

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 <u>combination</u>	B construction	C connection	D collaboration
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Thai Massage

A tradition as old as the country itself, Thai massage is a 0 _____ of acupuncture techniques and elements of yoga. In 1 _____ with traditional massage, the person undergoing the procedure normally 2 _____ their clothes on. Partly because of that, no 3 _____ such as oil and lotions are used.

Another important aspect that makes Thai massage stand 4 _____ is the amount of training an aspiring masseuse has to undergo. They say that it takes almost a thousand hours to become a licenced Thai massage practitioner. When you think of it, this makes sense, as these people have to work 5 _____ vital parts of the human body, where no mistake should be made.

Like with most 6 _____ of massage, it helps to relax, relieve pain and improve your mood. Professional doctors say that most of these effects are 7 _____ and usually go away within the day. Because this type of massage is more intense, it is recommended to 8 _____ doctor's advice before deciding on having it. This is especially true for people with various heart problems.

1	A difference	B contrast	C variation	D alteration
2	A puts	B holds	C keeps	D stays
3	A liquids	B waters	C additives	D treatments
4	A in	B away	C off	D out
5	A around	B at	C with	D for
6	A shapes	B ways	C forms	D options
7	A timed	B lasting	C brief	D temporary
8	A look	B seek	C ask	D search

Answers and explanations

1. **B – contrast.** ‘In contrast’ is a phrase we use to highlight strong differences between two things. Other nouns here are not used with ‘in’ with the same meaning.
2. **C – keeps.** To keep clothing on is not to take it off. To put it on means to get dressed—gramatically correct, but it is wrong in this context, as the opposite is meant. ‘To hold on’ is to stop; this one is clearly wrong if we look at the second part of the sentence.
3. **A – liquids.** Both ‘oil’ and ‘lotion’ can be called liquids. ‘Waters’ is not good here as ‘oil’ is viscous—that is, it is more thick than water. ‘Treatments’ should not be chosen because no clear therapeutic effect is implied. ‘Additives’ is a word more often used in food and drink production.
4. **D – out.** ‘To stand out’ means to be unique or different from everything else. Standing in is replacing somebody, especially if they were unavailable or unable to participate. ‘Stand away’ has a more literal meaning.
5. **C – with.** Working with something means having it as a central part of your work. ‘Work at’ means some particular place where the work happens. ‘To work around something’ has a very different meaning: to find a way to avoid some difficulty or limitation. ‘To work for’ is to be employed by somebody or to get something as a form of payment, e.g. ‘he has to work for food and housing’.
6. **C – forms.** A synonym for ‘types’ or ‘variations’. ‘Shape’ is more often used to talk about the physical or visual form of something. The two remaining options do not collocate well in this context.
7. **D – temporary.** The second part of the sentence with the gap suggests that the effects do not last. ‘Brief’ means short, but ‘temporary’ is a more commonly used adjective with the meaning ‘not constant’.
8. **B – seek.** Another common set expression, ‘to seek advice’ means to ask for a more informed opinion. We can also say ‘to look/ask for advice’, but the preposition ‘for’ is missing here.