

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: HAD**

## Moving out of the city

When I was ten, my family decided that they have **0** \_\_\_\_\_ enough of living in the city, and moved to the countryside. The decision was almost spontaneous – we sold our flat and finished moving all during the summer school break. Four days and six roundtrips with a van full of our stuff was all it took to change our lives. But we needed much more time to get used **9** \_\_\_\_\_ all the new things.

The biggest change was probably not having anyone living above or **10** \_\_\_\_\_ you, like you normally would in a flat. This meant that we were free to make as **11** \_\_\_\_\_ noise as we wanted without bothering anyone. For the first time ever, it felt nice not to be a nuisance to our neighbours. We also had a large piece of land all to **12** \_\_\_\_\_ where we could play, not to mention that **13** \_\_\_\_\_ noise and pollution were much lower here compared to the busy urban areas.

All these advantages, **14** \_\_\_\_\_, came with certain responsibilities. We had to cut grass, look **15** \_\_\_\_\_ the house and generally keep the area well-maintained without depending on the city services. Still, our father believed that it was a small price to **16** \_\_\_\_\_ for all the comforts of living an admittedly much more comfortable, fulfilling life in the country.

## Answers and explanations

9. **To.** To get used to something means to adapt to some change in your life. Note that if the phrase is followed by a noun, we use the gerund form: 'It took me two months to get used to waking up early'.
10. **Below/Under.** We clearly need the opposite of 'above' here, which in this context means somebody who lives in a flat one or more floors higher than you. Both options are okay, although 'below' is a better pair for 'above'.
11. **Much.** A comparative structure 'as... as...' with an uncountable noun 'noise'. Because of the latter, answering 'many' is incorrect, but it would be if we had the plural 'noises'.
12. **Ourselves.** A common mistake is to try and use the word 'ourself', which technically shouldn't even exist, as 'our' implies many people, so 'self' should be in its plural form.
13. **Both.** The adverb 'both' here is used to refer to two things at once: noise and pollution levels.
14. **However.** We put an introductory word in the middle of the sentence here to introduce some contrast. We mainly focused on the positives in the previous paragraph, whereas the context of this one touches upon the negative aspects of living outside of the city.
15. **After.** 'To look after something' means to take good care of it, to make sure that it is in good order. The only way to understand what kind of word we need here is through context.
16. **Pay.** A set expression 'a small price to pay' here is used to show that the negatives are not nearly as bad compared to all the advantages of living in the countryside.