

# Addition, equation, and conclusion

This exercise will help you to review more of the important words that we use to join ideas in an essay, a verbal presentation, or sometimes in everyday speech.

## Exercise 1

Put the following words and expressions into their correct place in the table depending on their function.

to sum up briefly ● along with ● as well as ● it can be concluded that  
 likewise ● similarly ● also ● too ● in addition ● besides ● to conclude  
 in brief ● in the same way ● thus ● what's more ● furthermore  
 moreover ● along with ● to summarize ● therefore ● correspondingly

<u>Addition</u> (For example: <i>and</i> )	<u>Equation</u> (For example: <i>equally</i> )	<u>Conclusion</u> (For example: <i>in conclusion</i> )



## Exercise 2

Complete these sentences with one of the words or expressions from above. In most cases, more than one answer is possible.

1. Tourism brings much needed money to developing countries. \_\_\_\_\_, it provides employment for the local population.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ bringing much needed money to developing countries, tourism provides employment for the local population.
3. Tourists should respect the local environment. \_\_\_\_\_ they should respect the local customs.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ industrial waste, pollution from car fumes is poisoning the environment.
5. In order to travel, you need a passport. \_\_\_\_\_, you might need a visa, immunization shots, and written permission to visit certain areas.
6. Drugs are illegal in Britain. \_\_\_\_\_ weapons such as guns and knives.
7. All power corrupts. \_\_\_\_\_, absolute power corrupts absolutely.
8. You shouldn't smoke, drink, take drugs, or eat unhealthy food. \_\_\_\_\_, you should live a more healthy lifestyle.
9. The ozone layer is becoming depleted, the air in the cities is becoming too dirty to breathe, and our seas and rivers are no longer safe to swim in. \_\_\_\_\_ pollution is slowly destroying the planet.
10. Your grades have been very poor all year. \_\_\_\_\_ you need to work really hard if you want to pass your finals next month.

# American English

This exercise looks at some common American words (words which are used in the United States). You might find it useful if you have been learning British English (the English that is spoken in the United Kingdom and in other countries around the world). Generally, American words are understood by British English speakers (largely as a result of imported television programs and movies), but many North Americans are unfamiliar with some British English words. As a result, it is important to use the American words rather than the British words in the TOEFL.

Look at the sentences below, which all contain a British English word in **bold**. Decide what word Americans would normally use in the same context. In some cases, the word will remain the same, but there will be a difference in spelling. Write your answers in the crossword puzzle on page 7. To help you, the word that you need has been put at the end of each sentence, with most of the letters removed, but with some of the letters included.

## Across (⇒)

2. The play is in two acts, with a short **interval** between the two. I \_ T \_ \_ M \_ \_ \_ \_ N
6. If you make a mistake in your calculations, you'll need to do them **again**. \_ V \_ \_
8. The **post** normally arrives before lunchtime. \_ \_ \_ L
9. The government refused to **recognise** the new republic. \_ E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
11. The **theatre** received an unexpected grant which helped to prevent it from closing down. \_ H \_ \_ \_ \_
13. The road near the school is very busy, so students are advised to use the **subway** to get to the other side. \_ N \_ \_ \_ P \_ \_ \_
16. The oil crisis resulted in a 28% rise in the cost of **petrol**. \_ \_ S
18. Take the **lift** to the top floor. \_ \_ \_ V \_ \_ O \_
20. **Estate agents** are some of the most unscrupulous people in the country. R \_ \_ L \_ \_ R \_
24. Route 40 is closed, so you will need to take Route 128, which is the **main road** leading to Boston. H \_ \_ \_ W \_ \_
26. They asked for a \$2 **rise** in their hourly rate, which was firmly rejected by the manager. \_ A \_ \_ E
27. The kids go to school for 7 hours every day, with a **break** for lunch at midday. \_ E \_ \_ S \_
29. (*Informal*) I really like Mr. Goldberg. He's a great **bloke**. \_ U \_
30. (*At a school, college, or university*) A **staff** meeting will be held at two o'clock. \_ \_ C \_ \_ \_ Y
32. In my opinion, the best time of the year is **autumn**. \_ \_ L \_
35. The automobile company's first attempt to design a family **saloon** that ran on diesel was a complete failure. \_ \_ D \_ N
36. The campus has a **shop** where students can buy stationery and essential items. \_ \_ O \_ \_
37. Government spending on **defence** was reduced by 3%. \_ \_ \_ E \_ \_ \_

38. He gave me just enough money to buy a **return** bus ticket to Portland. R \_ \_ \_ D - \_ \_ \_ P  
(2 words, which are hyphenated. Do not leave a space or use a hyphen in the crossword puzzle)

40. He's a **graduate** of Berkeley College. \_ \_ \_ M N \_ \_

41. These days it is not unusual to see children as young as five carrying a **mobile phone** to school.  
C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N \_

Down (↓)

1. The **postcode** for the company is 04532. \_ I \_ \_ O \_ \_  
(2 words: do not leave a gap between the words in the crossword grid)

