

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: BACK

Audiobooks

A quite common thing, audiobooks actually started in the early seventies. **0** _____ then, they would be recorded on cassette tapes, also **9** _____ audio tapes. Initially, libraries were the only place to have them, primarily for the needs of disabled people. As technology progressed, audiobooks have been getting increasingly popular **10** _____ with the wider adoption of the Internet.

One thing that made audiobooks popular is that they allowed you to do something else **11** _____ listening to the narrator. It is also favoured by people with long commutes. When you are listening to something interesting, time passes **12** _____ than when you are doing something boring, like sitting in a traffic **13** _____.

Another obvious benefit is that audiobooks are more accessible. Blind people, as well as **14** _____ with poor sight, could finally get access to masterpieces of the literary world. This is also true **15** _____ those who have not developed any reading skills, either due to lack of formal education or any other reason.

Finally, the audiobook format has the advantage of sped-up playback. What this means **16** _____ that you can listen to it at an increased speed, which is very difficult or even impossible when reading.

Answers and explanations

9. **Called.** We are mentioning an alternative name or term for something. Another possible one, but requiring a preposition, is ‘referred to as’.
10. **Along/together.** Here, the idea is that audiobooks progressed at the same time as the World Wide Web. ‘And’ does not show the idea of development taking place at the same time.
11. **While.** ‘When’ would be wrong, as it does not fully show that the action is taking place at the same time as the other one.
12. **Quicker.** You might consider ‘faster’ as an alternative answer, but it is not very accurate here. We are talking about the amount of time rather than speed. Also, note the comparative form. Finally, we can only use one word, so ‘more quick’ would be incorrect because of the task rules.
13. **Jam.** We could do without the word ‘jam’ if there was no article. Compare: ‘to sit in traffic’ and ‘to sit in a traffic jam’ - both options are correct. ‘Traffic’ is uncountable and therefore requires no indefinite article in this context.
14. **Those/ones.** Both words are used here to avoid repeating ‘people’. Note the plural form.
15. **For.** ‘True for somebody’ means that it can be applied to them or said about them.
16. **Is.** The piece of grammar required here is a so-called ‘cleft sentence’ that is normally used to emphasise a particular part of the sentence.