

## Part 1

For questions 1-8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

A place	B site	C venue	D position
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### What our homes say about us

A home is more than a building. It's a **0** \_\_\_\_\_ which both influences our identity and represents it. As children, our environment makes us who we are, or at **1** \_\_\_\_\_ contributes to it. For example, if we grow up in a crowded home, the thought of moving to a quiet home alone might never **2** \_\_\_\_\_ to us. Instead, we may prefer to live in a house full of people for the **3** \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives.

As adults, every object that **4** \_\_\_\_\_ to us tells a story about who we are and where we came from. In **5** \_\_\_\_\_, how we present those objects in our homes says something about how we want others to see us. If we identify ourselves with being creative, for example, we might put certain art work on **6** \_\_\_\_\_ for others to see. Or, if we believe that it's more important for a home to be relaxing than fashionable, our home might **7** \_\_\_\_\_ of warm colours and comfortable furniture, in **8** \_\_\_\_\_ to stylish, modern but perhaps more uncomfortable pieces.

1	A little	B least	C minimum	D less
2	A appear	B inspire	C attract	D interest
3	A final	B total	C last	D rest
4	A owns	B possesses	C occupies	D belongs
5	A furthermore	B addition	C together	D extra
6	A exhibition	B gallery	C display	D public
7	A consist	B include	C contain	D involve
8	A opposite	B contrast	C variety	D difference

## Part 2

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). In the exam, write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example: **THE**

### A cure for insomnia?

I've just read an article about blue light and I think I've discovered **0** \_\_\_\_\_ most likely reason for my recent restless nights! You see, blue light, emitted by sunshine, some types **9** \_\_\_\_\_ lighting and electronic device screens, has both benefits and dangers for us. It helps improve mood, memory and concentration, but if we **10** \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of time staring at screens, it can actually cause damage to our eyes. Interestingly, the article also points **11** \_\_\_\_\_ that blue light controls our body clocks and using electronic devices too much immediately **12** \_\_\_\_\_ going to bed can disrupt our sleep cycles. My nights have **13** \_\_\_\_\_ getting worse recently and I'm sure it's because I **14** \_\_\_\_\_ just started reading on my tablet when I'm in bed. The experts' advice **15** \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid using bright screens for about two to

three hours before sleep, but I don't think I can restrict myself quite that much. Maybe, I'll switch **16** \_\_\_\_\_ reading a printed book and give social media a miss after nine o'clock!

### Part 3

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). In the exam, write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

**Example: FASHIONABLE**

### Getting the look

<p>It has been a long time since Coco Chanel first made it <b>0</b> _____ to have a tan. Before 1923 suntanned skin was considered both <b>17</b> _____ and a sign of poverty. Then Coco Chanel returned from a <b>18</b> _____ holiday with a tan and suddenly everyone else wanted one. Doctors' <b>19</b> _____ changed too. Sunshine was a source of Vitamin D. Unfortunately having beach holidays was <b>20</b> _____ for many people in northern countries.</p>	<p>0. FASHION 17. HEALTH 18. SAIL 19. ADVISE 20. AFFORDABLE 21. PATIENT 22. VARY 23. SCIENCE 24. REVERSIBLE</p>
<p>In the 1940s, women who were <b>21</b> _____ to get a tanned look started to use a mixture made from tea bags and gravy to stain their legs brown. This was obviously impractical for a <b>22</b> _____ of reasons! Better solutions came after an accidental discovery in the 1950s when a <b>23</b> _____ found that a safe chemical, DHA, could be used in a lotion to fake a tan. Medical research also showed the <b>24</b> _____ damage that sun can do to our skin and today fake tan is a much safer and more convenient alternative to sunbathing.</p>	

### Part 4

For questions 25-30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use **between two and five words**, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

**0** Since finding out the truth, Laura has felt really silly.

**WHEN**

Laura **STARTED FEELING SILLY WHEN** she found out the truth.

**25.** Julio thought people lived in the TV so he regularly talked to them.

**WOULD**

Julio \_\_\_\_\_ people on TV because he thought they lived in there.