3. Classes start at eight o'clock every morning Monday **to** Friday. T \_ R \_ \_ \_ \_

4. There are several museums and galleries in the city, but most students prefer to spend their evenings at the **cinema**. \_ \_ V \_ E \_

5. Do you have any change for a \$20 **note**? B \_ \_ \_

7. Strict **labour** laws have had an adverse effect on small businesses. \_ \_ B \_ \_

10. I'm afraid we've **got** slightly behind schedule. \_ \_ T T \_ \_

12. Several **flats** were leased to private agencies, who in turn leased them to small companies.  
\_ P \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_

14. All **travellers** flying to the USA have to undergo strict security checks at the airport.  
\_ \_ A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

15. The dean's office is on the **ground** floor. \_ I \_ \_ \_

17. The first thing the city did was dig up the **pavement** outside the front door. \_ \_ D \_ W \_ \_ \_

19. My favorite **film** of all time has to be the classic 1959 comedy *Some Like It Hot*. \_ \_ V \_ \_

21. The best way to get from one part of the city to another is to use the **motorway**.  
\_ \_ E \_ W \_ \_

22. (On the telephone, when you are calling someone) Hello, is **that** Harrison Keane? \_ \_ \_ S

23. In the event of a marital divorce or separation, there is a clear need for **dialogue** between the parents and their children. \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_

25. If you want to stop smoking, the best place to start is by going to your local **chemist**.  
D \_ \_ G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

28. Services on the **underground** start at five in the morning and finish at half past midnight.  
\_ \_ B \_ \_ Y

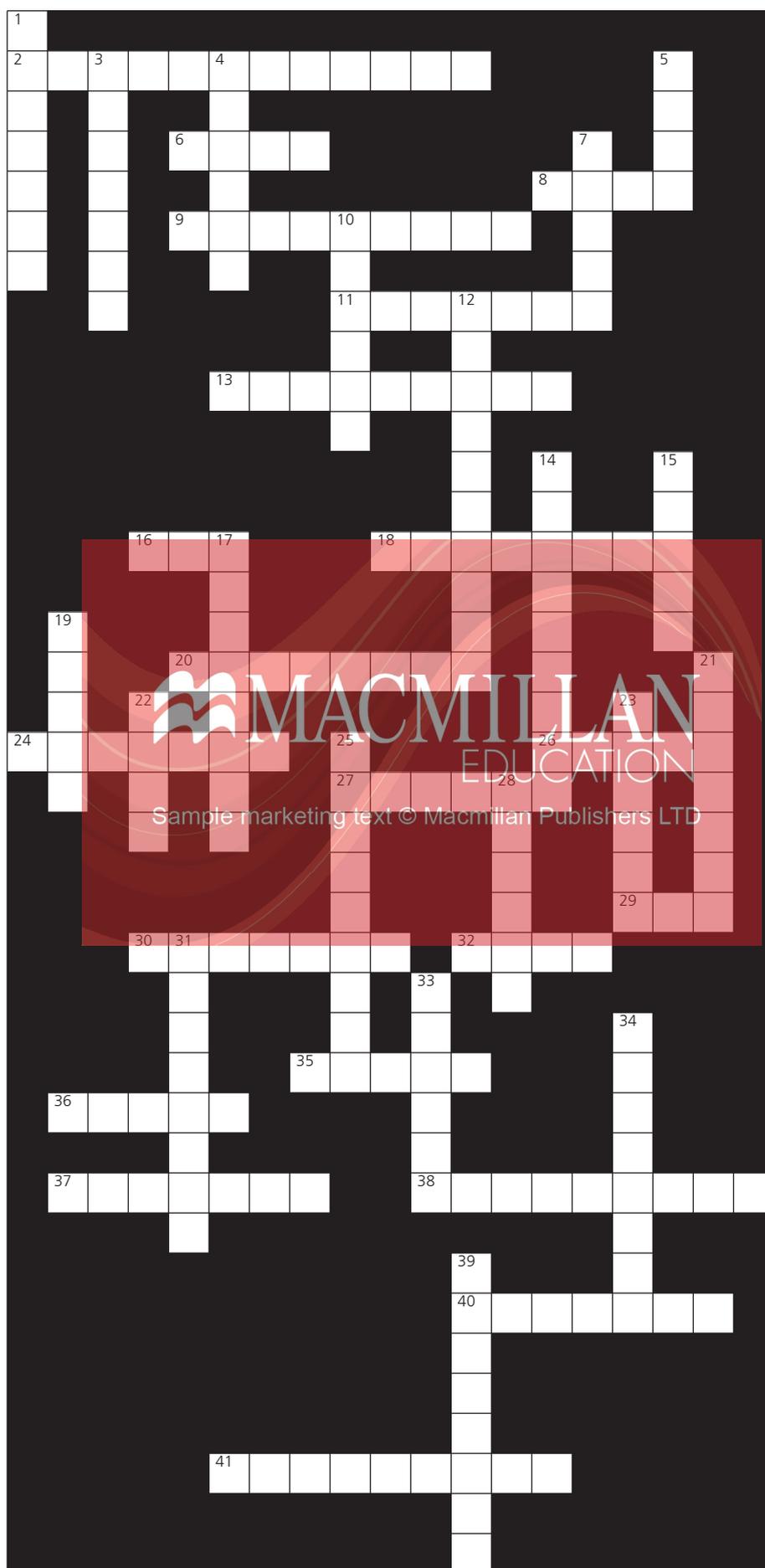
31. Before buying a house, it is essential to employ the services of a good **solicitor**. \_ T T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

