

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: UP

Morning Commute

Richard has never been a morning person. The prospect of getting **0** _____ at 6 AM sounded as bad to him as going to art classes – something he has always despised.

However, nowadays mornings are something he almost looks **9** _____ to. The thing is, he has recently moved **10** _____ Germany, which brought much-needed variety into his life, like the sight of people standing in line at the bus stop. He is now used to seeing the same people there every morning though, and now he even knows some of them **11** _____ name. It did not take bus **12** _____ to arrive. Like most things in this country, they seem to value punctuality above all else.

13 _____ the rush hour, there were plenty of empty seats **14** _____ the bus. Sitting in the window seat was usually the place **15** _____ Richard felt most comfortable. This way, he could spend the journey looking out of the window **16** _____ getting disturbed by people who had to get off. As the bus rolled down the narrow street, Richard breathed in the refreshing morning air through the open window.

Answers and explanations

9. **forward.** ‘However’ means that we are contrasting this sentence to the previous one. Richard did not use to like mornings, but now he looks forward to them.
10. **to.** To move to a place means to go to live there. Do not confuse it with ‘to move in’, which is usually about moving in a flat or a house.
11. **by.** To know by name means exactly what it says – to know what somebody’s name is. ‘My son has been in this class for two years but he still does not know most of kids who study with him by name’.
12. **long.** ‘To take long’ means to need a lot of time to do something. The context of the sentence that comes next suggests that the wait was not too long for Richard.
13. **despite.** Another case of contrast is given to us. Rush hour is the time of the day when roads are quite busy, including more people using public transport. However, there were plenty of free seats.
14. **on.** It is ‘on the bus’, not ‘in the bus’. The latter is more commonly used when you talk about a particular part, e.g. ‘in the front of the bus’.
15. **where.** Here, we are referring to a particular place with ‘where’.
16. **without.** Once again the context is what we cannot make the right choice without. Sitting by the window means that you are out of the way of people who are leaving the bus.