**26.** Richard hasn't believed in monsters for years.

**LONG**

It's been \_\_\_\_\_ Richard believed in monsters.

**27.** That day was the first time that William realised his mistake.

**NEVER**

William \_\_\_\_\_ his mistake before that day.

28. Lucia thought that her brother's toys came alive at night.

**BELONGED**

Lucia believed that the toys \_\_\_\_\_ her brother came alive at night.

29. Francesca started telling stories before her brother was born.

**SINCE**

Francesca \_\_\_\_\_ before her brother was born.

30. Luc was on a walk in the park when he saw something strange.

**THROUGH**

Luc saw something strange while he \_\_\_\_\_ the park.

## Part 5

You are going to read an article about photography. For questions 31-36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

### Once in a blue moon?

*Nature photographer David Smart reflects on his job and the rarity of some of the unusual natural phenomena he photographs.*

I tread carefully, trying to crush as few of the beautiful flowers as possible. But I need to get in the best position to photograph this stunning display of blue, violet and yellow that fills the view. Where am I? In one of the royal London parks in spring? Maybe the famous Kawachi Fuji flower gardens of Japan? No, I'm in the driest place in the world, the Atacama Desert in Chile. And in front of me is the wonderful sight known as Desert Bloom. I angle my camera, focus and click. Job done, I can now stand back, breathe in the scent of millions of flowers and enjoy the moment.

Seeing a rare natural phenomenon like the Desert Bloom is not a one-off for me; I've photographed the Niagara Falls when they were partially frozen over; I've experienced the weird and wonderful rush of darkness during a total eclipse. I'm lucky that my work as a professional nature photographer takes me to some of the most amazing places in the world and pays reasonably well. However, it's the really unusual sights which nature occasionally provides for us that really fascinate me. As one of my photographer friends says, 'It feels a real privilege.'

But in reality, just how rare are events like these? Tabloid headlines need to sell copies and imply that they are once-in-a-blue-moon events. 'Niagara Falls completely frozen over', shouts one newspaper, 'The only total eclipse you'll see in your lifetime', shouts another and 'Miracle of flowers in the desert', says a third. In fact, these phenomena, although unusual, are not as unlikely as the hype suggests. Niagara Falls have partially frozen over several times - when winds from the North Pole brought arctic temperatures further south (a symptom of climate change). And although apparently inexplicable, those stunning flowers in the desert will flower again in another five or seven years. The seeds lie in the soil and will grow whenever there is a lot of rainfall.

Real, once-in-a-blue-moon events do happen, but it is only by chance that they are ever seen or recorded. For example, there's one spectacular event that I would desperately love to see. It's known as a Fire Rainbow, but is actually neither connected to fire, nor a rainbow! Sadly, I'm never likely to see one anywhere apart from in a photograph. These incredible optical phenomena, which appear to be amazing combinations of colours in the sky, only occur when there is a very specific combination of atmospheric conditions. In addition to this, they are only visible from high altitudes.

Being in the right place at the right time is what a nature photographer like me longs for, but it doesn't happen very often. I got my wish once, and like the Desert Bloom it was in Chile. I was there to film a volcanic eruption at Volcan Calbuco, a very dangerous active volcano. While filming, I was treated to a rare display of volcanic lightning. This is a unique type of electrical reaction that happens inside a great cloud of ash, otherwise known as a 'dirty thunderstorm'. I say 'treated', but the experience was so terrifying that my first instincts were to run like mad! The attraction of photographing one of the greatest light shows on earth was, however, very strong and those pictures are among the best I have ever taken.

I think my obsession with these rare natural phenomena should be quite clear by now! I'm very fortunate to have a job which allows me to travel to record as many as I can. The scientific reasons behind such events are certainly fascinating, but for me it will always be about their magnificent beauty. The powerful surprises that nature continues to deliver will never cease to amaze me. Whether they are just unusual or truly once in a lifetime experiences, I can't see myself ever getting tired of chasing them.

Now, maybe just one more photo of these incredible flowers...