33. You should use a pencil to do the test, and use a **rubber** to remove any mistakes. \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_

34. Most Americans tend to stay in the country for their **holiday**. V \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_

39. You don't need to ask me for permission to use the **toilet**! B \_ \_ \_ R \_ \_ \_

Exercise 2



# Changes

## Exercise 1

Look at these sentences and decide if the statement that follows each one is true or false. Use the words and expressions in **bold** to help you decide.

1. The population of the country has tripled in the last 25 years.  
*There has been a **dramatic increase** in the number of people living in the country.*
2. Unemployment has dropped by about 2% every year for the last six years.  
*There has been a **steady decrease** in the number of people out of work.*
3. The government has spent a lot of money improving roads around the country.  
*There has been a **deterioration** in the national road system.*
4. The number of "A" grades achieved by the school's pupils has risen by almost 50%.  
*There has been a **decline** in the number of "A" grades.*
5. American travelers abroad have discovered that they can buy more foreign currency with their dollar.  
*There has been a **weakening** of the dollar.*
6. It is now much easier to import goods into the country than it was a few years ago.  
*There has been a **tightening up** of border controls.*
7. We're increasing our stocks of coal before the winter begins.  
*We're **running down** our stocks of coal.*
8. Prices have gone up by about 4% every year since 1998.  
*There has been a **constant rise** in the rate of inflation.*
9. The average score on the exam was 3% lower this year than it was last year.  
*There has been a **sharp fall** in the average score.*
10. The country is going to reduce the number of conventional weapons in its armed forces.  
*The country is going to **build up** the number of weapons it has.*
11. Deflation has adversely affected industries around the country.  
*There has been a **growth** in industrial activity.*
12. The rules are much stricter now than they were before.  
*There has been a **relaxation** of the rules.*
13. Last year, 12% of the population worked in industry and 10% worked in agriculture. This year, 14% of the population work in industry and 8% work in agriculture.  
*There has been a **narrowing of the gap** between those working in different sectors of the economy.*
14. Some management roles in the company will not exist this time next year.  
*Some management roles are going to be **phased out**.*
15. More people are shopping at large supermarkets rather than small local stores.  
*There has been an **upward trend** in the number of people shopping in small local stores.*
16. Her English is clearly better now than it was when she first arrived.  
*There has been **marked progress** in her English.*
17. People live in better houses, drive nicer cars, and eat higher-quality food than they did twenty years ago.  
*There has been a **general improvement** in the standard of living.*
18. Our company has opened new factories in Detroit, Houston, and Des Moines in the last five years.  
*Our company has witnessed considerable **expansion** in the last five years.*
19. The government will spend less on the healthcare services next year.  
*There are going to be **cuts** in healthcare spending next year.*
20. Americans nowadays want to see more of the world.  
*Americans nowadays want to **narrow** their horizons.*

Exercise 2

The box below contains 31 more words used to describe change in different situations. These are all verbs, and they can be found by reading from left to right and from right to left, starting in the top-left corner and following the direction of the arrows. Separate these words, then use some of them to complete sentences 1–10 below. In some cases you will need to change the form of the verb (for example, by putting it into its past simple or past participle form).

→	a	d	a	p	t	r	e	p	l	a	c	e	e	x	p	a	n	d	p	r	↘
↙	m	r	o	f	s	n	a	r	t	e	c	u	d	e	r	e	t	o	m	o	↘
↙	s	w	i	t	c	h	r	e	n	o	v	a	t	e	e	x	c	h	a	n	↘
↙	e	p	p	a	s	i	d	r	e	t	l	a	e	t	o	m	e	d	e	g	↘
↙	a	r	v	a	r	y	r	a	i	s	e	l	o	w	e	r	e	x	t	e	↘
↙	n	e	l	n	e	t	h	g	i	e	h	e	g	r	a	l	n	e	d	n	↘
↙	g	t	h	e	n	d	e	e	p	e	n	s	h	o	r	t	e	n	s	t	↘
↙	o	t	u	c	d	n	e	m	a	e	s	i	v	e	r	h	c	t	e	r	↘
↙	u	t	s	o	u	r	c	e	d	e	t	e	r	i	o	r	a	t	e	s	↘
↙	t	s	e	r	e	d	a	r	g	p	u	e	n	i	l	m	a	e	r	t	↘
↙	r	u	c	t	u	r	e	d	o	w	n	s	i	z	e	END	↘				

1. The company cannot refund customers' money, and goods can only be \_\_\_\_\_ on production of a receipt or other proof of purchase.
2. We have made radical changes to college regulations, and students are expected to \_\_\_\_\_ to these over the next few weeks.
3. The discovery of oil \_\_\_\_\_ the country from a small emirate to a major economic power.
4. The science building is currently being \_\_\_\_\_, but will remain open while construction work is carried out.
5. After only three weeks of the history course, she decided to \_\_\_\_\_ to something more practical.
6. Fees \_\_\_\_\_ according to the length of the course: the longer the course, the more you pay.
7. As water freezes, it \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The economic situation is \_\_\_\_\_ rapidly, and the entire economy is in danger of collapse.
9. Tuition fees will be \_\_\_\_\_ on January 14: some will come down, but most of them will go up.
10. Elastic becomes weaker the more it is \_\_\_\_\_.

