

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: WITH**

## Bats

We usually associate bats **0** \_\_\_\_\_ blood-sucking monsters that terrorize people at night, portrayed **9** \_\_\_\_\_ evil, vampire-like creatures. Nothing could be further from the truth! To **10** \_\_\_\_\_ with, there are more than a thousand different bat species. They greatly differ **11** \_\_\_\_\_ size, habitat, and diet. The tiniest ones are **12** \_\_\_\_\_ small they can fit in a child's palm. Only a small fraction of bat species are carnivorous, meaning that they only eat meat. The majority of bats prefer to feed **13** \_\_\_\_\_ fruit or insects.

Bats have an enormous positive impact on the ecosystem. They help get rid **14** \_\_\_\_\_ pest insects – these are insects that pose threat to crops or humans in general. They also take part in pollination and dispersal of plant seeds, ensuring sustained plant growth.

A notable thing about bats is the way they navigate in the dark is quite impressive, to **15** \_\_\_\_\_ the least. They emit high-frequency sound waves that bounce off the surroundings and give bats a clear picture of how close objects around them are. That is how bats are able to fly in pitch-black caves **16** \_\_\_\_\_ bumping into walls all the time.

## Answers and explanations

9. **as.** 'To portray as' is to show. Can be used in the sense of creating the wrong impression, like in this case.
10. **start/begin.** The previous sentence suggests that next we are going to be presenting arguments against something. 'To start/to begin with' is a great way to introduce such an argument.
11. **in.** 'To be different in size/shape/colour...' - a commonly used structure. 'To differ with' is wrong, as it means difference with somebody or something else, e.g. 'Me and Tom differ in our approach to studying'.
12. **so.** The idea is that they are very small—so small that they can be held in a hand.
13. **on.** 'To feed on something' is to eat something. 'Feed with' is incorrect as it means giving somebody particular food, e.g. 'You should not feed cats with food that is too salty or spicy'.
14. **of.** 'To get rid of something' means to make it go away, normally used with something negative.
15. **say.** To show that something is more important (or, in this case, more impressive) than it seems. 'Tell' does not make the set phrase, so it should not be chosen.
16. **without.** 'To bump into something' here means to hit something without meaning to. The sentence explains the ability of bats to navigate the caves without hitting the walls.