**31.** What point is the writer making in the first paragraph?

- A** He often takes photographs of flowers in different gardens.
- B** He is more interested in his photography than what he photographs.
- C** He is photographing something that is unusual because of the climate.
- D** He needs to be flexible when he's working.

**32.** How does the writer feel about his work?

- A** impressed by the amount of money he earns
- B** surprised at how often he has to travel
- C** grateful for the opportunity to observe rare events
- D** proud to be so well-experienced

**33.** What is the writer's attitude towards tabloid newspapers?

- A** He thinks they are too influential.
- B** He suspects they exaggerate to attract readers.
- C** He believes they do not check their facts.
- D** He wonders why they contradict each other.

**34.** When talking about Fire Rainbows, the writer regrets that

- A** he cannot explain the reason for Fire Rainbows.
- B** he has never seen a photograph of one.
- C** he is unaware how they got their name.
- D** his chances of seeing one are very low.

**35.** The writer repeats the word 'treated' in paragraph 5

- A** to indicate that the experience wasn't immediately enjoyable.
- B** to show that the event had never happened before.
- C** to emphasise how amazing the sight was.
- D** to stress how special the event made him feel.

36. What does the writer believe about the science behind rare natural events?

- A It's always important to know why an event occurs.
- B Science cannot always explain these types of events.
- C It's interesting but not as important as the visual effects.
- D Understanding the scientific reasons is not part of his job.

## Part 6

You are going to read an article about a nation. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (37-42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

### Is it time we went Dutch?

Two toddlers have just chased each other to the top of a climbing frame and are pushing to get down the slide first. Their mothers are chatting on a nearby park bench. In the distance a little boy wobbles along on his bike, followed by his grandfather who is pushing a buggy. A gang of older children comes racing along the bike path, laughing and joking. They overtake a young mum who is cycling more slowly, balancing a baby in a seat on the front of her bike and a toddler on the back. A group of girls is playing on the grass and not far away, some boys are perfecting their skateboarding moves. And none of the school-age children is accompanied by an adult.

This happy scene isn't from a movie. It's just a normal Springtime afternoon in the Netherlands. Is it too perfect? Realistic? Idealistic? 37 \_\_\_\_. Their teenagers are said to be among the happiest in the world and even newborn babies are supposed to be far more contented and smiling than their counterparts in different countries. Of course, the big question is why? And can Dutch parenting skills, the education system and their general priorities in life teach the rest of us anything important?

One significant factor could be the Dutch parents' attitude towards achievement. For them achievement doesn't necessarily lead to happiness, but happiness can lead to achievement. Success starts with happiness. They do not push their kids to learn quickly; the children are allowed to develop in their own time. 38 \_\_\_\_. Primary school children are not given homework, and reading and writing skills are not usually taught until the age of six. Learning to play together is of first importance. Carefree childhood lasts just that bit longer.

Security is vital for a happy child, and the Dutch try to forge strong family bonds. For example, it's traditional for the whole family to eat breakfast together every single day. Dutch dads also play a big part in bringing up the children, taking an equal role in child-rearing and doing household chores. 39 \_\_\_\_. You're just as likely to see a dad pushing a pram or wearing a baby-carrier as a mum!

Another interesting point is that independence in Dutch children is encouraged early on. 40 \_\_\_\_. They are taught to be self-sufficient and accept responsibility at an appropriate age. Playing outside unsupervised (often considered noisy and disruptive in other cultures) is seen as an important stage in the growing up process.

One common cause of dissatisfaction in many people today is an obsession with material things. 41 \_\_\_\_. For the Dutch, practicality usually tops luxury and children often grow up wearing second-hand clothes and playing with used toys. Check out King's Day celebrations in Amsterdam - a major attraction is the enormous second-hand market where children become traders for the day, buying and selling old toys!

Of course, many countries claim to be 'the happiest places to live' or 'have the most contented people' for a variety of reasons. 42 \_\_\_\_. However, in the end, most happy adults start off as happy children. And while there may be some

things about Dutch parenting or education that we do not completely agree with, they are undoubtedly doing something right.