# Comparing and Contrasting

Complete these sentences with the most appropriate word or expression in **bold**. In one case, all three options are possible.

1. The **contrast / compare / comparison** in working conditions between our Denver department and our department in Chicago is very noticeable, and employees are now demanding equality in this area.
2. The two engines **differentiate / differ / different** considerably from each other: one runs on gasoline, and the other is a gasoline-electric hybrid.
3. It is often difficult to **differentiate / differ / contrast** between students who are absent because they are genuinely sick, and those who are just enjoying a day in bed.
4. The new software program shared some common **characters / characterizes / characteristics** with those that were already on the market.
5. There's a clear **distinguish / distinctive / distinction** between studying on a college campus and working ~~from home on a correspondence course.~~
6. **Compared / Compare / Comparing** with 15 years ago, home PCs are cheaper, faster, and have a much bigger memory.
7. The two courses are different in every way: there's absolutely no ~~compare / comparison / contrast~~ between them.
8. Our digital photography course is ~~similar to / alike / resemble~~ our traditional photography course, except that it is obviously more computer-oriented.
9. There were several **similarities / similarly / similar to** between the two novels, except one was aimed at a younger market while the other targeted twenty-somethings.
10. Serious computer hackers can access your personal files and destroy or alter them. **Exactly / In the same way / Just as**, they can gain access to your Internet banking facility and steal your money.
11. The quality of his work is excellent. **Likewise / Alike / Likeness**, his attitude and commitment.
12. The TOEFL covers a variety of academic and general English tasks. **In contrast to / Although / By way of contrast**, the TOEIC focuses more on business and professional issues.
13. Grades have not been good over the last semester. **Nevertheless / Even so / However**, the college still has one of the best academic records in the state.
14. There currently seems to be a large **discrepancy / discrimination / differential** between the number of people employed in service industries, and those employed in the primary sector.
15. The Impressionists used light and color to give the general feeling of a scene, **unlike / whereas / whereby** the pre-Raphaelites used a lot of detail and bright colors, and showed a romanticized view of life.

# Condition and requirement

Rearrange the letters in **bold** to make words and expressions related to condition and requirement. The first one has been done as an example.

1. **sa nlgo sa** there is sufficient demand for healthy food such as salads and soups in the school cafeteria, we will continue to provide it.  
(Answer = *As long as*)
2. **seusln** I receive your assignment within the next couple of days, I will have to give you a lower grade for the course.
3. Students may use the college computers for personal emails **no incotnido atth** they agree to give up their computer if someone needs it for homework.
4. Everyone should get a good mid-term grade **vognripid ttha** they hand in all their work on time.
5. The main **retncopiinsod** for a healthy economy are controlled consumer spending and low unemployment.
6. (Notice on a fire alarm): **ni eacs fo** fire, break glass.
7. **ni het nvete fo** a tie between the two teams in tonight's game, there will be a replay on Saturday afternoon.
8. We agreed to sign the contract, the only **aputonstili** being that it would run for at least five years.
9. The teachers have **nidncoalitoun** trust in their students: they know they will do their best at all times, even if things get difficult.
10. **sumsagin hatt** the flight is on time, we will meet you at LaGuardia airport at ten o'clock.
11. His argument was based **no teh autonmsspi hatt** people are basically decent and honest.
12. Good language skills are one of the **quereesisitpr** for a job in an international organization.
13. Before you accept a job, it is important that you agree with the **remst** and **ioctnsodin** set out in the contract.
14. It is a **nmreiretque** of the college that students attend at least 95% of their course and complete all their assignments on time.
15. If you have a query, please call us at the number above. **niifagl ttha**, send us a fax or email.
16. We need to involve at least 20 people on this project, **ehewotris** it can't go ahead.

# Confusing words and false friends

Confusing words are two or more words that have a similar meaning to each other but are used in a different way.

**or**

are related to the same topic, but have a different meaning

**or**

look similar, but have a different meaning

False friends are words in English that have a similar-looking word in another language but which have a different meaning.

Complete the following sentences with the appropriate word in **bold**.

