of getting into the playoffs this year.
7. There's a huge number of places to eat in the city, but the quality is a bit hit and _____.

8. Careful with rumours! We all know they spread like _____.
9. At last! Rob has seen the _____ and come round to my way of thinking.
10. A promotion? It's actually the furthest _____ from my mind at the moment.

8. WORD-FORMATION – 1 point.

Types of Memory

Most readers will be familiar with the experience of looking up a telephone number and then repeating it to themselves for the time it takes to sit down and dial the number. As luck would have it, this is (0) **INVARIABLY** the occasion for someone to ask a distracting question with the result that the number is forgotten and has to be looked up all over again. (1) _____ familiar and irritating is EQUAL when you need the same number 24 hours later and find that you are quite incapable of remembering it. These experiences reflect the (2) _____ recognized view among psychologists that with WIDE verbal learning the ability to hold information for brief periods (usually up to 30 seconds in duration) demands fairly constant (3) _____, and any distraction or interruption is likely to severely REPEAT impede that ability. Moreover, it has been established that our capacity for short-term (4) _____ is remarkably consistent, and RETAIN that most people experience some (5) _____ in memory as soon BREAK as the number of items or chunks of information (6) _____ seven. EXCESS

This type of memory, known as 'short-term memory', is clearly different from 'long-term memory', which is our capacity for recall of information minutes, weeks and years after the original (7) _____. PUT

Furthermore, the difference is not simply one of duration. Unlike short-term memory, which is limited in capacity, long-term memory is seemingly (8) _____ and can accommodate any amount of EXHAUST new information. Not (9) _____, this new information can be SURPRISE stored at a price; it is generally acknowledged that we need to

work much harder to commit information to long-term memory,
and the type of strategy we described as being (10) _____ to
short term memory may not be adequate in the long term.

ESSENCE

ANSWER KEY

1. HOMOPHONES

- a) I cannot **BEAR** to see any animal suffering.
The giant pulled the roof off the house with his **BARE** hands.
- b) As soon as the policeman was out of **SIGHT**, one of the men broke a window.
This spot you are standing on was once the **SITE** of a great battle.
- c) The dress showed off Maria's beautiful slender **WAIST**
Quite frankly, this whole scheme has been a **WASTE** of time and money.
- d) In the novel, Cruz is a clever servant who **SEES** always through his master's plots.
Armed police were sent to the house to **SEIZE** the gang's weapons.
- e) Mix the apples and almonds into a fine **PASTE** and pour it into a jug.
The inspector **PACED** up and down the room, considering his next move.

2. PAIRS OF SENTENCES

- 1 a Like you, I wish I could play the piano: *neither of us can play the piano.*
1 b I wish I could play the piano like you: *you can play the piano well, I can't.*

- 2 a Your essay was most interesting: *it was a very interesting essay.*
2 b Your essay was the most interesting: *nobody's essay was better than yours.*

- 3 a She swims as well as she runs: *she is equally good at both sports.*
3 b She swims as well as runs: *she takes part in both sports.*

- 4 a I didn't have time to read the paper this morning: *the morning is now over. The person might be uttering the sentence in the afternoon or evening.*
4 b I haven't had time to read the paper this morning: *it's still morning time.*

- 5 a By the time we had had lunch it was 2.30: *we finished having lunch at 2.30.*
5 b By the time we had lunch it was 2.30: *we started having lunch at 2.30.*

3. MULTIPLE MEANINGS

1 ALLOW/AFFORD

- Our rooms are at the back of the hotel and allow/afford a magnificent view of the botanical gardens behind.
- Sue really wanted to help Trevor, but was up to her eyes in work and just couldn't allow/afford the time.
- I really can't allow/afford to let an opportunity like this slip through my fingers.

2 CLOSE

- Keep a close eye on the baby, she tends to pull things off the table.

- For my 18th birthday last year, all my **close** relations clubbed together and bought me a new computer.
- It's going to be a very **close** contest, as the two competitors are very evenly matched.

3 BURIED

- Paul is convinced that some treasure was once **buried** the apple tree in his garden.
- Professor Damian strode off down the corridor, deep in thought, his hands **buried** in his pockets.
- Because she wanted to forget her various misfortunes in life, Mariel **buried** herself in her work.

4 DROWN

- When you're on a diet, however bland the menu may seem, you must resist the temptation to **drown** your fish and vegetables in oil or butter.
- The constant chattering of the children tends to **drown** out the noise of the factory next door.
- It's by no means unusual even for wild animals to **drown** in the river, because the current is very strong.

