

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: WITHIN

Surfing

Did you know that almost half of Earth's population lives **0** _____ kilometers from the sea? If you are one of those lucky **9** _____, then you are likely to have at some point in your life considered taking **10** _____ surfing. But what exactly is surfing, anyway?

To put it simply, surfing involves riding on a special board along with a wave that carries you forward. The main idea is to stay on the board, which is pushed **11** _____ the force of the wave, without losing balance and falling off. People usually do this as a fun activity rather than a competitive one; however, nowadays it is even recognized **12** _____ an Olympic sport. There are many competitions **13** _____ worldwide, both for amateurs and seasoned surfers. Interestingly, surfing is likely to be the **14** _____ sport to ever exist, with scientific evidence suggesting that it dates back several thousand years.

The surfing community is very friendly and welcoming to newcomers. Moreover, all you need to get **15** _____ surfing is the board itself, which can be bought second-hand for as little as \$10. So if you haven't tried it **16** _____ yet, I'd definitely recommend doing so.

Answers and explanations

9. **Ones.** ‘Ones’ refers to the people who are lucky enough to live close enough to the sea or the ocean. We often use ‘one’ to avoid word repetition when the context makes it clear what we mean by this word. Note the plural form as required by the structure ‘one of’.
10. **Up.** To take something up means to get involved in a new hobby or activity. We use the gerund form as dictated by the verb pattern – we use it after the verb ‘to consider’, e.g. ‘to consider doing something’.
11. **By/With.** We are using a passive form here, and we need to introduce the agent, or the thing that performs the action (the wave, in this case). Both ‘by’ and ‘with’ work fine with the verb ‘push’.
12. **As.** People recognize it as something of value. In other words, they accept and acknowledge the fact.
13. **Held.** Knowing the right collocation is expected of you at the B2 level. It is ‘to hold a competition’. Note that ‘hosted’ is not good enough here, because it focuses on the country that is in charge of organising the competition.
14. **First/Oldest.** Contextually, we get the hint that it is a very old sport – both ‘first’ and ‘oldest’ work fine here.
15. **Into.** ‘To get into something’ is to become actively engaged in a particular activity, in this case the hobby of surfing. Note the difference between ‘to be into something’ and ‘to get into something’. The first means that you already take part in it, while the other shows the act of change from not doing it.
16. **Out.** In this context, if you try something out, you try doing it to see if you like it or whether you would want to do it again.