1. **action / activity**  
The police took immediate \_\_\_\_\_ when they realised the situation was getting out of hand.  
Economic \_\_\_\_\_ stagnated as the recession took hold.
2. **advice / advise**  
Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me on the best course of action to take?  
He offered me some excellent \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **affect / effect**  
Cuts in spending will have a serious \_\_\_\_\_ on welfare benefits.  
The strike will seriously \_\_\_\_\_ postal services.
4. **appreciable / appreciative**  
There is an \_\_\_\_\_ difference between manslaughter and murder.  
She was very \_\_\_\_\_ of our efforts to help.
5. **assumption / presumption**  
They raised taxes on the \_\_\_\_\_ that it would help control spending.  
It's sheer \_\_\_\_\_ for the president to suggest things have improved since he came to power.
6. **avoid / prevent**  
Rapid government reforms managed to \_\_\_\_\_ a revolution.  
He's always trying to \_\_\_\_\_ making a decision if he can help it.
7. **beside / besides**  
The office is just \_\_\_\_\_ the railway station.  
\_\_\_\_\_ their regular daytime job, many people do extra work in the evening.
8. **briefly / shortly**  
\_\_\_\_\_ before the conflict began, the army pulled down the border posts.  
The senator spoke \_\_\_\_\_ about the need for political reform.
9. **channel / canal**  
The television \_\_\_\_\_ received a formal complaint about the program.  
The Suez \_\_\_\_\_ was built in the second half of the nineteenth century.
10. **conscientious / conscious**  
Most people are \_\_\_\_\_ of the need to protect the environment.  
\_\_\_\_\_ workers should be rewarded for their hard work.
11. **continual / continuous**  
A \_\_\_\_\_ trade embargo has badly affected the economic infrastructure.  
The computer has given us \_\_\_\_\_ problems ever since we installed it.

12. **control / inspect**  
Environmental health officers regularly \_\_\_\_\_ kitchens and other food preparation areas.  
The government plans to \_\_\_\_\_ the price of meat to make sure it doesn't go up too much.
13. **criticism(s) / objection(s)**  
They didn't raise any \_\_\_\_\_ when we insisted on inspecting the figures.  
The government's plan was met with severe \_\_\_\_\_.
14. **damage / injury / harm**  
It was a severe \_\_\_\_\_ which needed immediate hospital treatment.  
A lot of \_\_\_\_\_ was caused to buildings along the coast during the storm.  
There's no \_\_\_\_\_ in taking a break from your job now and then.
15. **discover / invent**  
When did he \_\_\_\_\_ the telephone?  
Did Alexander Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ penicillin?
16. **during / for / while**  
Stores were closed \_\_\_\_\_ the duration of the conflict.  
\_\_\_\_\_ the transition from a dictatorship to democracy, the country experienced severe strikes and riots.  
The bomb went off \_\_\_\_\_ the President was making his speech.
17. **however / moreover**  
The plan was good in theory. \_\_\_\_\_, in practice it was extremely difficult to implement.  
The plan was excellent. \_\_\_\_\_ it was clear from the beginning that it was going to be a success.
18. **considerate / considerable**  
He made a \_\_\_\_\_ amount of money from his dot-com enterprise.  
She's a very \_\_\_\_\_ person, so she would never intentionally upset anyone.
19. **intolerable / intolerant**  
I consider his behavior absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.  
He is \_\_\_\_\_ of people from other countries.
20. **job / work**  
Everybody has the right to a decent \_\_\_\_\_ with good pay.  
Following the recession, many people are still looking for \_\_\_\_\_.
21. **lay(s) / lie(s)**  
The city of Quito \_\_\_\_\_ near the equator.  
The manager made it clear he intended to \_\_\_\_\_ down some strict rules.
22. **look at / watch**  
We must \_\_\_\_\_ the situation in Lugumba carefully, and be prepared to act if violence flares again.  
We need to \_\_\_\_\_ the problem carefully and decide if there is anything we can do about it.
23. **permission / permit**  
Sorry, we don't \_\_\_\_\_ photography in here.  
They received \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the sessions as long as they didn't interrupt.
24. **possibility / chance**  
There is always the \_\_\_\_\_ that the Supreme Court will reverse the earlier verdict.  
If we act now, we have a good \_\_\_\_\_ of finding a cure for the disease.

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25. **priceless / worthless**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ paintings by artists like Van Gogh should not be in the hands of private collectors.  
 As inflation spiraled out of control, paper money suddenly became \_\_\_\_\_.
26. **principal(s) / principle(s)**  
 Many people refuse to eat meat on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ of the school is an ardent non smoker.  
 The country's \_\_\_\_\_ products are paper and wood.  
 Not many people are familiar with the \_\_\_\_\_ of nuclear physics.
27. **process / procession**  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ made its way down the street.  
 Applying for a visa can be a long and frustrating \_\_\_\_\_.
28. **raise / rise**  
 As prices \_\_\_\_\_, demand usually drops.  
 In response to the current oil shortage, most airlines plan to \_\_\_\_\_ their fares.
29. **respectable / respectful**  
 The delegates listened in \_\_\_\_\_ silence as the chairman spoke.  
 They want to bring up their children in an area that is considered to be \_\_\_\_\_.
30. **treat / cure**  
 Hospitals are unwilling to \_\_\_\_\_ patients without health insurance.  
 They were unable to \_\_\_\_\_ the disease, and hundreds died as a result.
31. **subjective / objective**  
 Your report should be as \_\_\_\_\_ possible: just present the facts and try to avoid saying what you think about them.  
 The newspaper article was extremely \_\_\_\_\_: the journalist more or less forced his own views and ideas on his readership.
32. **disinterested / uninterested**  
 In order to end the dispute, we need some impartial advice from a / an \_\_\_\_\_ third party.  
 I thought they would enjoy my talk, but they were completely \_\_\_\_\_.
33. **imply / infer**  
 From what you just said, can I \_\_\_\_\_ that you think I'm interfering?  
 I didn't mean to \_\_\_\_\_ that you were interfering. I just said that I needed a little time to myself.
34. **complimentary / complementary**  
 In western societies, acupuncture and hypnosis are seen as \_\_\_\_\_ medicines.  
 All new students will receive a \_\_\_\_\_ study pack and dictionary.