5 PASSED

- Denise **passed** a hand wearily over her forehead as she contemplated all the work there was still left to do.
- Shane's comments **passed** unnoticed because everyone was distracted by the sounds coming from outside.
- Through lack of foresight, the organization seems to have **passed** up a golden opportunity.

4. CLOZE TEST – 1 point

Don't forget that when making a pot of tea, brewing time is critical. Pour in the boiling water and (1) **LET** the tea brew for three to five minutes, (2) **DEPENDING** on the size of the tea-leaf being used. If the strength is not to (3) **YOUR** liking, adjust the amount of tea used, (4) **RATHER** than the brewing time.

Another thing which is important (5) **IS** to stir the tea before (6) **POURING** it out. Some people turn the pot three times one way and three times the other, which (7) **DOES** the same job. Tea will taste unpleasantly stewed (8) **IF** left in the pot for more than then minutes. It is also better (9) **NOT** to use a tea cosy or other form of teapot cover, as this will simply speed (10) **UP** the stewing process.

5. MULTIPLE CHOICE

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. A taken on | B given way | C handed down | D passed over |
| 2. A force | B craving | C shove | D urge |
| 3. A extent | B rate | C measure | D scale |

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 4. A directive | B command | C rule | D manipulation |
| 5. A agreeable | B liable | C prepared | D geared |
| 6. A reassurance | B guarantee | C endorsement | D confirmation |

6. LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point

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

Twitter: “to talk quickly in a high excited voice, especially about something that is not very important” → *No matter what we’re discussing in class, Joanne always startw twittering about her personal life.*

Growl: “to say something in a low angry voice” → *‘Who are you?’ he growled at the stranger.*

Hiss: “to say something in a low angry voice” → *‘Stop at once!’ she hissed.*

Hum: “make a low continuous sound, when you take a long time deciding what to say” → *If you don’t know the words, just hum the tune.*

Lisp: “speak with /th/ sounds instead of /s/ sounds” → *All the schoolboys tease my son because he lisps when he speaks.*

Babble: “to talk quickly, in a way difficult to understand” → *I realized I was babbling like an idiot / They were all babbling away in a foreign language.*

Stammer: “to speak with pauses and repeating the same sound or syllable, habitually from fear or excitement” → *Many children stammer but grow out of it.*

7. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS B – 1 point.

To put your foot in your mouth: “to say or do something that accidentally embarrasses or offends another person”. *I put my foot in my mouth when I called my brother’s new wife by his ex-wife’s name.*

To get cold feet: “to get nervous and have second thoughts about doing something”. *I’m getting cold feet about that bungee-jumping thing. I might not do it in the end.*

To think on one’s feet: “to have good ideas and make decisions quickly in a difficult situation”. *You have to think on your feet in this job.*

To cost an arm and a leg: “when something costs a lot of money”. *It cost me an arm and a leg to get my car fixed.*

To break a leg: “to wish someone good luck”. *Today’s the big game, huh? Break a leg!*

To pull one’s leg: “to joke or tease someone”. *I was just pulling your leg. I’m not really a police officer.*

To give/be given the cold shoulder: “to ignore someone”. *I saw my ex-girlfriend at a party but she wouldn’t talk to me. She gave me the cold shoulder.*

Off the top of one’s head: “immediately and without thinking very much”. *Ok, off the top of your head, do you know the capital of South Korea?*

To give somebody a heads-up: “a warning that something is going to happen, usually so that you can prepare for it”. *This note is just to give you a heads-up that Vicky will be arriving next week.*

To look down your nose on at someone: “to think you are better or more important than that person”. *Because he’s rich he seems to think he’s better than everyone. He really looks down his nose at people.*

Comentado [ABI]: 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.

To play (it) by ear: “to improvise / to decide what to do as a situation develops rather than planning in advance”. *We don’t know how many people are going to come, so we’ll just play it by ear.*

To be all ears: “to be fully listening”. *Give me a minute and then I’ll be all ears to hear about your project.*

To be music to one’s ears: “something that someone says that you are pleased to hear”. *Their offer of help was music to my ears.*

To cry your heart out: “to cry very hard”. *I cried my heart out when my best friend moved away.*

To keep a straight face: “to look serious even though something funny is taking place”. *He could never tell a joke with a straight face; She couldn’t trust herself to keep a straight face.*

To make/pull a face: “to put a silly or rude expression on your face, or an expression that shows you dislike something or someone”. *Mike pulled. Face at the food and took his plate over to Helen’s table.*

To face the music: “to be realistic / to stand up to unpleasant consequences, such as criticism or punishment”. *I didn’t prepare the exam at all. When the marks came out, I had to face the music from my parents”.*

