

For questions 1-10, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use **between two and five words**, including the word given.

Example:

I hate having potatoes for breakfast

FAVOURITE

Potatoes are _____ food to have for breakfast.

ANSWER: *MY LEAST FAVOURITE*

1 I have last seen Simon a long time ago.

AGES

It _____ since I last saw Simon.

2 Nothing prevents us from going on a trip right now.

WAY

Nothing _____ us going on a trip right now.

3 Kevin doesn't speak the local language too well.

COMMAND

Kevin's _____ is not too good.

4 Even though we were late to the party, we didn't miss much.

SPITE

In _____ to the party, we didn't miss much.

5 I train so much but I still feel anxious before every competition.

MATTER

No _____ I still fell anxious before every competition.

6 They promised to pay us on time.

PAID

We _____ on time.

7 The only thing I want is to try this.

GO

To have _____ this is all I want.

8 "Call me when you get home" said Melinda.

MOMENT

Melinda asked me _____ I got home.

9 Even though my salary is higher, I still have financial difficulties.

INCREASE

The _____ didn't help with my financial difficulties.

10 I was about to leave when the phone rang.

POINT

The phone rang when I was _____ leaving.

Answers and explanations

1. **Has been ages.** A set phrase with the meaning that a lot of time has passed since some event. Make sure to use Present Perfect, otherwise you might lose 1 point for introducing an unnecessary change in the meaning.
2. **Is/Stands in the way of.** Another phrase, this time it means that something acts as an obstacle. Note that 'nothing' is singular, so the verb has to be in the singular form as well.
3. **Command of the local language.** As a learner and an exam-taker of FCE, you should be well familiar with 'command of language'. It means how skilled you are in a language.
4. **Spite of being/coming late.** A structure to introduce contrast in the sentence with some freedom of choice.
5. **Matter how much I train.** If something doesn't matter, then it makes no difference, it has no significant effect. It can also mean that it is not important (but not in the context of this sentence).
6. **Were promised to be/get paid.** We are switching from active voice in the original sentence to passive voice – a common transformation in FCE Use of English Part 4.
7. **A go at.** If you have a go at something, you try to do it, you make an attempt to do it. Interestingly, 'to have a go at someone' means to blame or criticize them.
8. **To call her the moment.** A simple paraphrase here – if you do something the moment something happens, you do it immediately after that.
9. **Increase in (my) salary.** The definite article in the beginning forces us to use 'increase' as a noun, rather than a verb. In this case, 'my' is optional, as the context clearly points at whose salary we are talking about. Moreover, we already have one 'my' in the second part of the paraphrased sentence.
10. **On/At the point of.** To be on/at the point of doing something means to be about to or ready to do it. It is normally used in cases where the person chooses not to take the intended action.