# Idioms and colloquialisms 1

Idioms and colloquialisms (spoken expressions) are a common feature of the TOEFL Listening Comprehension. There are a lot of them, and each one has to be learnt individually. Often, but not always, it is possible to identify the meaning of an idiom or a colloquialism from the context in which it is being used.

The idioms and colloquialisms exercises in this book focus on some of the most commonly-used expressions.

## Exercise 1

Complete the dialogs with an expression from the box.

You said it! ● I couldn't care less. ● I really don't mind. It's up to you.  
 It does nothing for me. ● Let me sleep on it. ● Never mind. It can't be helped.  
 No way! Not a chance! ● You've got to be kidding! ● Why not? Go for it!  
 Wow! Way to go! ● You should really get a life. ● You're welcome.

1. A. Shall we eat out, or do you want me to cook something?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. OK. In that case, let's eat out.
2. A. The economics seminar has been canceled yet again.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. It's true. Professor Parkhill sure seems to be absent a lot these days.
3. A. Our history classes are really boring, aren't they?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Maybe we shouldn't have chosen it as an option.
4. A. We're going to Mo's bar tonight. Want to come?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Come on, don't be like that! It'll be fun!
5. A. I need a decision as soon as possible.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Well, to be honest, I'd rather you told me now.
6. A. Are you interested in science?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Me neither. I find it really boring.
7. A. I spent most of the weekend lying in bed and watching TV.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. I know! You're not the first person to say that.
8. A. If you don't work harder, you'll fail your exams.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Well, you should. Your whole future might depend on them.
9. A. I passed all my exams – grade A's all around!  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Thanks. I never thought I'd be able to do it.
10. A. Do you think I should apply to the University of West Virginia?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. All right, I will. Thanks.
11. A. Thank you so much for all your help. I couldn't have done it without you.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. No, really, I really appreciate it.
12. A. I'm really sorry I lost your dictionary.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Even so, I promise to replace it.

Exercise 2

Instructions as above.

Let me lend a hand. ● How's it going? ● How should I know?  
 I'm a little tied up right now. ● I'm going to give it all I've got. ● Is it any wonder?  
 Oh, I'm used to it. ● Sure. Why not? ● What a drag! ● What do you have in mind?  
 You bet! ● You're out of luck.

1. A. Can I take a look at your essay to get a few ideas?  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. Thanks. I'll do the same for you next time.
2. A. I'm working really hard for my finals these days.  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. Oh, not bad. I'm fairly confident I'll pass.
3. A. Where's Murai today?  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. Don't be like that. I was only asking.
4. A. We need to finish this assignment by Monday. There goes our weekend.  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. I know, but we'll make up for it next weekend.
5. A. Want to come to the concert tonight?  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. That's great. I'll go and get us some tickets.
6. A. Do you think you'll pass your exams?  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. That's the spirit! Well, good luck.
7. A. Do you find it difficult getting up at 6 o'clock every morning?  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. I suppose you must be. You've been doing it for so long.
8. A. We're thinking of doing something to celebrate the end of the semester.  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. I'm not sure, really. Maybe a barbecue, or something like that.
9. A. Are there any tickets left for tonight's show?  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. I thought so. Oh well, never mind.
10. A. I have to get the hall ready for tonight's lecture.  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. That's really kind of you.
11. A. I was wondering if you could help me with my assignment.  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. Yes, I thought you might be a bit busy right now.
12. A. Poor Sarah failed to get a good grade in her TOEFL once again.  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. Right. She never seems to do any preparation for it.



# Idioms and colloquialisms 2

## Exercise 1

Complete these dialogs with an appropriate expression from the box.

A little bird told me. ● Be my guest. ● Fire away, I'm all ears. ● I'd be glad to  
 I'm having second thoughts. ● I'm keeping my fingers crossed. ● My lips are sealed.  
 Now you're talking! ● Rather you than me. ● That'll be the day! ● That'll teach you!  
 Who let the cat out of the bag?

