

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) **HOW**

Tap water

Whenever you visit a foreign country for the first time, one of the things on your mind should be **0**_____ safe it is to drink water straight from the tap. There are several factors **9**_____ play here, two of them are particularly notable.

One of the reasons it might not be a good idea to drink water, especially in older areas of cities, is **10**_____ to its high lead content. The lead itself comes from old pipes as they get increasingly corroded **11**_____ the years. This, of course, gets worse if you take into account all the deposits that accumulate inside the pipes over decades. All this gunk then finds **12**_____ way to people's kitchens and bathrooms. Needless to say, a separate filtration system is obligatory if you are planning to drink or cook **13**_____ that water.

In **14**_____ to safeguard people from contracting water-borne diseases and viruses, the process of chlorination is used. Essentially, it is the same thing they put in pools, but in much smaller quantities. While ensuring that the water is germ-free, it also alters its taste, sometimes rendering water undrinkable.

Cities in Canada, the USA as well as in most European countries boast tap water that requires **15**_____ additional filtration, meaning that you can drink it right from the tap. **16**_____, people are dissuaded from drinking tap water in almost every country of the African continent.

Answers and explanations

9. **At.** A factor at play is one that affects the condition or the outcome of something.
10. **Due.** We commonly use ‘owing’ with positive influences or conditions, and ‘due’ with something negative or undesirable. That is why ‘owing’ is not the perfect fit as we clearly talk about a negative situation.
11. **Over.** The focus here is that the process of corrosion is gradual that happens over many years. ‘In many years’ is a more loose idea that could mean ‘after’ or ‘during’, whereas ‘over’ better conveys the slow nature of the corroding process.
12. **Its.** A possessive pronoun here that refers to gunk – something that is unpleasant and sticky.
13. **With.** If you cook with something, you use it as an ingredient in cooking. Here we talk about the integral part of almost any dish – clean tap water.
14. **Order.** ‘In order to do something’ means to do it with the purpose of achieving something. ‘In case to’ is not a phrase; ‘in an attempt to’ could work, but we would need to add an indefinite article, as ‘attempt’ is a countable word in the singular.
15. **No.** ‘Little’ is not a good answer contextually, as this clearly says that there isn’t any need for this water to undergo any kind of additional filtration.
16. **Conversely/contrastingly.** Both introductory words add contrast to the two parts of the sentence – tap water in Africa can be dangerous to human body.