- A. Unusually, Dutch children do not appear to be overly affected by this concern.
- B. This is reinforced by the Dutch education system.
- C. Instead of this, the Dutch believe in inspiring children to explore the world around them.
- D. Mums don't do for their children things they are capable of doing themselves.
- E. Perhaps the climate is good or maybe the standard of living is exceptional.
- F. According to surveys, it reflects the claim that the Netherlands is a very happy nation.
- G. They look after their kids on their days off and help put the little ones to bed.

## Part 7

You are going to read an article about people telling white lies. For questions 43 - 52, choose from the sections (A - D). The people may be chosen more than once.

### Which person ...

- 43. wanted to impress a relative? \_\_\_
- 44. was unable to continue in her work? \_\_\_
- 45. lied when faced with a difficult choice? \_\_\_
- 46. corrects herself when describing the seriousness of her lie? \_\_\_
- 47. endured a difficult social event to maintain a lie? \_\_\_
- 48. is still unaware of the consequences of her lie? \_\_\_
- 49. confessed to having lied before it was discovered? \_\_\_
- 50. assumed something that turned out to be wrong? \_\_\_
- 51. didn't enjoy an event completely as a result of her lie? \_\_\_
- 52. changed her attitude to lying as a result of an experience? \_\_\_

## Twisting the truth

### A Alice

I was just married, and desperately wanted my new mother-in-law to like me. So, when she asked for my opinion of her outfit at a family dinner, I was full of admiration. No way was I going to tell the truth! The dress was purple, flowery and completely outdated. Instead I told her how lovely it was. I'd completely forgotten about the incident until she gave me a birthday present a few months later - an identical purple dress. She said it was because I'd clearly admired hers and she was looking forward to seeing me in it at the party. I wore it and hated every minute of my party that year. I'm much more careful these days about the white lies I tell. And the dress? Well, unfortunately, it somehow shrank in the wash and I haven't been able to wear it again ...

### B Holly

My young son had been looking forward to his first sports day at primary school for weeks, and I'd promised to be there, cheering him on. Then, the weekend beforehand I checked my work diary and realised I'd agreed to attend a meeting that same afternoon. If I didn't go to sports day, I would be letting down my son, but if I didn't go to the meeting, I'd be letting down my boss. What I should have done was admit my mistake and ask for the afternoon off. Instead I called in sick and I went to the sports day. I was so proud when Danny won his race, although also a little guilty about the meeting. The problem was, I took Danny and his friends for an ice cream in the park later and I'm pretty sure I saw my boss's car go past. He wants to see me later and I think I know why.

**C Cella**

It was only a very small exaggeration really. Well, OK, it was more of a lie - but not a big, serious one. I was applying for my present job and listed my hobbies as drama, cross-country running, travelling - and then added gardening because I thought it was a bit different. I even mentioned that I'd won an award. Ha! Truth was I'd won third prize for a miniature garden at school when I was eight and in fact my mum had done most of it. So, when my office wanted ideas about designing a new outside space for our building, guess who they came to for advice? I could have lied again and made something up, but I came clean. Luckily everyone was good about it and we had a laugh sharing stories of other white lies that had had consequences later on. It was Shakespeare who said 'the truth will out', wasn't it? He was right.

**D Emily**

I had no idea what silver service was - but I said I did when I was being interviewed for a job as a waiter recently. I thought it would be something I could pick up as I went along, after all it wasn't as if I was an inexperienced waiter - I had served in restaurants before. However, I totally underestimated the difference between waiting tables in a small Italian restaurant, dealing mainly with pizzas and pasta dishes, and the rather more upmarket hotel I was going for. It turns out that silver service involves using a silver serving spoon and fork in the right hand to serve vegetables or meat from a dish held in the left. I definitely shouldn't have pretended I could do it! Trying to manipulate everything at the same time resulted in my dropping the serving dish and covering a customer with buttered potatoes. I lasted precisely one hour!

## Answer Keys

### Part 1

**1 B - least.** 'At least' is the only real collocation here that works with 'at'. The other options could be 'a little' or 'more or less', however, we are always limited by the immediate context, in this case the preposition 'at'.