1. A. Would you mind looking after my bag while I go to the restroom?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A. Do you mind if I sit here?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A. How do you know the test has been canceled?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A. I'd be really grateful if you didn't tell anyone about it.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A. Do you think you'll pass the exam?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
6. A. I signed up for extra sociology classes with Professor Dullman.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A. I've got some really interesting news.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A. You don't want to work tonight? OK, let's go to the theater instead.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A. I thought you were going to register for the Theory of Knowledge course.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
10. A. I promise to work harder from now on.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
11. A. I hear that you're going to throw a surprise party for my birthday.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
12. A. I've just eaten six hot dogs, and now I've got a terrible stomach ache.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 2

Instructions as above.

Congratulations. ● Couldn't be better. ● Hold on. ● I'd love to. ● I'd rather you didn't.  
 Oh, that's too bad. ● Oh, this is on me. ● Sure, knock on wood.  
 Thanks. Make yourself at home. ● The name doesn't ring any bells. ● You're welcome.  
 Yes. Take care and keep in touch.

1. A. I can't afford to go to the concert tonight.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A. I managed to get a place in the Advanced Studies program.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A. Would you like to come to Gino's tonight?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A. Thank you very much for all your help.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A. Oh wow! What a great room. It's wonderful.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_

6. A. We'd better leave now – our train leaves in half an hour.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A. It's been nice seeing you again. Let's get together again soon.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A. Hi, Tom. How are you?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A. Do you mind if I smoke in here?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
10. A. I didn't do too well on my final exams.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
11. A. Have you ever heard of the Darwin Awards?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
12. A. Do you think you'll do well on tomorrow's test?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_

Exercise 3

Instructions as above.

<p>Have a good time. ● How's it going? ● Oh well, it's not the end of the world. ● I'll say!          Gesundheit! ● Not on your life! ● Of course. Take a seat.          So I guess you're in the doghouse again. ● Sure thing. ● That's a load off my mind.          Well, keep it to yourself. ● Well, take it easy. Don't kill yourself.</p>
---

1. A. I'm about halfway through my essay.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A. I thought the lecture on the Declaration of Independence was great. Did you enjoy it?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A. Snake is considered a delicacy in some countries. Would you ever consider eating it?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A. Professor de Gruchy has extended the deadline for our essays to Thursday, so you don't need to worry about not finishing it on time.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A. Did you know that our economics teacher left the questions for tomorrow's test lying on his desk?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
6. A. Could you give me a bit of help with this assignment?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A. Can I come in?  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A. I have so much to do by Monday; two essays to write, a presentation to prepare, and I have to do some research on the history of the U.N.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A. I'm so depressed. That's the third time I've failed my driver's test.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
10. A. I'm off to Niagara Falls for the weekend. See you Monday.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
11. A. I forgot my boyfriend's birthday last week.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
12. A. Aaachooooooooo!  
B. \_\_\_\_\_

## Idioms and colloquialisms 3

Connect the first part of each sentence in the box on this page with the second half in the box on the next page. Use the expressions in **bold** to help you make the connection.

1. If you're going to be late, please **let me...**
2. I was really unhappy when she **made a...**
3. The project was **more or...**
4. I just need to complete this essay, and then my homework will be over **once and...**
5. His lectures are generally really dull, but **once in...**
6. I've never been **too...**
7. There are parts of the course which are a bit boring, but **on the...**
8. Don't try to do everything at once. Try to do things **step by...**
9. There's a chance that **sooner or...**
10. When you first start a new job, it can take a while to **learn the...**
11. I know you have a lot of work, but **look on the bright...**
12. The President can't be **in his right...**
13. You shouldn't **go over his...**
14. You're kidding. You're **pulling my...**
15. It can be difficult to **make ends...**
16. Try to **make the most of your...**
17. I asked Ron to get the computer fixed, and he promised to **take...**
18. I understand the theory, but I **get mixed...**
19. Don't worry about the exam. Just **give it...**
20. I'm not sure whether to take a vacation this summer. I'll decide **one way or...**
21. I wasn't sure whether to apply for a Ph.D. program, but in the end I decided to **go...**
22. I got an A on my first assignment of the year. That's **a good...**
23. For years he was ignored, then **all at...**
24. Many people believe that it's **about...**
25. I've **changed...**
26. He had some excellent plans, but they never really **got off...**

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- A. ...**big** on science; I've always preferred the arts.
- B. ...**the ground**.
- C. ...**whole** it's really good.
- D. ...**start**, isn't it?
- E. ...**all you've got** and hope for the best.
- F. ...**for all**. It'll be a real relief.
- G. ...**mind**, making a stupid decision like that.
- H. ...**step** until you've finished.
- I. ...**up** when I try to describe it on paper.
- J. ...**the other** when I see my exam scores.
- K. ...**care of** it at the earliest opportunity.
- L. ...**leg**. Right?
- M. ...**my mind** about attending Professor Malkovich's course.
- N. ...**for it** and see what happens.
- O. ...**meet** when you're a student on a low income.
- P. ...**later** the students will demand some real changes.
- Q. ...**ropes** and become familiar with the way things work.
- R. ...**head** and make your own decisions.
- S. ...**point of** reminding me about my previous bad grades.
- T. ...**less** complete when someone pointed out they had missed some details.
- U. ...**know** in advance.
- V. ...**time** when you're in New York.
- W. ...**side**; at least you won't get bored this weekend!
- X. ...**a while** there's something of interest.
- Y. ...**time** more money was invested in education.
- Z. ...**once**, people began paying attention to what he had to say.



