

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: TALL**

## Marabou stork

A grim-looking bird standing five feet **0** \_\_\_\_\_, Marabou is far **9** \_\_\_\_\_ the image of a graceful bird we imagine when we think of storks in general. While regular storks are usually associated **10** \_\_\_\_\_ bringing babies, this particular species does not look the part. It is, in fact, anything **11** \_\_\_\_\_ pretty, with reddish skin, a featherless head, and a huge brownish bill. Another notable feature is a leather pouch hanging **12** \_\_\_\_\_ their necks.

Found predominantly in Central and South Africa, marabou are scavengers – that is, they do not prey on or hunt other animals, but **13** \_\_\_\_\_ feed on animals that have already died. They can often be seen following vultures, because the latter have sharper bills, which make it easier to tear meat off animal carcasses. Effectively, both species act **14** \_\_\_\_\_ janitors of the animal world. Like pigs, marabou are not very picky when it **15** \_\_\_\_\_ to food and will eat practically anything, including plastic and even pieces of metal.

The population of the bird is abundant, so there is no prohibition on hunting it. They can be hunted by locals for traditional medicine, while **16** \_\_\_\_\_ feathers and down often find application in various ornaments and ceremonial clothing.

## Answers and explanations

9. **From.** If a thing is far from another one, it means they are very different.
10. **With.** To associate one with another.
11. **But.** A less used structure, ‘anything but’ shows strong contrast between two things. For example, if we say that the person is anything but stupid, we mean to say that they are not stupid at all.
12. **From/Down.** Both options are okay, but we need to know the word ‘hang’ to figure out the missing part here.
13. **Instead/Rather.** Yet another way to show contrast, both words stress the difference that they feed on already dead animals rather than hunting and killing them themselves.
14. **As.** It is easy to make a mistake and use the word ‘like’ here. There is a certain difference. If you act AS somebody or something, you perform the same exact function as the thing or person in question. If you act LIKE it, then the focus shifts and shows that you imitate the action or have certain qualities that are similar to the original thing. In other words, ‘to act as’ is the better choice.
15. **Comes.** When we talk about it, when one has to do it, e.g. ‘When it comes to math, George is the strongest student of our class’.
16. **Its.** We need to show who the feathers and down belong to. Be careful not to use the apostrophe – when we want to show possession, the word is ‘its’.