

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: LOCATED

Old Faithful

A geological wonder of the world, Old Faithful is a geyser that is **0** _____ in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, US. What it does is erupt steam and boiling-hot water **9** _____ uneven intervals of 40 to 110 minutes. One eruption can be as **10** _____ as five minutes.

The practice **11** _____ recording eruption intervals has been around for decades. One curious thing this record-keeping has helped to establish is that there is a direct connection **12** _____ intervals and the duration of eruptions. Basically, the bigger the interval, the longer these eruptions **13** _____. This can be explained by the fact that more water and pressure can build up over longer intervals.

The geyser is extremely popular with people, and not just from the USA, but from all around the **14** _____. During peak season it can get extremely crowded – so if you planned on **15** _____ it, consider doing so in the off season. The observation area in the park ensures that the visitors get the best view of the geyser **16** _____ also keeping them far enough away not to get scalded by its hot water.

Answers and explanations

9. **at.** When something happens at some interval, it does so regularly with some time in between. ‘Uneven intervals’ here mean that this time is not the same.
10. **long.** ‘As long as’ shows how much an eruption can last here - ‘five minutes’ at the end of the sentence helps us make the right choice.
11. **of.** ‘Practice of doing something’. We choose ‘of’ because of the gerund ‘doing’. ‘Practice to do’ is also possible, but not with a gerund form.
12. **between.** The idea is to show that two things are connected – a connection between them.
13. **last.** Note that ‘take’ should not be used as an answer – it would mean that we are looking for some result of this action. For example, ‘it takes about 10 minutes to boil an egg’.
14. **globe/world/planet.** We make a contrast between local visitors from the US and those that come from elsewhere.
15. **seeing/visiting.** ‘To plan on doing something’ - another case where verb form required is a gerund. ‘To plan to do something’ is another way to show a similar idea, but we are limited by the preposition ‘on’ in the text.
16. **while.** ‘At the same time’ or ‘in additions’ is the idea conveyed by the phrase.