To be one’s own flesh and blood: “to be a relative”. *I have to hire Mia. She’s my own flesh and blood.*

To get something off one’s chest: “to tell someone your problems”. *Thanks for listening to me complain about my boss. I just needed to get it off my chest.*

To give/lend someone a hand: “to help”. *I can give/lend you a hand when you move if you like.*

To be an old hand at something: “to be an experienced person”. *My uncle’s an old hand at car repair. He’ll know what the problem is.*

To learn/know something by heart: “to memorise”. *I learned my multiplication tables by heart in fourth grade.*

To let one’s hair down: “to relax, have fun”. *Go to the cottage and let your hair down this weekend.*

To split hairs: “to argue or worry about very small details or differences that are not important”. *I actually think it was your responsibility, not Dave’s, but let’s not split hairs about it.*

Rule of thumb: “basic rule (not always followed)”. *The rule of thumb is that students wear black pants and white shirts.*

To have a green thumb (AmE)/ to have green fingers (BrE): “to be good at growing plants”. *She has incredibly green fingers; she can grow just about anything!*

To be all thumbs (AmE) / to be all fingers and thumbs (BrE): “to be very awkward with your hands”. *Can you untangle this thread for me? I’m all thumbs today.*

To see eye to eye: “to agree”. *The couple don’t see eye to eye on how to train their pets.*

To stick your neck out: “to help someone a lot, with possible bad consequences for oneself”. *I stuck my neck out for Bessie when she was thrown out of her house.*

To have a sweet tooth: “to have a love for sugar or sweet things”. *I need three spoonfuls of sugar in my tea. I have a really sweet tooth.*

To not bat an eyelid: “to show no sign of surprise or worry when something unexpected happens”. *She told him she’d spent all her savings but he didn’t bat an eyelid.*

A bad hair day: “a difficult day when nothing seems to go well for you”. *All this fuss is because Carol is having a bad hair day.*

To have a bone to pick with somebody: “to want to talk to someone about something they have done that has annoyed you”. *I’ve got a bone to pick with you – you’ve been using my shaver again.*

To toe the line: “to do what is expected of one”. *She decided to toe the line rather than disobey her parents.*

8. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS – 1 point.

1. She’s got the gift of the **GAB** - she should work in sales and marketing... or become a politician!
2. I started this project, and I intend to see it **THROUGH**.
3. We didn’t use to get on well, but we’ve drawn a **LINE** under the past and have started over again.
4. So when should you spill the **BEANS** and be honest?
5. We pretended we didn’t know it was her birthday, but Sam gave the **GAME** away.
6. They don’t have a hope in **HELL** of getting into the playoffs this year.
7. There’s a huge number of places to eat in the city, but the quality is a bit hit and **MISS**.
8. Careful with rumours! We all know they spread like **WILDFIRE**.
9. At last! Rob has seen the **LIGHT** and come round to my way of thinking.
10. A promotion? It’s actually the furthest **THING** from my mind at the moment.

9. WORD-FORMATION

Most readers will be familiar with the experience of looking up a telephone number and then repeating it to themselves for the time it takes to sit down and dial the number. As luck would have it, this is (0) **INVARIABLY** the occasion for someone to ask a distracting question with the result that the number is forgotten and has to be looked up all over again. (1) **EQUALLY** familiar and irritating is when you need the same number 24 hours later and find that you are quite incapable of remembering it. These experiences reflect the (2) **WIDELY** recognized view among psychologists that with

VARIABLE

EQUAL

WIDE

verbal learning the ability to hold information for brief periods
(usually up to 30 seconds in duration) demands fairly constant
(3) **REPETITION(S)** and any distraction or interruption is likely to severely REPEAT
impede that ability. Moreover, it has been established that our
capacity for short-term (4) **RETENTION** is remarkably consistent, and RETAIN
that most people experience some (5) **BREAKDOWN(S)** in memory as soon BREAK
as the number of items or chunks of information (6) **EXCEED(S)** seven. EXCESS
This type of memory, known as 'short-term memory', is clearly
different from 'long-term memory', which is our capacity for recall of
information minutes, weeks and years after the original (7) **INPUT** PUT
Furthermore, the difference is not simply one of duration. Unlike
short-term memory, which is limited in capacity, long-term memory
is seemingly (8) **INEXHAUSTIBLE** and can accommodate any amount of EXHAUST
new information. Not (9) **SURPRISINGLY**, this new information can be SURPRISE
stored at a price; it is generally acknowledged that we need to
work much harder to commit information to long-term memory,
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