

For questions 17-24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

Example: (0) SETTING

Hard science fiction

We are all familiar with the genre of science fiction – its **0** _____ is usually the distant future, and space travel is often a big part of it. Now, hard science fiction might sound new. The ‘hard’ part means that this genre focuses on **17** _____ and keeping scientific basis in mind, at times putting it above literary and entertainment values.

However, like any other work of fiction, it still has to retain the fun component. The author does not want the reader to feel **18** _____ by bombarding them with complex terminology or **19** _____ technical descriptions. Instead, the focus shifts to **20** _____ yet exciting world of the future, without straying away from the theoretically possible towards overly **21** _____. The genre also sets out to educate us – to explain things in a detailed, but also accessible way.

Some might consider this genre niche – that is, it might not be to everybody’s **22** _____. The reason for that is exactly the same as why so many people feel **23** _____ to it – immaculate attention to detail, even if it has to come at the expense of fun. So if you have grown **24** _____ with endless stories of time travel and teenagers zooming around in alien space crafts, then the hard fiction genre might be just the thing you were looking for.

0 SET
17 ACCURATE
18 EDUCATE
19 LENGTH
20 BELIEVE
21 SPECULATE
22 LIKE
23 DRAW
24 ENCHANT

Answers and explanations

17. **Accuracy.** The quality of being precise, lacking any mistakes or inconsistencies.
18. **Uneducated.** Understanding that the negative prefix is needed is crucial here. The word ‘bombraded’ helps to convey the general mood of the sentence. Here it means that the authors want to avoid giving us too much difficult material, as it can discourage the reader.
19. **Lengthy.** ‘Lengthy’ and ‘long’ are virtually the same in this context. Remember that the original word always needs to change. However, ‘lengthy’ can sometimes have a negative connotation, meaning ‘too long for its own good, in need of shortening’.
20. **Believable.** Something that is realistic, something that you believe could take place in the real world.
21. **Speculative.** To speculate is to make assumptions without any actual evidence. ‘Speculative’ in this context means making assumptions about the future that have no real ground in reality.
22. **Liking.** A set expression – when something is to your liking, then you find it pleasant. This is mostly used to talk about preferences and opinions, something subjective rather than universally liked.
23. **Drawn.** If a person is drawn to something, it means they find it naturally attractive, they gravitate towards it.
24. **Disenchanted.** Feeling disenchanted with (or about) something is to no longer find it appealing or to lose interest in it.