

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: EVER

Bake your own bread

Have you **0** _____ considered making your own bread instead of buying one, like you would normally do? It appears that many people have, but very few went as **9** _____ as to actually do it.

The recipe is almost **10** _____ easy – you mix 3 cups of flour with a quarter teaspoon of yeast and a teaspoon of salt. Yeast helps to lift and aerate the dough ... Then you add one and a half cups of hot water, mix everything and let it sit **11** _____ three hours. After that, you add some dough to make it less sticky and shape it **12** _____ a loaf. Finally, you put the loaf in a pot and into an oven that is around 230 °C for about half **13** _____ hour. Needless to say, a good idea would be to wear gloves when doing that.

One would ask – **14** _____ even bother making your own bread when you can buy one at a grocery store? Believe me - no shop-bought bread can ever compete **15** _____ a freshly baked, home-made crispy loaf. Another reason is that you can be absolutely sure that there are **16** _____ unwanted ingredients or additives in it. So just give it a go and see for yourself!

Answers and explanations

9. **Far.** When you go as far as to do something, it means that it takes a lot of time or effort to do it. Therefore, the phrase can be used to indicate one's surprise or respect for somebody's action, e.g., 'To make his girlfriend's birthday party memorable, he went as far as to invite her favourite band to the celebration'.
10. **Too.** To indicate that something is not difficult at all, you use the set expression 'almost too easy'.
11. **For.** This one is not difficult at all, however some students can be tricked into giving 'during' as the answer.
12. **Into.** A phrasal verb, it means to give something a particular shape. It can also be used figuratively and mean to make a person have certain skills or opinions, e.g., 'Our university has been shaping young men and women into employable professionals for almost a century'.
13. **An.** We always say 'half an hour', and never - 'half of hour'. A common ESL mistake that one should be wary of.
14. **Why.** 'Why bother' is an informal expression and a rhetorical question that requires no answer. Instead, it questions why somebody should perform an action that doesn't seem to make much sense in this particular context.
15. **With.** To compete with something (or someone) here means to be compared to it, e.g., 'Old cars can't compete with modern ones when it comes to fuel efficiency'.
16. **No.** Of course, we would normally go like 'there aren't any unwanted ingredients', but here we are limited to one word in the gap, so we have to go with the structure 'there are no unwanted ingredients'.