

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).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

Example: (0) **BEEN**

The 'step of two'

Ask someone what they know about ballet and they might say 'doesn't it have a pas de deux'? This 'step of two' has **0** _____ part of the art form since the 18th century, but often just acted as an ' opener for longer performances.

In its original form, two dancers **9** _____ mirror each other, performing separate moves and only touching occasionally. Over time this developed into something more complex, involving closer interaction between **10** _____. However, the man's role **11** _____ considered secondary; he presented the ballerina to the audience, supporting her **12** _____ every sense of the word.

Moving forward to the late 19th century, something closer to **13** _____ today's ballet audiences might recognise made its appearance. And by the mid 20th century the 'step of two' had become a spectacle in its **14** _____ right, intended to front the skills of both dancers **15** _____ than just the woman.

Today, it's a key element of any narrative ballet. **16** _____ longer predictable and formulaic, it is impressive, involving spectacular lifts and movements for two equal dancers.

Answers and explanations

9. **Would.** The word here conveys a similar idea to ‘used to’, except we can only use one word. ‘Would’ indicated a repeated action in the past that no longer takes place. We know it no longer happens because of the sentence that follows: ‘Over time, it developed into something more complex...’.
10. **Them.** The pronoun refers to the dancers. We cannot answer ‘both’, as in order for it to work, we would need to use ‘both of them’.
11. **Was.** Again, past simple is what we need here – as suggested by the context, we focus on the history of ballet development and how in the past men had a secondary role in the dance.
12. **In.** The authors use wordplay – the male dancer supports the ballerina in the physical sense, holding her in the air, but also is the supporting act, whereas the female dancer is the main performer.
13. **What.** A fairly straightforward connection with no real caveats.
14. **Own.** Something in its own right means ‘on its own’, not as a part of something else, but independently. A phrase like this is used to stress the importance, greatness, or influence of something, to make it a highlight.
15. **Rather.** We see a contrast between what was said in the past – now both the man and the woman are equal partners, whereas in the past the woman was the main focus of the dance.
16. **No.** No longer simply means ‘not anymore’. We can’t say ‘any longer’, as it would require a negative bit, e.g.: ‘Not predictable or formulaic any longer’.