

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: OF

Purring Cats

People usually have many misconceptions about the real purpose **0** _____ purring. Contrary to popular belief, it is not limited **9** _____ just showing comfort or satisfaction. It can also be used to ask for something, like food or attention. It even acts **10** _____ a painkiller when the cat is giving birth, signalling its brain to release a hormone that lessens pain.

To understand why a cat purrs, it has to be observed together **11** _____ its body language. Good indicators of 'happy' purring are half-closed eyes and a tail that does not move erratically. Many people wonder **12** _____ cats show their love by purring. There is no definite answer to that, however, when your cat rubs its whiskers against you, it usually points **13** _____ their affection.

To be fair, cats are not alone in their ability to purr. Animals **14** _____ as rabbits, badgers or guinea pigs can do that as well. It is worth noting that lions are the **15** _____ members of the feline family that do not purr. Like most species, cats vary greatly in their behaviour, so some are more eager to purr than **16** _____. Moreover, because of slight anatomic differences, some cats can be more vocal.

Answers and explanations

9. **to.** To be limited to something means to have something as a restriction, e.g. ‘Your choice of foreign language courses here is limited to Spanish and Portuguese’. ‘Limited by’ is wrong, as this phrase means what the limiting factor is, e.g. ‘Job opportunities here are limited by the fact that we live in a small town’.
10. **as.** To act as something or someone means to perform the same function. ‘To act like’ is not optimal here because it usually means that it acts similarly, but not identically (not in exactly the same way).
11. **with.** In connection with something, not separately.
12. **if/whether.** Here we are trying to find out if cats show their love to the owner by purring. ‘Why’ fits grammatically, but the idea changes then and conflicts with the next sentence, that explains the idea – it provides details on how cats show their affection.
13. **at.** To point at something is to indicate or show that something is true.
14. **such.** Here we are introducing a list of examples with ‘such as’, similarly to ‘like’.
15. **only.** We have to use context here to understand what the author means - lions are the exception to the rule of purring cats. ‘Feline’ is an adjective that means ‘related to cats’ or ‘cat-like’, e.g. ‘feline grace’.
16. **others.** ‘Some’ and ‘others’ form a pair here and are contrasted against one another.