

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>away</u>	B out	C off	D down
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## Sea Water

What do we know about sea water? For one, 97% of all water on Earth is saline. A popular question is whether it is drinkable. It is, but it will not make your thirst go **0** \_\_\_\_\_. That is largely due to the fluid your body will need to get rid of **1** \_\_\_\_\_ salt that finds its way into your system.

If you ask a person about the **2** \_\_\_\_\_ for why sea water is salty, you might get many different responses. The salinity comes from rainwater washing down salt deposits from rocky surfaces on **3** \_\_\_\_\_. Another **4** \_\_\_\_\_ factor is chloride eruptions from the floor of the sea.

Sea water possesses some rather interesting **5** \_\_\_\_\_. For one, it does not freeze as easily because salt lowers the freezing point. However, when it does freeze at a temperature of around -21° C, the ice can be thawed back to drinkable water, as most of the sodium chloride will have escaped the frozen water. Similar **6** \_\_\_\_\_ is used with salt sprinkled on roads in winter to help get rid of ice and make the roads less **7** \_\_\_\_\_.

Another peculiar feature it has is sound conductivity. Because of saline water's increased density, the speed of sound there is almost five times **8** \_\_\_\_\_ than in the air.

<b>1</b>	A harmful	B excessive	C extreme	D higher
<b>2</b>	A reason	B purpose	C result	D consequence
<b>3</b>	A earth	B soil	C ground	D land
<b>4</b>	A helping	B assisting	C contributing	D collaborating
<b>5</b>	A properties	B values	C specialties	D aspects
<b>6</b>	A thesis	B theory	C hypothesis	D principle
<b>7</b>	A slippery	B smooth	C risky	D cold
<b>8</b>	A bigger	B quicker	C faster	D higher

## Answers and explanations

1. **B – excessive.** We call excessive something that is present in a larger amount than needed or desirable. 'Harmful' doesn't go well with salt; salt by itself is not harmful, but too much of it can be. 'Higher' is a comparative form, but no comparison is made. 'Extreme' could work if it went like 'extreme levels of salt'.
2. **A – reason.** 'Purpose' is what something is done for. Both 'consequence' and 'results' mean the same thing, but the former is usually used negatively.
3. **D – land.** Basically, here we are looking for a word that is the opposite of 'sea'. 'Soil' usually has the meaning of earth as a surface for growing something. 'Ground' is better used to be opposed to a word like 'air' in aviation. 'Earth' is either our planet or something similar to 'soil'.
4. **C – contributing.** Taking part in something in a productive way, either positive or negative. Additionally, this is the only word of the four that collocates well with 'factor'.
5. **A – properties.** Property is a quality of a material or a thing that makes it useful for something. Note that the word 'quality' itself is more commonly used in relation to people. 'Aspect' is a part of something, like a situation or a problem. 'Specialty' is an area or a skill somebody is good at, e.g. 'Cooking is my brother's specialty'.
6. **D – principle.** 'Theory', 'thesis' and 'hypothesis' are all words referring to the theoretical aspect of something, whereas 'principle' is how something functions.
7. **A – slippery.** When something is slippery, it has no traction, so it is difficult to walk on it (if it is a surface) or to hold it (if it is an object). 'Smooth' is more about having an even surface that is not rough. 'Risky' does not collocate well with the word 'road'. A route or a journey can be risky.
8. **D – higher.** Just like a price cannot be cheap or expensive, the word 'speed' should not be used with 'fast', 'slow' or 'quick'.