

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>ability</u>	B skill	C knowledge	D talent
------------------	---------	-------------	----------

Night Vision

Night animals such as cats, wolves, foxes and many others rely on their **0** _____ to see in the dark. Let's take a look at how they do it.

Naturally, nocturnal creatures are most active at night, so their eyes have changed over the **1** _____ of evolution. Owing to the way their eyes function, they have more developed vision in dim light at the **2** _____ of colour vision. From nature's perspective this is perfectly justified, as seeing clearly at night is essential to their **3** _____ as a tool to track down and catch their **4** _____. Another difference is a layer called 'tapetum' that helps reflect additional light back to the retina to **5** _____ use of the more scarce light levels in darker environments. It explains why a cat's eyes may be seen glowing in the dark.

Aside from that, **6** _____ to various light conditions is no different from a human's. Pupil, the black part of the eye, contracts and expands to allow less or more light in, **7** _____. It is worth noting that in pitch-black conditions, it is impossible to **8** _____ anything, even for the most adapted species; a certain minimum of light is required for that.

1	A time	B period	C process	D course
2	A expense	B cost	C loss	D absence
3	A comfort	B breeding	C survival	D fitness
4	A victim	B prey	C food	D enemy
5	A find	B put	C make	D let
6	A changing	B adjusting	C focusing	D moving
7	A respectively	B accordingly	C relatively	D obviously
8	A watch out	B look out	C make out	D see out

Answers and explanations

1. **D – course.** As opposed to ‘time’ and ‘period’, course is a less defined unit of time and can often include the very beginning as well as the present state. ‘Process’ could work in a phrase like ‘during the process of evolution’.
2. **A – expense.** ‘At the expense of something’ is a set expression; here it means that ‘something’ had to be sacrificed in order to achieve something else. In other words, night vision was achieved only through a partial loss of colour vision.
3. **C – survival.** Context is key here, and for that reason you might want to read the sentence till the end to fully understand it. The sentence focuses on the aspect of survival – hunting for food, to be more exact.
4. **B – prey.** We did mention ‘food’ previously, but it should not be understood literally. A hunter does not catch food, they catch (or hunt) their prey. ‘Victim’ is a word that is more commonly used to refer to humans than animals, except for figurative examples (‘Pets can often be victims of violence’).
5. **C – make.** The phrasal verb ‘make use of something’ means to find application to something that is available. Another possible phrase in this context is ‘to put something TO use’. You can also let SOMEONE use something or find use FOR something.
6. **B – adjusting.** The idea is to adapt to something, in this case, to changing light levels. ‘Changing’ is too broad and general. C does not work because it is ‘focusing ON something’. ‘Moving’ is not fitting the idea of change.
7. **A – respectively.** Even if you don’t know the word ‘respectively’, knowledge of punctuation can help you. The only two words that require a comma in this context is ‘respectively’ and ‘obviously’, and the second one clearly does not make sense here, as this function of the pupil is not common knowledge. We use ‘respectively’ to refer to two or more things mentioned in the order they are used in the phrase or sentence.
8. **C – make out.** To manage to see or hear something, especially if it is difficult for some reason.