**2 A - appear.** 'Attract', 'inspire' and 'interest' all require no preposition to be used with them.

**3 D - rest.** 'For the rest of something' means till the end of it. 'Last days' or 'final days' could also work in a slightly different context.

**4 D - belongs.** If something belongs to you, it means that you are the owner of it. 'Belongs' is correct because we use the collocation belong to somebody. The other verbs would require a direct object (e.g. 'owns something'), which does not fit the structure of the sentence.

**5 B - addition.** 'In addition' is an introductory phrase we use to add more arguments to a previously mentioned point. 'Furthermore' serves a similar function, but does not require the preposition 'in'.

**6 C - display.** If you put something on display, you place it so as to make it easily noticeable in order for others to see it. Other options do not work with the preposition 'on'.

**7 A - consist.** While other verbs have a very similar or even exactly the same meaning, none of them require 'of' to work - they are used without any preposition in this context.

**8 B - contrast.** If something is used in contrast to (or with) something else, they are compared to highlight their differences.

### Part 2

**9 of.** 'Types' is a plural noun here, not a verb, so we use the preposition 'of' to specify the types further in the sentence.

**10 spend.** To spend time is to use it for something. Be careful not to answer 'waste' as it introduces a meaning that doing something is a bad way to spend time, which is not mentioned or implied in the sentence.

**11 out.** 'To point out' is a phrasal verb that means to indicate something, to draw somebody's attention to something worth noting or looking at.

**12 before.** Keep in mind that in English, 'go to bed' means to go and get into bed in order to sleep. The idea here is that using devices immediately before going to bed can disrupt sleep cycles. The meaning is not literal, in other words it does not mean walking to bed and lying down. 'After' is a wrong answer as it would make no sense.

**13 been.** This form of the verb 'to be' is needed for the Present Perfect Continuous tense used in this sentence.

**14 have.** This time we need 'have' to complete the Present Perfect Simple tense.

**15 is.** One can be tempted to give 'tells' as the answer - don't, as 'advice' is an uncountable noun and does not take 'tell' as a verb. We say 'advice is to...' or 'advice about...', but not 'advice tells...'.

**16 to.** 'To switch to something' means to make a change, to go from one option to a different one.

### Part 3

**17 unhealthy.** The only hint at the negative meaning (and the negative prefix un-) is the context of the second part of the sentence, how suntan was seen as something undesirable.

**18 sailing.** It is clear that we are looking for an adjective to modify the noun 'holiday' that comes after the gap. The only other possible thing that might come to mind is 'sailor', which of course makes little sense, especially keeping in mind Coco's glamorous background. A sailing holiday is a holiday spent in the sea on a yacht or other similarly large sea vessel.

**19 advice.** All we do here is change the verb 'to advise' into the noun, 'advice'. Word transformation is done by changing just one letter here. Additionally, do not pluralise, as there is no plural form that says 'advices'. Instead, it is 'pieces of advice'. Remember that in FCE Use of English Part 3 you are always expected to make a change to the original word. The answer can never be the same word.

**20 unaffordable.** Another case of context hinting at a negative form of the adjective.

**21 impatient.** The idea here is that some women were in a hurry to get suntan - they were impatient. The negative prefix 'un-' does not work for 'patient' (there is no 'umpatient' as a word in English), be careful not to make this common mistake.

**22 variety.** A noun that has the vowel in the middle transformed, so be careful with your spelling. A misspelled word does not give you any points, even if you get the idea of the word itself correctly.

**23 scientist.** The indefinite article before the gap hints at the singular form of the profession. Be sure to mind your spelling with this one.

**24 irreversible.** The negative form, that is rather tricky to spell right. If something is irreversible, it means that it cannot be returned to the previous state.

## Part 4

**25 would (regularly) talk to (the).** It is important to understand why we need 'would' here as after that the words just fall into place. Here it has a similar meaning to 'used to' - that is, something that happened often in the past, but no longer does.

