

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: BY

Pet shelter

Like any other large city, ours has a serious problem of pets getting abandoned **0** _____ their owners. My friend Francis and I decided to take the matter in our own **9** _____ and open a pet shelter. What we do **10** _____ we give these pets a place to stay, food, medical care such as vaccines, and ultimately, try to help them find a new home. The latter is what we strive for, and it usually takes about a month for a pet to **11** _____ adopted.

We largely rely **12** _____ generosity of others in the form of various donations, as **13** _____ as any kind of help. Our entire staff is made up of volunteers who dedicate their free time to help keep the place going. Thankfully, there is never any shortage **14** _____ people willing to help us out. Their duties **15** _____ feeding the animals, cleaning their cages and trays, and even letting them stay at their own places.

The entire project wouldn't even exist if it wasn't for a thing of chance. Our mutual friend was looking to rent out her rather large basement on the outskirts of the city. She was really struggling to find somebody who would want it, as it would need renovating to turn it into a commercial property. She was about to **16** _____ up when we offered to use it for a good cause. Thankfully, she was more than happy to agree.

Answers and explanations

9. **Hands.** If you take the matter in (or into) your own hands, you get yourself actively involved in it, especially if nobody else is willing to do it.
10. **Is.** An example of a so-called ‘cleft sentence’ is here.
11. **Get.** A variation of a passive form where the pet is the one who has an action done to it, in this case – getting adopted by a new owner.
12. **On.** If you rely on something, it means that you depend on it and wouldn’t be able to do without it. Choosing the right preposition is a big part of Use of English Part 2 tasks.
13. **Well.** We are introducing an additional example with the widely-known structure ‘as well as’ here.
14. **Of/In.** A shortage of something (or someone) is a situation when not enough of it is available.
15. **Include.** The duties include doing something. Please note that answering ‘Their duties are’ is incorrect because then the rest of the sentence would need to go like ‘Their duties are to do something’.
16. **Give.** We need a phrasal verb here. If you give up, you stop doing something, especially because you haven’t been successful at it many times before.