

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: AS

Dolphins and sharks

Sharks and dolphins for many years have been perceived **0** _____ the good and bad guys of the sea, respectively. The first species are the ruthless hunters, preying **9** _____ smaller fish and unsuspecting surfers. The latter have a more noble reputation of cute, playful creatures, who come to the rescue whenever a human is in danger. **10** _____, it is not all that simple.

Dolphins are social creatures, living and travelling in groups, also referred to **11** _____ pods. Sharks, on the other hand, are solitary and prefer to live and hunt on **12** _____ own. The only exception is mating season, when they actively search for a partner. Biologically, dolphins are mammals – they feed their young with milk, **13** _____ sharks are classified as fish because they have gills – special organs that allow them to breathe underwater. Dolphins, on the other hand, have lungs, just like we do, and rely on the air above the water surface to survive.

One question that seems to interest many people is whether sharks and dolphins get **14** _____ with one another. Observations point **15** _____ the fact that they do not coexist peacefully, as they often share habitats. Because of their solitary nature, sharks can be vulnerable **16** _____ attacks by dolphin groups.

Answers and explanations

9. **On.** To prey on something (or somebody) means to hunt on it for food. Can sometimes be used figuratively – meaning ‘to benefit from somebody in a violent or parasitic way’.
10. **However.** We need an introductory word to show contrast – we know this thanks to the second part of this short sentence.
11. **As.** A more technical phrase, ‘to refer to something AS something’ basically gives the name of the thing. For example, people who work too hard are often referred to as workaholics.
12. **Their.** If you do something on your own, you do it without anyone else. Note the plural form – the sentence is about sharks in plural. Choosing ‘your’ would be a mistake.
13. **Whereas/While.** We can use both conjunctions to focus on the difference in dolphin and shark biological classification.
14. **Along.** If some people (or animals) get along (also ‘get along well’), it means that they are friendly towards one another. The opposite situation is mentioned here.
15. **At.** To point at the fact means to indicate that this fact is true in this situation.
16. **To.** If you are vulnerable to something, it means you can be negatively affected by it. For instance, people with weak immune system are more vulnerable to diseases.