**26 a long time since.** If it has been a long time since something, it means it hasn't happened for a while.

**27 had/'d never realised.** We have to use Past Perfect here to make it clear which event happened before the other. We use Past Perfect for the event that happened before the one we use in Past Simple. Past Perfect happens first, Past Simple takes place later.

**28 which/that belonged to.** We use the structure to outline the ownership of the toys here.

**29 has been telling stories since.** Use Present Perfect Continuous here, as we are bound by the keyword 'since'.

**30 was walking through.** We use a set of tenses to show that some shorter action took place during the longer action. He saw something (the short action) while he was having a walk (the longer action).

## Part 5

**31 C.** The colours mentioned in the second sentence suggest that the person taking the picture is in some flower-rich location. However, he contrasts it by stating that he is, in fact, in a dry desert - a location that is not known to have rich and vibrant vegetation. Answers 'A' and 'B' are not mentioned. Whereas answer 'D' can be found in the text, it is only a minor observation rather than the main point of the paragraph.

**32 C.** The last two sentences of the second paragraph outline the author's opinion here - they feel blessed to have the unique opportunity to witness some of the nature's wonders first-hand. Answer 'A' is wrong as, as stated, the job pays 'reasonably well' - in other words, not too much or too little. Answer 'B' is not good as the author shares no opinion on the amount of travelling they have to do. Nothing about being proud is stated, so answer 'D' shouldn't be picked.

**33 B.** The author admits that these events are not common, but also states that they are far from unique, once-in-a-lifetime occasions. The key phrase here is in the second sentence of paragraph three: 'Tabloid headlines need to sell copies and imply ...'. Other answers are incomplete or altogether false.

**34 D.** The middle of paragraph four goes: 'Sadly, I'm never likely to see one anywhere apart from in a photograph.' This both helps us choose answer 'D' as the right one and eliminate answer 'B'. Answer 'C' is wrong - even though he clearly admits not understanding the origin of the name, he does not say that he regrets not knowing it.

**35 A.** This is the only good answer, as the word 'treated' normally means something welcoming, pleasant or desirable. Even though the sight was something the author really wanted to see, the experience came with some negative aspects.

**36 C.** Third sentence of the penultimate paragraph states that '... for me it will always be about their magnificent beauty...', which means that the visuals come first for the author, and the scientific explanation - second. The author does admit being fascinated by the scientific explanation of the events, but these are not too important for him.

## Part 6

**37 F.** 'It' from sentence F refers to the scene described in the first paragraph. In other words, the claim that the Dutch are a happy nation finds its proof in the peaceful existence of their children who do not need to be monitored by their parents. Don't be misled by the beginning of the sentence after the gap saying 'their children...'. 'Their' refers to the Dutch people as a nation, not to a specific individual - this might tempt some to choose sentence 'D' that mentions mums.

**38 B.** 'This' from sentence B refers to the practice of letting the kids develop naturally instead of forcing them to learn new things before they are ready to do that themselves. Answer 'C' is a trap here, as you don't want to start the sentence with 'instead' when you have already introduced some contrast in the previous part.

**39 G.** This sentence gives examples of fathers taking on a more active role in the family, which in most countries is normally done by mothers.

**40 D.** This is the only sentence here that introduces the idea of self-sufficiency and learning to accept responsibilities at an early age.

**41 A.** The 'concern' mentioned here is caring too much about material possessions, luxury and other such things. The sentence after the gap reinforces the idea by showing what takes priority for children in the Netherlands.

**42 E.** The paragraph has a rather speculative mood - it is like the author is trying to guess the real reason for the higher levels of happiness among the Dutch. Sentence 'E' works great here to suggest a couple of possible reasons.

## Part 7

**43 A.** The very first sentence mentions that the author wanted to impress her mother-in-law.

**44 D.** Last sentence says that the speaker lasted one hour - which means they had only worked there for an hour. Be careful not to give Speaker B as the answer - even though they got in trouble for telling the lie about not coming to work and had a talk with their boss, it does not mean that they got fired for it.