# Idioms and colloquialisms 4

## Exercise 1

Choose the correct underlined word to complete each of the idioms in **bold**. The meaning of each idiom is in parentheses after the sentence.

1. You shouldn't try to **burn the match / lighter / candle** at both ends; you'll exhaust yourself. (*to get up early in the morning and go to bed late at night on a regular basis*)
2. Once he started looking into the details, he realized what **a can of worms / beans / beer** they were opening. (*a difficult and complicated situation*)
3. It was a difficult decision, but he decided to **take the goat / cow / bull by the horns** and tell his boss that he wanted to leave the company. (*to deal bravely or confidently with a difficult situation*)
4. Some insurance companies make their customers **pay through the ears / nose / mouth** for their services. (*to pay a lot of money*)
5. He knew that what they were doing was wrong, but **turned a blind / closed / cold eye** to it. (*to pretend not to notice, to ignore*)
6. Many people like to get **off the beaten road / path / track** when they take a vacation. (*somewhere quiet, where not a lot of people go*)
7. If you're **pressed / crushed / squeezed for time**, we can talk later. (*busy, in a hurry*)
8. I've been feeling a little **under the thumb / weather / table** recently, but I'm feeling better now. (*slightly sick*)
9. He's a pretty boring person, but **once in a blue / red / green moon**, he'll come out with something really amazing. (*very rarely*)
10. Sorry, your request is **out of the answer / statement / question**. (*not possible, unacceptable*)
11. He gave us some information that was strictly **off the books / record / list**. (*unofficial, to be kept secret*)
12. We don't want to **lose land / ground / place** against our competitors. (*to become less successful than the others*)
13. Let's have a party at the beginning of the year. It will help to **break the ice / mold / air**. (*to make people feel more friendly and willing to talk to each other*)
14. Everybody should say exactly how they feel. That should **clear the room / air / feelings**. (*to help end an argument or disagreement*)
15. It's very rude to **talk shop / work / jobs** when you're out with other people. (*to discuss your job with a coworker, usually in a social situation where there are others present*)
16. Don't let him stop you; **stand your land / place / ground** and tell him you won't change your mind. (*to refuse to change your mind about something, even when people oppose you*)
17. I just barely passed my exam. It was a very **far / close / exact call**. (*something almost did or didn't happen*)
18. What happened? **Put me in the picture / story / scene**. (*to let somebody know what has happened, usually when other people already know*)

## Exercise 2

Instructions as above.

1. You've really **made a name / title / place for yourself**, haven't you? *(to become well known, famous and / or respected)*
2. Have you seen his house? It's **out of this planet / earth / world**. *(extremely good, wonderful, etc.)*
3. He knew I was friendly with his boss, and asked me to **pull a few legs / strings / ropes** for him. *(to use your influence with somebody in order to get something)*
4. Donna **played / did / went hooky** again today; that's the third lecture she's missed this week. *(to miss a lesson, class, etc., for no good reason)*
5. My bank account's **in the black / red / pink** again. *(to owe money to the bank because you've spent too much)*
6. I'm done with three out of my five essays already. **So far, so good / fine / acceptable**. *(until now, everything is going well)*
7. I'm really mad at Jerry. It's time I **had it in / out / over with** him. *(to tell somebody you are angry with them, and explain why)*
8. His theories **broke fresh earth / ground / land** and changed the way people thought about science. *(to do something original or innovative)*
9. He said that he had missed his lecture because he had to visit a sick relative, but I don't really think he was **on the air / ground / level**. *(being honest and telling the truth)*
10. It wasn't my fault! Why do I always have to **carry the can / tin / box**? *(being the person who is considered responsible for something that has gone wrong)*
11. College life can seem strange at first, but my advice is to **go with the snow / flow / glow** and see what happens. *(to do what seems the easiest thing in a particular situation)*
12. I thought my last essay was really good, so old Professor Clack really **rained on my show / carnival / parade** when he told me he thought it was terrible. *(to spoil something or make it much less enjoyable)*
13. The dean has told me that unless I **turn over a new leaf / book / paper**, I might be expelled. *(to change your life by starting to be a better person or stopping a bad habit)*
14. There are some good restaurants nearby that **won't bankrupt / break / rob the bank**. *(not expensive)*
15. I can't talk to you now. I'm **running / walking / jumping a little late**. *(to be slightly later than normal)*
16. He can be a little unfriendly, but **by and big / large / huge** he's OK. *(generally)*
17. All right, everyone. We've achieved a lot in the last hour or so. Let's **take three / four / five**. *(to have a short break)*
18. I don't know exactly what he's up to, but my **fifth / sixth / seventh sense** tells me he's trying to get out of doing his assignment. *(a special ability to feel things that you cannot see, hear, touch, smell, or taste)*