**45 B.** The difficult choice was between attending the son's game and coming to a scheduled meeting. Speaker A didn't face a difficult choice here, however, it could be argued that she was choosing between telling the truth and lying, but then this could be applied to every single speaker in the exercise.

**46 C.** The speaker first says that they exaggerated, and they admit that it was indeed a lie.

**47 A.** Because the speaker did not like the dress at all and had to wear it to maintain the lie, she dreaded the event very much.

**48 B.** Last sentence mentions the speaker not fully knowing the negative results of their not telling the truth to their boss.

**49 C.** In the second part of their story, the speaker mentions 'coming clean' - that is, admitting to having told a lie.

**50 D.** Second sentence mentions that the speaker had hoped to 'pick it up' on the job - to pick something up here means to learn a skill, to get the basics of it in a short period of time.

**51 B.** The speaker mentions feeling a bit guilty about having to skip the meeting. If somebody does not enjoy

something completely, it means they do not enjoy it to the fullest extent. Compare: didn't enjoy at all.

52 A. She says she is much more careful about the white lies she tells.

## Vocabulary

The vocabulary below is meant to help you with the more difficult words. If the word isn't on the list then you are either supposed to know it at this level or it is too specific to be worth learning for the exam. Symbols in brackets mean part of speech (see bottom of the list). Sentences in italics give examples of usage for some more complex words and phrases.

**And remember** — you are not given a vocabulary list (or a dictionary) at your real exam.

### Part 1

**Identity (n)** - (here) who and what you feel you are, where you belong in life and so on. *Boris is having an identity crisis now because he has had some serious difficulties at work recently.*

**Contribute (v)** - to add to something, to take an active part in it. *Jonathan always contributes to any project the most - this is why he is our most valuable employee.*

**Pieces (n, pl)** - used here to mean pieces of furniture. *His vast loft apartment had a few fashionable pieces placed at random with no apparent system or thought put into it.*

### Part 2

**Restless (adj)** - unable to calm down and relax, nervous without any reason. *I feel restless whenever I see the Lakers play.*

**Emit (v)** - to radiate, to give off something such as heat, light, or any other kind of visible or invisible energy.

**Stare (v)** - to look at something without hiding the fact of being interested in it, with your eyes wide open. *I couldn't help but stare at this car - it was the most bizarre automobile I've ever seen with my own eyes.*

**Disrupt (v)** - to upset, change, or even destroy some established routine or system. The company's operation was seriously disrupted by the pandemic regulations.

**Restrict (v)** - to implement some limitations.

### Part 3, 4

**Suntan, tan (n)** - the light-brown colour one's skin gets when regularly exposed to warm rays of sun.

**Gravy (n)** - a sauce-like liquid made in the process of frying meat. It can often be used as a part of a dish or as a sauce. *Mashed potatoes and gravy is my favourite dish ever, and I would be happy to have it as my only food, but mom insists I should have more vegetables.*

**Stain (v)** - to make something dirty, literally to put a stain on (a stain is a spot on an otherwise clean surface).

**Accidental (adj)** - made not intentionally, but as a coincidence. *My accidental meeting with her changed both of our lives forever.*

**Convenient (adj)** - easy, practical and helpful. *The private car is still considered to be the most convenient form of transportation.*

## Part 5

**Reflect on something (phr v)** - to think about something carefully and for a long time. *As I get older, I tend to reflect on my life more often.*

**Tread (v)** - to walk or step in a certain way. It is often used for poetic effect or figuratively. For example, to tread lightly means to be careful about your words or choices.

**Stunning (adj)** - (here) shockingly impressive or memorable.

**Scent (n)** - smell. Can be used to talk about something natural and focuses on the sense or emotion it creates or evokes.

**A one-off** - something that happens only once (or sometimes, very rarely). *A one-off opportunity like getting to have a dinner with the company president should not be missed!*

**Rush (n)** - (here) a sudden movement of something.

**Eclipse (n)** - a natural phenomenon when the sun is covered by some other celestial object, usually its moon, leading to a brief moment of darkness during the day.

**Once-in-a-blue-moon (adj)** - a compound adjective that means that something is extremely rare.

**Hype (n)** - exaggerated, often artificially created excitement around something. *Drake's latest performance failed to live up to the hype surrounding it.*

**Inexplicable (adj)** - impossible to explain. *Tim's inexplicable success could only be connected to his rich uncle's untimely death and the inheritance that Tim was meant to get.*

**Soil (n)** - the composition of earth (dirt). It is mostly a technical term, with earth or dirt being the more commonly used one in spoken English.

**Cease (v)** - (formal) to stop. The boss told us to cease our whining and get back to work.

## Part 6

**To go Dutch** - specifically, 'going Dutch' means sharing the cost of something such as a meal at a restaurant, a bill or something else. In other words, everyone pays for themselves, rather than when somebody pays for the whole group. It has no direct meaning to the text, but is used as an introduction to the topic of Dutch approach to raising children.

**Toddler (n)** - a small child who has just started to walk.

**Wobble (v)** - to move from one side to another. If somebody wobbles on a bike, it means they keep steering left and right because they are just learning to maintain balance.

**Perfect (v)** - a verb that means to try and improve something to the point of making it ideal. Note that the pronunciation of the verb has the last syllable stressed: to perFECT.

**Contented (adj)** - happy and satisfied with your own life. *Only after moving to the countryside did they really become contented with their place in life.*

**Counterpart (n)** - a person who is similar, or does the same thing as the other one, but from a different place, like another country or company. *Marine biologists from the UK and their Canadian counterparts are working together to solve the orca whale crisis.*

**Attitude (n)** - the way you think or approach something. *His attitude to work has gone worse since he got promoted, which is strange as he is now getting paid much more for doing pretty much the same job.*

**Push (v)** - (here) if you push somebody to do something, you force or expect them to do it.

**Vital (adj)** - extremely important. It is vital that you make sure all the doors are locked before you leave.

**Bonds (n)** - social connections. We meet at least once a month to make sure our bonds remain strong.

**Child-rearing (n)** - the process of bringing up a child, parenting.

**Pram (n)** - a small wheeled child carrier. *The old lady was pushing a pram with no baby inside - it was filled with*

*groceries instead.*

**Self-sufficient (adj)** - able to handle yourself without any outside help, independent.

**Unsupervised (adj)** - without somebody else watching you to ensure your safety.

**Overly (adv)** - too much. *I am not overly concerned about his success - I'm sure he will find his own way in life.*

## Part 7

**Endure (v)** - to experience something unpleasant, especially if it was going on for a long period of time. *I had to endure his criticism for two straight years before he finally left the faculty.*

**Unaware (adj)** - not knowing about something, oblivious to it.

**Confess (v)** - to admit to have done or said something that you feel is bad or wrong. *It takes a lot of bravery to confess that you have made a mistake.*

**Assume (v)** - to form an opinion about something that is not based on known facts, but on rumours or incomplete data. *I have always assumed that he worked in the entertainment businesses because of the way he dressed and behaved.*

**Outdated (adj)** - not fashionable or relevant because of how old it is. *They are still using all kinds of outdated business practices at this company, like door-to-door salesmen.*

**Admire (v)** - to openly say that you like something and approve of it.

**Let somebody down** - to upset somebody because they counted on you and you didn't do what you promised.

**Call in sick** - to call your place of work and say that you will not be coming today because you are not feeling well.

**Exaggeration (n)** - if you exaggerate something, you make it seem more impressive, interesting or important than it really is. *Telling that your brother works in the movies was a bit of an exaggeration, as all he does is bring breakfast to the filming crew.*

**Come clean** - to admit one's mistakes or to confess that you have lied.

**Silver service** - a method of serving food where the waiter serves food from a dish onto the diner's plate using a spoon and fork. This is usually done with spoons or forks made of silver, hence the name.

**Underestimate (v)** - not to give enough importance to something, to think of something as not being too serious. *If you underestimate your opponent's strength, you are much more likely to be defeated.*

**Upmarket (adj)** - more prestigious and expensive than average. *The upmarket shops in this part of town often attract tourists and even local celebrities.*